

Central Texas – Fall 2019 (1 Aug 2019 – 30 Nov 2019)
Noteworthy Bird Sightings

Compiled by Eric Carpenter

Counties Covered: Andrews, Bandera, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Brown, Burnet, Caldwell, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Coryell, Crockett, Dawson, De Witt, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, Erath, Fisher, Gaines, Gillespie, Glasscock, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hays, Howard, Irion, Jones, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Lampasas, Lavaca, Llano, Martin, Mason, McCulloch, Medina, Menard, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Nolan, Reagan, Real, Runnels, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Sterling, Sutton, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Upton, Uvalde, Williamson, Wilson

Notable Species observed during the period:

Surf Scoter - Surf Scoters made a good showing in central Texas with 2 at Granger Lake, Williamson 30 Oct - 3 Nov (ph. Arman Moreno), one at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 3-11 Nov (ph. Janet Davis, Jeff Osborne, m.ob.), 2 at Lake Abilene, *Taylor* 8 Nov (ph. Jay Packer) and one at Lake Colorado City, *Mitchell* 9 Nov (ph. Greg Cook).

White-winged Scoter - A bit early was a White-winged Scoter at Hornsby Bend, Travis 13 Oct (Barry Lyon, ph. Jeffrey Jackson); one at Stillhouse Hollow Lake, *Bell* 3 Nov (ph. Gil Eckrich) was in a more expected migration window.

White-tipped Dove - White-tipped Doves continue to show signs of a steady push northward with one visiting a backyard feeder west of San Marcos, *Hays* 11 Oct (ph. Sonia Duran).

Lucifer Hummingbird - Far less than annual in Texas outside the mountains of west Texas, single Lucifer Hummingbird's were quite surprising at Leakey, *Real* 15-18 Aug (ph. Charmaine Ganson), in Junction, *Kimble* 28 Aug (ph. Martha Richardson), and in Midland, *Midland* 13 Sep - 11 Oct (ph. Greg Palko).

Allen's Hummingbird - An Allen's Hummingbird lingered in Kerrville, *Kerr* 10 Sep - 17 Nov (ph. Brad Fields).

Whooping Crane- A long migrant Whooping Crane was studied near Lake Georgetown, *Williamson* 7 Nov (ph. Karen Pair).

Snowy Plover - A Snowy Plover on the shores of Lake Buchanan, *Llano* 23 Sep (ph. Vincent O'Brien) was a good find for the Edwards Plateau where stopover habitat is limited.

Piping Plover - Always a tough inland migrant especially in the western half of the state, a Piping Plover at Kirby Lake, *Taylor* 3-12 Sep (ph. Jay Packer) was exceptional and likely a county first.

Mountain Plover - Mountain Plovers are thought to be low-density winter residents in the areas around the Concho Valley but are rarely detected so one northeast of Trent, *Taylor* 10 Sep (ph. Jay Packer) and another east of San Angelo, *Tom Green* 20 Oct (ph. Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey) were noteworthy.

Ruddy Turnstone - A Ruddy Turnstone east of Temple, *Bell* 8 Sep (ph. Randy Pinkston) was the only one reported in central Texas.

American Woodcock - Unseasonal was an American Woodcock at St. Edwards Park in northwest Austin, *Travis* 26 Jul - 25 Aug (ph. Dan Hardy, m.ob.).

Red-necked Phalarope - Red-necked Phalaropes included up to 5 at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 6-12 Sep (ph. Richard Kaskan, m.ob.), one at Mitchell Lake, *Bexar* 21-27 Sep (ph. Robert Doe), up to 2 northeast of Trent, *Taylor* 22 Sep - 4 Oct (ph. Jay Packer), one at near Belton, *Bell* 27 Sep - 2 Oct (ph. Daniel Kelch), and one more back at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 28-29 Sep (ph. Justin Bosler).

Black-legged Kittiwake - An adult Black-legged Kittiwake at Lake Abilene, *Taylor* 8-16 Nov (ph. Jay Packer, m.ob.) was an exceptional find.

Sabine's Gull- A Sabine's Gull at Kirby Lake, *Taylor* 16-18 Sep (ph. Jay Packer) and 2 at Braunig Lake, *Bexar* 23-28 Oct (Bob Doe, m.ob.) were in the expected fall migration window.

California Gull - A first-cycle California Gull stayed briefly at Lake Abilene, *Taylor* 8-9 Nov (ph. Jay Packer).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - A first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull was studied at Braunig Lake, *Bexar* 23-24 Oct (Willie Sekula, ph. Christian Fernandez) while another appeared at Granger Lake, *Williamson* 27 Oct (ph. Craig Browning).

Brown Pelican - A Brown Pelican that visited Calaveras, Braunig and Mitchell Lakes, *Bexar* 24 Sep - 24 Oct (ph. Bob Doe, m.ob.) may have been the same individual.

Reddish Egret - Dispersing Reddish Egrets included one at Twin Buttes Reservoir, *Tom Green* 18-22 Aug (ph. Randy Hesford, Tim Vasquez), and different individual at Mitchell Lake, *Bexar* 31 Aug (Bob Doe) and 5-8 Oct (ph. Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey).

White-tailed Hawk - White-tailed Hawks seem to be continuing in central Texas with one south of Granger, *Williamson* 6 Nov (ph. Arman Moreno) the northernmost reported.

Western Screech-Owl - A heard-only Western Screech-Owl in west Austin, *Travis* 23 Nov (Georgia Harper) was an intriguing report and well out of expected range of this species.

Red-headed Woodpecker - A Red-headed Woodpecker wandered to Midland, *Midland* 21 Sep (ph. Greg Palko).

Acorn Woodpecker - Two Acorn Woodpeckers northeast of Leakey, *Real* 13 Oct (ph. Charmaine Ganson) were the only report of the isolated Edwards Plateau population.

Hammond's Flycatcher - A Hammond's Flycatcher below the Canyon Lake Dam, *Comal* 10-23 Nov (ph. Greg Steeves) was a surprising find and a county first.

Plumbeous Vireo - A Plumbeous Vireo in Midland, *Midland* 26 Aug (ph. Greg Palko) was along the eastern edge of the normal migration route.

Violet-green Swallow - A Violet-green Swallow wandered to Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 29 Oct - 1 Nov (ph. Justin Bosler).

Mountain Bluebird - The easternmost Mountain Bluebird was one at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, *Bell* 29-31 Oct (ph. Gil Eckrich).

Varied Thrush- Perhaps the highlight of the season in central Texas was a Varied Thrush in San Saba, *San Saba* 25-26 Oct (ph. Barbara Pankratz, m.ob.).

Wood Thrush - Wood Thrushes wandered as far west as Fort Clark Springs, *Kinney* 24 Oct (ph. Steve Svedeman) and San Angelo, *Tom Green* 27 Oct (ph. Robert Dowler).

Audubon's Oriole - The beginning of a northward expansion/push of Audubon's Oriole that continued into the winter started with 2 at Palmetto S.P., *Gonzales* 17 Nov (Bryce Hardway, Robert Hardway) and as many as 4 south of Belmont, *Gonzales* 17 Nov+ (ph. Florence King).

Virginia's Warbler - Rarely detected as a migrant in Texas outside of the Trans-Pecos, a Virginia's Warbler in Midland, *Midland* 25-26 Aug (ph. Greg Palko) was a great find.

Cape May Warbler - A Cape May Warbler at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 12-13 Sep (ph. Galen Stewart) was an exceptional migrant, especially for the fall.

Black-throated Blue Warbler - An above average fall for Black-throated Blue Warbler with singles in Midland, *Midland* 11 Oct (ph. Greg Palko), in south Austin, *Travis* 13 Oct (ph. Robin Finlay) and near Gruene, *Comal* 26 Nov - 3 Dec (ph. Joe Finneran).

Black-throated Gray Warbler - Outlier Black-throated Gray Warblers included one west of Sisterdale, *Kendall* 21 Sep (ph. Nancy Devlin) and another in Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, *Bexar* 17 Nov - 9 Dec (John Shenot, Andrew Melnykovych, ph. m.ob.).

Rufous-capped Warbler - Rufous-capped Warblers are most frequently found in the southwest Edwards Plateau and surrounding areas; one at Fort Clark Springs, *Kinney* 13-28 Oct (Greg Cook, Steve Glover, ph. m.ob.) fit right into that same pattern.

Cited observers and contributors:

Justin Bosler, Craig Browning, Sheridan Coffey, Greg Cook, Janet Davis, Nancy Devlin, Bob Doe, Robert Doe, Robert Dowler, Sonia Duran, Gil Eckrich, Christian Fernandez, Brad Fields, Robin Finlay, Joe Finneran, Charmaine Ganson, Steve Glover, Bryce Hardway, Robert Hardway, Dan Hardy, Georgia Harper, Randy Hesford, Jeffrey Jackson, Richard Kaskan, Daniel Kelch, Florence King, Barry Lyon, Andrew Melnykovich, Arman Moreno, Vincent O'Brien, Jeff Osborne, Jay Packer, Karen Pair, Greg Palko, Barbara Pankratz, Randy Pinkston, Martin Reid, Martha Richardson, Willie Sekula, John Shenot, Greg Steeves, Galen Stewart, Steve Svedeman, Tim Vasquez.