

Central Texas – Spring 2019 (1 Mar 2019 – 31 May 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:

Fulvous Whistling-Duck - Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were rather far north just east of Belton, *Bell* 7-8 May (Randy Pinkston, ph. Charlie Plimpton).

Eurasian Wigeon - A great find anywhere in the state, a male Eurasian Wigeon at O.C. Fisher Lake outside San Angelo, *Tom Green* 6-21 Mar (ph. Suzanne Johnson, m.ob.) was one of the seasonal highlights in central Texas.

Mottled Duck - Out of place was a Mottled Duck on Lake Travis, *Travis* 3 May (ph. Suzie McCann).

Surf Scoter - A nice inland group of 3 Surf Scoters lingered on the west end of Belton Lake, *Bell* 3-17 Mar (ph. Charlie Plimpton).

Long-tailed Duck - A Long-tailed Duck was a one-day wonder at Mitchell Lake, *Bexar* 3 Mar (ph. Steve Svedeman).

Clark's Grebe - The easternmost Clark's Grebe was a lone bird on O.C. Fisher Lake outside San Angelo, *Tom Green* 19-28 Mar (ph. Lawrence Haller).

White-tipped Dove - Last year's pioneering White-tipped Dove returned to far west Austin, south of St. Edward's Park, *Travis* 19 Mar+ (Bill Reiner).

Common Pauraque - A Common Pauraque almost 10 miles south-southeast of San Marcos, *Hays* 16-26 Apr (Bryan Tarbox) was the most northerly individual reported.

Mexican Violetear - Mexican Violetears made a strong showing with one in north San Antonio 12-16 May (ph. Lila Theis, m.ob.), one in Kerrville, *Kerr* 13 May+ (ph. Lila Lewis) and another near Reagan Wells, *Uvalde* 24 May+ (ph., m.ob.).

Black-chinned X Anna's Hummingbird - The hybrid Black-chinned X Anna's Hummingbird from last year returned to far nw. Austin, *Williamson* 15 Apr+ (ph. Arman Moreno).

Buff-bellied Hummingbird - A Buff-bellied Hummingbird in West Lake Hills, *Travis* 12 May (Hugh Smyth) was notable north of its regular range.

Purple Gallinule - Ranging westward, a Purple Gallinule was a good find on the Edwards Plateau in Marble Falls, *Burnet* 13 May (ph. Fred Zagst, Kay Zagst).

Whooping Crane - Two Whooping Cranes heading north stopped at Granger Lake, *Williamson* 22 Mar (ph. Lynn Chapman).

Piping Plover - Always a nice inland prize during migration, a lone Piping Plover stopped at Belton Lake, *Bell* 24 Apr (Jeff Hall, ph. Randy Pinkston).

Mountain Plover - Likely more regular in the region than detected, as many as 25 Mountain Plovers was a sizeable count north of Wingate, *Runnels* 10 Mar (ph. Christian Walker).

Whimbrel - A dozen Whimbrel 5 miles southwest of Eden, *Concho* 25 Apr (ph. Kathy Dunning, Tony Leukering) was a nice number for such a westerly locale.

Hudsonian Godwit - Hudsonian Godwits are regular migrants in at least the eastern portion of the range but a careful count of 47 near Webberville, *Travis* 6 May (Cinda Crosley m.ob.) was still an unusually high count.

Marbled Godwit - A total of 17 Marbled Godwits at Belton Lake, *Bell* 24 Apr (ph. Randy Pinkston) was also a notably high count for central Texas.

Willet - A count of 65 Willets on Belton Lake, *Bell* 24 Apr (ph. Randy Pinkston) must have been a stunning sight.

California Gull - A first-cycle California Gull on Lake Buchanan, *Llano* 10 Mar (ph. Vincent O'Brien) was a surprising find.

Wood Stork - Four Wood Storks mixed in with pelicans near Lago Vista, *Travis* 23 May (David Liang) was a bit unseasonal and well west of where they can be expected.

Glossy Ibis - Inland Glossy Ibis included single birds 5 miles north of Wingate, *Taylor* 4 May (ph. Jay Packer), at Junction's Wastewater Ponds, *Kimble* 6 May (ph. Rhandy Helton), near Webberville, *Travis* 9-12 May (ph. Arman Moreno), and at Twin Buttes Reservoir, *Tom Green* 29-30 May (ph. Lawrence Haller).

Swallow-tailed Kite - A Swallow-tailed Kite wandered westward to Kerrville, *Kerr* 10 Apr (Nancy Raginski, Michael Gamble).

Common Black Hawk - An incredibly rare find for the eastern Edwards Plateau was an adult Common Black Hawk over Pedernales Falls S.P., *Blanco* 12 Apr (Pat O'Neil).

Harris's Hawk - A Harris's Hawk wandered northward 13 miles south of Baird, *Callahan* 29 Mar (ph. Rich Kostecke).

White-tailed Hawk - A White-tailed Hawk detected near Granger Lake, *Williamson* 25 May (Susan Andres) could have been the same bird seen a couple times there in mid-winter.

Short-tailed Hawk - Probably annual on the Edwards Plateau, single light-phase Short-tailed Hawks were at Leakey, *Real* 7 Mar (ph. Steve Svedeman) and at Government Canyon S.N.A., *Bexar* 27 Apr (ph. Abbie Valine).

Ferruginous Hawk - Central Texas has large areas where Ferruginous Hawk is absent from so it was a nice to have a flyover in far nw. Austin, *Williamson* 10 Mar (ph. Arman Moreno).

Western Screech-Owl - A Western Screech-Owl heard southwest of Nolan, *Nolan* 9 Mar (Christian Walker) was a real outlier.

Lewis's Woodpecker - Quite unexpected was a Lewis's Woodpecker 15 miles south of Robert Lee, *Coke* 6 Mar (ph. Deborah Whiting).

Pileated Woodpecker - A rather odd sight on the Edwards Plateau and well north of expected range, a Pileated Woodpecker was seen well at Pedernales Falls S.P., *Blanco* 10 Mar (Alan Knue).

Great Kiskadee - Continuing their expansion northward, a Great Kiskadee in Menard, *Menard* 6 May (ph. David Sarkozi) was a new location for one.

Mountain Bluebird - A Mountain Bluebird was a surprise and a bit unseasonal east to south of Cedar Park, *Williamson* 17 Mar (ph. Steven McDonald).

Townsend's Solitaire - The farthest wandering Townsend's Solitaire was one at South Llano River S.P., *Kimble* 26 Mar (ph. Curtis McCamy).

Cassin's Finch - A male Cassin's Finch was out-of-range at South Llano S.P., *Kimble* 12 Mar (ph. Greg Page).

Brewer's Sparrow - A Brewer's Sparrow was along the eastern edge of its range at South Llano S.P., *Kimble* 25 Mar (Rhandy Helton).

Green-tailed Towhee - The wintering Green-tailed Towhee at Commons Ford Park in west Austin, *Travis* stayed 12 Apr (m.ob.).

Hooded Oriole - A Hooded Oriole just north of Boerne, *Kendall* 30 Mar (ph. Edward Noack) was at the northeast limit of where they can occasionally be found.

Audubon's Oriole - Quite unexpected and another indicator of northward expansion was an Audubon's Oriole near Dripping Springs, *Hays* 26 Mar (ph. Eva Frost).

Worm-eating Warbler - A Worm-eating Warbler at South Llano S.P., *Kimble* 30 Apr (ph. Tina Trost) was a nice find on the Edwards Plateau and well west of where they are expected.

Prothonotary Warbler - A Prothonotary Warbler was west to Neal's Lodge, Concan, *Uvalde* 16 Apr (Carlos Sanchez).

Hooded Warbler - Out-of-range Hooded Warblers included one at San Angelo S.P., *Tom Green* 6 May (ph. Robert Dowler) and another in Abilene, *Taylor* 29 May (Jay Packer).

Tropical Parula - A nice record for *Travis* was a Tropical Parula at Commons Ford Park in west Austin, *Travis* 23 Apr -4 May (ph. Justin Bosler, m.ob.).

Black-throated Blue Warbler - A surprising find for the spring in central Texas was a male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Breckenridge Park, San Antonio, *Bexar* 11 May (Brad Wier, ph. Christian Fernandez).

Black-throated Gray Warbler - Perhaps a wandering bird that wintered locally, a Black-throated Gray at Breckenridge Park, San Antonio, *Bexar* 9-12 Mar (ph. Willie Sekula) was still a nice find.

Yellow Grosbeak - Texas's first Yellow Grosbeak from the winter season near Concan, *Uvalde* continued until at least 5 Apr (m.ob.).

Morelet's Seedeater - A Morelet's Seedeater in Brackettville, *Kinney* 30 Mar (ph. Ben Lucking) was unexpected though with other sightings in the area in past years, perhaps this species is coming up the drainages that lead to the Rio Grande.

Cited observers and contributors:

Susan Andres, Justin Bosler, Lynn Chapman, Cinda Crosley, Robert Dowler, Kathy Dunning, Christian Fernandez, Eva Frost, Michael Gamble, Jeff Hall, Lawrence Haller, Rhandy Helton, Suzanne Johnson, Alan Knue, Rich Kostecke, Tony Leukering, Lila Lewis, David Liang, Ben Lucking, Curtis McCamy, Suzie McCann, Steven McDonald, Arman Moreno, Edward Noack, Vincent O'Brien, Jay Packer, Greg Page, Randy Pinkston, Charlie Plimpton, Nancy Raginski, Bill Reiner, Carlos Sanchez, David Sarkozi, Willie Sekula, Hugh Smyth, Steve Svedeman, Bryan Tarbox, Lila Theis, Tina Trost, Abbie Valine, Christian Walker, Deborah Whiting, Brad Wier, Fred Zagst, Kay Zagst