

Central Texas – Spring 2020 (1 Mar 2020 – 31 May 2020)
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:

Groove-billed Ani - A Groove-billed Ani north of expected range in south Austin, *Travis* 29-30 Apr (Suzanne Kho, ph. m.ob.) was a definite highlight of the season in central Texas.

Common Pauraque - A Common Pauraque in Utopia, *Uvalde* 1-10 Mar (Mitch Heindel) was at the extreme northern edge of its range.

Black-chinned X Anna's Hummingbird - A hybrid Black-chinned X Anna's Hummingbird that first appeared at far nw. Austin, *Williamson* location in April 2018 was again visiting the same feeders 8 Apr+ (ph. Arman Moreno).

Broad-billed Hummingbird - A male Broad-billed Hummingbird visited feeders about 20 miles south-southeast of Sweetwater, *Nolan* 17 Apr (ph. Jay Packer) for a first county and perhaps first regional record.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird - Single Buff-bellied Hummingbirds wandered north with one 10 miles southwest of Boerne, *Bandera* 6-12 May (ph. Tara Randle) and another in Brackettville, *Kinney* 19-26 May (ph. Troy Hibbitts).

Whooping Crane - Migrating Whooping Cranes are not detected every spring so 3 sightings of multiple birds was exciting: 3 over Temple, *Bell* 1 Apr (ph. Randy Pinkston), a pair over east Austin, *Travis* 2 Apr (ph. Don Brode) and 4 birds noted just east of the eastern end of Lake Travis, *Travis* 16 Apr (Bill Reiner).

Piping Plover - Inland migrating Piping Plovers are always of note: one 5 miles northeast of Merkel, *Jones* 19-27 Apr (ph. Brad Banner), 2 at Grange Lake, *Williamson* 23 Apr (ph. Tim Fennell), and 1 more at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, *Bell* 25 Apr (Randy Pinkston et al.).

Mountain Plover - Not expected on the Edwards Plateau, a Mountain Plover 8 miles southwest of Fredricksburg, *Gillespie* 11 Mar (ph. Chris Distel) was rather surprising.

Whimbrel - A single flock of 18 Whimbrels at Twin Buttes Reservoir, *Tom Green* 23 Apr (ph. Lawrence Haller) was an impressive flock for a westerly location.

Marbled Godwit - A large group of 37 Marbled Godwits visited Twin Buttes Reservoir, *Tom Green* 9 Apr (ph. Lawrence Haller).

Willet - At least 67 Willets at Twin Buttes Reservoir, *Tom Green* 6 May (ph. C.A. Maedgen) was the highest inland count for the spring.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - The first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull continued at Twin Buttes Reservoir, *Tom Green* through 11 May (ph.,m.ob.).

Common Loon - A Common Loon stopping at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, *Bell* 16 May (Nathaniel Watkins) was rather late.

Brown Booby - An adult Brown Booby was inland to Canyon Lake, *Comal* 28 May+ (ph. Greg Steeves).

Brown Pelican - Inland Brown Pelicans included one at Granger Lake, *Williamson* 18 Apr (ph. Brooke Smith), another at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, *Bell* 23 Apr (ph. Daniel Kelch), one at Proctor Lake, *Comanche* 9-18 May (ph. Kyle Watter) and 2 at Twin Buttes Reservoir, *Tom Green* 26 May - 2 Jun (ph. Randy Hesford).

Glossy Ibis - Inland Glossy Ibis include one northeast of Knippa, *Uvalde* 8-16 Apr (ph. Rose Cooper) and another in Temple, *Bell* 28 Apr (ph. Randy Pinkston).

Swallow-tailed Kite - Late and west were lone Swallow-tailed Kites in north Austin, *Travis* 2 May (ph. Byron Stone), at the Medina River Natural Area, *Bexar* 6 May (Larry Carpenter), in south Austin, *Travis* 8 May (Shelia Hargis) and northwest of Georgetown, *Williamson* 12 May (Karen Pair).

Common Black Hawk - A Common Black Hawk near Lake Nasworthy, *Tom Green* 28 Apr (ph. Tim Vasquez) was a great find.

Harris's Hawk - Two Harris's Hawks just southeast of Belton Lake, *Bell* 20-22 May (ph. Gil Eckrich, ph. Charlie Plimpton) was well north of expected range.

Short-tailed Hawk - A highlight of the season in central Texas was a flyover light-phase Short-tailed Hawk east of Mico, *Medina* 17 Mar (ph. Laura Keene) though one was seen briefly nearby last spring as well.

Acorn Woodpecker - As many as 4 Acorn Woodpeckers northwest of Leakey, *Real* 7-14 Mar (ph. Charmaine Ganson) were a good sign for the small population in the region.

Couch's Kingbird - Ever-expanding, a Couch's Kingbird was vocalizing in Mertzon, *Irion* 20-31 May (ph. Jay Packer).

Hutton's Vireo - Also increasing their presence and starting to colonize areas off the Edwards Plateau are Hutton's Vireos; one was singing 10 miles southeast of Baird, *Callahan* 18 Apr (Jay Packer) while another was studied building a nest along the Dove Creek drainage 8 miles southeast of Mertzon, *Irion* 30 May (ph. Ceclia Riley, Don Verser).

Veery - Ranging west was a Veery near Utopia, *Uvalde* 9 May (Mitch Heindel).

Gray-cheeked Thrush - Also west of its migration route was a Gray-cheeked Thrush in Utopia, *Uvalde* 11 May (Mitch Heindel).

Wood Thrush - A Wood Thrush near Centerpoint, *Kerr* 27 Mar (Tom Collins) was both early and westward.

Clay-colored Thrush - A Clay-colored Thrush in Ingram, *Kerr* 7 Apr - 3 June (ph. Paul Sellin) was an outstanding find and one of the most northerly records ever in Texas.

White Wagtail - Texas's first White Wagtail found in early February below Longhorn Dam, *Travis* continued to be seen until 5 Apr to the delight of many birders (ph., m.ob.).

Bobolink - A many as 6 Bobolinks northeast of Elgin, *Travis* 18-20 May (ph. Bill Reiner, m.ob.) was a good count along the western edge of their migration path.

Hooded Oriole - A stunning male Hooded Oriole 10 miles north-northwest of Llano, *Llano* 13 Mar (ph. Bill Brooks) was well north and east of expected range.

Worm-eating Warbler - A Worm-eating Warbler in north Austin, *Travis* 7 May (m.ob.) and another in Georgetown, *Williamson* 13 May (Martin Byhower et al.) were good finds for central Texas.

Hooded Warbler - A Hooded Warbler wandered west to Kerr W.M.A., *Kerr* 20 Apr (Michael Gamble, Nancy Raginski).

Bay-breasted Warbler - A Bay-breasted Warbler was a bit west in San Angelo, *Tom Green* 1-2 May (ph. Linda White).

Palm Warbler - A Palm Warbler near Lake Nasworthy, *Tom Green* 28 Apr (ph. Lawrence Haller) was a nice find.

Yellow-throated Warbler - A Yellow-throated Warbler at Abilene State Park near Lake Abilene, *Taylor* 17 May (ph. Jayton Carroll) was unexpected.

Sutton's Warbler - Sutton's Warbler, the named hybrid for Northern Parula X Yellow-throated Warbler, is rarely documented in Texas so one 7 miles southeast of Round Mountain, *Blanco* 2 May+ (ph. Barry Lyon, Brooke Smith) was a great find.

Scarlet Tanager - A Scarlet Tanager wandered west to just north of Lake Fort Phantom Hill, *Jones* 14 May (ph. Bobbie Hale).

Cited observers and contributors:

Brad Banner, Don Brode, Bill Brooks, Martin Byhower, Larry Carpenter, Jayton Carroll, Tom Collins, Rose Cooper, Chris Distel, Gil Eckrich, Tim Fennell, Michael Gamble, Charmaine Ganson, Bobbie Hale, Lawrence Haller, Shelia Hargis, Randy Hesford, Troy Hibbitts, Laura Keene, Daniel Kelch, Suzanne Kho, Barry Lyon, C.A. Maedgen, Arman Moreno, Jay Packer, Karen Pair, Randy Pinkston, Charlie Plimpton, Nancy Raginski, Tara Randle, Bill Reiner, Ceclia Riley, Paul Sellin, Brooke Smith, Greg Steeves, Byron Stone, Tim Vasquez, Don Verser, Nathaniel Watkins, Kyle Watter, Linda White