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

**Noteworthy Bird Sightings**

Compiled by Eric Carpenter


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.


**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).


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. Cecilia 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.


**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:*