

Central Texas – Summer 2020 (1 June 2020 – 31 July 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:

American Wigeon - Late single American Wigeon were southeast of Goldwaithe, *Mills* 7 Jun (Byron Stone) and south of Ingram, *Kerr* 11 Jun (ph. Dale Bargmann).

Lesser Nighthawk - Lesser Nighthawks are becoming more established and moving slightly northward on the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau with birds at multiple locations during the summer in Austin, *Travis* (m.ob.) and 2 in Round Rock, *Williamson* 13-24 Jun (Shelia Hargis, m.ob.).

Virginia Rail - Rather unseasonal was a Virginia Rail detected in Andrews, *Andrews* 19 Jul (John Pike).

Sandhill Crane - Two Sandhill Cranes near Granger Lake, *Williamson* 7 Jul (ph. Brush Freeman) was a strange sight for mid-summer.

American Avocet - Unusual early/mid-summer sightings of American Avocet included 2 at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 22 Jun (ph. Benjamin Crawford) and at least 20 there 1 Jul (m.ob.).

Snowy Plover - A Snowy Plover was a nice find near Granger Lake, *Williamson* 27 Jul (Brush Freeman).

Marbled Godwit - A lone Marbled Godwit briefly circled the ponds at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 17 Jul (ph. Benjamin Crawford).

Baird's Sandpiper - A Baird's Sandpiper lingered through the season at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* (ph., m.ob.).

Semipalmated Sandpiper - The earliest returning Semipalmated Sandpipers were up to 4 detected at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 27 Jun (ph. Jason Garcia).

Willet - A Willet at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 23 Jun (ph. Caleb Helsel) was on the early side.

Laughing Gull - A juvenile Laughing Gull wandered to Twin Buttes Reservoir, *Tom Green* 24-25 Jul (ph. Randy Hesford).

Franklin's Gull - Three Franklin's Gulls on Proctor Lake, *Comanche* 24 Jun (Jay Packer, Amy Packer) were perhaps non-breeders.

Black Tern - Also unseasonal was a Black Tern on Proctor Lake, *Comanche* 24 Jun (Jay Packer, Amy Packer).

Black Skimmer - Quite inexplicable and with no storm or weather pattern to explain the dispersal, a Black Skimmer briefly circled low over the ponds at the Inks Lake Fish Hatchery, *Burnet* 13 Jul (†Sherry Bixler, †Fred Zagst).

Common Loon - A summering Common Loon was on Belton Lake, *Bell* 11 Jun (ph. Gil Eckrich).

Wood Stork - Early and a bit north was a Wood Stork 5 miles southeast of Thrall, *Williamson* 12 Jul (ph. Steven McDonald).

Brown Booby - The adult Brown Booby at Canyon Lake, *Comal* continued through at least 19 Jul (ph., m.ob.) while a sub-adult was a brief and rather surprising find at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 15 Jul (ph. Jeff Osborne, Janet Davis).

Brown Pelican - A Brown Pelican stopped at Walter E. Long Lake, *Travis* 6 Jul (Greg Drawbaugh, ph. Jeff Osborne) while another decided to stay at Granger Lake, *Williamson* 16 Jul+ (Kenneth Williams, ph. m.ob.).

Roseate Spoonbill - A Roseate Spoonbill wandered to 5 miles northwest of Hico, *Erath* 16 Jul (Jeremy Webster).

Osprey - Osprey seem to be increasing as a summer visitor to the region though one at Lake Sweetwater, *Nolan* 21 Jun (ph. Brad Banner) was still a nice find.

Harris's Hawk - A Harris's Hawk ranged north to Pflugerville, *Williamson* 29 Jun - 3 Jul (ph. Richard Kaskan, m.ob.).

Western Screech-Owl - A Western Screech-Owl was heard at South Llano River S.P., *Kimble* 3 Jul (Romey Swanson).

Olive-sided Flycatcher - Late was an Olive-sided Flycatcher in Sunset Valley, *Travis* 15 Jun (ph. Robin Dennis) while one in Midland, *Midland* 22 Jul (ph. Shirley Stafford) was a bit early.

Gray Flycatcher - Surprising was a Gray Flycatcher 5 miles south-southeast of Concan, *Uvalde* 25 Jul (†Petra Hockey).

Black Phoebe - The Black Phoebe pair at Hamilton Pool, *Travis* fledged 4 young (Jeffrey Jackson) while a juvenile bird being fed by an adult Eastern Phoebe on the south side of Lake L.B.J., *Llano* 8 Jun (ph. Andy Filtness) was quite likely a hybrid.

Brown-crested Flycatcher - The Brown-crested Flycatcher pair at Commons Ford Park, *Travis* were there until at least 24 Jul (m.ob.) and presumably bred though no young were documented.

Black-capped Vireo - Out of range was a Black-capped Vireo in Midland, *Midland* 18 Jul (ph. Greg Palko).

Hermit Thrush - A heard-only and rather unseasonal thrush on the west side of Round Rock, *Williamson* 25 Jun (audio, Lori Malloy) sounded very much like a Hermit Thrush.

Prothonotary Warbler - A wandering Prothonotary Warbler was east of Boerne, *Kendall* 25 Jul (Betty Dunn).

Magnolia Warbler - Late and west was a Magnolia Warbler at Twin Buttes Reservoir, *Tom Green* 13-14 Jun (ph. Randy Hesford).

Blackburnian Warbler - A Blackburnian Warbler in north San Antonio, *Bexar* 3 Jun (Calvin Carroll) was a bit tardy.

Western Tanager - A Western Tanager wandered east to Boerne, *Kendall* 22 Jul (ph. Katchy McCall).

Lazuli Bunting - A Lazuli Bunting at Junction's Schreiner Park, *Kimble* 19 Jun (Jeremy Webster) was an unexpected find.

Cited observers and contributors:

Brad Banner, Dale Bargmann, Sherry Bixler, Calvin Carroll, Benjamin Crawford, Janet Davis, Robin Dennis, Greg Drawbaugh, Betty Dunn, Gil Eckrich, Andy Filtness, Brush Freeman, Shelia Hargis, Caleb Heisel, Randy Hesford, Petra Hockey, Jeffrey Jackson, Richard Kaskan, Lori Malloy, Katchy McCall, Steven McDonald, Jeff Osborne, Amy Packer, Jay Packer, Greg Palko, John Pike, Shirley Stafford, Byron Stone, Romey Swanson, Jeremy Webster, Kenneth Williams, Fred Zagst.

