

**Central Texas – Fall 2021 (1 August 2021 – 30 November 2021)**  
**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** - Nine Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Mitchell Lake, Bexar Co 23 Oct (Christine Turnbull et al.) was a nice count.

**Mexican Duck** - Mexican Ducks seem to be regular to San Angelo, Tom Green Co highlighted by seven there 29 Oct (ph. Christopher Daniels).

**Mottled Duck** - A bit north of expected range, a Mottled Duck lingered on Lake Austin at Commons Ford Ranch Metro Park, Travis Co 16-28 Oct (ph. Vincent O'Brien, m.ob.).

**Surf Scoter** - Two Surf Scoters visited the wastewater ponds at Fort Clark Springs, Kinney Co 10-17 Nov (ph. Troy Hibbitts) while another was near Windy Point on Lake Travis, Travis Co 30 Nov - 5 Dec (ph. Jane Tillman).

**Anna's Hummingbird** - There were eight separate reports of Anna's Hummingbird in the region including two near Mico, Medina Co 21 Nov (ph. Laura Keene) and an early migrant northeast of Mertzon, Irion Co 27-28 Aug (Terry Tate).

**Allen's Hummingbird** - At least five Allen's Hummingbirds were found during the period, with an adult male in Dripping Springs, Hays Co 3 Aug+ (Maggie Carpenter, ph. Eric Carpenter) being exceptionally early.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** - Broad-tailed Hummingbirds had a nice showing in central Texas with at least 12 different birds found (m.ob.).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird** - Male Broad-billed Hummingbird were surprising visitors to northwest Austin, Travis 11 Sep+ (ph. Jim and Lynne Weber) and near Cibolo, Guadalupe Co 10 Oct+ (ph. Ken Harvey, m.ob.).

**Whooping Crane** - Two fly-over adult Whooping Cranes northeast of Salado, Bell Co 12 Nov (ph. Charlie Plimpton) were likely different birds than the 2 adults and 1

immature on the ground later that day at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, Bell Co (ph. Doug Orama).

**Mountain Plover** - A group of 14 Mountain Plovers near Lacoste, Bexar Co 4 Nov (Bob Doe) were unexpected.

**Red-necked Phalarope** - Single Red-necked Phalaropes put in appearances at Hornsby Bend, Travis Co 29 Sep - 1 Oct (ph. Sean Mecredy, m.ob.) and 13-14 Oct (Sean Mecredy).

**Iceland "Thayer's" Gull** - A first-cycle Iceland "Thayer's" Gull was an outstanding find at Granger Lake, Williamson Co 26 Oct (ph. Tim Fennell).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** - A first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull was found 5 miles northeast of Stanton, Howard Co 14 Nov (ph. Blaine Carnes, ph. Greg Cook) and another was at Calaveras Lake, Bexar Co 26 Nov (ph. Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey).

**Least Tern** - A peak count of 27 Least Terns, including several first-year birds, at O. C. Fisher Lake, Tom Green Co 10 Aug (ph. Christopher Daniels) was an encouraging sign.

**Common Tern** - Common Terns made a good showing with one at Granger Lake, Williamson Co 12 Aug (Tim Fennell), two at Lake Ballinger, Runnels Co 23 Sep (ph. Tony Leukering, Kathy Mihm Dunning), two at Kirby Lake, Taylor Co 1-2 Oct (ph. Jay Packer), and one near Windy Point, Lake Travis Co 14-15 Oct (ph. Andy Filtness).

**Wood Stork** - Notable was the Wood Storks congregation south of Thrall, Williamson Co through late Sep, with peak counts around 40 birds present there in early Sep (ph. m.ob.).

**Reddish Egret** - A immature dark morph Reddish Egret wandered to Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, Bell Co 21 Oct+ (ph. Daniel Kelch, m.ob.).

**Roseate Spoonbill** - Outlier Roseate Spoonbills included one northwest of Boerne, Kendall 7 Sep - 10 Oct (ph. N. Hendricks) and another at Stith Lake, Jones Co 30 Oct - 7 Nov (ph. Bradley Banner).

**Swallow-tailed Kite** - Out of range was a Swallow-tailed Kite over Commons Ford Ranch Metro Park, Travis Co 28 Sep (ph. Shelia Hargis) while one in Mertzon, Irion Co 1-2 Sep (ph. Greg Cook, Christopher Daniels) was even more unexpected.

**Golden Eagle** - A Golden Eagle was a surprising find over Fort Hood, Bell Co 30 Nov (Kevin Ebert, Matthew Christiansen, Chris Waas).

**Harris's Hawk** - A few Harris's Hawks penetrated the Edwards Plateau with one north of Johnson City, Blanco Co 16 Oct (Mark Edmund), another in Boerne, Kendall Co 19 Oct

(Richard Park, Tara Randle), and one more west of Mountain Home, Kerr Co 21 Oct (Charmaine Ganson).

**White-tailed Hawk** - A White-tailed Hawk wandered to Leakey, Real Co 15 Aug (Charmaine Ganson).

**Zone-tailed Hawk** - Notable Zone-tailed Hawks away from known haunts included one at Lake Georgetown, Williamson Co 11-13 Sep (ph. Jason Leifester, Kelly Holligan) and another in Cuero, DeWitt Co 21 Sep (Derek Muschalek).

**Ferruginous Hawk** - Ferruginous Hawks have a patchy distribution in central Texas, more so on the Edwards Plateau so one on the southeast side of O.H. Ivie Reservoir, Coleman Co 14 Nov (ph. Jay Packer) and one or two seen a few miles apart on southeast and east of Fredricksburg, Gillespie Co 26-27 Nov (Brandon Best, ph. Christian Walker) were of merit.

**Barred Owl** - A pair of Barred Owl have perhaps taken up residence along the western edge of their range around Lake Abilene, Taylor Co with sightings there 14 Aug - 9 Nov (audio Lance Burnett et al.).

**Red-naped Sapsucker** - A Red-naped Sapsucker made it as far east as Cuero, DeWitt Co 27 Oct (Derek Muschalek).

**Red-headed Woodpecker** - Unexpected was a Red-headed Woodpecker at Lake Sweetwater, Nolan Co 21 Sep (ph. Bob Friedrichs) and another northeast of Hamlin, Jones Co 1 Oct (Scotty Lofland).

**Acorn Woodpecker** - Sporadic sightings of Acorn Woodpecker continue in the area northeast of Leakey, Real Co with sightings of two birds there 11 Oct (ph. Jay Packer, Amy Packer) and 28 Nov (ph. Troy Hibbitts, Marla Hibbitts).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** - A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was a nice outlier in Midland, Midland Co 3 Oct (ph. Greg Palko).

**"Western" Flycatcher** - The Pacific-slope Flycatcher irruption that occurred last fall/winter did not materialize this year though a "Western" Flycatcher was seen at Helton Nature Park northwest of Floresville, Wilson Co 19 Sep (Willie Sekula).

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** - Late were 2 Ash-throated Flycatchers along the Colorado River just below the dam at O.H. Ivie Reservoir, Coleman Co 14 Nov (ph., audio Jay Packer).

**Tropical Kingbird** - Tropical Kingbirds continue to pioneer parts of the Edwards Plateau with one at the Junction Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Kimble Co 19 Nov - 1 Dec (Soheil Zende, audio Martin Reid) for a first county record and three just southwest of

Rankin, Upton Co 28 Aug (ph., audio Jane Tillman) near where birds were present last summer and fall.

**Couch's Kingbird** - Northerly Couch's Kingbirds included two in Eden, Concho Co 24 Sep (ph. Tony Leukering, Kathy Mihm Dunning) and one in San Angelo, Tom Green Co 26 Nov (ph., audio David O'Dell).

**Northern Shrike** - A major highlight for the region this fall was a first-year Northern Shrike that took up residence at Fox Park on the south shore of Granger Lake, Williamson Co 17 Nov+ (ph. Tim Fennell, m.ob.). This individual was part of a small-scale irruption, with a mid-November sighting of this species considered on the early side for Texas. For a species that it is usually limited in Texas to the upper Panhandle, it served as the southernmost record of the species ever found in Texas, and perhaps the southernmost anywhere in the world (looking at both North American and Asian populations, at least per sightings entered in eBird).

**White-breasted Nuthatch** - A White-breasted Nuthatch in Brownwood, Brown Co 18 Sep (ph. Scotty Lofland) was a nice find; 1-2 at Temple's Lions Park 31 Jul - 1 Sep (Jeremy Webster et al.) where just a few miles northwest of where the species is infrequently found along the Little River.

**Sage Thrasher** - Sage Thrashers did not irrupt as they did last fall, only a few birds wandered eastward including one northeast of Lacoste, Bexar Co 28-29 Oct (ph. Elizabeth Walker) and another at Reimer's Ranch Park in far west Travis Co 13 Nov (ph. Lance Felber et al.).

**Clay-colored Thrush** - A Clay-colored Thrush that took up residence along the San Antonio River south of Breckenridge Park in San Antonio, Bexar Co 16 Aug+ (ph. Britt Coleman, m.ob.) was a nice outlier well north of range.

**Cedar Waxwing** - The earliest Cedar Waxwing was a lone bird at Crescent Bend Nature Park east of Schertz, Bexar Co 14 Aug (ph. Gary Desormeaux).

**Olive Sparrow** - The outlier Olive Sparrow that wandered north to Lockhart SP, Caldwell Co in late May was still present as of 9 Aug (audio Shelia Hargis).

**Green-tailed Towhee** - Single Green-tailed Towhees wandered as far east as the northwest shore of Lake Austin, Travis Co 11 Nov (Callen Inman) and Stockdale Wastewater Treatment ponds, Wilson Co 28 Nov (Derek Muschalek).

**Bronzed Cowbird** - A Bronzed Cowbird in Merkel, Taylor Co 24 Nov (ph. Bradley Banner) was late.

**Rusty Blackbird** - Two Rusty Blackbirds were well west of range near O.C. Fisher Lake, Tom Green Co 22 Nov (ph. Christopher Daniels).

**Worm-eating Warbler** - A Worm-eating Warbler was a surprise near Round Mountain, Blanco Co 21 Aug (ph. Amy Sugeno).

**Blue-winged Warbler** - A good find for the fall season, a Blue-winged Warbler was in south Austin, Travis Co 3-5 Sep (ph. Michael Jewell).

**Cerulean Warbler** - Unexpected so far west was a Cerulean Warbler at James Kiehl River Bend Park east of Comfort, Kendall Co 13 Sep (Kevin Aanerud).

**Tropical Parula** - A Tropical Parula was detected at Commons Ford Metropolitan Park in west Travis Co 30 Aug (Sean Mecredy), at a location where one or more has been seen sporadically the past few years.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** - A Chestnut-sided Warbler was west and a bit late at Kenedy Park on O.H. Ivie Reservoir, Coleman Co 11 Nov (ph. Bob Friedrichs).

**Grace's Warbler** - One of the highlights of the season was a Grace's Warbler that came to a bird bath in far north San Antonio, Bexar Co 30 Sep (ph. Nancy Norman).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** - Lone Black-throated Gray Warblers showed up in Boerne, Kendall Co 15 Sep (ph. Pat Lucas) and in northwest San Antonio, Bexar Co 24-26 Oct (ph. Martin Reid, ph. Sheridan Coffey).

**Townsend's Warbler** - A Townsend's Warbler wandered slightly east to Brackettville, Kinney Co 6 Nov (ph. Troy Hibbitts).

*Cited observers and contributors:*

Kevin Aanerud, Bradley Banner, Brandon Best, Lance Burnett, Blaine Carnes, Eric Carpenter, Maggie Carpenter, Matthew Christiansen, Sheridan Coffey, Britt Coleman, Greg Cook, Christopher Daniels, Gary Desormeaux, Bob Doe, Kevin Ebert, Mark Edmund, Lance Felber, Tim Fennell, Andy Filtness, Bob Friedrichs, Charmaine Ganson, Shelia Hargis, Ken Harvey, N. Hendricks, Marla Hibbitts, Troy Hibbitts, Kelly Holligan, Callen Inman, Michael Jewell, Laura Keene, Daniel Kelch, Jason Leifester, Tony Leukering, Scotty Lofland, Pat Lucas, Sean Mecredy, Kathy Mihm Dunning, Derek Muschalek, Nancy Norman, Vincent O'Brien, David O'Dell, Doug Orama, Amy Packer, Jay Packer, Greg Palko, Richard Park, Charlie Plimpton, Tara Randle, Martin Reid, Willie Sekula, Amy Sugeno, Terry Tate, Jane Tillman, Christine Turnbull, Chris Waas, Christian Walker, Elizabeth Walker, Jim Weber, Lynne Weber, Jeremy Webster, Soheil Zende