

North American Birds
Spring 2019
South Texas
Willie Sekula

Spring migration was pretty uneventful and somewhat dull overall with no major fallouts occurring anywhere in South Texas.

Notable Observations:

Canada Goose – A Canada Goose present near Eagle Lake, *Colorado* 19-22 Apr (Glen Lindeman et al) was quite late.

White-winged Scoter – Nine White-winged Scoters were seen in flight at Mustang Island State Park, *Nueces* 18 Mar (Dixon Onderdonk).

Black Scoter – A male Black Scoter seen from the ferry at Port Aransas, *Nueces* 25 Apr (Bill Eisele) along with a female bird seen in Aransas Bay, *Aransas* 12 May (Mary Gustafson et al) were notable for the locations and dates.

Hooded Merganser – Amazing for the date & location were 38 Hooded Mergansers reported from the King Ranch, *Kleberg* 2 Apr (Bob Diebold).

Greater Prairie Chicken – Good news was the report of 12 Greater Prairie Chickens in *Goliad* 16 May (ph. Dave Allen).

Black-billed Cuckoo – A lateish Black-billed Cuckoo was seen at Estero Llano Grande State Park, *Hidalgo* 25 May (John Yochum).

Eastern Whip-poor-will – A very approachable Eastern Whip-poor-will seen in a North Padre Island, *Nueces* yard 12 May (Jon McIntyre) along with a calling bird in San Benito, *Cameron* 13 May (Michael Marsden) were notably late.

Calliope Hummingbird – A subadult male Calliope Hummingbird that visited Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park, *Hidalgo* 2-21 Mar (ph. Rick Snider; Mary Gustafson) provided for a rare spring record for the LRGV.

Allen's Hummingbird – An adult male Allen's Hummingbird was seen in *Cameron* 3 Apr 2019 (ph. Michelle Cano).

American Golden-Plover – A basic plumaged American Golden-Plover reported from the Superior Turf Farms, *Cameron* 31 May was late (Huck Hutchens).

Hudsonian Godwit – A careful count of 168 Hudsonian Godwits made near Eagle Lake, *Colorado* 13 May (Bob Friedrichs) was impressive.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – Normally good numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers are seen especially at the sod farms throughout South Texas but this spring did not provide such numbers.

American Woodcock – A late American Woodcock was well described from Jones Lake at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* 21 Apr (Daniel Newman).

Parasitic Jaeger – A Parasitic Jaeger was observed chasing terns and then heading out to sea on Mustang Island, *Nueces* 20 May (Andrew Orgill).

Bonaparte's Gull – An immature Bonaparte's Gull seen at Oyster Lake, *Matagorda* 8 May was quite late (Bob Friedrichs).

California Gull – The 1st cycle California Gull continued at the Brownsville Landfill, *Cameron* to at least 4 Mar (ph. Martin Reid, Willie Sekula).

Herring x Glaucous-winged Gull – The apparent 1st winter Herring x Glaucous-winged Gull continued at the Brownsville Dump, *Cameron* to 9 Mar (ph. Mary Beth Stowe).

Iceland Gull – Another 1st cycle Iceland Gull (*L. g. thayeri*) found at the Brownsville Dump, *Cameron* 4 Mar (ph. Martin Reid, Willie Sekula) was a different individual from the Feb bird. It was seen to the 15 Mar (Tony Leukering, Kathy Mihm Dunning).

Glaucous Gull – The Glaucous Gull continued from the winter at the Brownsville Landfill, *Cameron* until 4 Apr (m.obs.).

Brown Booby – Surprisingly only one Brown Booby was reported this spring from the region. A lone bird was seen offshore on an oil rig in *Nueces* waters 31 May (Andrew Orgill).

Glossy Ibis – Of note was a Glossy Ibis seen at the South Padre Birding & Nature Center, *Cameron* 13 Mar (ph. Javi Gonzalez et al).

Swallow-tailed Kite – Swallow-tailed Kites returned to Devers Creek Park in Ganado, *Jackson* this spring. Breeding was confirmed when four adults and a recently fledged youngster were seen 15 May (Petra Hockey).

Northern Harrier – A Northern Harrier reported from Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* 16 May (Bill Lubben) was on the late side.

Common Black-Hawk – The Common Black Hawk found at a resaca in Brownsville, *Cameron* in Jan continued to 4 Mar (Thomas Burns).

Ferruginous Hawk – A Ferruginous Hawk observed near Weedheaven, *Jackson* 21 Apr (Dan Sherick) was late.

Burrowing Owl – A very late Burrowing Owl was seen well at Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, *Colorado* 19 Apr (Fran Holmes).

Short-eared Owl – Three Short-eared Owls seen hunting over a field near Essevillle, *Atascosa* 31 Mar were late (Derek Muschalek, ph. Willie Sekula; Kim Garwood).

Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker – A Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker observed eating ants on the ground in Alamo, *Hidalgo* on 29 Apr (Anne Mayville) was exceedingly late.

Golden-fronted x Red-bellied Woodpecker – A hybrid Golden-fronted x Red-bellied Woodpecker photographed at the Calliham Unit, Choke Canyon State Park, *McMullen* 17 Mar (ph. Mike Stewart, Yvette Haughney) was well west of the two species' known hybrid zone.

Prairie Falcon – A Prairie Falcon seen along Military Highway in *Hidalgo* 13 Mar (Tony Leukering, Kathy Mihm Dunning) was of note.

Rose-throated Becard – An adult male Rose-throated Becard visited Sabal Palm, *Cameron* 19-21 Mar (Adam Hudson) while in *Hidalgo* another male was at Bentsen State Park 5 Apr (Martha McDermott et al), a female was at Quinta Mazatlan 6 Apr (Ryan Rodriguez et al) and another female at National Butterfly Center 26 & 28 Apr (Bert Wessling et al) and 5 & 25 May (Great Texas Birding Classic & Troy & Marla Hibbitts).

Dusky-capped Flycatcher – A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was reported from Salineno, *Starr* 1 Mar (ph. Ian Thompson, Brian C. Harris).

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher – A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher made a brief stop at Rosehill Cemetery in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 15 Apr (ph. Charlie Plimpton; Jackelyn Ferrer Perez)

Gray Kingbird – A Gray Kingbird was spotted in a traveling flock of Eastern Kingbirds at Mad Island Banding Site, *Matagorda* 15 May (Timothy Guida).

Acadian Flycatcher – A calling Acadian Flycatcher observed in Portland, *San Patricio* 26 May was quite late (Skip Cantrell).

Gray Flycatcher – A Gray Flycatcher made a rare *Cameron* appearance 22-23 Apr (ph. Peggy Rudman; Martin Hagne et al) at South Padre Island Convention Center.

Plumbeous Vireo – The wintering Plumbeous Vireo at Roselawn Cemetery in McAllen, *Hidalgo* was last seen 5 Mar (Mary Gustafson et al).

Yellow-green Vireo – Single Yellow-green Vireos seen this spring included one at Quinta Mazatlan, *Hidalgo* 3 May (Mary Gustafson, Huck Hutchens), another bird at Matagorda Birding and Nature Center, *Matagorda* 10-12 May (Bob Friedrichs et al) and a heard only bird at Rosehill Cemetery in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 13 May (Skip Cantrell).

American Crow – A lone American Crow was reported in Georgewest, *Live Oak* 29 Apr (Laura Wilson et al).

Violet-green Swallow – A Violet-green Swallow was spotted in a mixed swallow species flock at Wesley Seale Dam, *San Patricio* 19 Mar (Petra Hockey).

Brown Thrasher – A Brown Thrasher reported from Mad Island Marsh Preserve, *Matagorda* May 6 (Rich Kostecke et al) along with another bird at Rosehill Cemetery in Corpus Christi, Nueces 5 May were late (John Wilson).

American Pipit – A late American Pipit was seen at a *Jackson* turf farm 21 May (Mel Cooksey).

Chestnut-collared Longspur – Any longspur in deep South Texas is notable nowadays so two Chestnut-collared Longspurs found in an ag field near San Juan, *Hidalgo* 17 Mar (ph. Joanie & Mark Hubinger) were a good find.

Harris's Sparrow – A Harris's Sparrow seen near Eagle Lake, *Colorado* 24 Apr (Steve Glover) was late.

Black-vented Oriole – Certainly one of the highlights this spring was an adult male **Black-vented Oriole** found at Packery Channel, *Nueces* 23 Apr (Christina Parks, Sarah Roper, Claire Johnson; ph. Diane Theriault). A number of birders looked for this furtive rarity with only one other sighting which was on 25 Apr (Kyle Rambo).

Rusty Blackbird – A Rusty Blackbird made a rare visit to Paradise Pond, *Nueces* 5-8 Mar (ph. Skip Cantrell).

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat – A very vocal Gray-crowned Yellowthroat was found on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande River and it eventually flew over to the U.S. side at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* 3 May (ph. Ryan O'Donnell). It was seen again the next day.

MacGillivray's Warbler – Blucher Park in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* had two different MacGillivray's Warblers with one male 14 Apr and another male 2 May (Mel Cooksey et al). Four more different birds were scattered throughout the LRGV.

Black-throated Blue Warbler – The only Black-throated Blue Warblers reported this spring were not along the coast but in inland *Hidalgo*: a male was well described from Quinta Mazatlan 2 May (David Tonnessen) and a female reported from Edinburg Scenic Wetlands 7 May (Charles Seniawski).

Prairie Warbler – A Prairie Warbler made an extended stay (for a migrant) at The Willows on Mustang Island, *Nueces* 28 Mar – 7 Apr (Mel Cooksey et al).

Townsend's Warbler – A male Townsend's Warbler was seen at Packery Channel, *Nueces* 20 Apr (Derek Muschalek, Willie Sekula).

Hermit Warbler – A female Hermit Warbler made a rare visit to Corpus Christi's Rosehill Cemetery, *Nueces* 2-5 May (ph. Mel Cooksey et al).

Golden-crowned Warbler – The Golden-crowned Warbler continued at The Valley Nature Center in Weslaco, *Hidalgo* to 1 Mar.

Flame-colored Tanager – A female Flame-colored Tanager visited the South Padre Birding & Nature Center/Convention Center, *Cameron* 26 Apr (fide Javi Gonzalez; ph. Peggy Rudman)

Crimson-collared Grosbeak – The Crimson-collared Grosbeak found at Quinta Mazatlan, *Hidalgo* in Jan lingered until 25 Apr (m.obs.).

Lazuli Bunting – A male Lazuli Bunting was well described from Sunset Lake, *San Patricio* 26 Apr (Christy Esmahan) while a female was seen at Paradise Pond, *Nueces* 28 Apr (Martin Reid, Sheridan Coffey).

Dickcissel – A ready-for-harvest wheat field attracted at least 1200 Dickcissels near Mathis, *San Patricio* 27 Apr (Willie Sekula).

Black-headed Grosbeak – Single male Black-headed Grosbeaks seen at Tuleta, *Bee* 6 Mar (ph. Linda Vegh) and *San Patricio* 29 Apr (Skip Cantrell) were notable.

Cited Observers

Dave Allen
Thomas Burns
Michelle Cano
Skip Cantrell
Mel Cooksey
Bob Diebold
Kathy Mihm Dunning
Bill Eisele
Christy Esmahan
Noah Frade
Bob Friedrichs
Kim Garwood
Steve Glover
Javi Gonzalez
Timothy Guida
Mary Gustafson
Martin Hagne
Deborah Hailey
Jim Hailey
Brian C. Harris
Yvette Haughney
Troy & Marla Hibbitts
Petra Hockey
Mark & Joanie Hubinger
Fran Holmes
Adam Hudson
Huck Hutchens
Claire Johnson
Rich Kostecke
Glen Lindeman

Tony Leukering
Bill Lubben
Martha McDermott
Jon McIntyre
Michael Marsden
Anne Mayville
Derek Muschalek
Daniel Newman
Dixon Onderdonk
Andrew Orgill
Christina Parks
Jackelyn Ferrer Perez
Charlie Plimpton
Kyle Rambo
Martin Reid
Ryan Rodriguez
Sarah Roper
Peggy Rudman
Dan Sherick
Rick Snider
Charles Seniawski
Rae Ann Sines
Mike Stewart
Mary Beth Stowe
Diane Theriault
Ian Thompson
Daniel Garza Tobon
David Tonnessen
Leah Waldner
Laura Wilson
John Wilson
Bert Wessling
John Yochum