

North American Birds
Summer 2019
South Texas
Willie Sekula

The typical South Texas heat and drought of summer seemed to have been delayed this year. Good rains in June and early July helped delay the onset of the typical endless heat and drought that plagues us every year.

Notable Observations:

Ring-necked Duck – Two Ring-necked Ducks were seen hanging out with domestic waterfowl in Port Lavaca, *Calhoun* 6 & 8 Jun (Nina Rach, Tira Overstreet).

Red-breasted Merganser – A female Red-breasted Merganser seen at North Jetty on St. Joseph Island, *Aransas* 7 Jul (Andrew Orgill) provided for a notable mid-summer record.

Black-billed Cuckoo – A calling Black-billed Cuckoo reported from Estero Llano Grande State Park, *Hidalgo* 2 Jun (John Yochum, Isidro Montemayor) was late.

Sora – A late Sora was found in Flour Bluff, *Nueces* 9 Jun (ph. Ed Roeder).

Upland Sandpiper – Up to somewhat early 10 Upland Sandpipers were found around Edroy in *San Patricio* 12 Jul (Justin Bosler).

Hudsonian Godwit – Two tardy Hudsonian Godwits were spotted at the puddle remains of Hays Lake, *Kleberg* 5 Jun (ph. Andrew Orgill).

Pectoral Sandpiper – A Pectoral Sandpiper studied at Oso Bay, *Nueces* 4 Jun was late (Mel Cooksey).

Franklin's Gull – Two late Franklin's Gulls were seen at Bird Island, Padre Island National Seashore, *Kleberg* 5 Jun after heavy rains (Timothy Thompson).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – A Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen at Matagorda Bay Nature Park/Jetty, *Matagorda* 14 Jun (Huck Hutchens) & 5 Jul (Brenda Gonzales).

Sooty Tern – Unlike the past couple of years only one Sooty Tern showed up Rockport Beach Park, *Aransas* and it was seen only once 2 Jun (Susan Foster).

Royal Tern – A Royal Tern seen heading upriver at Salineno, *Starr* 16 Jun (Dennis Shepler) was thought to be heading to Falcon Lake.

Audubon's Shearwater – Two Audubon's Shearwaters were seen offshore in *Nueces* waters from a fishing boat 30 Jun (Jon McIntyre).

Brown Booby – Nine Brown Boobys seen in Corpus Christi Bay, *Nueces* 7 Jun was impressive (Skip Cantrell, Kevin Cochran).

Double-crested Cormorant – An immature Double-crested Cormorant seen at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* 28 Jul (Mary Gustafson) was likely a summering bird.

Brown Pelican – A Brown Pelican seen at Choke Canyon State Park, Southshore Unit, *Live Oak* 3 Jun (Darrell Hudgins) was apparently joined by another bird 20 Jul (Zachary Tonzitech).

Swallow-tailed Kite – Up to eight Swallow-tailed Kites delighted birds at Devers Creek Park in Ganado, *Jackson* during the summer with two active nests (m. obs.) being noted.

Bald Eagle – Two Bald Eagles (one adult & one subadult) seen over the Rio Grande River, Chapeno, *Starr* 16 Jun (Dennis Shepler, Fred Collins) were noteworthy for the date and location.

Mississippi Kite – A Mississippi Kite seen at the Southshore Unit of Choke Canyon State Park, *Live Oak* 2 Jun (Steve Glover, Greg Cook) was well away from the species' traditional summer haunts.

Belted Kingfisher – A Belted Kingfisher reported from Kaufer-Hubert Memorial Park, *Kleberg* 13 Jun (Mary Anne Romito) may have been a late spring migrant while another bird reported from Welder Wildlife Foundation, *San Patricio* 8 Jul (Michael McCloy) was likely an early fall arrival.

Great Crested Flycatcher – A Great Crested Flycatcher seen at Kaufer-Hubert Memorial Park, *Kleberg* 15 Jun (Mary Anne Romito) was a late spring migrant while single birds at South Padre Island, *Cameron* 24 Jul (Thomas St. Pierre) and Conn Brown Harbor, *Aransas* 27 Jul (Dell Little, D.D. Currie) were early fall migrants.

Eastern Kingbird – Two Eastern Kingbirds reported from Charlie's Pasture, *Nueces* 5 Jun (Bert and Louise Marcom) were late.

Alder/Willow (Traill's) Flycatcher – An Alder/Willow (Traill's) Flycatcher seen at Pollywog Pond, *Nueces* 27 Jul was early for the Coastal Bend (Derek Muschalek, Willie Sekula).

Bell's Vireo – A Bell's Vireo observed at Leonbelle Turnbull Birding Center in Port Aransas, *Nueces* 27 Jul (Willie Sekula) was probably an early fall migrant.

Yellow-green Vireo – The only Yellow-green Vireos in South Texas this summer were single birds seen in *Cameron* 15-16 Jun on Palmetto Hill Road (Mary Beth Stowe et al) and San Benito 26 & 28 Jun (Kim Cortez).

American Crow – Two American Crows reported from Choke Canyon State Park, Calliham Unit, *McMullen* 13 Jul (Karen Gleason) were notable for the westerly location.

Tree Swallow – Interesting were lone Tree Swallows present at Hans Sutter WMA, *Nueces* 2 Jun (Sheri Miles) and another bird on a private lake in Victoria, *Victoria* 28 Jun & 11 Jul (Mark Terry, Sharon Terry).

Bank Swallow – Two Bank Swallows reported from the headquarters of Padre Island National Seashore, *Kleberg* 29 Jun were most likely early fall migrants (Elaine Riley). Two birds reported from the Port Aransas Jetty, *Nueces* 16 Jul (Brent & Dora Ortego) were likely fall migrants also. A lone bird seen well at Choke Canyon State Park, Calliham Unit, *McMullen* 6 Jul (Tom Langschied et al) was most likely a post-breeding dispersant.

Field Sparrow – Two Field Sparrows were seen at a traditional *Bee* nesting area 29 Jun (Ron Weeks).

Baltimore Oriole – A male Baltimore Oriole observed at Choke Canyon State Park, Calliham Unit, *McMullen* 16 Jun (Derek Muschalek, Willie Sekula) was in the company of two Bullock's Orioles.

Prothonotary Warbler – A Prothonotary Warbler was detected amongst the mangrove roots on South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, *Cameron* 31 Jul (Kristin Livingston).

Swainson's Warbler – Single singing Swainson's Warblers were seen at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* 5 & 9 Jun (Skip Cantrell; Derek Muschalek, Willie Sekula) and at two locations in *Colorado* 4 & 5 Jul (Greg Cook).

Common Yellowthroat – A Common Yellowthroat was seen at Midway Park, *Dimmit* 26 Jun (Mary Anne Romito).

Hooded Warbler – A pair of Hooded Warblers detected at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* 9 Jun (Derek Muschalek, Willie Sekula) were at the species' most southerly breeding (irregular) breeding outpost in the state.

Pine Warbler – A Pine Warbler reported from Columbus, *Colorado* 12 Jul (Justin Bosler) is odd for the location and date.

Scarlet Tanager – A male Scarlet Tanager observed in Aransas Pass, *San Patricio* 3 Jun (Barbara Jones) was late.

Cited Observers

Justin Bosler
Skip Cantrell
Kevin Cochran
Fred Collins
Greg Cook
Mel Cooksey
Kim Cortez
D.D. Curie
Susan Foster
Karen Gleason

Steve Glover
Brenda Gonzales
Mary Gustafson
Huck Hutchens
Barbara Jones
Tom Langschied
Dell Little
Kristin Livingston
Bert and Louise Marcom
Michael McCloy
Mary McKeown-Moak
Jon McIntyre
Sheri Miles
Isidro Montemayor
Derek Muschalek,
Nina Rach
Andrew Orgill
Brent & Dora Ortego
Tira Overstreet
Elaine Riley
Mary Anne Romito
Thomas St. Pierre
Mary Beth Stowe
Ed Roeder
Dennis Shepler
Mark Terry
Sharon Terry
Timothy Thompson
Zachary Tonzitech
Ron Weeks
Allan Wylie
John Yochum