

Upper Texas Coast Sub-regional Report, Spring 2020

Covering: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, and Waller

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The Weather:

Rainfall was slightly above average with 12.04 inches (30.6 cm) of rain falling during the period at Houston's Intercontinental Airport. That total was 0.23 inches (0.6 cm) above normal. Temperatures averaged 3.6 degrees F (2.0 C) above average.

The Birds:

Snow Goose: A flock of 6 Snow Goose just east of Winnie, *Jefferson* 18 Apr were very late (Carl Poldrack).

Canvasback: A female Canvasback at McFaddin N.W.R., *Jefferson* 30 May was likely oversummering (ph. Greg Cook).

Surf Scoter: An adult male Surf Scoter at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 18-20 May was late (ph. Stephen Gast, David Ascanio, et al.).

Red-breasted Merganser: A flock of 6 Red-breasted Mergansers at John Paul Landing Park, *Harris* 20 Apr were a rare inland sight (ph. Kendra Kocab, Megan Ahlgren, John Paul, Linda Martin-Rust).

White-tipped Dove: For the 3rd year in a row, White-tipped Dove was detected at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* (ph. Nathan Cross on 7 Apr). This marks the first physical documentation for the U.T.C.

Lesser Nighthawk: Four Lesser Nighthawks were reported at Quintana, *Brazoria* 12 Mar (ph. Melissa Crookshank) and 2 were at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 3 May (Caleb Gordon).

Chuck-will's-widow: The Sabine's Woods, *Jefferson* Chuck-will's-widow was last reported 20 Mar (ph. Steve Mayes, Sheila Hebert).

Chimney Swift: Three Chimney Swifts seen at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 15 Mar were early (Wendy McCrady).

Buff-bellied Hummingbird: A Buff-bellied Hummingbird at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 15 May was likely a migrant (ph. Wendy McCrady, Dan McCrady). NOTE: We often get some moving birds in early May, but breeding has yet to be documented for the U.T.C.

Yellow Rail: A Yellow Rail flushed from a roadside along Oak Island Road, *Chambers* May 9th was very late (Connor England).

Sandhill Crane: Five Sandhill Cranes seen flying by Quintana, *Brazoria* 29 Mar were late (Joe Fischer).

American Golden-Plover: Eight American Golden-Plovers seen in a flooded rice field near Dayton, *Liberty* 13 May were a large number for so late in the season (Gary & Lisa Holmes).

Hudsonian Godwit: An extremely early Hudsonian Godwit photographed along the Bolivar Peninsula, *Galveston* 29 Mar (ph. David Henderson, Ednelza Henderson) was a new early for the U.T.C. and likely the state. Also early were 4 birds seen at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 8 Apr (Wendy McCrady).

Parasitic Jaeger: Lingering Parasitic Jaegers were photographed at Port Bolivar, *Galveston* 22 Apr (ph. Laura Baker) and 8 May (ph. Aiden Healey) and Quintana, *Brazoria* 14 May (ph. Ron Weeks). NOTE: It is possible based on the photographs that these were all the same bird.

Little Gull: An adult Little Gull was seen working the intercoastal waterway at Bob Road on the Bolivar Peninsula, *Galveston* 21-26 Mar (John Faber, et al.); a first-cycle bird was present on the Texas City Dike, *Galveston* 2 Apr (ph. Dennis Cooke).

Glaucous Gull: First winter Glaucous Gulls were in the Surfside/Quintana area, *Brazoria* 25-29 Mar (ph. Susan Heath, et al.) and at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 10-13 May (Leo Miller, ph. Dennis Cooke, et al.).

Common Tern: A count of 1000 Common Terns at East Beach, *Galveston* 21 Mar was a large total for so early in the season (Fred Collins).

Wood Stork: Wood Stork reports were sprinkled through the period with some surprisingly high counts of 43 from the San Jacinto River, *Harris* 20 Apr (Jo Willars, ph. Hannah Willars), 42 from Houston, *Harris* 21 Apr (Caleb Gordon), and 36 at Camp Sienna, *Fort Bend* (Richards Gibbons).

Masked Booby: An adult Masked Booby was photographed on a pier in Seabrook, *Harris* 23 Mar (ph. Vivian Griffey) and an immature was seen being caught by rehabilitators in League City, *Galveston* 25 May (Steven Berenzweig).

Brown Booby: The peak Brown Booby count for the sub-region was 7 at a "shellfish" marker in West Galveston Bay, *Galveston* 20 May (ph. Susan Heath, et al.).

American Bittern: A late American Bittern was seen at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 30 May (T Peterson).

Glossy Ibis: An impressive 7 Glossy Ibis with 5 on nest were seen at Shoveler Pond at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 16 May (ph. Cin-Ty Lee).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Sharp-shinned Hawks reported from Champion Forest Drive in Houston, *Harris* 21 May (Jeff Corcoran) and Sheldon Lake SP, *Harris* 22 May (Sonny Bratz) were apparently late migrants.

Merlin: A Merlin seen along White's Ranch Road, *Jefferson* 6 May was late (John Berner).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Early Eastern Wood-Pewees were heard at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 29 Mar (Debbie McSorley) and photographed at San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 4 Apr (ph. John Hale).

Great Crested Flycatcher: A Great Crested Flycatcher heard on Old Nelsonville Road, *Austin* 11 Mar was early (Darrell Vollert).

Black-capped Vireo: A singing Black-capped Vireo that spent the day at Galveston's Kempner Park, *Galveston* 26 Apr was just the 2nd U.T.C. record (ph. Bob Becker, m.ob.).

Blue-headed Vireo: Late Blue-headed Vireos included singles 17 May at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* (Pam Smolen, David Hanson) and 18 May on the west side of Houston, *Harris* (Aaron Hammer). NOTE: The latter was the latest ever for the U.T.C.

Black-whiskered Vireo: A Black-whiskered Vireo was at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 24 Apr (ph. Wes Browning, Rebecca Stroud, ph. Bill Eisele, ph. Barbara Stern, ph. Brandon Nidiffer, ph. Bill Matthews).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Bear Creek Park, *Harris* 1 May was late and somewhat unexpected since it was not an invasion year (Timothy White).

House Wren: A House Wren seen and heard at George Bush Park, *Harris* 26 May was the latest ever for the U.T.C. (Timothy White).

Sedge Wren: Two Sedge Wrens heard singing along 8 Mile Road on West Galveston Island, *Galveston* 24 May were quite late (Mary Anne Weber). NOTE: This species is a rare summer resident.

Curve-billed Thrasher: A Curve-billed Thrasher seen at Quintana, *Brazoria* 20-26 May was most unexpected (Kyle Jones, ph. Martin Hagne, et al.).

Swainson's Thrush: An early Swainson's Thrush was north of Kenefick, *Liberty* 29 Mar (Colette Micallef).

Song Sparrow: A Song Sparrow heard singing at the Katy Prairie Conservancy's Indiangrass Preserve, *Waller* 16 Apr was late (John Berner).

Lincoln's Sparrow: A late Lincoln's Sparrow see 18 May at Sugar Land, *Fort Bend* was the 2nd latest ever for the U.T.C. (Ryan Shaw).

Eastern Towhee: An Eastern Towhee seen 7 May at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* was the 2nd latest ever for the U.T.C. (John Haynes).

Hooded Oriole: Hooded Orioles were at Quintana, *Brazoria* 31 Mar (Larry Kirby, Susan Heath) and Stevenson Woods on West Galveston Island, *Galveston* 17 Apr (ph. Jim Stevenson, Greg Hall).

Bullock's Oriole: A Bullock's Oriole seen at Quintana, *Brazoria* 23 Apr was the last sighting after a banner winter for the species on the U.T.C. (Melissa Crookshank, Lynn Hay).

Baltimore Oriole: A male Baltimore Oriole in Pasadena, *Harris* 28 May was late (Kim & Tyson Hart).

Louisiana Waterthrush: A Louisiana Waterthrush at Boy Scout Woods in High Island, *Galveston* 10 May was late (Mary Ann Beauchemin).

Blue-winged Warbler: A late Blue-winged Warbler was at Quintana, *Brazoria* 16-17 May (ph. Lucy Spade, et al.). Singles at Texas Point N.W.R. and Sabine Woods, both *Jefferson* 22 Mar were early (John Haynes, Steve Mayes, Sheila Hebert, Gary Binderim).

Nashville Warbler: A Nashville Warbler at Quintana, *Brazoria* 17 May was late for the U.T.C. (Susan Heath, Joe Fischer).

Cerulean Warbler: A female Cerulean Warbler in northwest Houston, *Harris* 19 May was a new record late date for the U.T.C. (Ken Hartman).

Palm Warbler: A Palm Warbler at Bermuda Beach, *Galveston* 15 May was the second latest spring record ever for the U.T.C. (Tim Perkins). NOTE: The only later record is from 13 June.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A Yellow-rumped Warbler from Bear Creek Park, *Harris* 30 May tied the 2nd latest spring record for the U.T.C. (Jim Hinson).

Townsend's Warbler: A male Townsend's Warbler at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* 24 Apr was notable as the species is less than annual in spring (ph. Howard Smith, m.ob.).

Black-throated Green Warbler: A male Black-throated Green Warbler seen at Conroe, *Montgomery* 30 May was late (David & Jonathan Henderson).

Canada Warbler: A Canada Warbler from north Houston, *Harris* 29 May was late (Ryan Call).

Scarlet Tanager: A nocturnal flyover Scarlet Tanager recorded at Rice University in Houston, *Harris* 28 May was late (Cin-Ty Lee).

Western Tanager: Western Tanagers were noted from an impressive 9 different U.T.C. locations. The last was reported from San Bernard N.W.R., *Brazoria* 9 May (Wendy McCrady).

Lazuli Bunting: Lazuli Buntings were at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 16 Apr (John Haynes), Lafitte's Cove, *Galveston* 25 Apr (Kristi Carr), and Cullinan Park, *Fort Bend* (Tony & Phyllis Frank)

Varied Bunting: A male Varied Bunting at Quintana, *Brazoria* 20 Apr (ph. Melissa Crookshank, et.al.) was one of only a handful of U.T.C. records.

Observers

Megan Ahlgren
David Ascanio
Laura Baker
Mary Ann Beauchemin
Steven Berenzweig
John Berner
Gary Binderim
Sonny Bratz

Wes Browning
Melissa Crookshank (sent her a note asking if she was willing to share her full name – it is Melissa something)
Ryan Call
Kristi Carr
Fred Collins
Greg Cook
Jeff Corcoran
Nathan Cross
Bill Eisele
Connor England
John Faber
Joe Fischer
Phyllis Frank
Tony Frank
Stephen Gast
Richard Gibbons
Caleb Gordon
Vivian Griffey
Martin Hagne
John Hale
Greg Hall
Aaron Hammer
David Hanson
Lynn Hay
Kim Hart
Tyson Hart
Ken Hartman
John Haynes
Aiden Healey
Susan Heath
Sheila Hebert
David Henderson
Ednelza Henderson
Jonathan Henderson
Jim Hinson
Gary Holmes
Lisa Holmes
Kyle Jones
Larry Kirby
Kendra Kocab
Cin-Ty Lee
Linda Martin-Rust
Bill Matthews
Steve Mayes
Dan McCrady
Wendy McCrady
Debbie McSorley

Colette Micallef
Leo Miller
Brandon Nidiffer
John Paul
Tim Perkins
T Peterson
Carl Poldrack
Ryan Shaw
Howard Smith
Pam Smolen
Lucy Spade
Jim Stevenson
Barbara Stern
Rebecca Stroud
Darrell Vollert
Mary Anne Weber
Ron Weeks
Timothy White
Hannah Willars
Jo Willars