

## Upper Texas Coast Sub-regional Report, Summer 2020

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

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**The Weather:** Rainfall totals for the period at Bush Intercontinental Airport were 7.52 inches (19.10 cm) or 2.20 inches (5.59 cm) below normal and the average daily high was 94.0F (34.4C) or 0.9F (0.5C) above normal.

### The Birds:

**Greater Scaup** – A male Greater Scaup was an unexpected summer visitor to the Katy Prairie Conservancy, *Waller* 13-14 June (ph. Bob Honig, John Berner).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – An alternate White-rumped Sandpiper at Morgan's Point, *Harris* 22 Jun was either a late or early migrant (Stuart Nelson).

**Brown Booby** – The Brown Booby count on a channel marker in west Galveston Bay, *Galveston* 16 Jul had grown to 10 birds (ph. Dean Silvers, et al.).

**Osprey** – Three Osprey seen feeding on the NRG Cooling Ponds in Baytown, *Chambers* 29 Jul suggests that local breeding could be occurring (David Sarkozi, John Berner).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – An apparent female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seen at a suet feeder in Cypress, *Harris* 18-19 Jun is just the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer record for the UTC (†Christy Jones).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** – An Olive-sided Flycatcher photographed at Williamsburg Colony, *Harris* 25 Jun was presumably a very late migrant (Hank George).

**Eastern Phoebe** – A report of two Eastern Phoebes at Bear Creek Park, *Harris* 8 Jun included a photograph of a juvenile implying local breeding (ph. Donald Fullmer).

**Tropical Kingbird** – A yellow-bellied kingbird photographed at Quintana, *Brazoria* 29 Jul (ph. Melissa Crookshank) was in retrospect believed to be a Tropical Kingbird as a pair was photographed and recorded at the same location 1 Aug (ph. Ron Weeks, et al.).

**Couch's Kingbird** – Couch's Kingbird's apparently bred at Freeport, Brazoria as a pair of fresh juveniles were photographed at the Freeport Wetlands Preserve, *Brazoria* 21 Jun (ph. Ron Weeks) and calling adults were seen in the same general area tp (m.obs.).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher found along Montgomery Road, *Fort Bend* 23 Jun was south of the known breeding range (Joanna Willars).

**Lark Sparrow** – A Lark Sparrow at San Bernard NWR, *Brazoria* 2 Jun was late (ph. Wendy McCrady).

**Lark Bunting** – A female/immature male Lark Bunting at Brazoria NWR, *Brazoria* 18-19 Jul (ph. Melissa Crookshank, ph. Susan Heath, ph. Denise Stephens, ph. Ron Weeks, Martin Hagne) was just the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer record for the U.T.C. Ironically, both those records are from Brazoria NWR in mid-July.

**Dark-eyed Junco** – A sighting of a Dark-eyed Junco at Lake Houston Wilderness Park, *Montgomery* 13 Jul was most unexpected (†Bayard Nicklow).

**Yellow Warbler** – A singing Yellow Warbler at Trinity NWR, *Liberty* 10 Jun was late (Benjamin Dunnington).

Observers:

John Berner

Melissa Crookshank

Benjamin Dunnington

Donald Fullmer

Hank George

Martin Hagne

Susan Heath

Bob Honig

Christy Jones

Wendy McCrady

Stuart Nelson

Bayard Nicklow

David Sarkozi

Dean Silvers

Denise Stephens

Ron Weeks

Joanna Willars