

## Upper Texas Coast Sub-regional Report, Summer 2021

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 12.66 inches (32.1 cm) or 2.04 inches (5.2 cm) above normal and the average temperature was 83.8F (28.8 C) or 0.1F (0.1C) above normal.

### The Birds:

**Ring-necked Duck:** A male Ring-necked Duck continued at Jungman Road, Fort Bend Co through 30 Jun (Troy & Marla Hibbitts).

**Surf Scoter:** A male Surf Scoter at Bolivar Flats, Galveston Co 24 Jun was the latest ever for the UTC (Pete Deichmann).

**Hooded Merganser:** A late female Hooded Merganser was at the Katy Prairie Conservancy's Indiangrass Preserve, Waller Co 7 Jun (Stephen Gast).

**Common Ground-Dove:** Two Common Ground-Doves in Conroe, Montgomery Co 30 Jul were early (Joy Klumpp).

**Black-chinned Hummingbird:** A female Black-chinned Hummingbird photographed in Sugar Land, Fort Bend Co 31 Jul was the earliest ever documented for the UTC (Robert Opperman).

**Limpkin:** Limpkins appear to be here to stay. As many as 4 Limpkins continued at a private pond adjacent to Brazos Bend SP, Fort Bend Co through period (m.obs.). Copulation was reported on 7 Jul (Brad Shine) and documented 9 Jul (ph. Henry Jerng). And to make matters more exciting another Limpkin was photographed at Anahuac NWR, Chambers Co 9 Jul (Timothy Freiday). Yet another was photographed at Sheldon Lake SP, Harris Co 17 Jul (Tom Rollins). As many as 4 birds were seen and heard there through period (m.obs.).

**Upland Sandpiper:** An Upland Sandpiper heard calling multiple times near Hebert Road, Waller Co 18 Jun constitutes a rare summer record for the UTC (John Berner, Mikayla House). *NOTE: The earliest previous record is from 19 Jun - wonder if these are the extreme of early arrivals.*

**Long-billed Curlew:** A Long-billed Curlew seen flying over Brazos Bend SP, Fort Bend Co 26 Jun was likely an early migrant (Derek Muschalek, Rob Thacker).

**Red Knot:** A count of 17 summering Red Knots at Bolivar Flats, Galveston Co 12 Jul was encouraging (Kristen Vale).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** A male Wilson's Phalarope at Port Arthur, Jefferson Co 23 Jun was unexpected but not unprecedented (ph. Timothy Freiday).

**Willet:** Two Willets at Brazos Bend SP, Fort Bend Co 30 Jun were notable for their inland location (Troy & Marla Hibbitts).

**Great Shearwater:** A Great Shearwater photographed just off the Freeport jetties, Brazoria Co 14 Jul was a county first (Jana Stutzman, Ray Stutzman). Another or the same bird was photographed on the Galveston jetties, Galveston Co 19 Jul (Shane Cantrell). Pending review by the TBRC.

**Sooty Shearwater:** A Sooty Shearwater was spotted 37 miles offshore to the east of Galveston, Galveston Co 18 Jul (Shane Cantrell). Pending review by the TBRC.

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** An impressive count of 118 Magnificent Frigatebirds was tallied at Smith Point, Chambers Co 28 Jul (Sonny Bratz).

**Masked Booby:** An immature Masked Booby on the beach at San Luis Pass, Galveston Co 26 Jun was unexpected, but the bird did take flight indicating it was still reasonably healthy (Cin-Ty Lee). More expected was one seen offshore of Freeport, Brazoria Co 19 Jun (ph. Ron Weeks, ph. Joe Fischer).

**American White Pelicans:** American White Pelicans summered in above average numbers on the UTC as evidenced by 250 at Baytown, Harris Co 5 Jun (Cin-Ty Lee) and 135 at Brazoria NWR, Brazoria Co 26 Jun (ph. Ron Weeks).

**American Bittern:** A report of an American Bittern in Freeport, Brazoria Co 1-2 Jun was unusual but not unprecedented for a wet summer (Ryan Locke).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** An Olive-sided Flycatcher at the Kluge/Longwood Retention Basin, Harris Co 6 Jun was late (ph. John Cocanower).

**Tropical Kingbird:** A Tropical Kingbird was calling west of Sabine Pass, Jefferson Co 30 Jun tp may have been birds still present from last year's sightings here (audio Timothy Freiday).

**Cedar Waxwing:** A late Cedar Waxwing was at Quintana, Brazoria Co 5 Jun (Melissa Crookshank, Brad Lirette). Waxwings were also on west Galveston Island, Galveston Co 1-2 Jun (Jim Stevenson).

**Lesser Goldfinch:** A Lesser Goldfinch first found in the spring period lingered at Friendswood, Galveston Co until 2 Jun becoming the first ever summer record for the UTC (Steve Berenzweig).

**American Goldfinch:** Two American Goldfinches at Riverpark in Richmond, Fort Bend Co 16 Jun were rare for mid-summer (Mark Scheuerman).

**Prairie Warbler:** An early migrant Prairie Warbler was at Sabine Woods, Jefferson Co 28 Jul (John Haynes).