

DRAFT
North Central Texas
Summer (June-July) 2019 Bird Report

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Report Date: September 5, 2019

Overview

Highlights were very limited and far between this summer. Some birders remarked that it was the slowest birding summer they had in years. Water levels continued to be very high in most locales which seemed to result in lower numbers of herons and egrets and well below average numbers of some post-nuptial wanderers. The high water level significantly limited shorebird foraging habitat and in general below average numbers were present by the end of the month.

Resident songbirds seemed to have a good nesting season. It was a mixed bag for success for neotropical breeding birds like Scissor-tailed flycatcher and Western kingbird. There was an unusual total exodus of Scissor-tails from some locales in late July. In general, insect populations seem to be on a continuous decline over the past three years. A plus was a well-above number of Bell's vireos sightings this summer.

Weather

The spring stormy weather persisted until 20th of June with some localized strong thunderstorms and large hail. An unusual wind storm in mid-June resulted in significant damage to trees in Dallas. The effects on nesting birds are unknown as few sighting reports were received in June or July. The remainder of the summer was cooler than normal with an unusual low number of 100-degree days; rainfall totals over much of the region were lower than average this summer with some areas approaching a drought designation.

Potentially Noteworthy Sightings

Hooded Merganser – A Hooded Merganser at a pond along FM 1769, *Young* 3 Jun (Scotty Lofland) was unexpected and a first summer record for the county.

Common Gallinule – A pair of Common Gallinules nested at Village Creek, *Tarrant* 15 Jun – 7 Jul (Colby Ayers). This species is an irregular breeder locally in n-central Texas.

Common Loon – A lingering Common Loon observed from Loafers Bend Park on L. Whitney, *Hill* 27 Jun (Jeremy Webster) was a first summer record for the county.

Piping Plover – Piping plover migrants were found in above average numbers. The first of seven reported was at Lake Lewisville Park, *Denton* 20 Jul (Jason Hunt, ph.) and the last at the same locale, 30 Jul (Alan Gann, ph.).

Willet – A Willet at White Rock Lake spillway, *Dallas* 5 July (Jim Ferrari) tied the previous early arrival date.

Osprey – Casual in summer was an unexpected Osprey at L. Tawakoni, *Hunt*, 11 June (Richard Kinney).

Swainson's Warbler – A male Swainson's Warbler was singing on territory at River Legacy Park East, *Tarrant* 1-6 Jun (Jim Sipiora, ph.) was the lone report of the species this summer in the region.

Observers

Colby Ayers
Jim Ferrari
Alan Gann
Jason Hunt
Richard Kinney
Scotty Lofland
Jim Sipiora
Jeremy Webster