

FINAL
North American Birds Regional Report

North Central Texas Summer 2021

Compiled and Edited by Ross Rasmussen

Regional Highlights: Masked Booby. Limpkin

Potentially Noteworthy Sightings

Limpkin – Totally unexpected were the first two regional records of **Limpkin**; The first was found foraging in a yard along Travis Street, Sherman Grayson Co 3-4 Jun (Rick McCoy ph) and the second again in a rural yard along Old Garner Road, Garner Parker Co 4-5 Jun (Judy Holbrook ph).

Short-billed Dowitcher – Rare and early was an adult Short-billed Dowitcher along AT&T Trinity Forest Trail Dallas Co 12 Jul (Matt DuRoss, ph) and one at the Bluewater Development, Princeton Collin Co 15 Ju (Mike Cameron, ph).

Interior Least Tern – The largest number of Interior Least Terns this summer in n-cent Texas was 27 at Buffalo Creek Reservoir, Wichita 27 Jun (Scotty Lofland). None were nesting and thought to be displaced by flooding rains.

Masked Booby – Accidental in North Central Texas was a **Masked Booby** on Bowie Lake, Montague Co 10 June (Debbie Ashley ph). This is the second sighting of this species in the region.

Double-crested Cormorant – With no known recent records the discovery of four Double-crested Cormorants found nesting at Lake Lavon, Collin Co, on 26 May (Brady Schwab) was a totally unexpected nesting record.

Wood Thrush – With no recent summer records the sighting of a single singing Wood Thrushes Baretts Farm, Kaufman (Tim Gollob, audio recording) and at Hall Office Park, Frisco Collin Co 29 Jun - 8 Jul (Jason Hunt, ph) were a totally unexpected.

Warbling Vireo – Warbling Vireo's are rarely reported yearly in summer so three reports were unexpected: single singing birds were found along Old Gin Rd, Ellis 19 Jun (Joelyn Womack), along E. Lawther Rd, Dallas Dallas Co 21 Jul (John Hoverman), and at the Fort Worth Nature center Tarrant Co (George Askew).

Field Sparrow – Nesting Field sparrows continue to expand to the east in the western half of n-central Texas with at least five found singing along Co Roads 2009, 2011, 2013-2015 Somerville Co 30 May (Brady Schwab).

Family Overview

Waders - Heavy flooding rains in May and early June severely limited quality feeding habitat for herons and early shorebird migrants. As a result, the shorebird migration in July was poor for local birders.

Hummingbirds

Three observers reported higher than normal numbers of nesting Black-chinned Hummingbirds

Passerines

Near average numbers were reported for both the threatened Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler. An ebird review of the regional summer nesting season revealed the following trends.

Lower than average numbers for Eastern Bluebirds (especially rural), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (very low numbers a declining trend over the past few years), Vermillion Flycatchers (west), and the same for swallows (decreasing insect populations?). In additions there were slightly lower numbers reported for Indigo and Painted Buntings. Many local resident species seemed to have an average year.

Above average numbers were reported for Chuck Will-widows, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Bell's Vireo (which corresponded to very low numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds), and Baltimore Orioles.

Weather

The word "atypical" accurately describes the weather pattern this summer. Temperatures were cooler than normal with higher humidity levels than normal. It seemed more like Texas coast weather. Rainfall especially in June was above normal in more than a few subsections of the region. Is the regional summer climate changing?

Observers

George Askew
Debbie Ashley
Mike Cameron
Matt DuRoss
Tim Gollob
Judy Holbrook
John Hoverman
Jason Hunt
Scotty Lofland
Rick McCoy
Joelynn Womack

