

PAS Spring Bird Report (March 1 - May 31, 2013)

by David E. Wolf

Spring is our most exciting season for birds – and this year produced an **incredible variety of sightings**. Many thanks to everyone who participated in sending in their records for this report, which has proven to be quite lengthy and detailed! **Highlights and rarities are bolded** here for a quicker read, plus first dates for some local breeders are listed at the beginning before the main report.

This was a **late and cool spring** that brought a **remarkable series of powerful late cold fronts** through our region. The northern part of our area had 3 nights of hard freezes March 25-27, almost 10 days later than our average last freeze date. Then, major fronts came through April 10-11 (came close to freezing); April 18-19 (very cold and windy and again we came close to freezing); April 24; April 28 (weak, but dropping heavy rains to the south of us from San Antonio to Houston); May 2 (an amazingly strong late front, with lows in the mid-30s – we've never had a cold PAS spring picnic before!); a re-inforcing front a few days later; and May 10 (a weak and slow-moving front). The low temperatures set a lot of our vegetation back and the birds seemed to be affected by the odd weather too. Many local breeders were 1-2 weeks late in returning back to their territories and some regular passage migrants did not appear until later than we've come to expect.

Most of April was surprisingly slow for songbird migrants, in spite of the strong fronts, and it was mostly just a few of the commoner species that were found. Clearly the migrating birds were not caught over our area by the weather, and apparently they put down to the south of us or were not moving on the days of the strongest fronts. Warblers did not appear in numbers until the remarkable front of May 2 and thereafter – but then it was very exciting in Pecan Park in Nacogdoches and Old Orchard Park in Diboll from May 2-17. Overall, the best days for warblers were April 27 (Nac.; pre-frontal; DW, RT); May 2 (Nac., DW); May 4 (Nac., TR, DW et al); May 6-10 (Pecan Park; BB, CS, RT, DW et al); May 9 (Old Orchard, RT); May 10 (Old Orchard, LD); May 11-12 (Pecan Park; RT); May 17 (Old Orchard, RT). After this our more normal weather pattern of warm, muggy days with south winds started up and few migrants were seen during the latter third of May.

Some abbreviations:

Alazan Bayou = Alazan Bayou WMA

Ang Co = Angelina County

Ang Co AP = Angelina County Airport

Central Hts = Central Heights

Ellen Trout = Ellen Trout Park (in Lufkin)

Nac. = Nacogdoches (town)

Nac Co = Nacogdoches County

Nac AP = Nacogdoches Airport

Old Orchard = Old Orchard Park (in Diboll)

m. obs. = many observers

Some first dates for summer residents:

Little Blue Heron – 4 at Alazan Bayou March 13 (DW).

Cattle Egret - 4 at Alazan Bayou March 13 (DW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 at Alazan Bayou April 12 (JD, TD); early.
Chuck-will's-widow - 1 at Alazan Bayou April 24 (DW, TH); late.
Chimney Swift - 5 over SFASU March 22 (TH, KH); 3 over Nac. March 23 (CS).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 1 in Nac. March 18 (JD, TD).
Eastern Wood-Pewee - singles at Kurth Lake (LD) and Alazan Bayou (DW) April 18.
Acadian Flycatcher - 1 at Alazan Bayou April 24 (DW, TH).

Great Crested Flycatcher - 1 in Nac. April 12 (TH).
Eastern Kingbird - 1 in Douglass March 29 (CW).
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 1 in Nac. March 22 (TH, KH).
White-eyed Vireo-singles at Alazan Bayou March 13 (DW) and Ang Co AP March 14 (LD).
Red-eyed Vireo - 4 along Dorr Creek Road March 31 (RT, DW).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow - 1 at Ellen Trout March 1 (RT).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 1 in Central Hts March 14 (MHW, DW).
Wood Thrush - 1 in Nac. April 10 (JD, TD); 1 Carrizo Creek April 13, still there late May (SL).
Northern Parula - 1 at Kurth Lake March 23 (LD).
Yellow-throated Warbler - 1 in Ellen Trout March 18 (RT).
Prairie Warbler - 1 near Douglass April 23 (CW).
Black-and-white Warbler - 1 in Nac. March 11 (RT).
Prothonotary Warbler - 2 on Dorr Creek Road March 31 (DW, RT).
Swainson's Warbler - 1 in Carrizo Creek April 13 (SL).
Kentucky Warbler - 1 at Alazan Bayou April 12 (DW).
Common Yellowthroat - 1 at Alazan Bayou March 30 (DW).
Hooded Warbler - 1 in Carrizo Creek March 30 (SL).
Yellow-breasted Chat - 1 at Alazan Bayou April 12 (JD, TD).
Summer Tanager - 1 at Alazan Bayou April 5 (JD, TD).
Indigo Bunting - a very early male at feeders in Central Hts March 21-29 (MHW, DW); 1 male in Nac. April 4, a more normal first date (TH, KH).
Painted Bunting - 1 adult male at Alazan Bayou April 17 (BB).
Dickcissel - 4 at Angelina Co AP April 16 (LD); 4 at Alazan Bayou April 17 (CW).

Bird report:

Pairs of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were seen in the Diboll area April 1 and May 17 (RT) and on the BBS May 28 (LD, LS). There have been sightings of a few in this area in the summer for years now, but breeding has not been confirmed. Other noteworthy waterfowl were single late Blue-winged Teal at Alazan Bayou May 27 (DW, RT) and Kurth Lake June 2 (LD); 5 American Wigeon and 3 Northern Pintail at Shirley Creek April 4 (TH); 3 late Ring-necked Ducks at Kurth Lake May 14 (LD); a male Red-breasted Merganser on Kurth Lake March 23 (LD) and one at TX 103 at Etoile April 4 (TH); and the last 6 Ruddy Ducks on Kurth Lake April 18 (LD). Two female-plumaged Hooded Mergansers at Alazan Bayou May 10 and May 22 were the only ones seen there April through May (DW). 7 Common Loons were still off the TX 147 causeway March 12 (RT), while single diurnal migrants were seen over Nac. April 29 and Central Hts May 17 (both DW). The last date for one on Kurth Lake was May 19 (Bruce Sublett fide LD). Two

young Pied-billed Grebes at Alazan Bayou May 27 indicated nesting success for at least one pair before water levels were lowered (RT, DW). Singles Eared Grebes, possibly the same bird, were seen at Kurth Lake March 26; April 7; and May 14 (all LD). Two **Brown Pelicans** over Lake Nacogdoches April 7 were certainly a surprise (Cory Adams fide CS). This species is very rare and unexpected, but inland records have been increasing in recent years. 50 Am. White Pelicans were over Nac. March 30 and 20 were at Marion Ferry April 4 (both TH), while 14 kettled over Central Hts April 9 (DW). Two Neotropic Cormorants were in a flock of 22 Double-crested flying north over Nac. April 30 (DW). Migrant **American Bitterns** put on a great show at Alazan Bayou this spring (m. obs.). The first was seen March 14 (RT); on March 30 there were 3; at least 5 were seen April 12; and at least 10 were seen April 14, a remarkable count. There may well have been twice that many as only a fraction of the marshy area was checked (DW, RT). Most disappeared soon thereafter, but there were sporadic sightings of singles through May 2 (RH et al). The first Snowy Egrets were 2 at Alazan Bayou March 30, while 20 there May 22 was the spring high count (both DW). A **Tricolored Heron** at Alazan Bayou for several days in early April was unusual (BB). Two seen from the TX 147 causeway May 19 (DW, RT) were more expected, as a pair or two may breed in the nearby heronry. White Ibis appeared in stunning numbers at Alazan Bayou this spring, with high counts of 400-500 on April 7 (RT); 450 on April 24 (DW, TH); and 370 on May 3 (DW). A northbound flock of **29 Plegadis ibis** (likely White-faced) low over Pecan Park May 5 was a surprise and the largest flock ever seen in our region (DW). A **Roseate Spoonbill** at Alazan Bayou May 11 was very rare spring record (LD, LS et al), while 4 **Wood Storks** at Alazan Bayou May 27 were early by a month or more (DW, RT).

A **White-tailed Kite** at Alazan Bayou April 13 was the first area sighting since 2006 (TH, KH). It was a big spring for **Mississippi Kites**, with more sightings and greater numbers than usual (m. obs.). The flight began with one over Nac. April 2, our earliest ever by two days (TR). High one-day counts were 60 over Central Hts April 21 (DW, MHW) and 43 over Nac. April 29 (DW). Two over Alazan Bayou May 22 (DW) and 2 over Nac May 23 (JD, TD) were our latest migrants ever by several days. Calling birds in the Diboll area (especially Old Orchard Park) in mid-May hint that they may be breeding in the vicinity (RT). A **Swainson's Hawk** low over Alazan Bayou March 30 was our earliest ever by one day (DW). Last sightings of wintering Northern Harriers were at Alazan Bayou April 13 (TH); w. Nac Co April 14 (RT, DW); and Ang Co AP April 16 (LD). No sizable flights of Broad-wings were seen this spring, but one was calling on territory at Carrizo Creek April 7 (SL). A Red-tailed Hawk nest with a nestling was found in nw. Ang Co May 12 (LD). A **Crested Caracara** seen ca 7 miles east of Crockett (Houston Co) on March 28 (TH) was just inside the Pineywoods; there are very few records from within the region though they are now regular just to the west along the Trinity River. The only Peregrine Falcons were singles over Alazan Bayou May 3 (DW) and along the dam at Kurth Lake May 9 (LD). The only Merlins reported were singles at the Ang Co AP March 14 (LD) and Alazan Bayou April 19 (DW). An American Kestrel in Lufkin May 9 may have been a local breeder (LD). They were again present at several traditional nesting areas in Nac. through April and May (DW et al), but a pair at the Nac. High School May 11 was at a previously unknown site (JD, TD). Soras were heard at Alazan Bayou on April 9 (CW), April 20 (TH) and April 21 (DW, RT). A migrant Purple Gallinule was at Alazan Bayou May 10 (DW) and 2 were at Kurth Lake May 30, where a few have bred in the past (LD).. Several American Coots around Kurth Lake through late May were also likely breeding (LD).

American Golden-Plover staged a good showing at several sites and delighted many area observers. The first were 13 in Central Hts on March 11 and they were seen here through April 1, with a peak counts of 45 on March 14 (DW) and 30 on March 24 (RT). The greatest numbers were at the Ang Co AP, where they present from March 14-April 8, with peak counts of 50 on March 20 and 150 on stormy March 31 (LD et al). After the storm on March 31 at least 70 were at the Nac AP (SL). The only Semipalmated Plover was one at the Ang Co AP on April 16 (LD). A high count of 80 Killdeer in Central Hts March 13 was undoubtedly mostly migrants (DW). A Killdeer "nest" with 4 eggs was a cool find at the Ang Co AP on March 15 (LD et al). **Black-necked Stilt** is a remarkably rare migrant in our region spring or fall, given their abundance on the coast and elsewhere in the state, but this spring brought our 5th and 6th spring records. One was near Clawson (nw. Angelina Co) on April 16 (LD, L Sm) and another was photographed at Alazan Bayou on stormy May 2 (Ron Mize). A Greater Yellowlegs at Alazan Bayou March 13 was the first, while 23 there March 31 was the season high count (both DW). The first Solitary Sandpiper was at Alazan Bayou March 13, a bit early (DW). Three **Willetts** at Alazan Bayou on stormy May 2 were a rare find (SL). Two Lesser Yellowlegs at Alazan Bayou March 29 were the first (RT), while one there May 22 was the last (DW). The first Spotted Sandpiper was one at Kurth Lake March 28; the season high count was 20 there May 18; and the last were 3 there June 2 (all LD). The first Upland Sandpipers were 2 at the Ang Co AP March 25 (LD), while 14 at the Nac AP March 31 was a good count for early in the season (SL). Two Western Sandpipers at Alazan Bayou May 10 were the only ones this spring (DW). The first Least Sandpipers were 2 at the Ang Co AP March 30 (LD, SL, LS). The first White-rumped Sandpiper was one at Alazan Bayou May 10, while 18 there May 22 was the season high count (both DW). 11 Baird's Sandpipers appeared at the Ang Co AP April 5, with 2 still present April 7. None were seen again until 4 were present April 17 (all LD). Pectoral Sandpipers were at the Ang Co AP from March 20 (8) through April 8 (4), with a high count of 100 on stormy March 31 (LD), when 30 were also found at the Nac AP (SL). 4 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at the Ang Co AP April 16 (LD); this species is very rare in the spring in our region. The marsh at Alazan Bayou attracted 4 Wilson's Phalaropes on May 3 and 23 on May 10 (both DW), while one at Kurth Lake May 18 was more unexpected (LD). The shorebird season ended with 2 distant **dowitcher sp?** at Alazan Bayou May 27 (DW, RT); both species are very rare in the spring. An early Franklin's Gull was at Kurth Lake March 28 (LD); the only other reports were flocks of 23 over Alazan Bayou April 28 (DW, RT) and 32 on May 3 (DW). Five late Forster's Terns were at Kurth Lake June 2. The first Black Terns were 5 at Kurth Lake May 9 (LD), while the only numbers seen were 60 north of the TX 147 causeway May 19 (DW, RT) and 68 at Kurth Lake June 2 (LD). Amidst the smaller terns in the late flight at Kurth Lake on June 2 was a **Royal Tern**, the first confirmed record for Angelina County and our first area record ever that was not associated with a hurricane or tropical disturbance (LD).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos appeared early and in good numbers this spring, beginning with an early first at Alazan Bayou April 12 (JD, TD). A probable Black-billed Cuckoo was glimpsed at Alazan Bayou April 21 (PB). A nest-building Greater Roadrunner found and photographed at the Nac AP March 17 (SL, LS) was conspicuous through at least mid-April (m. obs.). In spite of listening every evening in Central Hts for weeks on end, the only Whip-poor-wills heard were 2 on March 30 and one on April 1 (MHW). The first Chuck-will's-widows were not heard there until the late date of April 27 (at least 4) and they were apparently migrants that did not stay around. A migrant Chuck-will's-widow was flushed at Alazan Bayou April 24 (DW, TH). The first Common Nighthawk was one over Central Hts April 30 (MHW); no great numbers were seen this spring, but a few were still moving through until at least June 4 (one in

Central Hts; MHW). A male **Rufous Hummingbird** that wintered in Lufkin from Dec 25 or 26, 2012 was last seen March 22, 2013 (Ann Reyes fide CS). The first Red-headed Woodpecker appeared back in Central Hts right on schedule on April 15 and within two days a pair was present and courting (DW, MHW). Two recently-fledged Hairy Woodpeckers were in Central Hts April 20 (DW). A Northern Flicker at Kurth Lake May 9 was likely a local breeder (LD).

The only Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen May 17, singles in Douglass (CW) and Central Hts (MHW). Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were in Pecan Park May 4 and May 10 (DW). A Willow Flycatcher was seen and heard at Alazan Bayou May 3 and one sang in Central Hts May 17 (both DW), while an Alder Flycatcher was singing at Alazan Bayou May 10 (DW). The first Least Flycatchers were 4 in Pecan Park May 5 (DW, BB), but few others were seen. Breeding Eastern Phoebes were found as far south as Kurth Lake (LD et al) and were widespread in Nac Co, with the first fledglings seen April 27 (DW). A **Western Kingbird** at Old Orchard on April 28 (LD) was the only one this spring. 85 diurnally migrating Eastern Kingbirds over Alazan Bayou and Nac. on May 10 was the one-day high count (DW). A Loggerhead Shrike was found on a nest at the Ang Co AP April 5 (LD). The first Warbling Vireo was one at Alazan Bayou April 12 (DW), while the best counts for this species were 7 in Pecan Park May 5 (DW, BB) and 10 there Park May 7 (DW). One singing in Central Hts May 17 was late (DW). The first Philadelphia Vireos were 2 at Alazan Bayou May 5 (DW), while May 10 brought high counts of up to 10 in Old Orchard Park (LD) and 8 in Pecan Park (BB, CS, DW et al). Two Tree Swallows at Kurth Lake May 9 may have been local breeders (LD). A spectacular flock of 1000+ Cliff Swallows rested in the marsh at Alazan Bayou during the fierce cold front of May 2-3 (SL, DW), with only a few other swallow species amidst them. A **Cave Swallow** found moribund at the Ellen Trout Zoo April 4 was photographed nicely (Celia Falzone fide LD). Small numbers (2-6) were back at several sites in Nac Co after mid-April and are presumably nesting again (DW). We undoubtedly have some undiscovered colonies out there, so there's a June birding project for someone. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** from the winter flight lingered in Nac. until April 12 (CS), while a **very late migrant** in Pecan Park May 10 was our latest ever by 6 days (DW, MHW). A late Brown Creeper was in Pecan Park April 10 (TH). Up to 5 Marsh Wrens were heard singing at Alazan Bayou in late April (TH, RT, DW) and one lingered through the late date of May 12 (RT). A late migrant Ruby-crowned Kinglet was in Pecan Park May 5 (BB). The only Veery reported was one in Nac. April 27 (DW, RT), in direct comparison with Swainson's, Gray-cheeked and Wood thrushes! The only other Gray-cheeked were one in Nac. April 28 (CS, JS) and 2 at Alazan Bayou May 3 (DW). The last Hermit Thrush was one in Pecan Park April 12 (TH). A fledgling American Robin was in Old Orchard May 9 (RT). The first Gray Catbird was in Nac. April 5 (TH) and migrants continued to be found right through mid-May, when 5 were on the Azalea Trail May 17 (LD), but there was no clear-cut peak in numbers. One singing vigorously in a dense clearcut south of Woden May 19 seemed to be on territory (DW, RT). The last American Pipits were at the Ang Co AP, 7 on April 7 and one on April 16 (both LD). A Sprague's Pipit was still at the Nac. AP April 19 (DW). Cedar Waxwings moved through in good numbers for a prolonged period, with the biggest push April 29-May 10. The last were several in Nac. May 24 (JD, TD).

It was an excellent spring for **Golden-winged Warblers**, a declining species that is never a common migrant in our region. Here are all of the sightings: 3 males in Nac April 27 (DW, RT); 1 female at Alazan Bayou May 3 (DW); 1 male in Nac. May 4 (TR, DW); 2 (one male) in Pecan Park May 9 (BB, DW et al); 1 male in Pecan Park May 10 (BB, CS, DW et al); and 1 female in Pecan Park May 12 (RT). Single

Blue-winged Warblers were at Alazan Bayou April 18 (DW); along Dorr Creek road mid-April (BB); at Alazan Bayou April 22 (TH); and in Pecan Park May 3 (CS). Tennessee Warblers were rather late this spring, with 40 in Nac. on the May 2 cold front the first numbers (DW). The peak count in Pecan Park was 125+ on May 7 (BB, DW et al). The first Nashville Warbler was one on the Azalea Trail April 5 (LD), 8 in Pecan Park May 7 was the season high-count; and one in Central Hts May 23 provided our latest spring record ever by a week (DW). The first Yellow Warblers were 2 in Nac. April 23 (DW). The season high counts in Pecan Park were 30 on May 4; 25 on May 7; and 21 on May 10 (BB, DW et al). The last migrant warbler reported this season was a Yellow in Central Hts May 24 (MHW). Magnolia Warblers were widespread the first 2/3 of May, with high counts of 15 in Nac. May 10 (BB, CS, DW et al) and 10 in Old Orchard May 17 (RT). Chestnut-sided Warblers did not appear until the first days of May, but then they were widespread through May 22, with one-day high counts of 15-20 in Old Orchard May 10 (LD) and 10 there May 17 (RT). The peak in Pecan Park was 8 on both May 9-10 (BB, CS, DW et al). A single Yellow-rumped Warbler lingered in Nac. until May 2 (DW). The first Black-throated Green Warblers were singles in Central Hts March 22 & 31 (MHW), Nac. March 29 (DW) and at the Native Plant Center April 2 (JS). The season high count was 15 in Pecan Park May 10 (BB, CS, DW et al). A Blackburnian Warbler near Clawson (nw. Ang Co) on April 16 was our earliest ever by three days (LD, L Sm). This brilliant warbler was prominent in the fallouts in Pecan and Old Orchard Parks from May 2-17, with one-day highs of 12 in Pecan Park May 10 (BB, CS, DW et al) and 7 in Old Orchard that same day (LD). A migrant Yellow-throated Warbler came through Central Hts March 18 (MHW). Far more **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found this spring than normal, with 1-8 seen in Pecan Park almost daily from May 2-17, as well as birds in Old Orchard when it was checked. The one-day high counts were 8 in Nac. on the May 2 cold front (DW) and 5 in Old Orchard Park May 10 (LD). The last was a female in Old Orchard May 17 (RT). A male **Blackpoll Warbler** in Pecan Park May 4 was the only one seen this spring (TR, TH, DW, RT), as was a male **Cerulean Warbler** there May 3 (CS, JS). The one-day high count for migrant Black-and-white Warblers was 10 at the Native Plant Center March 29 (TH), but many also came through with the wave of later warblers in May. The first American Redstart was one in Nac May 1 (TH), while season high counts were 30 in Pecan Park May 10 (BB, CS, DW et al) and 10 in Old Orchard May 17 (RT). A Swainson's Warbler seemed to be on territory on the Azalea Trail in late May (LD). 3 were found near Woden May 24 (DW, RT) and this species was heard on a BBS route in Rusk Co in late May (SL). The only Ovenbirds were singles in Central Hts April 27 (DW) and Nac. April 28 (TH). The first Northern Waterthrush was one at Alazan Bayou April 21 (DW, RT), while 13 at Alazan Bayou and in Nac. on May 3 was the season high count (DW). Louisiana Waterthrush returned to several likely breeding sites, including one in Carrizo Creek March 31 to at least May 12 (SL), and 3 singing males along Dorr Creek March 31 (DW, RT). A very late migrant in Nac. on May 2 was not seen before or after this date (DW). This species was heard in Rusk Co on a late May BBS (SL). The only Mourning Warbler this spring was a male on the Azalea Trail May 17 (LD). May 17 brought a late push of Common Yellowthroats, with 9 on the Azalea Trail (LD) and 6 in Central Hts (DW). 5 Wilson's Warblers in Nac. May 7 was a good number for spring (DW, BB) and 2 were in Old Orchard May 16 (RT). The only Canada Warblers were 2 in Old Orchard May 16 (RT) and 2 in Nac. May 18 (DW, RT).

At least 4 Bachman's Sparrows were still singing in the Boykin Springs area May 29, plus a very agitated pair clearly had a nest or fledglings nearby (DW). The last Vesper Sparrow was a late one at Alazan Bayou April 7 (RT). A Lark Sparrow in Douglass March 6 may have been an early arrival (CW). Two were back at the Ang Co AP March 30 (LD, SL, LS) and 2 were at the Nac AP March 31 (SL). They were also

singing on territory in Central Hts at this time (DW, MHW). The last Savannah Sparrow was one at Alazan Bayou May 12 (RT). **Grasshopper Sparrows** put in a good showing at Alazan Bayou, with the first one March 30 (DW); one April 12 (DW); 6 on April 14 (DW, RT); "numbers" in mid-April (BB et al); and one April 21 (DW). 8 Le Conte's Sparrows were still at Alazan Bayou March 30, with one seen as late as April 28 (DW et al). A late Song Sparrow was at Alazan Bayou April 19 (DW) and the last Lincoln's Sparrows were singles at Alazan Bayou May 12 (RT) and Central Hts May 17 (DW). A Harris's Sparrow that wintered in Central Hts was last seen April 11 (DW, MHW), while 3 wintering White-crowned lingered there until May 6; on May 7 the last one was seen (MHW). There were 6 reports of **Scarlet Tanagers** as follows: 2 in Nac. April 27 (DW); 1 female in Nac. May 4 (DW); 1 male e. of Nac. May 6 (SL); 1 at Kurth Lake May 7 (LD); 1 female in Nac. May 9 (DW); and a late male in Pecan Park May 16 (DW). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widespread, though not in great numbers. The first was one in Pecan Park April 19 (RS). The best one-days counts were 12 in Nac. April 27 (DW, RT); 15+ at feeders near Hemphill in early May (DB); and 15 in Nac. May 7 (DW et al). A male that came to a feeder in Nac. May 23-26 provided our latest spring record ever by 4 days (JD, TD). **Bobolink** was found a number of times this spring, though not in great numbers, as follows: 1 male at Alazan Bayou April 24 (DW, TH); 8 males at Alazan Bayou May 3 (Tony Adams); 2 males there in the morning on May 5 (DW, RT) and a female there in the evening (RT); at least 10 (6 males) east of Nac. May 5 and 5 still in this area May 10 (both SL); and 1 male at Alazan Bayou May 11 (LD, LS et al). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in western Nac Co around March 31 was the only report this spring (fide CW). The Great-tailed Grackle report...is that unfortunately they are now well-established in both Lufkin and Nac. 17 were back at the Wal-Mart in Lufkin by April 7 (LD). They were conspicuous around the Lowe's/Wal-Mart area in Nac. through April-May (m. obs.) and there were numerous sightings on the south side of Nac. for the first time. Six displaying males at University Dr and South Loop 224 on May 19 and then a female feeding fledglings May 24 confirmed breeding in this area (RT, DW). On May 17 late migrant Orchard Orioles were still moving through Old Orchard (RT) and Central Hts (at least 7; DW). The first Baltimore Oriole was one at Alazan Bayou April 2, while the one-day high count was 35 in Nac. May 1 (both DW). The last migrants were 2 in Central Hts May 17 (DW), while one that visited a feeder in Lufkin May 26 (L Sm) was either a very late migrant or possibly a local breeder. A flyover **Red Crossbill** was reported at Boykin Springs (Angelina/Jasper Counties) on March 15 by a visiting birder (Eric Ripma fide CS), but I do not have any further details. After only a few had been present earlier in the winter, **Pine Siskins** staged a major invasion beginning in mid-January and continuing through March and April at most area feeding stations. Large flocks were also seen away from feeders, especially in Nac. at the Native Plant Center and in Pecan Park (m. obs.). As late as April 26 there were still 50-100 coming to feeders in Lufkin (JC) and east of Hemphill they were present in the hundreds into the first days of May (DB). In Nac. most started moving out the last week in April and tallies of daily flights of northbound migrants reached peak numbers of 275 on April 25; 305 on April 26; and 250 on April 27 (all DW). The numbers dropped off rapidly after this. In Hemphill only a few remained until the last date of May 13 (DB), as did one in Loco Valley (RH), while one that remained in Nac. until May 18 was the last (JD, TD). Few American Goldfinches lingered late this spring and the last was one in Loco Valley May 13 (RH).

Observers: PB = Peter Barnes; DB = David Bell; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; BB = Brent Burt; JC = Joy Coble; JD, TD = John & Thelma Dalmas; LD = Louis Debetaz; TH, KH = Tyson & Kim Hart; RH = Ruth Heino; SL = Susie Lower; m. obs. = many observers; RS = Rick Schaefer; TR = Thomas Riecke; CS = Cliff

Shackelford; JS = Julie Shackelford; L Sm = Lynn Smith; LS = Les Stewart; RT = Robert Truss; CW = Carol Wells; DW = David Wolf; MHW = Mimi Hoppe Wolf

Localities: in **Angelina County:** Ang Co (= Angelina County); Ang Co AP (= Angelina County Airport); Azalea Trail (in Lufkin); Boykin Springs entry road; Clawson; Ellen Trout (= Ellen Trout Park in Lufkin); Kurth Lake; Marion Ferry (on upper Lake Rayburn); Old Orchard (= Old Orchard Park in Diboll town).

In Nacogdoches County: Alazan Bayou (= Alazan Bayou WMA); Carrizo Creek; Central Hts (= Central Heights); Dorr Creek road; Douglass; Lake Nacogdoches; Loco Valley; Nac. = Nacogdoches (town); Nac AP (= Nacogdoches Airport); Nac Co (= Nacogdoches County); Native Plant Center (in Nac.); Pecan Park (in Nac.); SFASU (= campus in Nac.); Shirley Creek (on upper Lake Rayburn); Woden.

In San Augustine County: TX 147 causeway on middle Lake Rayburn.

In Sabine County: Hemphill.