

Summer Bird Report
(June 1 - July 31, 2016)

by David E. Wolf

After wet weather the first week of June, summer arrived in full force, with humid and increasingly hot weather right on through the end of July. Rainshowers were few and localized, with some areas not receiving any significant rainfall. Lake levels remained high --and unattractive to long-legged waders and shorebirds. Breeding birds gradually became quiet and inconspicuous through the period -- and the birders weren't much more active either! As I write this (mid-August), fall migration has begun, and for the next several months there is great potential for some interesting birds. Please send reports to me at dewolfnac@gmail.com

Bird Report:

A pair of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** in Diboll June 3 (RT) was the only report. The female **Red-breasted Merganser** first found at Kurth Lake on April 21 was still present on the remarkably late date of June 2, our latest date ever by almost three weeks (LD). On June 17 & 25 there were 2 adult and 3-2 juvenile Pied-billed Grebes on Kurth Lake, confirming breeding there again this year (LD). Post-breeding dispersal of the long-legged waders had clearly begun by June 19, when Alazan Bayou WMA produced 8 Great Blue Herons; 55 Great and 10 Snowy egrets; 16 Little Blue Herons; 2 juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons; and 60 juv. White Ibis. Many of these appeared to be recently-fledged juveniles (DW). A single Wood Stork at Alazan Bayou WMA July 21 (DW) was the only one reported. An Osprey that visited Kurth Lake June 10 was unexpected in summer (LD). 2 **Mississippi Kites** over Diboll on June 3 and 1 on July 27 hint at local breeding (RT), as does one just east of Nacogdoches on June 17 (KG) and several seen regularly over the south side of Nacogdoches through July 31 (DW), but breeding was not confirmed.

On June 17 there were 2 adult and one visible juvenile **Purple Gallinule** on Kurth Lake and 2 adult Common Gallinules, while on June 25 there were 4 Purple and 5 Common (2 ad., 3 juv.), confirming breeding again this year (LD). An American Coot lingered at Alazan Bayou WMA July 21-31, until its puddle dried up (DW, RT). The first Spotted Sandpiper was 1 at Alazan Bayou WMA July 24 (RT). Several **White-winged Doves** were still calling in Nacogdoches through at least the third week of June (RS). This seems to be the year that they are establishing themselves more widely here. Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to be widespread and doing well, as they have been ever since the drought killed so many trees. The first fledglings were seen in Central Heights on June 19 (DW, MHW). Fledged American Kestrels were in the SFA Experimental Forest on 24 June (RS).

There were few significant reports of passerines. A Cave Swallow at Kurth Lake on June 10 was at a site where they are not regular (LD). A post-breeding concentration of 18+ American Robins in Pecan Park in Nacogdoches July 29 was a surprising number; many were juveniles (DW). Lark Sparrows were feeding recently-fledged juveniles in Central Heights July 21 (DW).

Observers: LD = Louis Debetaz; KG = Kathy Griffin; RS = Rick Schaefer; RT = Robert Truss; CW = Carol Wells; DW = David Wolf; MHW = Mimi Hoppe Wolf.

Localities in Angelina County: Diboll; Kurth Lake

Localities in Nacogdoches County: Alazan Bayou WMA; Central Heights; Nacogdoches, SFA Experimental Forest.

Localities in San Augustine County: TX 147 causeway on Lake Rayburn.