

**Summer Bird Report for Pineywoods Audubon Society**  
**June 1 - August 31, 2017**  
**by David E. Wolf**

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck on the Diboll Breeding Bird Survey on June 16 was the only one reported (LD). A Neotropic Cormorant was detected at Ellen Trout Park June 26 (LD). **With water levels on area lakes high there was little habitat for long-legged waders and very few were seen.** The first wandering Great Egret in Central Heights was on June 18 (DW), while only 2 were tallied at Ellen Trout Park June 26 (LD). The first recently-fledged White Ibis were 2 at Alazan Bayou June 17 (DW). **6 Roseate Spoonbills** visited Alazan Bayou WMA July 28, but were not seen again (Tony Adams; photographed).

A remarkable **11 Ospreys** were counted from Ewing Park on the upper Angelina arm of Lake Rayburn at TX 103 on July 2 (DW, RT). Three of the four huge pylons that cross the lake here had nests, with birds either on them or nearby, so apparently this species had a very successful breeding season this year. A **Swallow-tailed Kite**, very rare this far north, was reported over the Lufkin area on August 31 (Asa Vermeulen). After sporadic sightings of **Mississippi Kites** in Carrizo Creek (east of Nacogdoches) all summer, on Aug 13 a juvenile about to fledge was in and out of a nest in a tall pine while the adults brought food (SL). This is one of very few confirmed breeding records for the area. 1-4 were also seen regularly over various parts of Nacogdoches town from June to early August and it is likely that they nested here too (m. obs.). Certainly this species is increasing in the Nacogdoches area in the summer. They were also present in the Diboll, Huntington and Crown Colony areas in Angelina County, and by mid-August they were appearing more widely, as wandering birds moved around and migrants appeared.

A pair of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** was seen in the north end of the Angelina NF (San Augustine Co) on May 2 (RS). This species has been confirmed as a rare breeder in the Pineywoods, but is not often detected at this season. A recently-fledged Cooper's Hawk was spotted in Nacogdoches June 29 (DW). This species has made quite a comeback as a breeding bird in East Texas.

Purple Gallinules again nested at Kurth Lake, where 2 adults and 2 juveniles were seen July 10 (LD). 3 Common Gallinules and 2 American Coots were also there on that day (LD). Both species were also found in some numbers at Martin Dies SP on Lake Steinhagen on July 25 (DB). **Very few shorebirds were found this fall.** The first southbound migrants were 2 Spotted Sandpipers at Kurth Lake July 8 (LD). The prolonged rain on July 24 brought a push of shorebirds to the Angelina County Airport, including single Upland and Stilt sandpipers and 3 Least and 4 Semipalmated sandpipers (LD). The first Solitary Sandpipers were 2 at Alazan Bayou WMA July 29 (DW). The peak count of Upland Sandpipers was 10 in Central Heights July 29 (DW). 3 Black Terns were at Sabinetown on Toledo Bend Reservoir on August 31 (DB).

**2 White-winged Doves** came to feeders in Loco Valley in late June, with a single still there on July 3 (RH).

A Greater Roadrunner was tallied on the Diboll BBS June 16 (LD). On July 27 a red morph Eastern Screech-Owl stuck its head out of a nest box in Nacogdoches and then in early August 3 cute owlets started popping out of the box (HW). The box was put up last winter; this is a rather late date for

nesting (fide CS). A juvenile Northern Flicker was at Marion Ferry on July 2 (DW, RT). On April 19 a female American Kestrel was incubating while the male was nearby, in the Davy Crockett NF (Houston Co). Chicks were seen May 1 (RS). Another pair in the Davy Crockett NF near Ratcliff had 2 or 3 recently-fledged juveniles on May 25 (RS).

A likely Willow Flycatcher was at Alazan Bayou WMA July 29-30 (DW), the first migrant *Empidonax* of the fall. A vocal Fish Crow in Louisiana just 4 miles east of the state line in Panola Co. was a surprise (CS). It is puzzling that this species is so rare in the central Pineywoods. The first migrant Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were 8 at Alazan Bayou WMA July 30 (DW). 18 American Robins were counted in Pecan Park on August 7 (DB); local breeders seem to regularly concentrate here in the late summer.

The first migrant Louisiana Waterthrush in Central Heights appeared July 9 (MHW), while the first migrant or wandering Black-and-white Warbler was one at Marion Ferry July 2 (DW, RT). A migrant Prairie Warbler was at Alazan Bayou WMA July 30 (RT, DW). The first migrant Common Yellowthroat in Central Heights was one on August 6 (MHW). 2 Orchard Orioles in a Nacogdoches yard July 18 and 7 there on July 20 were away from known breeding areas and presumably migrants (CS, JS). This common breeder leaves very early in the "fall", with the peak passage of migrants in late July and early August.

**Observers:** DB = David Bell; LD = Louis Debetaz; RH = Ruth Heino; RS = Rick Schaefer; CS, JS = Cliff & Julie Shackelford; RT = Robert Truss; HW = Hadley Watts; BW = Becky Whisenant; DW = David Wolf; MHW = Mimi Hoppe Wolf; m. obs. = many observers.

**Localities in Angelina County:** Angelina County Airport; Crown Colony; Diboll; Ellen Trout Park (in Lufkin); Ewing Park (TX 103 at the Angelina on upper Rayburn); Huntington; Kurth Lake; Lufkin, Marion Ferry.

**Localities in Nacogdoches County:** Alazan Bayou WMA; Carrizo Creek, Central Heights; Loco Valley; Melrose; Nacogdoches (town), Pecan Park (in Nacogdoches).

**Localities in Sabine County:** Sabinetown (on Toledo Bend Reservoir).