

Fall 2023 Bird Report for Pineywoods Audubon Society

This summer was dismally hot and dry, and after a brief respite in late August the extreme heat came back the first week of September. Finally, a fast-moving cool front on Sept 9 blissfully dropped temperatures to the low to mid-60s for several nights and only to 90°F. by day, plus it brought much-needed rain to some areas. The weather was a little weird Sept 12-14, as a weak front stalled over our area and went back and forth from cloudy with scattered rain to clear and calm. It finally cleared Sept 15 and we began almost a week of cool nights and warm afternoons, before it warmed up again. Fierce pre-dawn storms Sept 25 brought heavy rain to some areas, and ushered in pleasant nights, but daytime highs gradually climbed into the low to mid-90s through the week and into the first days of October. We began to wonder if the heat would ever end! Oct 5 was stormy and brought heavy rain to some areas as a slow-moving front pushed through. Finally, on Oct 14-15, a colder front moved through and dropped nighttime lows into the 40s; on Oct 17 it was as cold as 39°F at daybreak in some areas. Temperatures gradually warmed again and by the end of the month the daytime highs were still in the upper 80s. Somewhat surprisingly, none of this back-and-forth frontal and storm activity seemed to produce many migrants. The first major cold front of the fall began pushing through on Oct 30 with a stiff north wind and rain. By overnight Oct 31-Nov 1 the front had settled in and some areas in the north of the region got a shockingly early first freeze for a few hours. November was mostly mild (not too hot, not too cold) and brought the usual back and forth between cool fronts and warm days, but thankfully several fronts produced significant rain.

Generalizations are risky, but I will make some anyway. Passerine migrants were notably scarce and hard to find this fall, nor were any significant raptor flights detected. Conversely, waterfowl arrived in good number and variety through the season, and late-season shorebirds were good as Lake Rayburn receded. The first arrivals of many winter residents were on the late side and the numbers were low. The biggest news was that **“the Limpkins have invaded”!**

Many thanks to all who contributed to this massive and complex report. For a season that seemed “slow” there sure were a lot of good birds seen! Please submit your interesting winter sightings to dewolfnac@gmail.com.

First dates for some wintering species:

- Northern Shoveler – one at the TX 147 causeway Oct 31 (DW, DB).
- Gadwall – one at North Davisville Pond Sept 24 (GH); 2 at TX 147 causeway Oct 15 (DW).
- American Wigeon – 24 at North Davisville Pond Sept 24 (GH); 8 TX 147 causeway Oct 15 (DW).
- Green-winged Teal - 8 at TX 147 causeway Sept 14 (DW).
- Redhead – 5 at TX 147 causeway Oct 30 (DW, DB).
- Canvasback – 3 at North Davisville Road pond Nov 5 (GH).
- Ring-necked Duck – 7 at TX 147 causeway Oct 30 (DW, DB).
- Lesser Scaup – one at TX 147 causeway Oct 31 (DW, DB).
- Bufflehead – 4 at Ellen Trout Park Nov 19 (GH).
- Hooded Merganser – 2 at the Nacogdoches sewage ponds Oct 31 (RT).
- Ruddy Duck – 2 at North Davisville Road pond Nov 8 (GH).
- Wilson’s Snipe – one in Central Hts Sept 29 (DW).
- Ring-billed Gull – one at Kurth Lake Sept 24 (GH).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 1 in Central Hts Sept 29 (DW); 1 in Center Oct 2 (J Sm).
- Blue-headed Vireo – one in Nacogdoches Oct 7 (JS).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet – one near New Summerfield (ne. Cherokee Co); notably early; CS.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet – one at Kurth Lake Oct 21 (GH).
- Brown Creeper – singles Nov 1 in south Lufkin (GH); Nov 2 in south Nacogdoches (AT).
- House Wren – one in Nacogdoches Sept 29 (CS).
- Winter Wren – 2 at Morris Frank Park Nov 1 (GH); one on Nov 4 in south Nacogdoches (AT).
- Sedge Wren – one at Alazan Bayou WMA Oct 11 (RT, DW).

Cedar Waxwing – 7 in Nacogdoches Nov 17 (AB); 18 in Nac on Nov 18 (CS).
 Hermit Thrush – one in south Lufkin Oct 22 (GH).
 American Pipit – 2 on the TX 147 causeway Oct 6 (DW).
 Purple Finch – 2 (one male) in Carrizo Creek Nov 20 (SL).
 American Goldfinch – flock of 36 in Center on Nov 18 (J Sm); 10 in Nacogdoches Nov 23 (CS) and 20 in Central Heights that same day (DW).
 Chipping Sparrow – one at Alazan Bayou WMA Oct 14 (DW et al; PAS field trip).
 Field Sparrow – 3 in Nacogdoches Nov 23 (AB).
 Dark-eyed Junco – one in Nacogdoches Nov 1 (CS, JS).
 White-throated Sparrow – Oct 16 in Central Hts (MHW); Oct 20 in Nacogdoches (JS) and Center (J Sm); likely heard earlier than this at all three sites.
 Vesper Sparrow – one in Central Heights Nov 20 (DW).
 LeConte's Sparrow – 2 at the TX 147 causeway flats Oct 31 (DW, DB).
 Savannah Sparrow – one at Alazan Bayou WMA Oct 16 (DW, RT).
 Song Sparrow – one at Alazan Bayou WMA Oct 23 (DW).
 Swamp Sparrow – 2 at Alazan Bayou WMA Oct 11 (RT, DW).
 Eastern Towhee – 2 towhee sp? heard in SFA Exp Forest Nov 11; likely this species (CS).
 Orange-crowned Warbler – one at TX 147 causeway Oct 15 (DW).
 Yellow-rumped Warbler – one at Alazan Bayou WMA Oct 14 (DW et al; PAS field trip).

Bird Report:

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at the Nacogdoches sewage ponds (= Nac ponds hereafter) reached a record high count of **63** on Sept 11 (DB). 33 still there Oct 2 were down to 14 on Oct 24, 6 on Nov 1 and only one on Nov 7. This last one was still present through at least Jan 1, 2024 (DW et al). Will it stay for a Nacogdoches CBC first? (It did). Interestingly, 6 were found on the small pond at Lakeside Park in north Nacogdoches Nov 11 (RS). Were these birds that had left the sewer ponds? A rare **Ross's Goose** was present on the large exposed mudflat south of TX 103 at the Attoyac (San Augustine Co) from Nov 9-11 (DW; ph). The only report of Snow Goose came from personnel at the Nac ponds, about 30 overhead on Nov 24. No Greater White-fronted Geese were detected this season. The first Blue-winged Teal were 3 at the TX 147 causeway on Lake Rayburn Sept 9 (DW); 2 at the Nac ponds and 5 at Marion Ferry on Sept 11 (both DB); and 30 on a pond near Melrose Sept 13 (RT). By mid-October the shallow channels between exposed flats at the TX 147 causeway provided ideal habitat for this species and a season high count of 300+ was present Oct 21 (DW, RT). 25 were still there Oct 31 (DW, DB), but they were down to only 2 on Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH, AT) and one Nov 10 (DW, DB). With Lake Rayburn going low enough to exposed extensive flats Northern Pintails were seen more often than usual. The first were 2 on Sept 23 at Marion Ferry that landed close to participants in the PAS field trip (DW et al). Additional reports were 2 at the North Davisville Road pond Sept 24 (GH); 6 at the TX 147 flats on Rayburn Oct 21 (DW, RT); 29 at the TX 147 flats on Oct 31 (DW, DB) and 40 there on Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH, AT); 2 at the TX 147 causeway Nov 10 (DW, DB); and 2 at the North Davisville Road pond Nov 21 (GH). Large numbers of Green-winged Teal frequented the exposed flats at the TX 147 causeway, beginning with 8 on Sept 14 (DW); then 90 on Oct 21 (DW, RT); 235+ on Oct 31 (DW, DB); and a season high count of 250+ on Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH, AT). A **Greater Scaup** first found and photographed at the Nac ponds Nov 7 was present through Nov 21 (DW). An amazing raft of **1800+** scaup, presumably mostly or all Lesser, formed off Sabinetown on the cold front (and PAS field trip) on Nov 14 (DB, AT). This was after many flocks of high-flying duck sp? were spotted flying south from the base of the TX 21 bridge on Toledo Bend, at least some of which were scaup. A very rare **Long-tailed Duck** was shot by a hunter near Douglass on Nov 23 (photo fide Monty Whiting and CS). There are only 9 previous records for our area and this is the first one since Jan 4, 2002. A female **Common Goldeneye** stopped briefly at the Nac ponds on the Nov 21 cold front (DW). 4 Horned Grebes rafting with 27 Ruddy Ducks at Lake Nacogdoches Nov 11 were the first (DW).

A **Common Ground-Dove** in Central Hts Sept 28-30 provided the first local record in 10 years (DW, MHW). A White-winged Dove appeared in Central Hts Sept 19, but did not stay around (DW). 11 Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Alazan Bayou Sept 26 was a high count, perhaps attracted to a caterpillar infestation (DW). Few Common Nighthawks were seen, but one was over Nacogdoches Sept 29 (CS), while the last was one over south Lufkin Oct 23 (GH). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard in south Lufkin Sept 4 (GH); this species is very hard to detect in its fall migration and rarely reported. Most remaining Ruby-throated Hummingbirds abruptly disappeared on the strong cold front of Oct 14-15 (m.obs.), but late migrants included 2 females in Nacogdoches Oct 20 (CS, JS); a male in Central Hts Oct 21 (MHW); a female in Central Hts Oct 27 (MHW); a female in Nacogdoches Oct 31 and another on Nov 5 (both CS, JS); a female in Hudson Nov 7-26 at least (KE; ph.); and 2 females in south Lufkin Nov 24, one of which was still present to at least Dec 4 (GH). While these late female-plumaged birds were likely Ruby-throated it may be impossible to eliminate the very similar Black-chinned and they are perhaps best regarded as *Archilochus sp?* Another late hummingbird, genus unknown, was glimpsed in Nac Nov 19 (JS). This was a good season for **Rufous Hummingbird** – or at least *Selasphorus sp?* that were almost certain to be Rufous. A near-adult male came through Central Hts Oct 24 (MHW) and was possibly seen again Oct 26 (Elena Wolf); a female *Selasphorus* (likely a Rufous) visited Center Oct 24; an immature male appeared in Center Oct 27 and stayed to at least Dec 2 (both J Sm); and a *Selasphorus sp?* was present near Hudson Oct 29-Nov 2 (KE).

A Common Gallinule at the VFW pond in Lufkin Sept 1 was never seen again (GH), while 2 were spotted at Kurth Lake Sept 24 (GH), their only regular site in our area. 3 American Coots at Sabinetown Oct 8 were the first (DB) and 65 at the TX 147 causeway Oct 21 were the first for that locale (DW, RT). The most exciting discovery this fall was the first sightings of **Limpkin** in our area. This unique species has undergone a mind-boggling explosion throughout eastern North America in recent years and we are now part of it. The first East Texas reports came from the Caddo Lake area in 2022 and then Lake Steinhagen earlier in 2023. On Oct 19 Gary Hunter found and photographed 3 at Marion Ferry (Angelina Co). They were not seen again until one was spotted Oct 24 (AT; ph.). DW finally found 2 on Oct 25 on his 3rd try for them. Singles were then seen here Nov 4 and Nov 21, and on Dec 1 there were again 3 present (all GH). Additionally, 2 were found on Oct 27 in the Angelina River bottoms, while kayaking below the end of the Dorr Creek Road (Nacogdoches Co) (Scott Wahlberg). Yet another was reported on Facebook “Birds of Texas” on “the north shore of Lake Rayburn” at about the same time (unknown observer). The Angelina and Neches riverbottoms and upper reaches of our area lakes have lots of habitat for this species and it will be interesting to see what they do in the future! (Please submit all sightings).

Shorebirds: Despite the drought Lake Rayburn did not recede enough to expose extensive mudflats during peak shorebird season from late July to mid-September, but it did continue to go down right on through the season. As it did late migrant shorebirds appeared in fluctuating numbers. Key sites were Marion Ferry (Angelina Co); TX 103 at the Attoyac (San Augustine Co); the flats off the base of the TX 147 causeway (San Augustine Co); and upper Ayish Bayou at TX 63 (San Augustine Co).

American Avocets showed up a surprising number of times. The first were 16 at Kurth Lake Sept 24 (GH); and then 9 at both Kurth Lake and North Davisville Pond Oct 12 (GH; same birds?); 2 at Marion Ferry Oct 13 (GH); 1 at TX 147 Oct 15 (DW); 10 at Marion Ferry Oct 21 & 24 (AT); 10 off the TX 147 causeway Oct 21 (DW, RT); 8 at Marion Ferry Nov 4 (GH); and 1 at Marion Ferry Nov 6 (DW). 32 Killdeer at the TX 147 causeway on the Oct 15 cold front was a sudden big increase in number (DW). They became more numerous from late Oct onward as cool fronts pushed them southward and the one-site high count was 78 at upper Ayish Bayou Nov 3 (DB). 3 Semipalmated Plover were at Marion Ferry Sept 14 (DW) and 7 were there Sept 16 (DB, GH, DW). 7 Upland Sandpipers were in a field in Central Hts the morning of Sept 6 (DW) and then 5 flew over our house in the late afternoon that same day (MHW). 4 were over the Angelina Co Airport Sept 20 (DW), while more noteworthy were at least 3 heard over Central Hts (MHW) and several heard over Nacogdoches (RS) on the evening of Sept 24. These are the latest ever dates ever for our area by several days, but they were also noted as late elsewhere in Texas at this time. The only Stilt Sandpipers were 2 at Marion Ferry Oct 13 (GH); one there Oct 15 (DW); and a

late one there Oct 31 (GH). **Sanderlings** was seen at Marion Ferry twice this season, one on Oct 13 (GH; ph.) and 2 on Oct 31 (GH). With mudflat habitat available on Lake Rayburn late in the season it was not surprising that **Dunlin** appeared at several sites, including at least 2 at Marion Ferry Oct 26 (GH); 5 at the TX 147 flats Oct 31 (DW, DB); 5 at upper Ayish Bayou Nov 3 (DB); 2 at Marion Ferry Nov 4 (GH); 6 at Marion Ferry Nov 6 (DW); and 5 at Ayish Bayou Nov 10 (DB, DW). A rather late Baird's Sandpiper was at Marion Ferry Oct 20 (DW). Least Sandpipers were found throughout the season at all sites on Lake Rayburn, in greatly fluctuating numbers. High counts included 60 at Marion Ferry Oct 16 (GH); 65 at Ayish Bayou Nov 3 (DB); and 130 at Marion Ferry Nov 4 (AT, by kayak). The high count on Pectoral Sandpiper was 45 at Marion Ferry on the Sept 23 PAS field trip (DW et al). A few Semipalmated Sandpipers were carefully identified amidst the peep at Marion Ferry, including 3 on Sept 14 (DW). Western Sandpiper was also noted here in very small numbers. with the first 2 on Sept 14 (DW) and the last one on Nov 4 (GH). As more mudflat habitat became exposed on Lake Rayburn we had numerous **Long-billed Dowitcher** sightings, including 3 at Marion Ferry Oct 13 (GH); 2 at Marion Ferry Oct 15 (DW); 7 at the TX 147 causeway Oct 21 (DW, RT); 15 at TX 147 causeway Oct 31 (DW, DB) and then 24 at upper Ayish Bayou the same day (DB); 3 at TX 147 causeway Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH, AT) and 11 at upper Ayish Bayou the same day (DB); one at Marion Ferry Nov 4 (GH); 25 at Marion Ferry Nov 6 (DW); 37 at upper Ayish Bayou Nov 10 (DB, DW) and 9 at TX 103 at the Attoyac the same day (DW). One was still at Marion Ferry Dec 1 (GH). No great numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs were seen and the one-day high count was 13 at Marion Ferry Sept 11 (DB), while the last was a late single at Marion Ferry Nov 9 (GH; ph.). Greater Yellowlegs were widespread in small numbers throughout the season, especially on the Rayburn mudflats. High counts were 32 at upper Ayish Bayou Oct 31 (DB); 16 at Marion Ferry Nov 6 (DW); and 14 at upper Ayish Bayou Nov 10 (DB, DW). One was heard over Central Hts Nov 16 and one was seen at a tiny puddle there Nov 18 (both MHW). The latest were 2 at Lake Nacogdoches Nov 26 and 2 at the TX 147 causeway Nov 28 (both DW).

No great numbers of Franklin's Gulls were detected this season. 11 over the TX 147 causeway after pre-dawn storms Sept 25 were early (DW), while additional reports were one over the TX 147 causeway Oct 21 (DW, RT); one over the TX 147 causeway Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH); and 3 off Ewing Park Nov 4 (GH). Only a very few Ring-billed Gulls were seen. Single Herring Gulls were over Marion Ferry Oct 2 (DW, GH); the TX 147 causeway Oct 21 (DW, RT); and the base of TX 21 bridge over Toledo Bend Nov 11 (DB, AT, DW). The only Caspian Terns were one at the TX 147 bridge (Angelina Co end) Sept 25 (DW); 3 over the main basin at the TX 147 causeway Nov 3 (GH, DW, DB); and one off of Ewing Park on Nov 4 (GH). The high count of Black Terns was 22 off Sabinetown Sept 5 (DB). Very few were seen off the TX 147 causeway this fall: 3 on Sept 9; one on Sept 14; and 5 on Sept 20 (all DW). The first Forster's Terns were 13 off Sabinetown Sept 5 (DB). High counts of Forster's flying up-lake over the TX 147 causeway at dawn included 140 on Sept 9; 275 on Sept 25; 430 on Oct 14; 570 on Oct 21; 635 on Oct 31; and **920** on Nov 3 (all DW, DB et al).

Two very out-of-season **Common Loons** off Cypress Bend on Toledo Bend (Sabine Co) Sept 7 had likely summered on the lake (DB; ph.). The first migrant/arrival was one over the TX 147 causeway Oct 31 (DW, DB). 2 were seen from Ewing Park Nov 9 (GH); and 3 were off the TX 147 causeway Nov 10 (DW, DB). By Nov 26 there were 16 along the TX 147 causeway (DW). Few Wood Storks were found this fall. One was near Melrose Sept 13 (RT); 9 were at Marion Ferry Sept 16 (DB, GH, DW); 6 were there on the Sept 23 PAS field trip (DW et al); 9 were soaring there Sept 25 (DW); and the last was one still there Oct 2 (GH, DW). A single Neotropic Cormorant was amidst 25 Double-crested at Lake Nacogdoches Nov 11 (DW). The first 3 American White Pelicans showed up in Sabinetown Sept 17 (DB). 200 at Marion Ferry Oct 31 was a high count for that site (GH). A late Snowy Egret was at the TX 147 causeway Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH, AT). Few Tricolored Herons were seen this season. One at the Nac ponds Sept 11 was an oddity at this site (DB), while the only other reports were singles at Marion Ferry Sept 14 (GH) and on the Sept 23 PAS field trip (DW et al). A migrant flock of 220 Cattle Egrets stopped in Central Hts Oct 5, late for such a large flock (DW). The last Green Heron was one in Sabinetown Oct 4 (DB). A juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Morris Frank Park as late as Sept 22 (GH). Considerable numbers of White Ibis were seen later than expected, including 9 at upper Ayish Bayou Oct

31 and Nov 3 (DB); 45 at Marion Ferry Nov 4 (GH); 2 at Marion Ferry Nov 6 (DW); one at McAlister Park Nov 9 (DW); and 28 at the TX 147 causeway Nov 26 (DW). The season one-site high count was 96 at Marion Ferry Sept 23 (DW et al; PAS field trip). There were 7 *Plegadis sp?* ibis at the TX 147 causeway Sept 14 and 2 still there Sept 25 (both DW); and 3 at the VFW pond in Lufkin Sept 18 (GH). Presumably most, if not all, of these were White-faced Ibis, but the immatures cannot be reliably separated from Glossy Ibis at this season. 8 **Roseate Spoonbills** flew past Marion Ferry Sept 16 (DB, GH, DW), as did 6 on the Sept 23 PAS field trip (DW et al), but there were no other reports.

A late Osprey was at the TX 147 causeway Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH, AT). The first migrant Sharp-shinned Hawk was one in Central Hts Sept 21 (MHW). Bald Eagles have become a regular, even frequent, year-round sight on area lakes, but a migratory flock of at least 18 (in various stages of juvenile or sub-adult plumage) seen from the TX 147 causeway Oct 31 was a surprise. 6 additional birds that morning were mostly adults and likely residents (DW, DB). A migrant Bald Eagle passed low over Central Hts Oct 5 (DW). No large flights of Broad-winged Hawks were detected this fall, but 37 over Sabinetown Sept 21 were somewhat early for these numbers (DB) and 132 were tallied from Marion Ferry Sept 25 (DW). One over Alazan Bayou WMA Oct 14 was somewhat late (JS, CS, DW) and then our **latest ever** by two days was one over the base of the TX 147 causeway Oct 31 (DW, DB). The latter was kettling with a **Swainson's Hawk**, also quite late (DW, DB). The only other Swainson's Hawk was an early one at the Angelina Co Airport Sept 10 (GH). A **Crested Caracara** was seen in Central Hts Sept 5 (DW) and another was high over Alazan Bayou WMA Oct 14 (JS, CS, DW). There have been a few previous sightings in both areas, but this species is far from frequent in our region. It was a good season for Merlin, with singles at the TX 147 causeway Oct 15 (DW); one there Oct 21 (DW, RT); one at the North Davisville Road ponds Oct 21 (GH); another over south Lufkin Oct 25 (GH); and one at the TX 147 causeway Oct 31 (DW, DB). No Peregrine Falcons were reported this fall.

Two Belted Kingfishers were at the TX 147 causeway Sept 20 after none there all summer (DW) and one at Marion Ferry on the Sept 23 PAS field trip (DW et al) was also the first at that site in a long while. Were these dispersing local breeder or winter arrivals? A Red-headed Woodpecker back in their neighborhood in Nacogdoches Sept 6 was the first since March (CS), as was one that flew south over Central Hts that same day (DW). The only Olive-sided Flycatchers were singles at Alazan Bayou WMA Sept 13 and in Central Hts Sept 30 (both DW). The last Eastern Wood-Pewee was one in Pecan Park Oct 18 (DW). A bright Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Central Hts Oct 10 tied our latest-ever date (DW). A migrant Acadian Flycatcher was identified in Nacogdoches Sept 24 (DW). 5 "Traill's"-type flycatchers were seen in Nacogdoches Sept 15, but none would call to confirm them to species (DW, RT). A **Say's Phoebe** photographed near Huntington Oct 9 was a one-day wonder that provided the **first Angelina County record** (James Childress). A Great Crested Flycatcher was seen at Alazan Bayou Sept 26 (DW), while **late Myiarchus** flycatchers that were not definitely identified to species were seen at Cassells-Boykin Park on Rayburn Sept 25 (DW), and Morris Frank Park in Lufkin Oct 28 and again on Nov 1 (GH). Both may well have been late Great Crested, but similar species such as Brown-crested and Ash-throated must be considered. A **Couch's Kingbird** at Morris Frank Park in Lufkin Oct 28 was a great find and the first in our area in several years (GH; ph; heard). An Eastern Kingbird in Nacogdoches Oct 2 was a bit late and a new yard bird for CS. No large flights or roosts were detected this fall. 35 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Central Hts Oct 5 was a good push of migrants, as was 45 on Oct 27 (both DW). The last was one in Central Hts Nov 9 (DW). White-eyed Vireos were present widely and singing a lot through early Oct, but then most of them abruptly disappeared (m.obs.). Two late migrants came through Central Hts Oct 27 (DW). A migrant Yellow-throated Vireo in Central Hts Sept 6 sang briefly and then was gone, while one in Nacogdoches Oct 17 tied our latest-ever date (both DW). A well-described **Philadelphia Vireo** in Sabinetown Sept 8 provided our earliest report of this rare fall migrant by two days (DB). Warbling Vireos were unusually scarce and the only reports were singles in Nacogdoches Sept 3 (DW) and Sabinetown Sept 26 (DB). A Loggerhead Shrike in Central Hts Sept 15 after no sightings all summer was presumably a migrant (DW). Northern Rough-winged was by far the commonest swallow the latter half of October, with high counts of 25 over Marion Ferry Oct 16 (GH, RT, DW); 25 at the TX 147 causeway Oct 30 (DW, DB); 70 there Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH, AT); and 3 at Sabinetown Nov 7 (DB).

Tree Swallow was largely overlooked this fall (they presumably pass over our area) and the only report was 4 at the TX 147 causeway Sept 14 (DW). At least 20 Cave Swallows were over Alazan Bayou WMA on the Oct 14 PAS field trip (DW et al) and there were a few other sightings of smaller numbers. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were widespread and numerous by late Nov (m.obs.). A few Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in late Oct, but few were found thereafter (m.obs.). A Red-breasted Nuthatch visited south Lufkin Oct 21 (GH), but there were no other reports this fall. As expected, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (a.k.a. "flickees") were by far the dominant passerine migrant in September, with daily counts of 30-35 in Sabinetown from Sept 7-19 (DB); a season high count of 115 at the base of the TX 147 causeway Sept 9 (DW); 25 in Sabinetown Sept 21 (DB); and 60 at TX 147 on Sept 25 (DW). Quite a few were still on the move into October, including 15 at Sabinetown Oct 5 (DB). House Wren proved to be one of the more widespread migrants throughout October. The first was one in Nacogdoches Sept 29 (CS). Single migrant Marsh Wrens were found on the small islands of grass at the TX 147 causeway Oct 21 (DW, RT) and Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH, AT), and at Carrice Creek on the Nov 14 PAS field trip (DB, AT, DW). Only a few Gray Catbirds were noted: one at Alazan Bayou Sept 26 (DW); one in Central Hts Sept 28 (MHW); 2 in Central Hts Sept 30 (DW); one in Central Hts Oct 15 (MHW); and 4 at the turnoff to the St's Rest Road Oct 17 (DW). The first migrant Brown Thrashers showed up Sept 21, 2 in Central Hts (DW) and one near New Summerfield in ne. Cherokee Co (CS). A Wood Thrush found dead in Carrizo Creek Sept 27 had probably perished in the storms of Sept 25 (SL). The first push of American Robins was 649 total over Central Hts (in 7 flocks) on Nov 12 and 280 tallied there Nov 14 (DW). CS had his first, a flock of 50, on Nov 19 (CS). Few others were seen after this.

Pine Siskins may be on the move, as at least one was heard in Center Nov 23 (J Sm) and another was heard over the SFA Exp Forest Nov 25 (RT). A shy Grasshopper Sparrow was flushed repeatedly on a small island of grass at the TX 147 causeway Nov 3 (DW, DB, GH, AT). The only **Clay-colored Sparrow** found visited Sabinetown Oct 26 (DB; ph.). A White-crowned Sparrow at the base of the TX 147 causeway Nov 26 was a surprise at this site and the first report this season (DW). A migrant Yellow-breasted Chat was at the base of the TX 147 causeway Sept 9 (DW). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in the small swampy pond at the start of Angelina Co Airport entry road on Sept 19 (GH) provided one of the few fall records for the Pineywoods. Baltimore Orioles were in low numbers this fall. A bit late was one in Sabinetown Sept 21 (DB) and then 6 in Nacogdoches Sept 24 (DW). 35 Brown-headed Cowbirds appeared in Central Hts Nov 8, but did not stay around (DW). Many years this species is not seen this early (and it has occasionally been missed on the Nacogdoches CBC). 3 **Brewer's Blackbirds** visited a small feedlot in Central Hts Nov 23 and again on Dec 3 (both DW). A huge flock of 1200+ Common Grackles rampaged through the cypress islands at upper Ayish Bayou Nov 10 (DB, DW); this is early for such a large flock. 100+ Great-tailed Grackles in one big flock were at the Nacogdoches Wal-Mart Sept 24 (DW), but only a few were seen after that to late Oct (CS). None were seen thereafter and it seems they still leave for the winter.

Warblers: Migrant warblers were generally scarce and hard to find this fall, except at Sabinetown where DB cornered the market on redstarts and others.

An Ovenbird near Antioch Sept 20-21 was the only report (SO). The few Northern Waterthrush reports included singles at Marion Ferry Sept 11 (DB); Central Hts Sept 22 (MHW); Marion Ferry Sept 23 (DW); and Nacogdoches Sept 24 (DW). The only Blue-winged Warbler was a male at Alazan Bayou WMA Sept 13 (DW). Black-and-white Warblers were not as frequent as usual, but singles were at Sabinetown Sept 2 (DB) and Alazan Bayou WMA Sept 5 (DW). 4 in Sabinetown Oct 4 was the one-day high count (DB), while a rather late one was at upper Ayish Bayou Oct 31 (DB). An extremely late **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Indian Mounds Rec Area Oct 10 (DB). **Swainson's Warbler** is devilish to locate in the fall, but one was still at the Orwig Farm near Antioch (Shelby Co) Sept 20-21 (SO) and a very late one hit a window in Carrizo Creek Oct 3, but seemingly survived (SL; ph.). A late Tennessee Warbler in Central Hts Nov 2 (DW) was the only report this fall. Nashville Warblers, normally fairly common, were notably scarce. The first was not until Oct 5 when one was seen in Central Hts (DW). Another was seen in Nacogdoches Oct 22 (JS) and 3 were there Oct 27 (CS, JS). The only Mourning

Warblers were one at Ellen Trout Park Sept 13 (GH); one at the base of the TX 147 causeway Sept 14 (DW); and 2 in Ellen Trout Park Sept 18 (GH). A migrant Common Yellowthroat showed up in Central Hts Sept 10 and stayed for several days (DW). A surprising number of Hooded Warblers enjoyed snapping up midges in Sabinetown this fall, including high counts of 6 on Sept 5; 4 on Sept 7; 7 on Sept 8; 5 on Oct 4; and 2 on Oct 5 (all DB). The last were 2 at Indian Mounds Rec Area on Oct 10 (DB). Surprisingly, American Redstart was one of the most frequent migrant warblers this fall. Counts in Sabinetown included 2 on Sept 2; singles on Sept 5, 19 & 21; 4 on Sept 30; 3 on Oct 1; 4 on Oct 4-5; a late male Oct 26; and a late female Oct 29 (all DB). Sightings elsewhere were singles at Townsend Park Sept 9 (DW); Ellen Trout Park Sept 13 (GH); the Angelina Co Airport Sept 20 (DW); and Alazan Bayou Sept 26 (DW); and 2 in Central Hts Sept 30 (DW). Yellow Warbler, normally a fairly common fall migrant, was surprisingly scarce. The season high count was 12 at the TX 147 causeway Sept 9 (DW), but few others were seen. **Palm Warbler** is always a rare surprise in our area, but mid-October is the best time to find one. This year a drab “western” race was at Alazan Bayou WMA Oct 11 (DW, RT) and then a bright “eastern” race was there on the Oct 14 PAS field trip (CS, DW). A large flock of 35 Pine Warblers (with associated bluebirds and Chipping Sparrows) was at the mudflat south of TX 103 at the Attoyac (San Augustine Co) Nov 9 (DW). Relatively few Yellow-rumped Warblers were found until late Nov, when they began appearing widely in numbers (m.obs.). A migrant Yellow-throated Warbler in Sabinetown Oct 4 was the latest of very few sightings this fall (DB). The only Black-throated Green Warbler reported was a late one in Sabinetown Nov 7 (DB). Normally this is one of our more frequent fall warblers. The only Canada Warblers were singles in Sabinetown Sept 8 & 19 (DB). At least 11 Wilson’s Warblers were found at various sites from Sept 3-Oct 5 (m.obs.), but the really noteworthy one was a **late** female in Nacogdoches **Nov 22** (AB). Indigo Buntings staged in great numbers in the weedy campground fields at Alazan Bayou WMA from September through early Oct, but most disappeared on the Oct 14-15 cold front. High counts were 250+ on Sept 13 (DW) and 90+ still there Oct 14 (DW et al; PAS field trip). 10 Summer Tanagers in Nacogdoches Sept 24 was a good push of migrants (DW). The only numbers of Dickcissel were 60 at Alazan Bayou WMA Sept 13 (DW), while the last was one there Oct 11 (RT, DW).

Observers: DB = David Bell; AB = Aaron Bradley; JC = James Childress; KE = Katrina Echols; GH = Gary Hunter; SL = Susie Lower; m.obs. = many observers; SO = Sue Orwig; RS = Rick Schaefer; CS = Cliff Shackelford; JS = Julie Shackelford; J Sm = John Smelser; AT = Anne Tindell; RT = Robert Truss; SW = Scott Wahlberg; DW = David Wolf; MHW = Mimi Hoppe Wolf; ph. = photographed.

Localities in Angelina County: Angelina Co Airport; Cassells-Boykin Park on Rayburn; Ellen Trout Park in Lufkin; Ewing Park on upper Lake Rayburn (TX 103 crossing); Hudson; Huntington; Kurth Lake; Lufkin; Marion Ferry on upper Lake Rayburn; Morris Frank Park in Lufkin; North Davisville Road ponds (south of Kurth Lake); VFW Pond in Lufkin.

Localities in Nacogdoches County: Alazan Bayou WMA; Carrizo Creek; Central Heights; Dorr Creek/Saint’s Rest Road; Lake Nacogdoches (East and West Parks); McAlister Park on upper Lake Rayburn; Melrose; Nacogdoches; Nacogdoches sewage ponds (= Nac ponds); Pecan Park in Nacogdoches; Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest (= SFA Exp Forest).

Localities in San Augustine County: Townsend Park; TX 103 at the Attoyac (and mudflat to the south); TX 147 causeway and flats on Lake Rayburn; upper Ayish Bayou on Lake Rayburn (above TX 63).

Localities in Sabine County: Carrice Creek on Toledo Bend Reservoir (at TX 21); Cypress Bend on Toledo Bend; Indian Mounds Recreation Area; Sabinetown.

Localities in Shelby County: Antioch (Orwig Farm); Center.