

Spring Bird Report for Pineywoods Audubon Society
by David Wolf
(June 6, 2023)

Spring is always a special time of year for birders in East Texas, as our vibrant vegetation comes alive, migrant birds pour northward, and locally breeding birds arrive and sing. Every spring is different, but there are always special sightings, and this year was no exception.

Overall, I might describe this spring migration season as “pretty good, but not great”. If you got out birding on the right days there were birds to be found. There were two major highlights this season. One was the incredible movement of grosbeaks, buntings and orioles to bird feeders throughout the region, beginning April 23 and continuing well into the first week of May. The other was the huge shorebird fallout in Nacogdoches during the flood on May 11. As you read through this report you will find that almost every expected migrant was found at least once by someone. The only regular passerine migrants not reported at all were Olive-sided and Alder flycatchers, Veery, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Mourning and Blackpoll warblers, none of which are ever numerous here. Conversely, several unexpected rarities were found, especially Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Palm Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and Lazuli Bunting.

I would like to offer an apology. This report is long and detailed, and it is heavy on DW sightings, but what can I say? Retirement is a great thing! I was out birding somewhere almost every day this spring, and I had the time to write this up. If I missed anything significant, or you find an error, please let me know at dewolfnac@gmail.com. I am looking forward to hearing about your summer sightings.

Summary:

By mid-February the weather was warming up and as the days went by it seemed that winter might be over with early. Spring began with violent storms overnight on **March 2-3**, but after this it was mild and relatively warm. That is, until a major cold front moved into the region **March 17** and brought our last freeze, a bit late, overnight on March 18-19. This freeze was enough to greatly set back some of the vegetation. After this the weather was undramatic through the rest of March and most of April, and the spring migration on the ground was generally slow for the first half of the season. Many of our locally-breeding migrants arrived later than usual, or at least the bulk of the population did, and there were few notable pushes of transients. It seemed as if the birds had been held up somewhere.

That changed abruptly on **April 23**, when a pre-dawn cold front came through with storms and rain – and produced a **fallout** of a wide variety of migrants. Especially noteworthy was the flood of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks that inundated feeders. Almost everyone in the region who feeds birds reported them, both birders and casual “bird lovers”, and some folks had 15 or more at a time. With them were smaller numbers of Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo and Painted buntings, and Orchard and Baltimore orioles (m.obs.). Wow! [Spoiler alert: this trend continued for almost two weeks]. At least 85 Tennessee Warblers poured into Pecan Park on this day and there were 8 other warbler species amidst them, albeit in small numbers. Some of the migrants stayed around for the pleasantly cool and calm days of **April 24-25**, but few new arrivals appeared on these days.

Then the weather turned strange on **April 26** and a period of unsettled weather began as cool air from the north battled warm moist air from the south. This was the morning of our Pineywoods Audubon field trip to Pecan Park and in just a few hours we experienced everything from a pre-dawn thunderstorm to clear skies to a very threatening storm cloud from the northwest to a chilly light rain that came up from the south. After the rain ended it turned very warm and humid in the afternoon, but by late in the day skies to the north were again dark and threatening. Migrants were restless and hard to see much of the day, but the increase in numbers was noticeable. Blue Grosbeaks were unusually numerous and Indigo Buntings were everywhere, though warblers were notably scarce.

The unsettled weather continued **April 27**, beginning with serious thunderstorms and heavy rain well before dawn as a cold front pushed in from the north. This is the ideal weather condition for producing a fallout in our area and this proved to be the **most diverse day of the spring** for migrants. The

numbers put down were not huge, but migrants were widespread and the variety was noteworthy, including 18 species of warblers in the Pecan Park/Lanana Creek Trail area. By mid-afternoon the surface wind was back to the southwest and **April 28** was a pleasant day, with far fewer birds. They had moved on. The back-and-forth weather hit us again on **April 29** as a fast-moving cold front pushed through before dawn with thunderstorms and scattered rain. It was warmer overnight than much of the day, as chilly temperatures hovered in the mid-50s with a strong and steady northwest wind! Disappointingly, this front did not drop many migrants. Apparently most birds on the move got put down elsewhere. This front ushered in cool nights and clear and calm days from **April 30-May 3**. Although this is the peak of the migration season only a trickle of new migrants stopped in our area. However, well-stocked feeding stations continued to hold and attract surprising numbers of orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks and buntings. Here in Central Heights we invested in black oil sunflower seed to scatter and oranges to jab onto tree branches and it was highly rewarding. Many of you did the same, with good results, and **the feeder birds** were a **major highlight** of the season. What a delight they were! I have to wonder if these birds were so prevalent at feeders this year because of a scarcity of natural foods, perhaps due to the late freeze.

By **May 4** clouds were creeping back from the south and built up to a very warm and humid afternoon. Then, between 2-4 a.m. on **May 5**, an intense and frightening thunderstorm with fierce straight-line winds blew through from the south, toppling big trees, breaking branches and scattering debris, as well as raining heavily. Amazingly, the same thing happened again the next morning (**May 6**) as another violent storm came through from the south. Some migrants were put down locally by these storms, but the numbers were not huge and the variety was mostly limited to the more common migrants. Clearly storms from the south do not put down as many migrants as storms from the north.

The rest of May was disappointing and relatively few migrants were found, with one major exception. On **May 11** yet another massive thunderstorm came up from the south in the pre-dawn hours, dumping heavy rain throughout the region. Cushing and Central Hts recorded 3 ¾ inches, while parts of Nacogdoches town had up to 7 inches in a short period of time. By mid-morning the creeks were raging in full flood, topping their banks and filling the floodplains. Pecan Park was inundated, with the tops of the picnic tables barely visible, and just across Starr Avenue the SFASU soccer fields were completely covered with a sheet of water. Cliff Shackelford (thanks to Dan Saenz) and your compiler (DW) arrived here independently about 10 a.m. – and found hundreds of **shorebirds** gathered at the edge of the floodwaters! We alerted other area birders and for the next four hours observers proceeded to root through at least 800 individuals of 11 species of shorebirds, many of them so tired or busy feeding that they allowed remarkably close studies. At 500+ the White-rumped Sandpiper was the dominant species, but we also tallied 90 Semipalmated, 75 Stilt, 35 Least and 25 Pectoral sandpipers; 35 Wilson's Phalaropes, 20 Lesser Yellowlegs, 3 Spotted Sandpipers and singles of Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher and Killdeer. Also present were 50 Blue-winged Teal, a Northern Shoveler and a remarkable group of 11 Soras standing in the open on a small thin strip of grassy mud protruding from the flood!

Some first dates for summer residents:

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo – April 24 in Central Hts (DW); April 28 in Lufkin (GH).
- Chuck-will's-widow – April 3 near Huntington (JC).
- Chimney Swift – one at TX 147 causeway on March 17 cold front (DW).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird – male in Nacogdoches March 9 (JS).
- Cattle Egret - one at Nacogdoches sewage ponds March 24 (RT).
- Green Heron – April 10 near Boykin Springs (CS).
- Great Crested Flycatcher – March 22 on the Lanana Creek Trail in Nacogdoches (DW).
- Eastern Kingbird – singles March 30 at the SFASU Farm (Nacogdoches Co; RT) and Indian Mounds (Sabine Co; DB).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – singles March 30 at the SFASU Farm (RT) and Nacogdoches (VW).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee – April 21 in Lufkin (GH).
- White-eyed Vireo – March 8 in Central Hts (DW).
- Yellow-throated Vireo – March 21 in Pecan Park (RT).

Red-eyed Vireo – April 4 at Alazan Bayou WMA (DW).
 Barn Swallow – 3 on March 3 at the Nacogdoches sewage ponds
 Wood Thrush – April 4 in Nacogdoches Co (Kerry Barnes fide AT); April 11 in Lufkin (GH).
 Yellow-breasted Chat – April 13 near Woden (DW).
 Orchard Oriole – 2 adult males in Central Hts April 5 (DW).
 Black-and-white Warbler – one on Dorr Creek Road (s. Nac Co) March 10 (DW).
 Prothonotary Warbler – migrant in south Nacogdoches March 31 (AT).
 Swainson's Warbler – 3 singing males in the Woden area April 13 (DW).
 Kentucky Warbler – singing male at Old Aldridge Sawmill (n. Jasper Co) April 10 (CS).
 Common Yellowthroat – March 26 near Alazan Bayou WMA (AW).
 Hooded Warbler – singles on March 24 near Alazan Bayou WMA (AW) and in south
 Nacogdoches (AT).
 Northern Parula – singing male in the SFA Experimental Forest March 5 (RT, DW).
 Yellow-throated Warbler – March 11 at Alazan Bayou WMA (DW).
 Prairie Warbler – 2 males in s. Nacogdoches Co April 10 (DW).
 Summer Tanager – male at Alazan Bayou WMA April 4 (DW).
 Blue Grosbeak – 2 males at Alazan Bayou WMA April 8 (DW).
 Indigo Bunting – one male in Cushing April 5 (DS).
 Painted Bunting – adult male at Alazan Bayou WMA April 18 (DW).

Bird Report:

This spring **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was more frequent than ever before in Nacogdoches and there were sightings of small flocks and pairs throughout the season (m.obs.). The first were 8 at the Nacogdoches sewage ponds (= Nac ponds) after violent storms on March 3, our earliest ever by 20 days (DW). More surprising was a flock of 12 low over Central Hts at dusk on March 29; they were not seen in this area again (DW, MHW). After that they were seen in pairs at various sites including the Nac ponds, the south end of the Lanana Creek Trail, Pecan Park and off West Loop 224 (m. obs.). Where are they nesting? It was strange to see 50 Blue-winged Teal and a male Northern Shoveler floating on the flooded SFASU soccer fields May 11 (CS, DW et al). Gadwall peaked at the Nac ponds at 110 on March 3. Eight American Wigeon and 65 Redheads were also present that day, but were gone thereafter (DW, RT). A rare **Greater Scaup** was spotted from the TX 147 causeway on Lake Rayburn on the March 17 cold front (DW). A male **Common Goldeneye** visited Ellen Trout Park March 3-4 (GH) and 2 females were at Alazan Bayou WMA March 5 (RT). A female Hooded Merganser was at Alazan Bayou WMA April 29 (DW) and one was seen exploring snags in the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest (hereafter = SFA Exp Forest) on the May 13 PAS field trip (CS, AB et al).

A rarely-detected **Black-billed Cuckoo** visited Morris Frank Park in Lufkin May 10 (GH). The first Common Nighthawk was one over Central Hts April 29 (DW), while the season high counts were 27 near Huntington May 12 (JC) and 39 over Center May 18 (J Sm). An early Eastern Whip-poor-will was heard and sound-recorded near Huntington March 12 (JC). The only other one heard this spring was in Central Hts April 1 (MHW). The last migrant Chuck-will's-widows were heard in Central Hts May 2 (MHW) and south Lufkin May 3 (GH).

Perhaps the most remarkable sight in the May 11 shorebird fallout in Nacogdoches was **11 Soras** standing motionless on a thin strip of grassy mud rising above the flood at the SFASU soccer fields (CS, DW et al). Who would have guessed that they came through our area in such numbers? An **American Avocet** at a small puddle in Central Hts April 21 was very out-of-place (DW, MHW). American Golden-Plover staged a decent flight into the pastures in Central Hts this spring. The first were 9 on March 21 and then 40-45 were present March 23-25. They peaked at 90 on March 27. 11 that appeared April 7 were down to 2 the next day (all DW, MHW, RT). The last was a late single that stopped briefly after the storms on April 27 (MHW, RT). A pair of Killdeer at the Nac ponds April 10 already had a tiny chick (DW). An early Upland Sandpiper passed low over Central Hts March 10 (MHW). Very few others were found all spring, but there were 6 in Central Hts April 5, one on April 28 and 6 on April 29 (all DW). A

real highlight of the May 11 shorebird fallout on the SFASU soccer fields was the **75 Stilt Sandpipers** in lovely breeding plumage (CS, DW et al). The only **Dunlin** was one on the flooded SFASU soccer fields May 11 (CS, DW et al) and the only Baird's Sandpiper was one in Central Hts April 25 (DW). A few Least Sandpipers stopped in Central Hts (DW, MHW), but the high count was 35 on the SFASU soccer fields May 11 (CS, DW et al). **500+** White-rumped Sandpipers in the shorebird fallout May 11 provided a rare opportunity to study this species closely in direct close comparison to 90+ Semipalmated Sandpipers (CS, DW et al). The first Pectoral Sandpiper was one in Central Hts March 10 (RT, DW), while the spring high counts were 17 in Central Hts April 8 (DW); 25 there on April 27 (DW); and 25 at the SFASU soccer fields May 11 (CS, DW et al). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was carefully studied at the SFASU Farm April 29 (DW) and another was seen closely, photographed and heard repeatedly in the May 11 shorebird fallout at the SFASU soccer fields (DW, CS et al). Spring firsts for several of our more frequent shorebirds were a Spotted Sandpiper at the SFASU Farm April 2 (DW); a Solitary Sandpiper in Central Hts March 10 (DW); and a Lesser Yellowlegs in Central Hts March 21 (MHW). Small numbers (1-4) of Greater Yellowlegs regularly dropped in and out of a pasture puddle in Central Hts and the pond at the SFASU Farm in late March and April (DW, MHW). A Solitary Sandpiper in Central Hts May 22 was the latest ever by one day (DW). At least **35 Wilson's Phalaropes** around the flooded SFASU soccer fields May 11 were a highlight; many were in colorful female plumage (CS, DW et al). 70 Black Terns were over the main basin above the TX 147 causeway after the storms on May 11 (DW).

The high count of Common Loons was 17 off Sabinetown on Toledo Bend Reservoir March 5 (DB). A flock of 33 Neotropic Cormorants came down at the TX 147 causeway on the March 17 cold front (DW). An **American Bittern** was flushed from "the swamp" on the Dorr Creek Road April 19 (DW). 16 Great Egrets at the Nac ponds April 10 was a high count for this site (DW), while the only Snowy Egret reported this spring was one at Nac ponds March 24 (RT). The first White Ibis were 3 over Alazan Bayou WMA March 23 (DW). On April 27 a flock of **23 White-faced Ibis** circled a flooded pasture on FM 1878 near Carrizo Creek (SL) and 4 lingered at the puddle in Central Hts the same day (RT, MHW, DW). 3 were back at the same puddle on May 3 (DW)

The first Osprey was an early arrival at the TX 147 causeway March 17 (DW). Three migrants passed over Central Hts March 28 (DW). One perched at Alazan Bayou WMA June 1 seemed out of place (Ron Randle). Mississippi Kites were late in appearing and the first was one in Lufkin April 21 (GH). A flock of 40 was hawking insects low over the pastures in Central Hts May 1 and 32 kettled up over Nacogdoches May 4 and headed northeast (both DW). By May 15 local breeders had settled into known nesting areas throughout the region (m.obs.). A Northern Harrier passed over s. Nacogdoches Co April 10 (DW). The expected Broad-winged Hawk flight did not materialize in late March and the first sighting was not until March 29 when one was seen over south Nacogdoches (AT). Then, on April 3, two large flights were detected: 833+ from the turnoff to St's Rest Road (s. Nac Co; DW) and 700+ over Central Hts (MHW). They were also seen over Carrizo Creek that day (SL). No other large flights were seen all spring. The only **Swainson's Hawks** were one amidst the big Broad-winged flight over s. Nac Co April 3 (DW) and one at the Angelina Co Airport April 28 (GH). A **Crested Caracara** just inside Shelby County on FM 1270 near Lake Murvaul on May 5 was a first for that area (J Sm). Other sightings were one in Central Hts March 10 (DW) and a pair in the same vicinity March 25 (DB). This species continues to slowly expand into our region. Both male and female American Kestrels were carrying food to a nesting ledge high up on a light fixture at the SFASU soccer fields May 12 (DW). The only **Merlin** was one in Center April 27 (J Sm), while single **Peregrine Falcons** were spotted at Alazan Bayou WMA April 29 (DW) and over Lufkin May 1 (GH).

Red-headed Woodpeckers seemed scarce or lacking in many areas. The first one in Central Hts all year briefly appeared May 3, but was never seen again (DW, MHW). The only **Western Kingbird** was one in Nacogdoches May 8 (DW). Eastern Kingbirds were conspicuous in the fallouts of migrants from late April to mid-May, but not in notably large numbers (m.obs.). The same could be said of Eastern Wood-Pewee. Migrant *Empidonax* flycatchers were relatively scarce this spring. The only Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was one on the Lanana Creek Trail May 12 (DW). A migrant Acadian Flycatcher visited Central Hts May 18 (DW). Both Willow and Alder flycatchers are regular late-spring migrants through

our area, but they are visually identical and can be conclusively identified only by their calls and especially songs. Non-vocalizing birds are referred to as “Traill’s” flycatcher or Willow/Alder sp? The first “Traill’s” was a quiet one in Central Hts May 3 (DW). Then, after the storm May 5, a Willow was found in the big downed trees in Pecan Park. It was confirmed to species when it responded to playback by approaching closely and calling (DW). On May 7 RT visited this area and found 3 singing Willow Flycatchers in the same downed trees. They were extremely responsive to playback, approaching to within a few feet of the observer and singing repeatedly (RT). Another Willow was induced to sing at the Nacogdoches sewage ponds May 22 (DW). The last “Traill’s” were singles in Central Hts May 27 and Alazan Bayou WMA May 31 (both DW). No Alder Flycatchers were ever confirmed this spring. The first Least Flycatcher appeared in Pecan Park April 28 (DW), but not many others were found. This is usually our commonest migrant *Empidonax*. Four just-fledged Eastern Phoebes were with an adult in south Nacogdoches April 21 (DW).

The first Warbling Vireos were 2 in Central Hts April 11 (DW). The first Philadelphia Vireos were 5 in Central Hts (MHW) and one in Pecan Park (DW) on stormy April 23. The first big push of migrant Red-eyed Vireos was 25+ in Pecan Park April 23 (DW). 20+ Bank Swallows were seen close at hand at the TX 147 causeway on stormy May 11, but there were likely many more amidst the hundreds of swallows (mostly Cliff) foraging over Lake Rayburn as far as the eye could see (DW). At least 110 Tree Swallows passed low over the TX 147 causeway on the March 17 cold front (DW). The first Northern Rough-winged Swallows were 2 at the Nac ponds March 10 (DW). Large numbers of migrant Cliff Swallows appeared with the April 23-24 cold front and successive stormy days (DW). On March 3 at the Nac ponds at least 3 Cave Swallows were confirmed in a flock of 30 swallows that were likely all this species (DW). The last Ruby-crowned Kinglets were 2 in Sabinetown May 2, while the last Golden-crowned Kinglet was present there through March 19 (both DB). Hordes of Cedar Waxwings passed through Central Hts March 7, when 700+ were tallied in just a few minutes (DW). The last were 6 over Central Hts May 27 (DW). A fledgling White-breasted Nuthatch was seen in Pecan Park May 3 (DW). The first migrant Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appeared in Central Hts March 9 (MHW). Somewhat late Winter Wrens were spotted near Ayish Bayou March 21 and south of San Augustine March 26 (both DB). 4 Sedge and one Marsh Wren were at Alazan Bayou WMA April 29 (DW). The one-day high count for Gray Catbird was 12 in Nacogdoches April 27 (DW). A recently-fledged juvenile Brown Thrasher was seen in Nacogdoches April 29 (DW). At least 12 Swainson’s Thrushes were tallied along the Lanana Creek Trail during the April 27 fallout, plus 2-3 Gray-cheeked and 5 thrush sp? (DW). The only other Gray-cheeked, an easily-overlooked migrant that prefers the deep woods, was one in Nacogdoches May 1 (DW). The last Swainson’s Thrush was one in Lufkin May 27 (GH).

A Lark Sparrow in Central Hts March 10 was likely an early arrival rather than a wintering bird (DW). Single migrant White-crowned Sparrows were seen in Central Hts April 8 & 23-24 (MHW, DW). The last Vesper Sparrow was one at Alazan Bayou WMA April 8 (DW), while a White-throated Sparrow lingered in Nacogdoches to May 2 (CS). 20 Lincoln’s Sparrows in Nacogdoches Co April 29 was the season high count (DW). Yellow-breasted Chat is elusive as a migrant, but at least 6 were seen or heard in the April 27 fallout in Nacogdoches, indicating a good push (DW). The only **Bobolinks** were 20 males with Dickcissels in Central Hts April 30 (DW, MHW); only one was still present the next day (RT). A good push of 22 Orchard Orioles came through Central Hts April 24 (DW). The first Baltimore Oriole was one in Lufkin April 10 (GH) and the season high count was 28 at once in Sabinetown May 3 (DB).

The warbler flight in Nacogdoches was mostly disappointing this spring (DW et al), but Sabinetown consistently had sightings (DB). Single Ovenbirds, an easily-overlooked migrant, were noted three times, singles in Cushing April 23 (DS); on the Lanana Creek Trail April 27 (DW); and along the Dorr Creek Road April 29 (DW). Exclusive warbler sightings were a **Worm-eating** in Sabinetown April 15 (DB), a **Golden-winged** there April 30 (DB) and a Blue-winged in Nacogdoches April 27 (DW). The first Tennessee Warbler was one in Central Hts April 12 (DW). The season high counts of Tennessee all came from Pecan Park after overnight storms, with 85+ April 23 (DW), 80+ April 27 (DW) and 75+ May 5 (CS, DW), but the species was also widespread in smaller numbers in many other places during this period of unsettled weather (m.obs.). Single somewhat late Orange-crowned Warblers showed up in

Sabinetown May 4 (DB) and Nacogdoches May 5 (DW). The first American Redstarts were singles in Central Hts (MHW) and Pecan Park (DW) in the April 23 fallout. The only **Cerulean Warblers** were a male in Ellen Trout Park in Lufkin April 27 (GH) and a female in Pecan Park May 6 (AB). The first Magnolia Warbler was one in Nacogdoches April 27 (DW) and the last were singles on May 26 in Lufkin (GH) and south Nacogdoches (AT) and in Lufkin May 29 (GH). The first Bay-breasted Warbler was one in Nacogdoches April 26 (DW); a high count of 12 in Sabinetown May 1 was noteworthy (DB); and the last was one in Pecan Park May 14 (DW). A male Blackburnian Warbler near Alazan Bayou WMA April 16 tied our earliest first date (AW). The last were singles in Lufkin May 25 (GH) and 2 in south Nacogdoches May 26 (AT). The first Yellow Warblers were 4 in Central Hts (MHW) and 3 in Pecan Park (DW) in the April 23 fallout, while the last were 2 at Ellen Trout Park May 26 (GH). They were widespread between these dates, but never in great numbers. The first Chestnut-sided Warbler was a male in Sabinetown April 20 (DB), the season high count was 7 in Sabinetown May 7 (DB) and the last was one in south Nacogdoches May 26 (AT). For some unknown reason **Palm Warblers** were found a surprising number of times this spring, especially given that we have had only 10 previous spring records for Nacogdoches & Angelina Counties in over 50 years. The first was amidst Yellow-rumped Warblers in the willows at the south end of the Lanana Creek Trail April 10 and what was likely the same bird was seen nearby April 16. On April 19, at the clearcut just before the St's Rest Road turnoff, two incoming migrants landed a few feet from the observer and slowly foraged together along the fenceline! One also appeared in Pecan Park in the April 27 fallout (all sightings DW). A recently-fledged Pine Warbler wandered into Pecan Park April 21 (DW). This species nests early! The last Yellow-rumped Warblers were 3 in Sabinetown May 2 (DB) and a scraggly female that lingered in Pecan Park to May 5 (DW, CS et al). A migrant Yellow-throated Warbler came through Central Hts April 23 (MHW). The first Black-throated Green Warblers were 2 in south Nacogdoches March 29 (AT), the season high count was 8 in Cushing April 23 (DS) and the last was one in south Nacogdoches May 26 (AT). Single Canada Warblers were spotted in south Nacogdoches May 11 (AT), the SFA Exp Forest May 13 (JS) and in Lufkin May 25 (GH). David Bell in Sabinetown cornered the market on **Wilson's Warbler**, with an out-of-season male **March 10** and single migrants May 3, 19 & 20 (all DB).

The only Scarlet Tanagers were 2 (male and female) in Central Hts April 23 (MHW) and single males in Pecan Park April 25 (RT) and April 26 (DW). The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was a male in Nacogdoches April 20 (AB). This species then staged an **amazing flight** beginning with the stormy and wet cold front April 23 and lasting through May 5. Almost everyone throughout our area (and elsewhere in eastern Texas) who feeds birds reported this species, including many casual observers who had never seen them before. Personally, I was astounded to look out our kitchen window on April 27 and count 18 males at once (DW)! To our surprise, a female appeared at our feeders during the afternoon rain on **June 4**, the latest local sighting ever by 9 days, and was still present as I write this on June 6 (MHW, DW). A very rare **Black-headed Grosbeak** that visited feeders at Sabinetown March 27-30 was photographed and provided a first Sabine County record (AB, DB). Migrant Blue Grosbeaks were notably numerous on April 26, when 19 were counted in one flock in Center (J Sm); 15 were along a short stretch of road in Central Hts (DW); and 8 were seen in Nacogdoches, including on the PAS field trip (DW et al). A male **Lazuli Bunting** was spotted amidst the horde of 50 Indigos at our feeding station in Central Hts in the late afternoon on May 1; it was still around the next morning but not thereafter (MHW, DW; photographed). There is only one previous record for Nacogdoches Co and 2 for Angelina Co. Flocks of Indigo Buntings turned up widely April 26-May 5, including at feeders, and daily counts of 50-100 were not unusual (m.obs.). Here in Central Hts they peaked at 100+ in our yard at once on April 29 (DW, MHW)! The first Dickcissels were 5 in Central Hts April 21 (DW, MHW), while the peak count there was 60 on April 30 (DW). Very few stayed around to attempt to nest.

Observers: AB = Abigail Bell; DB = David Bell; AB = Aaron Bradley; JC = James Childress; KE = Katrina Echols; GH = Gary Hunter; SL = Susie Lower; m.obs. = many observers; DS = Dennis Scheef; CS = Cliff Shackelford; JS = Julie Shackelford; J Sm = John Smelser; AT = Anne Tindell; RT = Robert Truss; VW = Vickie Wallace; AW = Ashley Wahlberg; DW = David Wolf; MHW = Mimi Hoppe Wolf

Localities in Angelina County: Angelina Co Airport; Ellen Trout Park (in Lufkin); Huntington; Lufkin; Morris Frank Park (in Lufkin).

Localities in Nacogdoches County: Alazan Bayou WMA; Carrizo Creek; Central Heights (= Central Hts); Cushing; Dorr Creek Road; Lanana Creek Trail (in Nacogdoches); Nacogdoches; Nacogdoches sewage ponds (= Nac ponds); Pecan Park (in Nacogdoches); Saint's Rest Road (= St's Rest Road); Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest (= SFA Exp For); Stephen F. Austin State University Farm near Mahl (= SFASU Farm); Woden.

Localities in Sabine County: Indian Mounds; Sabinetown.

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

Localities in Shelby County: Center.