

Summer 2010: Central Oaks & Prairies and East Texas Pineywoods

By Bert Frenz

MOST UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS:

More reports than usual of **Northern Bobwhite** came in East Texas from *Harrison, Rains, Red River, and Rusk* (m.ob., fide Peter Barnes) plus an unexpected sighting in residential Bryan, *Brazos*, on 27 Jun (fide Keith Arnold), suspected to be an escapee, yet unbanded.

Wild Turkeys are not often reported in East Texas, so one in *Cass* 13 Jun (David Brotherton, Luanne Brotherton) is noteworthy.

A fly-over of 3 **Brown Pelicans** at Country Club Lake in Bryan on 6 Jul (Keith Arnold) was a first summer record for *Brazos*; another inland record, a juvenile, was at Lake Waco in *McLennan* on 27 Jun (Eric Haskell).

A **Mississippi Kite** was carrying nesting material in *Cherokee* 13 Jun (Peter Barnes). Another sighting 19 Jun (Darrell Vollert) is a first breeding season record for *Madison*. Others were found 4 Jul (Peter Barnes) in *Cass* and 5 Jul (Linda Price) in *Marion*, increased evidence of an expansion of breeding kites in northeast Texas.

A pair of **Bald Eagles** first reported in January at a private lake in *Washington* was still present 11 Jun (Darrell Vollert, Ken Hartman). At Lake Waco, *McLennan*, last year's eagle nest was destroyed in a storm in April, but another was built by the pair and occupied during the summer (Eric Haskell).

A first summer record for East Texas, a **Northern Harrier** was sighted 7 Jun (Justin Valleau) in Tyler, *Smith*.

Cooper's Hawks are rare breeders in the Central Brazos Valley and one observed 13 Jun (Darrell Vollert) on the Burton BBS route is a first summer record for *Washington*.

A **Swainson's Hawk** observed 19 Jun (Darrell Vollert) is a first summer record for *Grimes*.

Summering at Richland Creek WMA, *Freestone/Navarro*, was an **American Coot** observed 25 Jun (David Brotherton, Luanne Brotherton).

In his Northeast Texas report, Barnes comments, "**Greater Roadrunners** were everywhere" and lists sightings in Freestone, Henderson, Morris, Rains, Rusk, Upshur, Van Zandt.

A **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** first reported 16 May in *Montgomery* was still seen into June (Carol Bookout).

Although **Eastern Kingbird** is a known nester in *Washington*, details are sketchy, so a report of 3 or 4 chicks on a nest over a private lake 11 Jun (Darrell Vollert, Ken Hartman) is valuable documentation.

Bell's Vireos were reported in East Texas at Sabine Mining company land in *Harrison* 4 Jun (David Brotherton, Luanne Brotherton) and 27 Jun (Linda Price), as well as in *Lamar* on 19 Jul (Linda Price).

An adult and brown-backed **Tree Swallow** were observed at a private lake in *Washington* 11 Jun (Darrell Vollert, Ken Hartman), a county with no prior summer records and, in the larger Central Brazos Valley, there are few records suggesting breeding. Tree Swallows are local breeders in Northeast Texas and reports this summer came from *Henderson, Hunt* and *Panola* (David Brotherton, Luanne Brotherton, Linda Price).

Rarely reported in summer, a **Brown Thrasher** was observed near Chappell Hill in *Washington* 11 Jun (Darrell Vollert, Ken Hartman),

A **Bachman's Sparrow** was heard in *Smith* 6 Jun (Linda Price), though previous reports for the Northeast Texas area have been confined to Gus Englin WMA in *Anderson*.

CONTRIBUTORS QUOTED ABOVE:

Keith Arnold, Peter Barnes, David Brotherton, Luanne Brotherton, Bert Frenz, 221 Rainbow Dr. #12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021, bert2@bafrenz.com, Ken Hartman, Eric Haskell, Linda Price, Justin Valleau, Darrell Vollert.