

## Summer 2012: Central Oaks & Prairies and East Texas Pineywoods

By Bert Frenz

This report is reduced from 66 sightings of 40 species from 1 June to 31 July 2012.

### WEATHER REPORTS:

none

### MOST UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS:

Northern Bobwhite – A Northern Bobwhite was seen 6 Jun (Jim & Kitty Anding) at *Brazos* on Roan's Chapel Road in College Station; the last neighborhood sighting was in 2007.

Common Loon – A Common Loon was late 1 Jun (Linda Price) at Lake Bob Sandlin in *Titus*.

Brown Booby – Undoubtedly the most unusual sighting in East Texas this summer is an adult **Brown Booby** photographed 6 Jul (ph. Roger Bacon) while flying over Lake Sam Rayburn near Broaddus, *San Augustine*. Notified of the rare sighting, at least three other birders visited the site the next two days, but could not relocate the booby.

Reddish Egret – A juvenile Reddish Egret visited Lake Somerville at Welch Park, *Burleson*, on 14 Jul (ph. Bill Wright). Although an unusual inland record, there have been 7 prior sightings on the lake since 1975.

White-tailed Kite – Not expected in summer in East Texas, a pair of **White-tailed Kites** were seen 22 Jun (Carol Wells) near Gallatin in southern *Cherokee*.

Mississippi Kite – Since a detailed 2006 published report (Bert Frenz) of nesting **Mississippi Kites** in the central Oaks and Prairies region, the species has seen a notable increase in nesting pairs, particularly in *Bell* (Randy Pinkston), *Brazos* (Keith Arnold, John Hale, Linda Hale, Cathy Liles, Laura Sare, Dan Wilkerson, Mary Dabney Wilson) and *McLennan* (Jane Kittner, Fred & Nancy Gelbach).

American Kestrel – American Kestrels continue to breed successfully at Longview Business Park in *Gregg* where 5 kestrels, including 2 immatures, were observed hunting on 1 Jun (Linda Price).

Purple Gallinule – At Coon Creek Club in *Henderson* 13 Jun (Peter Barnes), 7 Purple Gallinules, including 2 chicks, were observed; Purple Gallinules again nested successfully at Kurth Lake in *Angelina* (Louis Debetaz).

American Coot – Sightings 1-2 Jun (Hugh Brown) of a single **American Coot** are the first summer records for *Lee*.

Caspian Tern – Out of season was a Caspian Tern 27 Jul (Louis Debetaz) at Kurth Lake, *Angelina*.

Monk Parakeet – Almost completely unknown in East Texas, a Monk Parakeet was reported 14 Jul (Jack Windsor) in Lufkin, *Angelina*.

Chimney Swift – Undoubtedly the highest count ever reported for the Central Brazos Valley, hundreds, perhaps a thousand, **Chimney Swifts** were swirling over Brenham, *Washington*, on 28 Jul (Darrell Vollert).

Red-headed Woodpecker – David Wolf reports for the Pineywoods, "With all of the dead trees killed by the drought of the previous two years woodpeckers seem to be thriving, with many fledged young seen. Especially noteworthy are the Red-heads, the most common they have been in our area in years." A

pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were also reported in *Brazos* at the Navasota River 5 Jul (John Hale, Linda Hale) and 5 adults and a juvenile were seen in southern *Grimes* on 8 Jul (Darrell Vollert).

Cave Swallows – **Cave Swallows** continue their spread across East Texas, with sightings 9-13 Jun (Peter Barnes) in *Henderson* and 23 Jun in *Harrison*, between Marshall and Waskom, almost at the Louisiana border.

Marsh Wren – A late **Marsh Wren** was in *Lee* 1 Jun (Hugh Brown), the first summer record for the Central Brazos Valley.

American Redstart – Summer sightings of American Redstart in the East Texas Pineywoods include 3 singing at Caddo Lake NWR in *Harrison* 2 Jun (Peter Barnes, Mike Dillon, Vanessa Adams), and singles 1 Jul (Sue Orwig) at James, *Shelby* and 9 Jul (Carol Wells) at Broadus, *San Augustine*.

### **CONTRIBUTORS:**

Vanessa Adams, Jim & Kitty Anding, Keith Arnold, Roger Bacon, Peter Barnes, Hugh Brown, Louis Debetaz, Mike Dillon, Bert Frenz, 221 Rainbow Dr. #12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021, bert2@bafrenz.com, Fred & Nancy Gelbach, John Hale, Linda Hale, Jane Kittner, Cathy Liles, Sue Orwig, Randy Pinkston, Linda Price, Laura Sare, Dan Wilkerson, Carol Wells, Mary Dabney Wilson, Bill Wright, Darrell Vollert, Jack Windsor, David Wolf.