

Summer 2013: Central Oaks & Prairies and East Texas Pineywoods

By Bert Frenz

This report is reduced from 179 sightings of 86 species from 1 June to 31 July 2013.

WEATHER REPORTS:

Keith Arnold, Brazos County, 4 June, "A warm and sunny day, with continuing lowering of the water levels, despite recent rains."

MOST UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS:

Greater Scaup – Two poorly plumaged ducks, identified first as Redheads, were reported 21 Jun (Bill Wright, John Berner) off TX-50, south of Hwy 190/79, in *Robertson*, and one was digiscoped with an iPhone 6 Jul (Rick & Sarah Laughlin) at the same location. After analysis of the photos, at least one was determined to be a Greater Scaup. There are no prior records of Greater Scaup in *Robertson*. See <https://picasaweb.google.com/richard.laughlin/July62013?authuser=0&feat=directlink>

Northern Bobwhite – For several months now, most recently 14 Jun (Matthew Gasner) and 17 Jul (Jim & Kitty Anding) 1-2 Northern Bobwhites have been seen or heard at Lick Creek Park in *Brazos*. Bobwhites have become rare in the county and it is even more unusual to have repeated reports at the same location.

Osprey – An Osprey was on a nest at Toledo Bend Reservoir in *Sabine* 21 Jun (Larry & Judith Jordan).

Swallow-tailed Kite – Following a spring report of two Swallow-tailed Kites over Rainbow's End in Livingston are two more reports 11-17 Jul (Curtis Endee). The kites are not known to nest in *Polk* and the only other record dates back to 1979.

Black-necked Stilt – Although typically reported annually at least once in the Central Brazos Valley during summer months, there are few records for *Robertson* where several pairs were seen 6 Jul (Rick & Sarah Laughlin) off Highway 50 near Hearne.

Royal Tern – A single Royal Tern flying with smaller terns was observed 2 Jun (Louis Debetaz) at Kurth Lake, *Angelina*, and drew the comment from David Wolf, "the first confirmed record for Angelina County and our first area record ever that was not associated with a hurricane or tropical disturbance. We have 4 previous storm-related records [for the central Pineywoods region]."

Black-chinned Hummingbird – A rare Black-chinned Hummingbird for *Brazos*, first reported in the spring, remained at a feeder in the Wellborn area, south College Station until 17 Jul (Helen & John Baines).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker – A Ladder-backed Woodpecker identified in College Station mid-July (12th or 13th) (Michael, Athena & Helene Andrews-Polymeris) is rare for *Brazos* and the only one reported since 1998.

American Kestrel – The lingering pair of American Kestrels at Carter Lake first discovered in spring were closely watched through the end of the period (m.ob.). The pairs continued territorial presence is indicative of breeding, although no direct evidence was observed. The species has not been documented as nesting in *Brazos* since before 1940.

Willow Flycatcher – A summer report of Willow Flycatcher 27 Jul (Darrell Vollert) at Peach Creek Community in *Brazos* is rare for the Central Brazos Valley.

Louisiana Waterthrush – A 5 Jul (Darrell Vollert) sighting of Louisiana Waterthrush in Brenham is noteworthy for *Washington*.

Common Yellowthroat – While we have no concrete evidence of Common Yellowthroat nesting in *Brazos*, the continued presence of two yellowthroats, with the male vigorously defending territory from spring and throughout summer, is highly suggestive of breeding at Peach Creek Community (Darrell Vollert).

CONTRIBUTORS:

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