

Summer 2016: Central Oaks & Prairies and East Texas Pineywoods

By Bert Frenz

This report is reduced from nearly 53,000 eBird sightings and personal correspondence from 1 June to 31 July 2016.

WEATHER REPORTS:

none

MOST UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS:

Northern Pintail – Very unexpected in summer, unprecedented in Jul for the Central Brazos Valley and East Texas, 2 Northern Pintails were observed 17 Jul (Dell Little, D. D. Currie) at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone*.

Red-breasted Merganser – A late female Red-breasted Merganser lingered at Kurth Lake, *Angelina* 21 Apr – 2 Jun (Louis Debetaz).

Pied-billed Grebe – A pair of Pied-billed Grebes nested on large pond along Little Cedar Creek Lane, east of Chappell Hill, *Washington*. The pair was still present at the nest 31 Jul (Darrell Vollert).

Swainson's Hawk – A single light-phase Swainson's Hawk was hovering near Prairie View, *Waller* 2 Jul (†Mike Manson) at a date when nesting could be expected. A very few Swainson's Hawks are known to nest in adjacent *Washington* and *Harris*.

Red-headed Woodpecker – Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to be widespread in East Texas and are doing well since the drought in 2013 killed so many trees. Nestlings were seen in Central Heights, *Nacogdoches* 19 Jun (David Wolf, Mimi Hoppe Wolf). In *Brazos*, a juvenile at Steep Hollow Rd on 21 Jun (Mark McDermott) is noteworthy.

Peregrine Falcon – A first summer record for *Brazos*, a Peregrine Falcon was identified near the Texas A&M University campus, College Station 29 Jul (†Mark McDermott).

Couch's Kingbird – A first summer record for *Washington*, on 2 occasions in Jun (Darrell Vollert) a Couch's Kingbird was singing in Brenham.

White-breasted Nuthatch – Apparently a first summer record for *Austin*, a White-breasted Nuthatch was heard and seen 12 Jun – 3 Jul (Sue Ruotsala, Billie Bernard) on Stokes Road, north of Bellville.

CONTRIBUTORS:

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