

Summer 2017: Central Oaks & Prairies and East Texas Pineywoods

By Bert Frenz

This report is from 1 June to 31 July 2017.

WEATHER REPORTS:

none

MOST UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS:

Fulvous Whistling-Duck – Rarely reported in *Liberty*, 2 were in Dayton 13 Jul (Paul Micallef) at the ne edge of its Texas range.

Redhead – A Redhead summered 1 Jun+ (Darrell Vollert) at a stock pond along US290 east of Brenham, *Washington*.

Purple Gallinule – A noteworthy summer record of a Purple Gallinule at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* occurred 28 Jun (ph. Patricia Isaacson, Janet Cook).

Black-necked Stilt – A first summer record for *Brazos* since 1926 was up to 17 Black-necked Stilts 14 Jun+ (John Hale, m.ob.) at 2 locations separated by 3 mi. near the Texas A&M Research Annex. Although there is no prior evidence of breeding, the 14 Jun sighting included a juvenile.

American Avocet – First summer records for American Avocet in *Brazos* were made 14-15 Jul (ph. Mark McDermott, John Hale, Mary Richards) at Pitts Road Pond near Texas A&M Research Annex.

Marbled Godwit – A rare inland sighting was a Marbled Godwit 19 Jun (ph. Cory Norris) at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone*.

Stilt Sandpiper – Setting an early passage date record for the Central Prairie was a Stilt Sandpiper 27 Jul (†John Hale) at Pitts Road Pond, *Brazos*.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – Tying an early passage date record for the Central Prairie was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper 27 Jul (†John Hale) at Sims Lane, Bryan, *Brazos*.

Pectoral Sandpiper – Early by 3 days for the Central Prairie was a Pectoral Sandpiper 16 Jul (†John Hale, Keith Arnold) at Sims Lane, *Brazos*.

Long-billed Dowitcher – A first summer record for *Brazos* and the Central Prairie is a Long-billed Dowitcher 21 Jul (ph. John Hale) at Sims Lane.

Caspian Tern – A Caspian Tern was photographed 5-10 Jun (ph. Paul Micallef) at ponds north of Hwy. 90 between Dayton and Liberty, *Liberty*.

Brown Booby – The best bird this summer in East Texas was a Brown Booby 11 Jun (ph. †Ross Rogers) at Lake Bob Sandlin, *Camp*.

American Bittern – A first summer record for *Freestone* and hardly ever found in East Texas in summer, an American Bittern was seen 28 Jun (†Patricia Isaacson, Janet Cook).

Mississippi Kite – About 2 dozen Mississippi Kites flew eastward over College Hills, College Station, *Brazos* 30 Jul (Mike Manson), thereby setting an early migration record for the Central Brazos Valley.

Green Kingfisher – An out of range female Green Kingfisher was at Lone Star College, Kingwood, *Montgomery* 5 Jun+ (ph. Michael Cooper, m.ob.) in the same area as a male was found in January in 2016 and 2017.

American Kestrel – A pair of American Kestrels again summered (Linda Hale) at Carter Lake, College Station, *Brazos* and for the first time there is tentative evidence of breeding when the male brought food to the female. They repeatedly were found at the crossbar of a huge utility pole, although a nest has not been observed. Prior to these Carter Lake observations kestrels have not been known to nest in the county.

Wood Thrush – A Wood Thrush singing vigorously for over an hour at Camp Allen, *Grimes* 18 Jun (Darrell Vollert) is the first evidence of breeding in the Central Brazos Valley since the early 1970s.

Nashville Warbler – A Nashville Warbler 31 Jul (†Gene Prejean) at The Woodlands, *Montgomery* is an early migrant.

Eastern Towhee – Eastern Towhee is very rare in East Texas in summer, so one repeatedly singing in *Polk* 16 Jun (Donna Kelly) is noteworthy. [location is 30.624318, -94.81979]

CONTRIBUTORS:

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