

Spring 2021 Report for the East Texas Pinewoods
(for *North American Birds*)
compiled by David E. Wolf

There are only two really noteworthy records here, the Fulvous Whistling-Duck and Chestnut-collared Longspur. The rest is of more local interest within the Pineywoods and nearby. – Dave Wolf

March, April and early May were generally disappointing for migrant passerines inland in the relatively well-worked Nacogdoches area, in spite of regular storms, cool fronts and heavy rains. The weather was often more volatile to the south of us and it is likely that many migrants were put down there rather than here. This changed with the unsettled wet weather and cool front of May 10-13, which dropped by far the best push of migrants locally in Nacogdoches all spring. Pecan Park in Nacogdoches is a relatively small 23 acres in size and yet on these 4 days it hosted 35 species of passerine migrants and 210-235+ individuals daily. The species composition and relative numbers were subtly different each day, but Eastern Wood-Pewee and Tennessee Warbler were clearly the co-dominants, with 35-50 of both on all four days (the high counts on both were on 10 May). Other peak counts were Red-eyed Vireos – 30 on 11 & 13 May; American Redstart – 35 on 12 May; Yellow Warbler – 30 on 13 May; Blackburnian Warbler – 18 on 13 May; Chestnut-sided Warbler – 12 on 11 May; and Magnolia Warbler – 10 on 12 May.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK – A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Alazan Bayou WMA, Nacogdoches Co 17 April was only the second report for the Pineywoods in 50 years and the first since 24 April 77 in Walker Co (David Wolf; ph.).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE – An Egyptian Goose, likely the same one, showed up at two sites in Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches Co 1-11 March for the first local report of this unwanted invasive (Howard Williamson, David Wolf; ph.).

GREATER SCAUP – A late Greater Scaup was seen well on Lake O'the Pines, Marion Co 17 April (David Brotherton).

AMERICAN AVOCET – Four American Avocets were photographed at the Angelina County Airport, Angelina Co by the manager on stormy 11 May (fide Gary Hunter).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER – 21 Semipalmated Plover on the upper Lake Livingston delta, Trinity Co 13 April was a spring high count for the region (Garett Hodne, John Pike).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – Two Long-billed Dowitchers visited Texas Eastman in Longview, Harrison Co 5 April (David Brotherton) and 14 were seen on the upper Lake Livingston delta, Trinity Co 13 April (Garett Hodne, John Pike). Dowitchers of both species are rare inland in East Texas in the spring and there are surprisingly few records.

WILLET – A rare Willet stopped near Mahl, Nacogdoches Co 30 April (David Wolf, ph.; Liam Wolff).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers at the Lake Livingston spillway Polk/San Jacinto Cos peaked at 16 on 7 April (J. Berner, Bob Friedrichs), with 5 still present 13-14 April (Garett Hodne, Nina Rach).

COMMON LOON – A concentration of 82 Common Loons off Indian Mounds Recreation Area on Toledo Bend Reservoir, Sabine Co 21 March was gone the next day (David Bell).

BROWN PELICAN – A Brown Pelican at Lake Livingston SP, Polk Co 4 March was a very rare find inland (Kyle O’Haver).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL – Very unexpected were 14 Roseate Spoonbills in a flooded field near Austonio, Houston Co 27 May (Jeremy Webster), with four still there 30 May (Susan Heath). Could these birds have been pushed inland by coastal flooding?

WHITE-TAILED KITE – A rare White-tailed Kite near Boykin Springs, Jasper Co 23 April was enjoyed by 11 observers (m.obs.).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER – A nicely-documented Acadian Flycatcher at Big Creek Scenic Area, San Jacinto Co 7 April was the earliest ever for the Pineywoods (J. Berner, Bob Friedrichs).

COUCH’S KINGBIRD – A calling Couch’s Kingbird near the Lake Livingston spillway, Polk Co 24 March was the only report of this rarity this spring (Sonny Bratz).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – A Western Kingbird near Huntington, Angelina Co 10 April established the earliest confirmed sighting for the Pineywoods (James Childress; ph.).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – After the widespread winter invasion several Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered well into May, the last in Henderson, Rusk Co 15 May (Bonnie McKenzie).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR – A female Chestnut-collared Longspur was photographed at Lake Tyler Marina Resort, Smith Co 10 April (Jason Pike, Karen Rueb-Hall). This is only the third Pineywoods record in 50 years and the first since 1983.

PURPLE FINCH – The last Purple Finches of the widespread winter invasion were single females in Morris Co 13 April (David Brotherton) and Bowie Co 15 April (Judy Reeves).

VESPER SPARROW – Single Vesper Sparrows in Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches Co 23 April (Charles Dean Fisher) and Polk Co 25 April (Aaron Hammer; ph.) provided the latest dates ever for the Pineywoods.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – A female Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen on the Sundew Trail of Big Thicket NP, Tyler Co 19 April (Suzanne Winckler).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER – 18 Blackburnian Warblers in a fallout in Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches Co 13 May was a high one-day count for anywhere inland in Texas (David Wolf et al).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER – A Blackpoll Warbler, always rare in the Pineywoods, visited Lufkin, Angelina Co 27 April (Gary Hunter).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER – 18-25 March brought an unusual number of early Black-throated Green Warblers, with 2 in Palestine, Anderson Co 18 March (Scott Lenfest); 6 reports of 1-3 at different sites in Nacogdoches Co 20-25 March (m.obs.) and one in Center, Shelby Co 21 March (John Smelser).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK – A male Black-headed Grosbeak visiting a feeder in Jasper, Jasper Co since 20 Jan was last seen 16 April (Fred Lyons; ph.).