

North American Birds Winter Report for East Texas
compiled by David E. Wolf

REDHEAD X RING-NECKED DUCK HYBRID - A hybrid male Redhead X Ring-necked Duck at the Nacogdoches sewage ponds, Nacogdoches Co 1 Jan-15 March (ph. David Wolf) was presumably the same bird present here the previous winter.

HORNED GREBE - 523 Horned Grebes off Alley Creek on Lake O'the Pines, Marion Co 27 Dec was the highest count on this favored lake in recent years (David Brotherton, Daniel Boney).

LEAST SANDPIPER – 93 Least Sandpipers were at the upper end of Lake O'the Pines, Marion Co 23 Feb (David Wolf).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER – Eight Long-billed Dowitchers in Red River Co 30 Jan (David Brotherton) and one at the upper end of Lake O'the Pines, Marion Co 23 Feb (David Wolf) were far inland for late winter.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – A Lesser Black-backed Gull near the Lake Bob Sandlin Dam, Titus Co 16-19 Feb (David Brotherton et al) provided one of the few East Texas records away from their regular site at the Lake Livingston Spillway (Polk/San Jacinto Cos), where the season high count was 11 on 12 March (ph., David Wolf).

WHITE-TAILED KITE – A White-tailed Kite near Broaddus, San Augustine Co 30 Jan was an unexpected visitor this far inland (Liam Wolff).

SHORT-EARED OWL – A Short-eared Owl was flushed at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, Cherokee Co during a grassland sparrow survey 20 Feb (Cliff Shackelford et al; ph. Liam Wolff). This was the first East Texas record since 2005.

FISH CROW – Fish Crows continue to expand dramatically in the Central Pineywoods and a large flock of 100 was at Pinkston Reservoir, Shelby Co 14-18 Jan (Anne Tindell).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH – Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded throughout the region and were found all the way to the southern edge in Hardin County (m.obs.).

PURPLE FINCH – Purple Finch was almost completely lacking this winter and there were only three reports of single birds (m.obs.).

PINE SISKIN – This was a non-flight year for Pine Siskin and only singles or very small numbers were detected, from January to mid-April (m.obs.).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER – A mid-winter Black-and-white Warbler was a rare find at Martin Dies SP, Jasper Co 15 Jan (Phillip Hight).

PALM WARBLER – Single Palm Warblers far inland in Red River Co 30 Jan (David Brotherton) and at The Villages on Lake Palestine, Smith Co 13 Feb (Drew Allen) were noteworthy.

[SUMMER TANAGER – multiple birds again this winter – Angelina, Hardin & Smith Cos. This has become an annual event.

One in Lufkin, Angelina Co 30 Dec-3 Feb (Gary Hunter)

One in Smith Co 25-27 Dec (Jay Huner)

One in Silsbee, Hardin Co 18-19 Jan (Sherry Gibson).

WESTERN TANAGER – A Western Tanager lingered in Lufkin, Angelina Co 9 Nov-25 Jan (ph. Gary Hunter, Mike Austin) and another was documented near Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches Co on the 19 Dec CBC (ph. Liam Wolff, Clint Robinson).