

Northeast Texas Bird Report
October 2014 by David Brotherton

This is the NETFO bird report for October. Twenty-two of the twenty-six counties in the NETFO area had bird reports. Lots of "first of the season" sightings. Highlights include Sandhill Cranes and a Rufous Hummingbird. Thanks to all who birded and sent in their results and thanks again to Luanne for everything.

Recorded in four counties during the period, **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** were found with a peak of 80 in Rains county on 10/3 (ebird JC). The first time I ever observed **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** in NE Texas was 25 years ago at Lake Fork and they were found in October with a string of chicks behind them. I remember being surprised by them having youngsters so late. On 10/24 LB and I noted 8 adults and 3 little chicks following a parent in Morris county.

The two straggling/resident **Ross's Geese** for the area were noted once again at LBS in Titus county on 10/11 (DB,LB) and in Rains county on 10/24 (ebird RK). Noted in five counties, the peak of 21 **Canada Geese** was reported from Texarkana in Bowie county on 10/18 (ebird JT). Always a neat find in the NETFO area, three **Mottled Ducks** were tallied at RC WMA in Navarro county on 10/10 (ebird DC,DL), while two were noted in Freestone county on 10/11 (ebird DC,DL).

Two **Wild Turkeys** were found in Cherokee county on 10/12 (ebird JHa). A **Wood Stork** was noted in Smith county on 10/10 (ebird JR,EV), while another **Wood Stork** was noted in Upshur county on 10/11 (ME). Two **American Bitterns** were noted at each of the counties at RC WMA on 10/11 (DC,DL). **Tricolored Herons** were found on several dates at RC WMA with a peak of six noted on 10/11 in Freestone county (ebird DC,DL). **Yellow-crowned** and **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were also restricted to the RC WMA with a peak of two and four respectively were noted on 10/11 in Navarro county (ebird DC,DL). 10/11 was the date for peak **White Ibis** in Navarro county when 300 were sighted (ebird DC,DL). While 300 was also the peak for **White-faced Ibis** noted at RC WMA on Freestone county on 10/11 (ebird DC,DL). Six **Roseate Spoonbills** were tallied at RC WMA in Navarro county on 10/10, while 14 were noted in Freestone county on 10/11 (both ebird DC,DL). Another **Roseate Spoonbill** was observed on both sides of LOP, being observed in both Upshur and Marion county on 10/20 (ebird AH).

Up to three **Swainson's Hawk** was tallied at RC WMA in Freestone county on 10/11 (ebird DC,DL). Another **Swainson's Hawk** was observed and photographed in Bowie county on 10/19 (DB,LB). Two **Virginia Rails**, and four **Soras** were found at the Grand Saline Marsh in Van Zandt county on 10/23 (ebird RK). Up to 30 **Soras** were tallied at RC WMA in each county on 10/10 and 10/11 (ebird DC,DL). Four **Sandhill Cranes** were tallied at LTW in Rains county on 10/24 (ebird RK).

Six **Black-necked Stilts** were reported from RC WMA in Freestone county on 10/10 (ebird DL), while one was noted the next day at the same location (PB). Seemingly everywhere, **American Avocets** were tallied in nine different counties during the month with a peak of 43 counted from Atlanta State Park in Cass county on 10/25 (DB,LB). A **Black-bellied Plover** was observed at LTW State Park on 10/7, while another **Black-bellied Plover** was found at LTW in Rains county on 10/24 (both ebird RK). Noted in five counties, the peak of 12 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was tallied at LTW in Hunt county on 10/18 (ebird RK). Noted in three counties, the peak of six **Stilt Sandpipers** was tallied on 10/18 at LTW in Rains county (ebird RK). Two **Sanderlings** were found at LTW in Rains county on 10/24 (ebird RK). Noted only at LTW, a peak of 12 **Baird's Sandpipers** were tallied in Hunt county and also in Van Zandt county on 10/24 (ebird RK). Tallied in eight counties during the period the max of 1000 **Least Sandpipers** was noted on 10/18 at LTW in Rains county (ebird RK). Noted in five counties, the peak of six **Pectoral Sandpipers** were tallied at LTW in Rains county on 10/24 (ebird RK). Restricted to LTW, a peak of a dozen **Western Sandpipers** were noted in all three counties on 10/24 (ebird RK). Found in three counties, the peak of 77 **Long-billed Dowitchers** was tallied at RC WMA in Freestone county 10/26 (ebird DL).

The only sighting of **Bonaparte's Gull** came from Cooper Lake in Hopkins county when 30 were noted on 10/10 (ebird MP). Found in ten counties, the max of 500 **Franklin's Gulls** were tallied at Lake Fork in Wood county on 10/28 (ebird JC). The sole **Caspian Tern** was reported from LTW in Rains county on 10/24 (ebird RK). The only **Black Tern** was found at RC WMA in Freestone county 10/11 (ebird DC,DL).

The eastern most **White-winged Dove** was found at Holly Lake in Wood county on 10/26 (ebird SF,TH). A **Great Horned Owl** reported by John Hale in Cherokee county on 10/12 was the 200th species ever recorded in ebird for the county. Noted in three counties, the last **Common Nighthawk** was tallied on 10/12 in Cherokee county (ebird JHa). The latest date for **Chimney Swift** was 10/21 in Gregg county (ebird AH). The late date for **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 10/18 at Lake Fork in Wood county (ebird JC). A male **Rufous Hummingbird** seen last winter at a feeder in Tyler, appears to have returned. The bird was first observed on 10/29 (DBi). **Crested Caracara** sightings were limited to the LTW area (ebird RK). A pair of **Merlins** were noted at RC WMA in Freestone county on 10/11 (ebird DC,DL). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were noted in both counties at RC WMA area on 10/11 (ebird DC,DL). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were also noted at LTW on 10/18, 10/19 and 10/24 (ebird RK).

A **Traill's Flycatcher** was noted at Pleasant Acres Lake in Smith county on 10/21 (MB). Not in there "normal" area, up to two **Fish Crows** were noted at Pleasant Acres Lake on 10/12 (PB) and on 10/24 (ebird MB). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** noted for the season was noted at LTW State Park on 10/7 (ebird RK). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was found in Morris county on 10/10 (DB). The first of the season **Brown Creeper** was noted at LBS State Park in Titus county on 10/17 (ebird AH). The earliest **Winter Wren** was found in Morris county on 10/20 (ebird AH). The first of the fall **House Wrens** were found at LTW State Park on 10/7 (ebird RK). The earliest **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was noted at Bonham State Park in Fannin county on 10/18 (ebird CW). A **Hermit Thrush** was first found on 10/16 at LBS State Park (ebird AH). Found in three counties the first **Gray Catbird** was sighted at LTW State Park on 10/7 (ebird RK). The first **American Pipit** of the fall was found in Smith county on 10/19 (ebird PB).

The only **Black-and-white Warbler** reported was noted in Gregg county on 10/21 (ebird AH). A **Tennessee Warbler** was found at Mineola Nature Preserve in Wood county on 10/24 (ebird PJ,SL) and on 10/25 (ebird RK). Noted in five different counties the last **Nashville Warbler** was noted on 10/25 at the Mineola Nature Preserve (ebird RK). The only **Hooded Warbler** reported was found at LTW State Park on 10/7 (ebird RK). Single **American Redstarts** were noted in Henderson county on 10/10 (ebird DC,DL), and at LTW State Park on 10/12 (ebird RK). On the same date the only **Northern Parula** noted during the period was also found at LTW State Park (ebird RK). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was found at LTW State Park on 10/16 (ebird RK). The sole **Yellow Warbler** reported during the month was found in Cherokee county on 10/4 (ebird JHa). The earliest **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was tallied at Tyler State Park on 10/7 (ebird BS). Found in five different counties, the last two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were discovered at LOP in Upshur county on 10/20 (ebird AH). A **Wilson's Warbler** was found at LTW State Park on 10/7 (ebird RK). Another **Wilson's Warbler** was discovered in Morris county on 10/20 (ebird AH).

The first of the season **Eastern Towhee** was tallied in Camp county on 10/17 (ebird AH). The sole **Clay-colored Sparrow** reported came from LTW in Rains county on 10/25 (ebird JS). The earliest **Vesper Sparrow** reported came from Edgewood in Van Zandt county on 10/21 (ebird RK). The first of the fall **Song Sparrow** came from Lamar county on 10/12 (ebird EJ). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were tallied at LBS State Park on 10/16, and three were found in Morris county on 10/20 (both ebird AH). The earliest **Lincoln's Sparrow** was recorded from LTW State Park on 10/7 (ebird RK). The earliest **Swamp Sparrows** were found at LTW in Hunt county on 10/18 (ebird RK). The first of the fall **White-throated Sparrow** was tallied at LTW State Park on 10/16 (ebird RK). While the earliest **White-crowned Sparrows** were tallied in Hunt county on 10/18 (ebird RK). The earliest **Dark-eyed Junco** was spotted in Canton in Van Zandt county on 10/18 (ebird DO). **Western Meadowlarks** were only reported from LTW in Rains count on 10/24 (ebird RK). Noted in two counties the first and most, twelve **Pine Siskins**, were found on 10/7 at LTW State Park (ebird RK). The first two **American Goldfinches** were tallied at Mineola Nature Preserve on 10/25 (ebird RK).

Locations and Counties:

Bowie Co.: Texarkana

Camp Co.:

Cass Co.: Atlanta State Park

Cherokee Co.:

Fannin Co.: Bonham State Park

Freestone Co.: RC WMA - Richland Creek WMA

Gregg Co.:

Henderson Co.:

Hopkins Co.: Cooper Lake

Hunt Co.: Lake Tawakoni State Park

Lamar Co.: Pat Mayse Lake

Marion Co.: LOP - Lake O Pines

Morris Co.:

Navarro Co.: RC WMA - Richland Creek WMA

Rains Co.: LTW - Lake Tawakoni

Smith Co.: Pleasant Acres Lake, Tyler State Park, Tyler

Titus Co.: LBS - Lake Bob Sandlin, Lake Bob Sandlin State Park

Upshur Co.: LOP - Lake O Pines
Wood Co.: Mineola Nature Preserve, Lake Fork, Holly Lake
Van Zandt Co.: LTW - Lake Tawakoni, Edgewood, Canton, Grand Saline Marsh

Observers:

PB Peter Barnes
DBi Dee Bishop
MB Mike Bloodsworth
DB David Brotherton
LB Luanne Brotherton
JC Janet Cook
DC D.D. Currie
ME Mark Edmund
SF Stephen Fuqua
TH Tania Homayoun
JHa John Hale
AH Anthony Hewetson
EJ Evan Janson
PJ Patricia Jordan
RK Richard Kinney
DL Dell Little
SL Shannon Love
DO Dale Ohl
MP Michael Pease
JR Jane Ramberg
JS James Sipiara
BS Boyd Sanders
JT Jane Tillman
EV Eileen Venum
CW Catherine Winans

For You Ebirders:

With Cherokee county reaching the 200 Club, the only two counties that do not have 200 species overall in ebird are Red River with 192 and Camp with 194. The lowest counties for the year are Cherokee with 116, Red River with 117 and Delta with 121. The counties with over 200 species for 2014 are Van Zandt with 237, Hunt with 224, Freestone with 221, Smith with 217, Navarro with 216 and Rains with 212. Good luck birding this month!