New and Unusual Birds for the Tulsa, Oklahoma Region¹

ORRIN W. LETSON and ETHEL LETSON, Tulsa

Field studies of birds constitute at least eighty per cent of the activities of the Tulsa Audubon Society. The following are the most noteworthy observations made by the members of the group in 1953.

Sanderling (Crocethia alba). Mrs. Anne Reynolds discovered four of these birds on the splash wall of Lake Yahola in Mohawk Park on October 7, 1953. This is a first record for Tulsa County.

Sabine's Gull (Xema sabini). One bird of this species in sub-adult plumage visited Lake Yahola October 7 to 11, 1953. Mrs. Anne Reynolds first discovered this bird. It was later seen by Bruce Reynolds and the authors. This is the first record of Sabine's Gull since the Tulsa Audubon Society began keeping records in 1934.

Townsend's Solitaire (Myadestes townsendi). One individual of this species visited the yard of Mrs. Anne Reynolds at 2436 North Main Street in Tulsa, on at least ten different days between February 26 and March 16, 1953. The bird was seen by several of Mrs. Reynold's neighbors and Mrs. Mame Ginter and Mrs. Ethel Letson. This is the first recorded account of the Townsend's Solitaire for Tulsa County.

Golden-winged Warbler (Vermivora chrysoptera). One singing male of this species was discovered in Mohawk Park May 16, 1953 by Orrin W. Letson and Ethel Letson. The following day one singing male was found at the Great Salt Plains Wildlife Refuge, near Cherokee, Oklahoma, by several members of the Tulsa Audubon Society. One male was seen near Spavinaw, Oklahoma, on June 12, 1953, by Mabel Hagan. These are the first known reports of this species in Oklahoma.

Baird's Sparrow (Ammodramus bairdi). Three individuals of this species were seen at close range in Rogers County, about twenty-five miles east of Tulsa, on April 12, 1953, by Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Robinson, Mrs. Mame Ginter and Bess Smith. All previous records of Baird's Sparrow for the Tulsa area have been fall records and none has been reported since 1934.

¹ Received for publication December 17, 1954.