

NOTES ON CERTAIN OKLAHOMA BIRDS*

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The following notes result from field work carried out between September, 1940, and April, 1942, and between January and September, 1946. They were selected as being worthy of record after a consideration of the data relating to these species presented by Nice (Birds of Oklahoma, 1931) and Sutton (Birds of the Western Panhandle of Oklahoma, Ann. Carnegie Museum, XXIV, 150, 1934; Notes from Oklahoma, Auk, 53, 432-435, 1936; The Semple Oklahoma Expedition, Auk, 55, 501-508, 1938).

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus p. podiceps*). On May 18, 1941, three nests each containing one egg (although one nest held the remains of three or four other eggs) were found on Lake Overholser, Oklahoma County.

Green Heron (*Butorides v. virescens*). Three were seen seven miles east of Woodward, in Woodward County on May 31, 1946, near pools that were grown up in cat-tails. It is probable that these birds were breeding, although no nests were found.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*). On May 18, 1941, at Lake Overholser, Oklahoma County, a colony of 40 pairs of this species and 20 pairs of Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa v. violacea*) were found nesting together. The nesting site was a stand of mixed oaks, elms, and ash about ¼ mile east of the north end of the lake. About a dozen of the nests in the colony held young and the rest held eggs.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). On May 18, 1941, at Lake Overholser, Oklahoma County, a nest containing four eggs was found in a patch of cylindrical reeds. The bird flushed from the nest when the writer was 30 feet away.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). One seen beside highway 64, seven miles northeast of Guymon, Beaver County, on May 24, 1941. It was in a ditch that extends eastward from the Beaver River. This species is not known to breed within the state.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). Nice (1931) states that this species is not a summer resident in the Panhandle. Three were seen at Beaver, and ten seen between Beaver and the western border of Beaver County on May 27, 1946.

Sparrowhawk (*Falco sparverius*). A nest containing two fresh eggs was found on May 26, 1941, near Buffalo, in Harper County.

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Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*). Nice (1931) states that this species has failed to become established in the state in spite of many being released at widely separated places. In May, 1946, adults were seen in Woods, Beaver, and Cimarron Counties. A farmer in Cimarron County said that they were plentiful.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*). Two seen May 26, 1946, on the Cherokee Salt Plains, in Alfalfa County.

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes a. saxatilis*). A single bird was seen to fly overhead while the writer was on top of the Black Mesa, in Cimarron County on May 30, 1946. The bird was seen in good light with 8x binoculars. Nice (1931) does not list this species as occurring in Oklahoma.

Texas Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris symplectus*). A nest containing large young was found 25 feet up in a cottonwood stub on May 29, 1946, on Carrizzo Creek, two miles west of Kenton, in Cimarron County.

Cassin Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*). The male of a pair was collected on May 29, 1946, two miles east of Kenton, in Cimarron County.

Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). Five seen at Doby Springs, Harper County, and five at Beaver, Beaver County, on May 27, 1946.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax t. trailli*). A female was collected on May 27, 1946, at Doby Springs, Harper County. The writer is indebted to George M. Sutton for the determination of the subspecies.

Western Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes r. richardsoni*). Two seen 13 miles north of Boise City, Cimarron County on May 28, 1946; one was collected. Two seen on May 29, and three on May 30, 1946, at Kenton, and two on the latter date at Black Mesa, in Cimarron County. The writer is indebted to George M. Sutton for the determination of the subspecies.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*). One seen May 18, 1941, at Lake Overholser, in Oklahoma County. One collected near Alva, Woods County on May 26, 1946. Two seen 13 miles north of Boise City, Cimarron County, on May 28, 1946. One seen at Kenton, on May 29, and one on Black Mesa, in Cimarron County, on May 30, 1946.

White-necked Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*). A nest was found 22 miles east of Boise City, Cimarron County, which held four eggs on May 24, 1941. The nest was 25 feet up on a platform of an abandoned windmill tower in a cultivated field, 100 yards from a highway. On May 28, 1946, the same nest held six small young.

Lead-colored Bush-tit (*Pealtriparus minimus plumbeus*). A nest containing seven eggs found on May 25, 1941, two miles east of Kenton, Cimarron County. The pensile nest was seven feet above the ground suspended from a branch of a low hackberry tree.

Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). This species was found nesting along Carrizzo Creek, two miles west of Kenton, Cimarron County. Five were seen May 29, 1946, one of which was carrying food in its bill.

Grinnell Water-thrush (*Seturus noveboracensis*). One seen and heard to sing near Cleveland, Pawnee County, April 6, 1941. (The common subspecies name used here is that of the probable subspecies, but is not a definite subspecies identification).

Louisiana Water-thrush (*Seturus motacilla*). Four or five males singing in Devil's Canyon, near Hinton, Caddo County, on April 27, 1941.

Cassin Sparrow (*Amphispiza cassinii*). A colony of about 10 of these birds was found along the east bank of the Cimarron River just south of highway

64 in Woods County. They inhabited the sagebrush just back of the salt plain which skirts the river. A nest containing an egg shell was found five inches up in a tuft of grass; the female of a pair which scolded near this nest was collected. Nice (1931) does not include this locality within the breeding range of this species.
