

Mr. Krehbiel lists 15 species that have never, so far as I know, been seen in Oklahoma. Nine of these are on his "principal list." One of them, the Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), he considers an "occasional transient visitor." The following eight he considers "rare visitors": Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*), Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*), Coues's Flycatcher (*Contopus pertinax*), Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*), Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), and Grace's Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*). The following six "additional species" have been seen only once or twice in the region: Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), Olivaceous Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*), Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*Empidonax fulvifrons*), Crissal Thrasher (*Toxostoma dorsale*), Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*), and Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*). Two species—the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*) and Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*)—have been reported since the check-list was published.

The above-mentioned species should be kept in mind by bird students visiting the Black Mesa country in Oklahoma. Many of the 17 are indigenous to regions several hundred miles to the southwest of Oklahoma, however, and their occurrence in Oklahoma would be truly exceptional. The Calliope Hummingbird and Western Flycatcher have both been taken in southwestern Kansas within only a few miles of the Oklahoma state line (Sutton, 1967: 289, 346).

Letters to Mr. Krehbiel may be addressed thus: *Box 518, Clayton, New Mexico 88415.*

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY AND STOVALL MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069.

GENERAL NOTES

Whistling Swans wintering in central Oklahoma.—From January 25 to March 13, 1968, one pure white adult and 14 gray immature Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) spent much of their time on Lake Elmer, a 63-acre impoundment in Kingfisher County, Oklahoma, 4½ mi. northwest of the city of Kingfisher. The swans flew about the impoundment each day; occasionally they visited a farm-pond known as Lankard's Lake, half a mile east of Lake Elmer. They did not, so far as I know, regularly feed in any winter wheat field in the vicinity.

When the swans ate crackers that I threw into the water for them, I decided to try feeding them regularly. Using yellow corn donated by Thomas Francis of Kingfisher and lettuce trimmings that I picked up at a market in Kingfisher, I fed the birds at five places—chiefly at a spot along the south shore west of the dam. I threw the corn into the water, where the birds "tipped" for it. They did not seem to care much for the lettuce. Occasionally I saw them pulling up and eating roots of cattail and smartweed. They must have obtained some food (mussels, snails, etc.), or perhaps gravel, from the bottom, for I often saw them "tipping" in areas where I had not scattered corn. During their stay they ate about 200 pounds of corn.

A photograph taken by Clifford King on January 29, 1968, shows six of the immature birds swimming in shallow water. This picture was reproduced as a halftone on the back cover of the March, 1968, issue of *Outdoor Oklahoma*. The "bill patch" referred to in the legend under the picture is light yellow in the adult Whistling Swan, not white, as stated; it does not become distinct, as a rule, before the gray plumage of immaturity has been replaced by the pure white plumage of adulthood, and it does not show in Mr. King's photograph. The total number of birds in the flock was not 17 (as stated in the legend) but 15, as stated above.

A few days before their departure—notably on March 10, when they were observed for some time by Grace E. Ray, Dr. Violet Sturgeon, Mrs. Warren T. Mayfield, Ruth Scott, and Katherine Kauffman, all of Norman, Oklahoma—they were obviously restless.—N. B. Dixon, *Ranger, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Box 378, Kingfisher, Oklahoma 73750*.

Spring arrival date for American Avocet in Oklahoma.—About 7 a.m. on March 16, 1968, I saw two American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) wading in, and at the edge of, the stream below the dam of the main Salt Plains Reservoir in Great Salt Plains State Park, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. The stream at this point is not very deep, although at times the avocets waded in water deep enough to conceal their legs. Across the stream from where I stood the shore consists of a fairly wide, flat, sandy strip, and there are sand bars in the stream itself. The avocets were apparently oblivious to the hundreds of gulls—mostly Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*)—that were calling and milling about up and down the stream. The earliest sighting on record for *Recurvirostra americana* in Oklahoma is March 23, 1959, when the species was seen on the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Alfalfa County, by C. L. Ward (see data on file at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range).—Emma Messerly, 344 S.E. Elmhurst, Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003.

Early nesting of White-necked Raven in Oklahoma.—On April 21, 1968, about 15 ft. up in a middle-sized elm growing close to the main highway 15 mi. east of Boise City, Cimarron County, Oklahoma, John W. Huckabee and I found the nest of a pair of White-necked Ravens (*Corvus cryptoleucus*). Both birds were at the nest, which contained one egg. Just below the coarse foundational twigs of the big, neatly lined structure were the nest and six eggs of a pair of English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*).

The earliest Oklahoma date on record for a White-necked Raven nest with complete clutch of eggs is May 5, 1958—a many-times-used nest made largely of wire on an old windmill near Rosston, Harper County (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 376). There were seven eggs in that nest, so the first egg of the clutch could have been laid as early as April 29.—Jack D. Tyler, *Department of Biology, Cameron State Agricultural College, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501*.

Canyon Wren in Woodward County, Oklahoma.—About 4 p.m. on March 16, 1968, while walking with my family along a trail to the Natural Bridge at Alabaster Caverns State Park, in Woodward County, Oklahoma, I heard scolding notes from a slightly overhanging ledge above me. On glancing up, I

discovered a Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*), the whiteness of whose throat contrasted strikingly with the rich brown of its belly and sides. The wren scolded a moment, then began a methodical investigation of holes and small crevices on the face of the ledge. I was able to see it from many angles. It interrupted its investigation from time to time long enough to peer down and scold at us. *Catherpes mexicanus* has thus far been reported from Cimarron, Harmon, Jackson, Greer, Kiowa, Comanche, Caddo, Canadian, and Blaine counties, Oklahoma (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 415). It has not heretofore been reported from Woodward County.—Emma Messerly, 344 S.E. Elmhurst, Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003.

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