

did not move off as a group from the other shorebirds. Sutton collected two specimens, both adult females largely in breeding feather, neither very fat, each with ill-defined brood-patches and unenlarged ovary. The only food found in the stomachs were snails of the genus *Physa* (probably *P. anatina*), 68 of which had been eaten by the heavier bird (120.6 grams), 13 by the lighter (118.3 grams). The snails were identified by George V. Oliver, a member of the ornithology class. The fact that the two Knots were adult females coupled with the fact that the only adult specimens taken by D. F. Parmelee *et al.* on Jenny Lind Island, in the western American arctic, late in the breeding season of 1966, were *males*, lends weight to Sutton's belief that adult females move southward from the breeding ground in advance of their mates (see Parmelee, Stephens, and Schmidt, 1967, The birds of southeastern Victoria Island and adjacent small islands, *Natl. Mus. of Canada Bull.* 222, p. 221).

The Knot has been positively identified in Oklahoma on the several occasions cited above. Drawing conclusions from so few observations is somewhat presumptive; nevertheless the eleven records, supported by those from Barton and Greenwood counties in Kansas (Sutton, *op. cit.*), suggest that the Knot is a rare and irregular migrant in central Oklahoma and probably throughout the open grasslands of the Southern Great Plains from July 26 to October 18. Until more Knots are seen during the period of northward migration, the two Oklahoma City spring sightings, believed to be of the same individual, suggest that spring occurrence is accidental.

4129 NORTH EVEREST, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73111, 22 APRIL 1968

SUMMERING OF ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK NEAR OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

BY VICTOR J. VACIN

THE ROSE-BREASTED Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), an "irregular summer resident in eastern and central Oklahoma," nested successfully along the east side of Lake Overholser, in a residential part of Oklahoma City, in the summer of 1957; the one breeding pair observed that year fledged three young about June 25 from a nest built 15 feet up in an elm at the edge of a lawn (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, pp. 574-575).

At Silver Lake, a horseshoe-shaped, 40-acre impoundment just west of Lake Hefner, in the extreme northwestern part of Oklahoma City, several observers (including myself) have seen the Rose-breast each summer since 1964. We have not found a nest, but we have seen adult and young birds repeatedly. The properties of the tight-knit community known as the Silver Lake Association completely surround the impoundment; in the many yards (about 70) are fine elm, hackberry, willow, pine, and juniper trees, a few oaks, and much climax shrubbery.

In this somewhat parklike habitat the Rose-breast was first sighted by John

H. John on 5 May 1964. The bird, a male, was in the John yard. The John residence is about 300 yards north of our own cabin and banding station. The bird continued to frequent the John premises; it apparently developed a great liking for cantaloupe seeds scattered on an earthen mound near the house. The mound (about a foot high and six feet across) was of extra earth carted in for a worm-pit; the seeds were from over-ripe cantaloupes that a grocer needed to dispose of. Soon after the male Rose-breast had developed the custom of visiting the mound, a female also appeared. The two birds visited the mound for cantaloupe seeds principally early in the morning and late in the evening; they came singly as a rule, rarely together. When the birds departed they usually flew northwestward. This set us off nest-hunting in that direction, but we did not find the nest. Later in the season the female often came to the mound accompanied by two young birds.

That spring the Rose-breast infrequently visited our place. On May 11 I trapped and banded a female bird. My traps were baited with ordinary "wild bird mix" and a few cantaloupe seeds. On August 31, 1964, I caught and banded a male bird in first winter feather—presumably, though not certainly, progeny of the pair that had visited the John place so regularly. This individual I caught again on September 3, 1964, the only "repeat" I have had of this species. The fact that Mr. John never saw a banded Rose-breast near his house, despite his eagerness to see one, leads me to believe that more than one pair of Rose-breasts summered near Silver Lake in 1964. The female that I banded on May 11 could, of course, have been a transient; or, conceivably, the one male had two mates.

In 1965, 1966, and 1967, we saw a Rose-breast from time to time near Silver Lake. On July 13, 1967, I banded a fully adult male (primaries blue-black, not blackish brown) at our place. Mr. John continued to see Rose-breasts at his mound, but he never saw a banded one. On several occasions I made a point of waiting near the mound, hoping to see a Rose-breast fly in; on only one occasion, on 21 May 1965, did I see one. That bird was an *unbanded* female.

In 1968 the Rose-breast appeared on April 6—a female seen by Mr. John. He could not see a band on the leg. He recorded the species again May 1—a male that he believed to be unbanded. Between June 4 and 18 I watched the "cantaloupe mound" from the John window. On each of six 2-hour watches I observed a *banded* adult male. The bird fed largely on sunflower seeds and as a rule fed facing away from me. His visits lasted about a minute each. On leaving, he flew up into dense foliage and I could not ascertain the direction of his flight from that point on. On June 14 Mr. John saw two young birds with an adult male at the mound. On August 5 he saw two young birds with an adult female there.

My wife and I have been growing cantaloupes in our garden year after year. We have saved and dried the seeds, mixing them with sunflower seeds for birds. Both Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*) and Cardinals (*Pyrrhuloxia carolinensis*) eat the cantaloupe seeds, which are richly fragrant. I have placed quantities of cantaloupe seeds, by themselves, on a large stone table close to the ground, hoping to lure Rose-breasts, but they seem to prefer Mr. John's mound.

Their liking for that spot evidently was firmly established in 1964 and it has continued year after year. I have never observed a singing Rose-breast at Silver Lake.

The similarity of the female Rose-breast to the female Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) must be borne in mind by all who observe birds in Oklahoma. Mixed pairs are to be looked for in central and western parts of the state.

ROUTE 2, BOX 123, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73114, 6 AUGUST 1968.

GENERAL NOTES

The Piping Plover in Tulsa County, Oklahoma.—Most Oklahoma sightings of the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) have been in the central part of the state in the vicinity of Oklahoma City (see Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, pp. xxviii, 172), but the species has been seen on several occasions, and taken once, in Tulsa County. From August 12 to 16, 1964, one was seen repeatedly in Mohawk Park, near Tulsa, by Anne Reynolds, L. B. Reynolds, and me (Tomer, 1966, *Proc. Oklahoma Acad. Sci.*, 46: 59-60). On August 25 and 27, 1966, two were seen on a sandbar in the Arkansas River 3 mi. west of Bixby by Anne Reynolds and L. B. Reynolds. On August 29, 1966, one was seen on the same sandbar by the same observers. On April 27, 1967, three were seen by me on the same sandbar; one of these I collected. On May 6, 7, and 8, 1967, one was seen repeatedly on a gravel dike in Lake Yahola, in Mohawk Park, Tulsa, by Anne Reynolds and L. B. Reynolds. On August 15, 1967, one was observed feeding with a Killdeer (*C. vociferus*), three Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*), a Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), two Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*), and three Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*) on wet gravel at the edge of a partly filled-in impoundment about 1 mi. southeast of Tulsa (Anne Reynolds, L. B. Reynolds).

The specimen above referred to, a male in excellent feather, is the second for the state and the first for eastern Oklahoma. It was not very fat. Its testes were considerably enlarged. It represents the western race, *Charadrius melodus circumcinctus*, its black chest-band being broad and complete. It is now No. 6085 in the bird collection at the University of Oklahoma.—John S. Tomer, 5911 East 46th St., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135, 22 May 1968.

Ground Dove in Comanche County, Oklahoma.—A Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) visited our yard in Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma, on 26 March 1967. The bird flew in, raised its rufous-lined wings, and stayed several minutes, giving us ample time to examine it carefully at 60 ft. with 7-power binoculars. The sparrow-size and short black tail were carefully checked. This is the second record for Oklahoma, so far as we know, the first being of a male bird shot in the North Canadian River bottoms 2 mi. east of Greenfield, Blaine County, on 1 December 1956 (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 235).

We are familiar with the Ground Dove, since it was a regular visitor in our yard at Yuma, Arizona, where we lived for ten years. In Lawton our yard borders a semi-permanent creek adjacent to a city park. A check of local