

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

caged-bird fanciers revealed that none of these had had a Ground Dove recently. From several records for adjacent states (Sutton, *op. cit.*) it appears that this little dove may be observed with increasing frequency by bird students in Oklahoma.—Arthur F. Halloran and Audrey G. Halloran, 1551 North 43rd St., Lawton, Oklahoma 74501, 22 May 1968.

Poor-will in Pontotoc County, Oklahoma.—On 5 July 1967 Charles Smith collected an adult female Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) in rough, rocky country 7 mi. south of Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma. Two ova were considerably enlarged. Almost certainly the bird was breeding.

The area is a northward-reaching extension of the limestone hill district of the Arbuckle Mountains. There is similar habitat in northern Johnston and southeastern Coal counties. Sutton (1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 272) lists Poor-will records for Washington County in northeastern Oklahoma, and for Oklahoma, Cleveland, and Murray counties in central Oklahoma, but the easternmost breeding record for the state is for the vicinity of Cogar, Caddo County. A mid-summer "record" for Tulsa County is questionable: two white eggs found on the ground near Tulsa on 11 July 1931, though alleged to be those of a Poor-will (see White, 1935, *Oologist*, 48: 158), might well have been eggs of a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), a species that frequently nests on the ground even in areas throughout which above-ground sites are readily available.—W. A. Carter, *Department of Biology, East Central State College, Ada, Oklahoma 74820, 17 May 1968.*

Curve-billed Thrasher in Jackson County, southwestern Oklahoma.—From late January to 24 February 1965 Viola B. (Mrs. V. E.) Estes observed a Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) repeatedly—often many times daily—at a bird-bath and feeding counter in the residential part of the city of Altus, Jackson County, Oklahoma. The thrasher fed at a spot where bread scraps were scattered but not at a grain-filled hopper about which House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) gathered in great numbers. The thrasher was especially conspicuous on cold or windy days. Mrs. Estes made a point of noting the unfamiliar bird's large, decurved bill, gray upper parts, vaguely mottled breast, white tail corners, and bright orange eyes. At the feeding counter it easily dominated the sparrows by running at them or jabbing with its bill. It frequently visited a mass of trumpet vine along a fence south of the house, but it did not spend the night there.

On 26 February Gerald W. Dickson and I drove to Altus, hoping to see the bird. We looked in several likely spots, including the city park, but failed to find it. Mrs. Estes's vivid description of the bird's appearance and behavior convinced me that she had indeed been seeing a Curve-billed Thrasher.—George M. Sutton, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 11 August 1968.*

Curve-billed Thrasher in Kiowa County, Oklahoma.—On the morning of 27 March 1968, near Group Camp No. 2 in the eastern part of Quartz Mountains State Park, half a mile east of the south end of Lake Altus, in Kiowa County, Oklahoma, I happened upon two remarkably approachable Curve-billed Thrashers (*Toxostoma curvirostre*). I watched them closely for half an hour. They spent most of their time on the ground, rummaging through trash at a junk pile. I had little difficulty in identifying them from their over-all grayness, the vague streaking on the chest, and their bright orange eyes. I returned to watch them that evening and again the following morning.

During the total of about an hour spent by me in observing them, neither bird uttered a sound.

On the morning of 7 April, Jack D. Tyler of the Department of Biology at Cameron State College, in Lawton, Oklahoma, following explicit directions given him, visited the junk pile, found one bird (only), and collected it. The specimen—the first of its species to have been taken in the main body of the state—proved to be a male with somewhat enlarged testes (each about 2.5 x 3 mm.); it is now No. 6264 in the bird collection at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. George M. Sutton has identified it as *Toxostoma curvirostre celsum* (wing 102, tail 106, culmen 35), a large geographical race found from southeastern Arizona, northeastern New Mexico, and “extreme western Oklahoma (Kenton)” south to the Mexican states of Jalisco and Guanajuato (see AOU Check-list of North American Birds, 1957, p. 427).

The Curve-billed Thrasher has for some time been known to inhabit the Black Mesa country of northwestern Cimarron County, Oklahoma. In that part of its range it nests exclusively in the arborescent cactus *Opuntia imbricata* (see Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 425). If, in time, it establishes itself in southwestern Oklahoma, where this cactus has not thus far been found, one cannot help wondering where the bird will build its nest.—Brad Carlton, 5949 N.W. 27th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127, 20 May 1968.

Loggerhead Shrike kills Cardinal.—About 5 p.m. on 31 December 1967, a cold day, a few miles east of Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma, my friend Floyd Eoff and his son Don witnessed the killing of a male Cardinal (*Pyrroloxia cardinalis*) weighing 45.0 grams by a female Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) weighing 44.5 grams. When first seen, the hard-pressed Cardinal was being forced to the ground where the shrike dispatched it with a bite at the base of the skull. Dr. George M. Sutton, who prepared both specimens as skins for the University of Oklahoma collection, found a considerable wound at the base of the skull and a smaller wound at the base of the tail, but nowhere was the plumage bloody enough to require washing. Both the shrike and its prey were in first winter feather. The Cardinal's underparts were unusual in that the red was considerably veiled with pale brownish buff. Some parts of the belly were indeed so blotched with this color as to give the bird the appearance of what is sometimes called a “partial albino.”

The shrike was not observed to carry the Cardinal; but it stayed by its kill long enough to permit Don Eoff to return to the parked car for a gun. The Cardinal specimen is No. 6211 in the University of Oklahoma collection, the shrike No. 6212.—Harold S. Cooksey, 909 Morningside Drive, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 20 May 1968.

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