

that the winter of 1968-69 was more severe than that of 1967-68. On 28 January 1968, 21 cranes were still present on the Washita refuge; in the winter of 1968-69, on the other hand, the last sizeable group (34 birds) was seen at that refuge on 23 November. Two birds seen on 2 December were the last seen at that refuge until late February, when migrating birds began passing over.

This variation from year to year in the length of time Sandhill Cranes spend in southwestern Oklahoma in winter seems to be fairly typical. According to census data supplied through the courtesy of Refuge Manager Lee Marlett, of the U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, cranes were still present on the Washita refuge in January in 1963-64, 1964-65, and 1966-67. In 1965-66, a severe winter, cranes were last seen on that refuge in late November.

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074, 27 APRIL 1969.

EXTRALIMITAL SAGE THRASHER RECORDS FOR OKLAHOMA

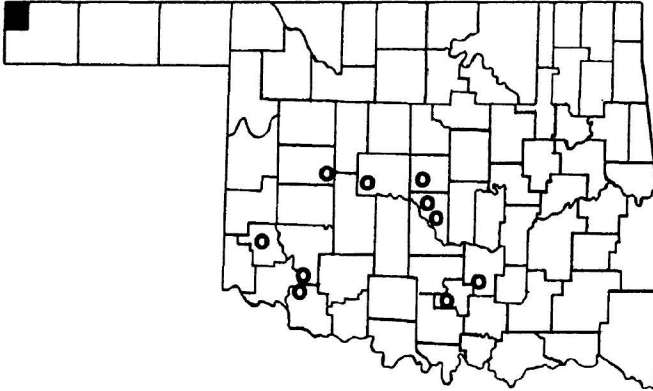
BY WILLIAM A. CARTER AND JACK D. TYLER

IN THE BLACK MESA country of northwestern Cimarron County, Oklahoma, the Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) is a regular transient in both spring and fall; in early fall it is sometimes abundant there. In the "A-11 pasture" southwest of Boise City, Cimarron County, R. C. Tate found a nest (4 eggs) on 13 June 1920; on that date he saw also three adult birds (Tate, 1923, *Proc. Oklahoma Acad. Sci.*, 3: 49; Nice, 1931, *Birds of Oklahoma*, p. 141). Oddly enough, the species has never been reported from Texas County or Beaver County. In the main body of the state it has been noted infrequently in fall and winter, records for the following counties having been considered valid: Greer 1, Custer 1, Canadian 1, Oklahoma 2, Cleveland 3, Murray 2; at least one specimen has been taken in each of these counties except Oklahoma (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 426).

Three specimens have been taken in and one sighting reported from Oklahoma east of the Black Mesa country since the publication of *Oklahoma Birds*. On 11 March 1967, in mesquite and buffalo grass pastureland 4½ miles west and ½ mile north of Snyder, in Kiowa County, J. D. Tyler took a male; this specimen (UMZ 6081) is in the bird collection at the University of Oklahoma. On 4 October 1968, among tall grass along a fence about 15 miles south and 7 miles west of Ada, in Pontotoc County, W. A. Carter and Larry P. Mays took a male with incompletely ossified skull; the stomach contained one field cricket (*Gryllus* sp.); the skin (EC-B-245) is in the biological collections at East Central State College in Ada, Oklahoma. On 28 November 1968, near a granite knoll in sand sage grassland along the North Fork of the Red River 8½ miles north and 2½ miles east of Tipton, in Tillman County, J. D. Tyler took a male with in-

completely ossified skull; the skin (JDT 49) is in the bird collection at Cameron State College in Lawton, Oklahoma. On 27 October 1968, J. G. Newell saw a Sage Thrasher in Oklahoma County near Oklahoma City (1969, *Audubon Field Notes*, 23: 76).

As the accompanying map shows, the easternmost Oklahoma records for *Oreoscoptes montanus* are from Oklahoma, Cleveland, Pontotoc, and Murray counties, the northernmost (for the main body of the state) from Custer, Canadian,



EXTRALIMITAL SAGE THRASHER RECORDS IN OKLAHOMA

The species migrates regularly through and winters irregularly in the Black Mesa country of northwestern Cimarron County, the part shown in solid black. Circles designate extralimital records.

and Oklahoma counties. One of these northernmost records was for midwinter—a male (UOMZ 2883) taken on 6 January 1957 in a canyon near Niles, in Canadian County, by W. E. Southern; another was of a female (UOMZ 2275) taken on 27 February 1955 near Weatherford, in Custer County, by R. D. Gibson. One of the Oklahoma County records is of a bird seen repeatedly at a feeder and bird-bath in a residential part of Oklahoma City from 22 to 31 October 1956 by R. H. Furman and Mary Frances Furman. For the main body of the state there are two 1955 records; five 1956 records (the above-mentioned 22-31 October sightings may properly be considered one record); two 1957 records; one 1967 record; and three 1968 records. These extralimital records fall between 4 October and 11 March, indicating sporadic fall and winter occurrence. The species has been seen several times in winter in the Black Mesa country, but it is not common there at that season.

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