GENERAL NOTES

Additional notes on food and fat of Roadrunners in winter.—In a recent paper I pondered the possibility that during periods of severe winter weather along the northern edge of its range the Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) might live on stored fat (Geluso, 1969, *Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc.*, 2: 5-6). The fact that some Roadrunners taken in Oklahoma in midwinter have—according to comments on labels of specimens housed at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range—been very fat supports this idea. Two female Roadrunners taken in the Black Mesa country of northwestern Oklahoma and northeastern New Mexico in late February of 1969 were not at all fat, however (see Table I).

Table I

Weight and Fat-Weight of Roadrunners taken in Black Mesa Country in Late February

UOMZ No.	Sex	Date Collected	Weight (grams)	Fat-Weight (grams)
6504	F.	25 February 1969	319.4	3.6 (subcutaneous and lump)
6505	F.	26 February 1969	300.1	9.2 (subcutaneous and lump)

The first of these specimens was taken in Union County, northeastern New Mexico—5.7 mi. east and 31.4 mi. north of the village of Mt. Dora, the other in Cimarron County, Oklahoma, 5.3 mi. east and 1.8 mi. north of the village of Wheeless. The weather had been mild for that country, there having been no snow on the ground in either area on 25 and 26 February or during the week preceding 25 February. In each specimen the ovary was slightly enlarged, a condition that may well have been correlated with clemency of weather.

The food-packed stomach (weight 38.1 grams) of the New Mexico specimen contained the following: 497 Darkling Beetles (Tenebrionidae), most of them about 6 mm. long; 2 Lady Beetles (Coccinellidae); 5 Milkweed Bugs (Lygaeidae); 5 fairly large True Grasshoppers (Locustidae), 3 Assassin Flies (Asilidae); and 4 butterfly larvae (Lepidoptera). The stomach (weight 23.5 grams) of the Oklahoma specimen contained 49 Darkling Beetles, 7 Snout Beetles (Curculionidae), 3 True Grasshoppers, 2 Milkweed Bugs, 1 beetle larva (Coleoptera), 1 butterfly larva, 1 Wolf Spider (Lycosidae), and 1 Jumping Spider (Salticidae). I did not find the slightest trace of a vertebrate in either stomach. Darkling Beetles may congregate in considerable numbers in sheltered places in winter, thus making themselves available in quantity to any Roadrunner that happens to find them. The fact that two Roadrunners taken about 50 miles apart should each have consumed a preponderance of Darkling Beetles during the same 48-hour period is interesting in itself. Further data pertaining to the winter survival of this remarkable terrestrial cuckoo at the northern edge of its range should be obtained. I wish to thank my friend David J. Shetlar for assisting me in identifying the above-listed invertebrates.—Kenneth N. Geluso, *Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106, 6 March 1969.*

Saw-whet Owl in Blaine County, Oklahoma.—At about 22:00 in the evening on 11 November 1969, in thinly wooded country along State Highway 281

about 2 miles south of Greenfield, Blaine County, central Oklahoma, a car driven by my son-in-law, Arthur D. Linville of Chickasha, Oklahoma, struck and killed a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). Mr. Linville did not stop to pick up the dead bird, but at a filling station close by he found the carcass clinging to the front of his car. Believing it to be a "baby owl," he decided to show it to his wife, who called me immediately, for she knew she had never seen an owl of that sort.

George M. Sutton, who prepared the specimen (UOMZ 6612), found it to be a male. It was in excellent condition, though not very fat (weight 77.6 grams; stomach empty). Its wingspread was 449 mm. (about 19¼ in.). Each testis measured about 1.5 x 2.5 mm. The irides were bright yellow, not orange.

This is the first completely acceptable Saw-whet Owl record for the main body of the state. The species has been taken twice before in Oklahoma, on both occasions in Texas County in the Panhandle. A female specimen "collected" |probably found dead| by Eleanor Henderson in or near the town of Eva on 29 November 1933, was "in too poor condition to skin," but its skeleton was preserved (Long, 1934, *Auk*, 51: 236-37). A female (UOMZ 2850) collected 29 January 1957 by R. H. Davy on the school grounds in the heart of the city of Guymon was preserved as a skin (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 265). According to Dr. Sutton the Blaine County specimen represents the nominate race; its wing measures 136 mm. (140 with primaries pressed flat), its tail 72.—Myra Lamb, *College of Liberal Arts, Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018, 4 December 1969.*

Early spring and late fall Oklahoma records for the Cassin's Kingbird.—According to my book *Oklahoma Birds* (1967, p. 332), the earliest spring date for the Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) in Oklahoma is 17 April. This is a mistake that I cannot explain; among the data on file at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range I find nothing indicating that the species has ever been seen or taken in Oklahoma as early as mid-April. The earliest spring record on hand at the time I gave my manuscript final inspection was of a bird seen 27 April 1953 at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Alfalfa County by John B. Van den Akker (Baumgartner, 1953, *Audubon Field Notes*, 7: 281)—incidentally the easternmost sighting of *Tyrannus vociferans* for the state. That the species may arrive earlier than 27 April was proved on 25 April 1969, when Charles W. Comer took a male specimen (UOMZ 6452) along the Cimarron River 8 miles east of Kenton, Cimarron County; but I doubt that the species ever returns to its breeding ground near Kenton as early as 17 April, for spring is usually late in that part of Oklahoma.

On 14 September 1959 I saw and collected an adult male Cassin's Kingbird (UOMZ 3680) near Kenton. The bird was by itself on a slope at the foot of a mesa about 3 miles southeast of town. I regarded 14 September as a late date for the species when my book went to press. But on 1 October 1967 John S. Weske saw a Cassin's Kingbird with an Eastern Kingbird (*T. tyrannus*) and a Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) in pastureland along Texakeet Creek southeast of Kenton; and on 5 October 1968 several of my students and I saw a Cassin's Kingbird in a partly dead big cottonwood at the site of the Bernie North ranch-house 13 miles north of Boise City, Cimarron

County. The stay of the Cassin's Kingbird in Oklahoma extends, then, from 25 April to 5 October rather than "from April 17 to September 14."—George M. Sutton, *Stovall Museum of Science and History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 4 May 1969.*

Vermilion Flycatcher in Canadian County, Oklahoma.—On the morning of 30 March 1969 (north wind 10-20 mph; air temperature 42° F.) my wife and I observed a fully adult male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) for about 15 minutes at the edge of a six-acre flooded area along the North Canadian River 2 miles north of Calumet, Canadian County, central Oklahoma. The bird was feeding on insects that it snapped principally from the water's surface. Between sallies it perched on twigs that protruded from the water, which appeared, from our position on a road about 30 yards away, to be two or three feet deep. We saw briefly another bird that might have been the bright male's mate, but we did not see this dull-colored bird at all clearly.

The Vermilion Flycatcher is among the several southwestern bird species that appear to be establishing themselves in Oklahoma; it has not, so far as I know, been reported heretofore from Canadian County (see Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, pp. xxxviii, 350).—Brad Carlton, *5949 West 27th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127, 15 July 1969.*

Recovery in Saskatchewan of a Song Sparrow banded in Oklahoma.—Recently I received word from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) banded by me near Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma, on 13 November 1966 had been killed by a house cat on 20 July 1967 near the town of Hudson Bay (not to be confused with the body of water of the same name) in east-central Saskatchewan. This recovery in the breeding season makes clear that at least part of the Oklahoma wintering population migrates about 1200 miles northward to a nesting area in Canada—information that is in complete accord with statements in the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds* (1957) to the effect that in the longitude of Oklahoma the Song Sparrow breeds from northeastern Kansas (p. 630) and northern Nebraska (p. 632) northward to northern Saskatchewan (p. 631) and northern Manitoba (p. 632). The race that breeds within these latitudinal limits and directly north of Oklahoma is *M. m. juddi* (pp. 631-632).

Worth noting is the fact that the race *M. m. euphonia*, which breeds widely in the eastern United States and which winters to some extent in Oklahoma, breeds southwestward to "southwestern Missouri (Jasper County) and northwestern and north-central Arkansas" (p. 631). The proximity of these areas to Oklahoma suggests that *Melospiza melodia* may one day be found nesting in the northeastern corner of Oklahoma. One specimen in the series of 80-some Song Sparrows housed at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range is in virtually complete *juvenal* feather. This bird, a female taken on 13 September 1959 by J. D. Ligon along the Cimarron River 13 mi. north of Boise City, Cimarron County, Oklahoma, has been identified by K. C. Parkes of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh as "nearest *juddi*." *M. m. juddi* and *M. m. montana* both winter regularly in Cimarron County (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, pp. 637-38).—John S. Weske, *Stovall Museum of Science and History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069. 12 March 1969.*