

regularity, and even today workers familiar with the species may experience some difficulty in finding it in given areas." Weston (1968: 959) states: "Actually, this is one of the most elusive of the sparrows and all its actions except the attention-compelling song are shrouded in secrecy."

Observers in Oklahoma should be aware of the possibility that this species may be found in scattered local colonies throughout the eastern part of the state.

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WILLIAM A. CARTER, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, EAST CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE, ADA, OKLAHOMA 74820, 3 MARCH 1970.

GENERAL NOTES

Early June waterbird and shorebird records for the Oklahoma Panhandle.— On 3, 4, and 12 June 1969, while driving through the Oklahoma Panhandle to and from Colorado, I noted several bird species whose spring migration has been believed to be over well before 1 June (see Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*). Some of these species may have been nesting or preparing to nest. High water levels in impoundments and playa ponds throughout the area certainly were favorable to waterbirds. Late in the afternoon on 3 June at Webb's Lake in Texas County (7 miles east, ½ mile south of Hardesty), I saw at least three Eared Grebes (*Podiceps caspicus*) in full breeding plumage, a pair of Pintails (*Anas acuta*), three pairs of Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*), and a pair of Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*). Later that same afternoon, again in Texas County, I saw a drake and two hen Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) at a playa pond a few miles southeast of Guymon. The latest spring-migration date given by Sutton for the Eared Grebe, a species not known to nest in Oklahoma, is 21 May (p. 10). Both the Pintail and Blue-winged Teal nest infrequently in Oklahoma, the Pintail in the "northern

part" of the state (p. 64). The latest spring-migration date for the Ring-neck Duck is 18 May (p. 74), for the Ruddy Duck 27 May; for the Ruddy there are "very few records [of any sort] for Panhandle" (p. 83).

On 4 and 12 June I saw several adult Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*)—one of them a hen accompanied by six or eight ducklings—at a shallow sewage pond just east of Boise City, Cimarron County. On 12 June, at a large playa pond in the same general area, I saw two drake Blue-winged Teal and two drake Shovelers (*A. clypeata*). Both of these species may well have been nesting in the area.

On 4 June I saw two Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*)—almost certainly a breeding pair—in short-grass grazing land in Texas County about 28 miles west of Guymon. All recent breeding records for this species have, according to Sutton (p. 183), been for northwestern Cimarron County. On 12 June I saw four of the curlews and one Mountain Plover (*Eupoda montana*) 6 miles north of Boise City.

At the sewage pond just east of Boise City I saw three American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) and nine Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*) on 12 June. The phalaropes presumably were on their way north; they were in a flock, not in pairs. The latest spring-migration date for that species is, according to Sutton (p. 210), 6 June. The avocets might have been nesting. That species nested in 1954 not far from Clayton, New Mexico—in an area about 50 miles southwest of Boise City (Baumgartner, 1954, *Audubon Field Notes*, 8: 353; Sutton, *op. cit.*, p. 207).

The above-discussed records make clear that much ornithological work remains to be done in the Oklahoma Panhandle, especially during "wet" years when conditions are favorable to waterbirds.—W. Marvin Davis, *Department of Pharmacology, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677, 6 November 1969.*

Poor-will in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma.—In the E. B. Webster collection of birds now housed at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, I recently came upon an adult specimen of Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) collected in or near Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, in 1933, presumably by E. B. Webster himself. The original label reads: "Pott. Co., Okla. / 1933 / E. B. Webster." The white tipping of the lateral rectrices is considerably more restricted than it is in four carefully sexed male specimens in the University of Oklahoma collection, so the Pottawatomie County specimen is probably a female (see Ridgway, 1914, *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 50, pt. 6, p. 549). The specimen is now No. 6522 in the University of Oklahoma collection.

To the best of my knowledge, the Poor-will has not heretofore been reported from Pottawatomie County. Carter (1968, *Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc.*, 1: 19) has reported the species from Pontotoc County, and Sutton (1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 272) states that there are records for Washington and Murray counties along the easternmost edge of the species' range.—Dan F. Penney, *Department of Biology, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801, 9 March 1970.*

Second recorded nesting of Golden-fronted Woodpecker in Oklahoma.—Most of the bird species that breed in mesquite woodland along Haystack Creek, 4 mi. north and 3 mi. west of Mangum, Greer County, southwestern Oklahoma, are representative of eastern forms, but the Golden-fronted Woodpecker (*Centurus aurifrons*) replaces the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*C. carolinus*) there. It was here that my wife Karen, Bill Klitz, and I found a nest of the Golden-fronted Woodpecker on 31 May 1969. The mesquite along Haystack Creek grows to a height of 15-20 feet, being smaller here than in the more extensive stands that I have seen in Texas and elsewhere in the southwestern United States. In the absence of big mesquite, the woodpeckers probably nest in dead parts of large living elms and cottonwoods scattered along the banks of the creek.

We spotted a nest hole when a Golden-fronted Woodpecker flew into the tree and gave a churring call—a cry that vaguely reminded me of that of another piciform bird, the African Honey-guide (*Indicator indicator*), as it leads a man to a nest of wild bees. I could not help thinking of this similarity again when a bee stung me as I approached the woodpecker's nest-tree.

The nest hole, 22 ft. up on the underhang of a dead branch in a living elm, was inaccessible to us, so I decided to collect the female bird to make sure that it was breeding. The specimen, now a study skin (UOMZ 6620) in the University of Oklahoma collection, had a completely bare though only slightly swollen and vascular brood-patch. A soft-shelled egg was in the oviduct. I preserved the ovary on the spot in a buffered formalin solution. Microscopic examination of the ovary showed two freshly ruptured follicles, proof of ovulation of the egg in the oviduct and of another egg that was, presumably, in the nest. Also evident in the ovary were three large, yolky, yellow follicles measuring 10.6, 8.6, and 6.6 mm. in diameter. The next largest follicle (3.3 mm.) was whitish. From the number of post-ovulatory follicles and yellow yolky follicles, I judged that the full clutch would have numbered five eggs—clutch-size in agreement with Bent's statement that *Centurus aurifrons* "lays four to seven eggs to a set, usually four or five" (Bent, 1939, *Life histories of North American woodpeckers*, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 174, p. 247).

The only other breeding record for the Golden-fronted Woodpecker in Oklahoma is based on a nest and three small young found by D. F. Parmelee on 18 May 1958 in Harmon County (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*, p. 307). The Haystack Creek record will help in plotting the distribution of *Centurus aurifrons* along the northeastern margin of present-day mesquite habitats. Locally the Golden-front appeared to me to be the most common woodpecker in the mesquite lands of southwestern Oklahoma.—Robert B. Payne, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 9 September 1969.*

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