

culmen 25. The specimen is now in the collection of vertebrates at Cameron College in Lawton.

What I have reported above is the first Groove-billed Ani record for Comanche County, the eighth record for Oklahoma, and the second specimen for the state. Louis J. Bussjaeger of Oklahoma City informs me of the following ninth record for the state. On 25 November 1970 Dr. Leonard R. Johnson (of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center), who lives near Lake Hefner at 5301 N. Hamilton Drive, Oklahoma City, saw two Groove-billed Anis with a flock of Common Grackles in his backyard. He confirmed his identification the following day when he took a partly eaten ani from a neighbor's cat.

There are now seven fall records for Oklahoma (two in 1952, one each in 1963, 1966, and 1968, and two in 1970), one record for spring (1962), and one record (1969) for midsummer (Newell, 1969, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 2: 1-2, 28-29). The accompanying map, made with the assistance of Robert Burke of the staff of the Stovall Museum of Science and History at the University of Oklahoma, shows the geographical distribution of the nine records.

1703 N. 43RD ST., LAWTON, OKLAHOMA 73501, 16 JUNE 1971.

GENERAL NOTES

Recovery in South America of Snowy Egret banded as nestling in Oklahoma.—On 19 November 1964 Alvaro Amaya Amaya, of the staff of the Instituto Nacional de Fomento Tabacalero of Colombia, shot or found dead near Bogota, Colombia (or received from someone who had shot it or found it dead, presumably in the vicinity of the city), a Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) that had been banded as an almost-fledged nestling by me at a rookery in Bethany, Oklahoma County, central Oklahoma, on 21 June 1964. The band number was 515-81926. The rookery, a large one, was composed of Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), Snowy Egrets, and Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), in about that order of abundance. The nests were in a fairly uniform stand of mature oaks.—Jack S. Roberts, 5816 N.W. 53rd St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73122. 30 July 1971.

White-winged Scoter in Johnston County, Oklahoma.—On 4 November 1970 Richard Orr, a 15-year-old duck hunter, shot a female White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) on Richardson Pond, an 8-acre, 20-foot-deep impoundment 5 miles north and 1.5 miles west of Tishomingo, Johnston County, south-central Oklahoma. About 200 ducks of various species were on the pond that day, but the scoter that Orr shot was the only scoter seen by anyone. That same day I shot a drake Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) and saw several Lesser Scaups (*A. affinis*).

The White-winged Scoter has not thus far been reported from southern Oklahoma. There are published records for Tulsa, Kay, and Payne counties

(Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 81), and the species has, according to records filed at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, been reported recently also from Alfalfa, Oklahoma, and Cleveland counties. The species arrives in Oklahoma from the north in late October and early November. On 26 October 1957 David Bahos obtained a female or young male (UOMZ 4478, head only, sex not determined; specimen originally No. 127 in collection of John S. Tomer) on Fort Gibson Reservoir about 5 miles east of Wagoner, Oklahoma. On 2 November 1967 Richard Parker shot an adult female (UOMZ 6168) at Lake Thunderbird, about 13 miles east of Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma. On 4 November 1967 G. M. Sutton *et al.* saw a female or subadult male at the south end of Draper Lake near Norman.

The Johnston County specimen referred to above is now No. 550 in the collection of vertebrates at East Central State College in Ada, Oklahoma.—Jack L. Millard Jr., *National Fish Hatchery, Tishomingo, Oklahoma 73460, 15 December 1970.*

Early nesting of Killdeer in Oklahoma.—On the afternoon of 27 March 1971 Mary Coleman, Brad Carlton, and I observed the “broken wing” display of a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) in a small prairie dog town at Lake Ellsworth near Elgin, Comanche County, southwestern Oklahoma. Knowing that the display meant a nest nearby, we examined a small patch of gravel—the only such patch anywhere in the vicinity—and found the nest, which contained four eggs. We saw only one adult bird and of course had no way of ascertaining when the eggs had been laid. The date is early. According to Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 174), the earliest dates on record for the nesting of *Charadrius vociferus* in Oklahoma are 30 March 1957, when J. B. Kelso found a nest and four eggs not far from the shore of Lake Texoma near Willis, Marshall County, south-central Oklahoma, and 8 April 1956, when David F. Parmelee found a nest and two eggs (an incomplete clutch) in a small prairie dog town along the northeast edge of Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma.—Bert Jane Turner, 1708 Sandra Drive, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110, 18 April 1971.

Violet-green Swallow in Cimarron County, Oklahoma.—In late August 1970 I spent several days at Black Mesa State Park in Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma. The weather remained hot and dry until 24 August. That afternoon a series of brief but violent summer showers, accompanied by a strong wind and sharp temperature drop, passed through from the west. Shortly thereafter (about 16:00 CST) I noticed a loose gathering of swallows on the power lines at the west end of Lake Etling. On closer inspection the group proved to consist of six Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), about two dozen Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*), and two Violet-green Swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina*). The last-named species immediately captured my attention, as it was not listed for Oklahoma either by Nice (1931, Birds of Oklahoma) or by Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds).

Approaching to within about 10 yards, I studied the swallows through a 7 x 35 binocular for about ten minutes. Both Violet-greens were in the distinctive adult plumage, velvety green on the back and somewhat glossy

blue on the wings. The facial pattern, with white partly encircling the eye, was sharply defined on each bird. In size, the two were virtually identical to the Rough-wings. I put the flock to flight. The diagnostic white patch at each side of the rump showed clearly in each Violet-green. For another half hour I watched the two birds as they flew about over the lake before they disappeared to the east.

So far as I know, this is the first sighting of this species for Oklahoma. No other naturalist was present to confirm my identification; I am, however, thoroughly familiar with both the Violet-green Swallow and the Tree Swallow (*T. bicolor*). Had the two birds been immature, collecting would have been essential, for at that plumage-stage the two species are much alike; but in several readily perceptible ways the adult Violet-green differs from the adult Tree.

The Violet-green Swallow breeds from central Alaska, southwestern Yukon, British Columbia, southwestern Alberta, northwestern Montana, and southwestern South Dakota southward locally to southern Mexico, wandering eastward in migration to "w. edge of Great Plains" (Peterson, 1961, A field guide to western birds, p. 203). I have seen it nesting in Colfax County, New Mexico, only 115 miles west of the Oklahoma border. If individuals from the easternmost part of its breeding range (Black Hills of South Dakota) migrate directly southward, they must regularly pass over (or close to) the western end of the Oklahoma Panhandle. The species has wandered east of its normal range on several occasions, notably to New Hampshire and Nova Scotia (1966, Audubon Field Notes, 20:7); it has been reported from three Texas localities that are almost directly south of the Black Mesa country—Midland (1963, Audubon Field Notes, 17:414), Frionia (1962, Audubon Field Notes, 16:51), and Palo Duro Canyon State Park (*loc. cit.*). There is one record for the Texas coast, a single bird seen at Rockport (1969, Audubon Field Notes, 23:606). Further careful field work may reveal that it is a regular migrant in Cimarron County, Oklahoma.—Kenn Kaufman, 2713 S. Martinson, Wichita, Kansas 67217. 11 February 1971.

Early fall date for Red-breasted Nuthatch.—On the morning of 9 August 1970 I saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) in a tree across the street from the general store in Kenton, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma. Although I observed the bird for only a minute or so, I clearly saw the rusty-buff underparts and the white line over the eye. It was obviously not a Pygmy Nuthatch (*S. pygmaea*), a comparatively non-migratory species known to inhabit the Black Mesa country of Oklahoma.

The earliest Oklahoma fall date thus far on record for *S. canadensis* is 29 August 1963 (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 397). On that date J. S. Shackford saw one along the Cimarron River 13 miles north of Boise City, Cimarron County.—Gary R. Graves, 7424 Redwood Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209, 5 October 1970.

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