in 1973 we found no evidence that any pair had reared a brood.

The following data pertain to *Seiurus motacilla* as my sister and I have observed the species in Ghost Hollow: 23 May 1965, one seen; 18 April 1967, one seen; 12 April 1968, one seen; species noted all summer, especially on 27 July and 1 and 2 August; 6 April 1969, one seen; species noted repeatedly through 30 August; 3 April 1971, one seen; species noted repeatedly through 31 August; 20 April 1973, one seen.

BOX 27, RIPLEY, OKLAHOMA 74062, 1 JULY 1973.

GENERAL NOTES

Barnacle Goose again in southeastern Oklahoma.—For an hour on the afternoon of 7 November 1974 (from about 1530 to 1630) Refuge Manager Ernest S. Jemison, Game Ranger Harold Scates, and I observed a Barnacle Goose *(Branta leucopsis)* on the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge in Johnston County, southeastern Oklahoma. The bird was feeding along the edge of a flock of about 3000 Canada Geese *(B. canadensis)* in a wheatfield ¼ mile north of refuge headquarters. The Canada Geese were all small (possibly of the geographical race *B. c. hutchinsii)*, not one of them being conspicuously larger than the Barnacle. I was able to approach the great flock to within about 80 yards and I took several photographs of the Barnacle, but it was raining and I had to "shoot at ¼ second," so the pictures are not very clear and the image of the Barnacle, though readily identifiable (largely white head, very light underparts, striking wing markings, black of neck extending down onto chest), is small.

A Barnacle Goose wintered with Canada Geese on the Tishomingo refuge from 16 December 1971 to 1 March 1972 (Jemison, 1972, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 5: 27-28). There are two *Branta leucopsis* records for Alfalfa County, north-central Oklahoma: on 21 November 1958 one was observed with Canada Geese on the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge (Marquardt, 1960, Southwest. Nat., 5: 228) and on 14 December 1963 one was shot near Amorita; the head, neck, and one wing of the specimen were preserved (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 56).—Billy J. Hawthorne, *Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge, Box 248, Tishomingo, Oklahoma 73460, 26 December 1974.*

American Kestrel banded in Oklahoma and recovered in Nebraska.—On 23 January 1974 W. Michael Brewer, a licensed bird-bander, captured and banded (1143-25202) an American Kestrel *(Falco sparverius)* in female plumage near Pauls Valley, Garvin County, south-central Oklahoma. The bird was recovered 62 days later, on 26 March 1974, in Minden, south-central Nebraska, by George Piester, who found it dead, plugging a spout in his feed mill (pers. comm.). Mr. Piester thought the kestrel had been dead about a day at the time of its discovery. Minden is approximately 400 miles north and 100 miles west of Pauls Valley.

According to the AOU Check-list of North American birds (1957, p. 123), the northernmost race of *Falco sparverius* winters widely throughout much of continental North America, moving northward somewhat to breed. To what extent the birds of a given locality are actually resident there (i.e., non-migratory) has not been well documented. In Oklahoma April 18 is said to be the earliest date for nesting and August 1 the latest (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, pp. 126-28). For Kansas the time-span for eggs is said to be March 21 to May 20 with a "peak around April 10" (Johnston, 1965, A directory to the birds of Kansas, p. 18) — a "peak" considerably earlier than any actual egg-date for Oklahoma. Data of this sort call attention to the fact that much is to be learned about the American Kestrel in Oklahoma. Just when does kestrel migration begin and end here? Do birds that breed here ever remain in their breeding areas the

year round? Do kestrels that winter in Oklahoma leave for the north before the birds that breed here arrive from the south? Are migrations and breeding patterns consistent from year to year? Why should Oklahoma's winter population of kestrels be so much larger than the breeding population? Through the banding and recovery of wintering and breeding kestrels we shall, perhaps, be able to answer some of these questions.—W. Michael Brewer, *Box 501, Pauls Valley, Oklahoma 73075;* Warren D. Harden, *1416 Huntington Way, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 22 January 1975.*

Ground Dove in Tillman County, Oklahoma.—On 29 September 1973 I saw two adult Ground Doves (*Columbina passerina*) standing close together at the edge of the paved highway 5 miles west of Davidson, Tillman County, southwestern Oklahoma. The highway there is about 5 miles east of a southward-flowing stretch of the Red River. The smallness of the two birds, as they lingered in the shade of the weeds about 40 feet from me, was instantly apparent. While watching them with 6-power glass, I remained in my car. Instead of flying off, they walked back into the weed-growth. According to Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 235) and Sturdy (1974, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 7: 6-7), the Ground Dove has not heretofore been reported from Tillman County, Oklahoma.—LaVerne L. Broyles, *Special Agent, Division of Law Enforcement U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10597 W. Sixth Ave., Denver, Colorado 80215, 1 December 1973.*

Ground Dove in Cherokee County, Oklahoma.—In mid-afternoon on 23 October 1974, while I was deer hunting on the Gruber Game Management Area about 16 miles south of Tahlequah, Cherokee County, northeastern Oklahoma, I saw a Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina*). It was on the ground. I had a good look at it at a distance of about 30 feet. When it flew off I could see clearly the rufous brown in the spread wings. The Ground Dove has been reported from several Oklahoma localities east of the 100th meridian (see Sturdy, 1974, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 7: 5-6), but never heretofore from Cherokee County.—Jerry C. Sturdy, *P.O. Box 278, Anahuac, Texas 77514, 5 November 1974.*

Early arrival date for Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Oklahoma.—On the morning of 6 April 1972 I saw a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) in my yard in the southwestern part of Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma. He was about 12 feet from me, perched about 10 feet from the ground in a large mimosa tree. There he remained for several minutes, stretching his wings and fluffing and preening his plumage. After a short flight he returned to the same perch, where he continued his preening. I was able to observe him closely. Early garden flowers such as irises had been blooming in the neighborhood since about 20 March but no favorite "hummingbird flowers" such as honeysuckle, bee-balm, scarlet sage, or trumpet vine were blooming on 6 April.

The earliest arrival date thus far on record for this species in Oklahoma is 5 April (Mery, 1964, Oklahoma Wildlife, 20:22). According to data filed at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, J. S. McIntire saw a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Tulsa, Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma on 8 April 1949, and on 8 April 1954 Thelma Hays found a badly injured male (UOMZ 1096) that had flown into a building in Moore, Cleveland County, Oklahoma. Other arrival dates are 11 April 1965, when R. H. Furman and his wife Mary Frances saw a male in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, central Oklahoma, and 12 April 1969, when G. M. Sutton observed a male flying across a fishery pond 1 mile northeast of Armstrong, Bryan County, southeastern Oklahoma.—Mary Avolyn Johns, *1021 Walnut Road, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 3 August 1972.*

Early nesting of Cardinal in southwestern Oklahoma.—On 26 March 1972, in a wisteria vine on the front porch of the Arthur F. Halloran residence at 1551 N. 43rd St.,

in Lawton, Comanche County, southwestern Oklahoma, I found the nest of a Cardinal *(Cardinalis cardinalis)* containing one egg. The nest was 86 inches above ground and 70 inches above the porch floor. The only unusual item that had been used in its construction was a considerable length of toilet tissue. On 27 March the nest held two eggs, on 28 March four eggs. On 29 March I flushed a female from the nest for the first time. On 10 and 12 April I again flushed the female from the nest, on which dates the nest held two eggs only. On 12 April a house cat happened to be close by while I was at the nest. I visited the nest several times from 12 April on, but did not see the female bird again. At no time did I see a male Cardinal or a Brown-headed Cowbird *(Molothrus ater)* in the vicinity. The earliest Cardinal nest thus far reported for Oklahoma was found at Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma, on 2 April 1969; at that nest the first egg had been laid no later than 30 March (Sutton, 1973, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 6: 8).—Louis E. McGee, *1703 N. 43rd St., Lawton, Oklahoma 73501, 15 July 1974.*

Cardinal observed feeding House Sparrow.—Between 0815 and 0830 on 9 March 1974, at Stillwater, Payne County, north-central Oklahoma, I observed a male Cardinal *(Cardinalis cardinalis)* feeding a female House Sparrow *(Passer domesticus)* four times during a three-minute period. Both birds were on the ground. They were the only birds in the immediate vicinity, so far as I could see. The Cardinal obtained all the food on the ground within about two meters of the sparrow, who moved about a bit between feedings, opened her mouth eagerly when the food was brought, but did not flutter her wings while being fed. I could not tell what the food was.

Welty (1962, The life of birds, p. 325), discussing a male Cardinal who fed goldfish in a garden pool in North Carolina, offered this explanation of the strange behavior: "The two instinctive appetites, one to feed, the other to be fed, magnetically attracted each other; and a temporary, satisfying bond was set up." Male Cardinals often feed their mates in spring, a procedure that may help to establish or to strengthen the pair bond. The Cardinal that I observed may, I believe, have "adopted" the House Sparrow as his "mate" for a time, thus setting up a "temporary, satisfying bond."—Robert H. Berger. *211 S. Lowry St., Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074, 2 July 1974.*

When does the female Cardinal start singing in spring?—Authors agree that the female Cardinal *(Cardinalis cardinalis)* sings well, yet I find that very few bird observers in Oklahoma have actually seen a female Cardinal singing. This must be partly because females do not usually sing from exposed perches. Wondering about the function of the female's song, and bearing in mind such statements as that of Jesse T. Shaver (in Laskey, 1944, Wilson Bull., 56: 27) to the effect that in Tennessee the female "begins her song much later in the spring than . . . the male," I decided to observe Cardinals closely in Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma during the early spring of 1972. This I could easily do, for daily I walk from my house to the Bird Range on the university campus—a distance of about a half mile—through a well established residential district in which the Cardinal is common. From 3 January to the end of March I counted the Cardinals during these walks, making a point of seeing as many of the singing birds as possible. I did not see every bird that I heard singing, nor did I pause long to watch female birds on the chance that they might start singing. In January and February there were three short, very stormy periods (each lasting little more than a day) during which I did not hear a Cardinal song. Otherwise I heard and saw from one to eight singing birds daily between 3 January and 15 March, every one of them a male.

On 16 March Emma H. Messerly and I observed a singing male high in a tree near the Memorial Union building on the university campus and heard another Cardinal singing brilliantly about 20 yards away. This second bird, a female, we had to look for. She was singing from the heart of a juniper about 10 feet from the ground. Her singing

sounded like a response to that of the male, but we could only guess that the two birds were a pair. We heard each of them sing several times. The female's songs were fully as long as the male's and they sounded as loud. The two birds did not sing a duet. When we approached the female closely she stopped singing and gave low alarm notes.

The following day I watched a lone female Cardinal as she searched for and carried nest material in my backyard at 818 West Brooks Street. The far-from-finished nest was about 14 feet up well out from the trunk of a large cedar of Lebanon. I watched the bird for about 15 minutes, during which period neither she nor her mate sang. Indeed, during that particular period I did not even see the male.—George M. Sutton, *Stovall Museum of Science and History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 22 March 1972.*

Tree Sparrow in Grayson County, northeastern Texas.—On 28 November 1970, on the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge about 15 miles northwest of Sherman, Grayson County, northeastern Texas, I observed three Tree Sparrows *(Spizella arborea)* in a relatively open area along the road leading to the Goode Picnic Site. This was my first Tree Sparrow sighting for Grayson County, a county in which I have lived for nearly ten years. The following day I counted 35 Tree Sparrows in the same area. Thereafter — throughout December 1970 and in January and February of 1971—I counted from a few to as many as 40 birds, especially at the dozen or more feeding stations that I established especially for these unusual visitors. On 28 February 1971, I saw a flock of 11 birds, but none after that date.

Many bird students from Dallas and Fort Worth visited the refuge expressly to see the Tree Sparrows, for though the species is said to winter as far south as "central Texas" (1957, AOU Check-list, p. 612), it is neither common nor regular in the northeastern part of the state. Warren Pulich (personal communication) reports preparing a Tree Sparrow (WP 1835) found dead on 10 January 1971 by Dr. Arnold Moorhouse (of Paris, Texas) along a road just east of Sherman. The specimen, now housed at the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas, was a male (wing 74 mm., tail 64) with fully ossified skull. Its sex is of interest, for male Tree Sparrows are far less common than females along the south edge of the winter range (Baumgartner in Bent *et al.*, 1968, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237, Pt. 2, p. 1138). Of 50 carefully sexed Tree Sparrows from Oklahoma in the bird collection at the University of Oklahoma, only 17 are males, all from the northern half of the state (from following counties: Cimarron 4, Texas 1, Alfalfa 3, Cleveland 9).

Spizella arborea obviously is uncommon in the southeastern corner of Oklahoma. It has not been seen on any of several Christmas Counts in McCurtain County; James L. Norman informs me that he has never seen it in LeFlore County; and according to data filed at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range it has not been reported from Choctaw County. At Caddo, Bryan County, however, Cooke (1914, Auk, 31:487) found it to be "one of the commonest birds" after a norther on 19 December 1883; in "the fields and along the edges of the woods" that winter it was more common even than the Slate-colored Junco *(Junco hyemalis)*, though in heavy timber it was "outnumbered by" the White-throated Sparrow *(Zonotrichia albicollis)*.–Karl W. Haller, *Box 1615, Austin College, Sherman, Texas 75090, 15 August 1972.*

FROM THE EDITORS: The lead article in this issue was not quite finished at the time of its author's tragic and untimely death by drowning in the Glover River, in southeastern Oklahoma, on 4 March 1973. Dr. Landreth's scholarly interests included bird-study; he hoped to report regularly through the OOS Bulletin on some of his findings in avian ecology and pathology.

We are grateful to the Oklahoma Publishing Company for their permission to reproduce here Jim Argo's excellent photograph of Ring-billed Gulls. We call the attention of readers to an interesting paper by W. E. Southern on "Seasonal distribution of Great Lakes Region Ring-billed Gulls" (1974, Jack-Pine Warbler, 52: 155-79). In his summary Southern makes clear that Florida is an important part of this species' winter range. "Other areas having a significant number of encounters include the Carolina-Georgia coast, Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf Coast and the lower Great Lakes." Literally thousands of Ring-billed Gulls have been banded at Great Lakes breeding colonies within recent years. Almost certainly some of these banded birds winter in or migrate through Oklahoma.