

around its opening, I saw the yellow-outlined mouths of baby birds in a nest about 6 inches back from the entrance.

I decided to sit on a stump not far away in hopes of seeing a parent bird return to feed the young. An Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) that happened to be perching on a low limb nearby made me wonder whether the nest I had found was a phoebe's, but the nest in the hole was not at all like any phoebe nest I had ever seen. Within about ten minutes a Canyon Wren with food in its mouth returned to the opening, entered, reappeared promptly, and left. I heard no sound from the young as they were being fed.

About this time the rest of the group returned, plainly disappointed since they had not been able to find the wren. We all sat down opposite the nest site and waited for an adult bird to come with food. When one did appear, Wesley Isaacs tried to get a picture of it, but it moved so constantly that photography was impossible. After it left, my husband looked closely at the nest, noting that there were at least three young and that they were well feathered and much like their parents in color. Hoping to get one of them, so that we could have a look at it, he put his hand inside the hole, but the brood scrambled farther back in the crevice where they were out of reach. We concluded from this behavior that they were about ready to leave the nest.

Discovery of this nest confirmed our suspicion that Canyon Wrens were nesting in this particular canyon, for we had seen the species there on several occasions. On 20 June 1971, Henry Walter and John Newell had seen two of the wrens in the canyon. On 15 August 1971, Al Reed, his wife Ora, and John Newell had seen a singing male there. On 3 June 1972, John Newell had observed a close-knit family group of five working together along the canyon wall not far from the spot at which I found the nest.

4129 N. EVEREST, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73111, 22 FEBRUARY 1975.

GENERAL NOTES

Migratory bird records from fall mist-netting in central Oklahoma. — During the fall migration period, considerable numbers of songbirds representing a large number of species move through central Oklahoma. These birds usually remain in an area less than a week at a time and most are rather drab; i.e., immatures are in first winter feather and adults in dull fall plumage. In addition, they are usually silent, making them difficult to detect and identify. Birds can be identified with much greater certainty in hand than in the field, therefore mist-netting can be a substantial aid in ascertaining species composition during migration. By fall, ground vegetation in ungrazed areas has become dense with low, fruit-bearing plants. Many of the larger woody plants drop their fruits about the time they begin shedding leaves. Thus, cover and food sources for many migratory birds come to be concentrated close to the ground. It is under these conditions that mist nets are most effective.

To ascertain the species composition of fall migrants, I chose an area suitable for mist-netting and one where birds would likely become concentrated as they migrated through. During September of 1974 I set up a banding operation in the vicinity of the University of Oklahoma Fisheries Research Station at Noble in Cleveland County. The

TABLE I
Birds Netted in Central Oklahoma during the Fall of 1974

Species	Sept. 5-13	Sept. 14-20	Sept. 21-27	Total
Common Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)			6	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker (<i>Centurus carolinus</i>)		3	2	5
Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos villosus</i>)	1	2	1	4
Downy Woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos pubescens</i>)	2	1	3	6
Eastern Phoebe (<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>)		1		1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>)	3		2	5
Traill's Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i> , <i>E. alnorum</i>)	10	5	1	16
Least Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax minimus</i>)	3	5	8	16
Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)		1	2	3
Carolina Chickadee (<i>Parus carolinensis</i>)	5	6	2	13
Tufted Titmouse (<i>Parus bicolor</i>)			2	2
Carolina Wren (<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>)		3		3
Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)		8	4	12
Brown Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>)	3	9	2	14
Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	3	1	2	6
Swainson's Thrush (<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>)	1	2	2	5
Veery (<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>)		1		1
Bell's Vireo (<i>Vireo bellii</i>)	2	5		7
Solitary Vireo (<i>Vireo solitarius</i>)		1	3	4
Red-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>)	2	3	2	7
Philadelphia Vireo (<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>)			1	1
Warbling Vireo (<i>Vireo gilvus</i>)	6	20	11	37
Black-and-white Warbler (<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)	1			1
Golden-winged Warbler (<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>)		1		1
Tennessee Warbler (<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>)			1	1
Nashville Warbler (<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>)	1	2	19	22
Yellow Warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>)			1	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler (<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>)		1		1
Ovenbird (<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>)		1		1
Northern Waterthrush (<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>)	2			2
Mourning Warbler (<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>)	1	1	1	3
Common Yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)	1	3	2	6
Yellow-breasted Chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>)		1		1
Wilson's Warbler (<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>)	6	4	12	22
American Redstart (<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>)	1	1	1	3
Northern Oriole (<i>Icterus galbula</i>)	1	1		2
Summer Tanager (<i>Piranga rubra</i>)			1	1
Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	10	14	12	36
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>)		1		1
Blue Grosbeak (<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>)		1		1
Indigo Bunting (<i>Passerina cyanea</i>)		13	17	30
Painted Bunting (<i>Passerina ciris</i>)	1			1
American Goldfinch (<i>Spinus tristis</i>)	1		1	2
Field Sparrow (<i>Spizella pusilla</i>)			1	1

site encompassed part of the floodplain of the Canadian River and the adjacent hillsides where habitat appeared favorable. I expected a concentration of birds in this area for two reasons: 1. The river is a large, recognizable landmark oriented in a direction similar to that of the migration route; 2. The floodplain provides a relatively large and continuous habitat suitable for migratory songbirds. Along the floodplain, black willows (*Salix nigra*) and cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) grew above heavy undergrowth consisting largely of roughleaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*) and giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*). The hillsides adjacent to the floodplain were characterized by red cedar (*Juniperus virginianus*), southern hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*) and dense thickets of greenbriar (*Smilax bona-nox*). Periodically the floodplain was swampy, sometimes being inundated with as much as 14 inches of standing water.

Ten mist nets, each 2 by 12 meters, were erected along the floodplain. When possible, the nets remained set 24 hours a day and were checked periodically. They were operated for 20 days from 5 September through 27 September, and during this time I handled 314 individuals of 44 species (Table I). This represented an average of 1.56 birds per net-day (1 day = 12 hours daylight). As expected, activity varied greatly and numbers of birds netted in one day ranged from a high of 44 to a low of 1. In order of abundance, the most common species caught were: Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), and Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*).

Juvenile birds often wander widely during the fall, sometimes far from their normal range, but because of their rather secretive habits, are seldom detected by observers. Four such species, rarely encountered in Oklahoma during fall were netted, including:

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). Immature female (UOMZ 7730) collected 15 September. First specimen for Oklahoma.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). Immature female (UOMZ 7729) collected 15 September. First fall specimen for Oklahoma.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*). Immature female (UOMZ 7735) collected 22 September. First fall specimen for Oklahoma.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*). Immature banded and released 16 September. Second fall record for Oklahoma.

George M. Sutton confirmed the identification of the Golden-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Philadelphia Vireo and prepared the skins. Since that time, additional records for these three species have been obtained (see following paper in this issue). Three other species that are considered uncommon and that were trapped, banded, and released at Noble deserve mention here: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), 5; Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), 3; and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), 1.

These records point out that many species probably migrate through central Oklahoma in greater numbers than is generally supposed, especially in fall. Admittedly, they are difficult to observe, but mist-netting can add appreciably to our knowledge of Oklahoma's avifauna.—D. Scott Wood, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 16 June 1975.*

Birds killed at a TV tower near Coweta, Oklahoma.—At a TV tower 2 miles north of Coweta, Wagoner County, northeastern Oklahoma, many birds kill themselves, especially at night during the season of migration. No bird found dead there before the fall of 1974 was, however, especially notable. In the fall of 1974 there were spells of bad weather during which clouds obscured the sky, making visibility poor, especially at night. On the morning of 23 September I found the following birds dead under the tower:

1 Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), 1 Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*; wings, one leg, and mandible), 1 Sora (*Porzana carolina*), 1 Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), 8 Red-eyed Vireos (*Vireo olivaceus*), 2 Common Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*), 1 Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), and 1 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*).

On the morning of 24 September I found the following, all of which probably had struck the tower the preceding night: 1 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), 1 Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), 4 Red-eyed Vireos, 1 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), and 1 Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*).

The weather was especially bad during the second week of October. On the morning of 9 October I found about 200 birds dead under the tower. Many of these probably struck the tower the preceding night, but some were so decomposed as to suggest that they had died during the night of 7-8 October or even earlier. Many were in poor condition: some had been run over, others partly eaten by ants. All of the following had been wet, though they were fairly dry when I picked them up: 1 Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), 5 Brown Creepers (*Certhia familiaris*), 19 House Wrens, 5 Winter Wrens (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), 3 Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Telmatodytes palustris*), 7 Short-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus platensis*), 1 Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), 15 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*R. calendula*), 11 Solitary Vireos (*Vireo solitarius*), 5 Red-eyed Vireos, 6 Philadelphia Vireos (*V. philadelphicus*), 3 Warbling Vireos (*V. gilvus*), 1 Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), 1 Tennessee Warbler (*V. peregrina*), 14 Orange-crowned Warblers (*V. celata*), 64 Nashville Warblers (*V. ruficapilla*), 1 Northern Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*), 5 Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica petechia*), 1 Magnolia Warbler (*D. magnolia*), 4 Black-throated Green Warblers (*D. virens*), 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*D. pensylvanica*), 1 Blackburnian Warbler (*D. fusca*), 4 Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), 6 Common Yellowthroats, 4 Mourning Warblers (*Oporornis philadelphia*), 5 Wilson's Warblers (*Wilsonia pusilla*), 1 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), 3 Indigo Buntings, 1 Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudatus*), 2 Clay-colored Sparrows (*Spizella pallida*), 4 Lincoln's Sparrows (*Melospiza lincolni*), and 1 Swamp Sparrow (*M. georgiana*).

Several of the above-listed specimens are important — the Philadelphia Vireos because only one other fall specimen has been taken in the state; the Golden-winged Warbler because it is the second specimen for the state; the Chestnut-sided Warbler because it is the second fall specimen for the state; the Sharp-tailed Sparrow because it is the fifth specimen for the state; the Golden-crowned Kinglet because it represents the earliest fall record for the state. According to data filed at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, the earliest fall date for *Regulus satrapa* heretofore on record is 12 October: on 12 October 1921, Margaret Morse Nice saw 1 or 2 birds in Cleveland County (Nice, 1931, Birds of Oklahoma, p. 147). Other early fall dates: October 15 and 16, 1952, a single bird seen on each date at Noble, Cleveland County, by R. R. Graber *et al.*

The flicker specimen was a surprise, for great numbers of flickers migrate by day (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, pp. 299-300). I had no way of ascertaining, of course, that the bird had hit the tower at night. To be noted is the fact that the species represented by the greatest number of specimens, the Nashville Warbler, is known to be abundant throughout much of Oklahoma in migration.

One Winter Wren, two Long-billed Marsh Wrens, six Short-billed Marsh Wrens, two Philadelphia Vireos, one Warbling Vireo, the Golden-winged Warbler, and the Sharp-tailed Sparrow have been preserved as skins; many of the other specimens are being preserved as skeletons.

I am very grateful to Mr. James C. Leake, owner of Television Station KTUL, and to

his technicians at the tower, Messrs. Clausing, Clopton, and Harris, for their assistance and cooperation. These gentlemen have promptly let me know whenever they have noticed dead birds on the ground and they often have gathered and refrigerated specimens before my arrival at the tower. In this way they have made an important contribution to our knowledge of Oklahoma's avifauna. Had they not helped as they have, all of these valuable specimens would have been wasted.—James L. Norman, 502 N. 14th St., Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401, 6 June 1975.

Surf Scoter in Roger Mills County, Oklahoma.—From 23 to 26 May 1975 an immature Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) visited a fairly large impoundment just in front of the house on our ranch near Durham, Roger Mills County, west-central Oklahoma. I had many looks at it through my 7 x 42 binocular and Bausch and Lomb spotting scope, often at a distance of only 75 feet. The two light cheek-patches were clearly visible. When it "stood up" in the water and flapped its wings, I could see that they had no white in them. The bill was high at the base, but not brightly colored. So far as I could tell, the bird was on the lake continuously. I saw it first at about 1900 on 23 May and last at about 1030 on 26 May. It spent a good deal of time under water.

According to records filed at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, the Surf Scoter has not heretofore been reported from Roger Mills County, or, for that matter, from any locality in western Oklahoma aside from the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Alfalfa County, where C. D. McInnes saw a female bird on 11 November 1961 (1962, Audubon Field Notes, 16: 51), and Rosston, Harper County, where M. M. Dodson shot a specimen (not preserved) on 4 November 1950 (1951, Audubon Field Notes, 5: 26); identified a female bird (not preserved) shot by another hunter on 27 October 1951; and saw a flock of 12 birds the following day. My Roger Mills County sighting is apparently the second spring sighting for the state, the first being for 2 March 1961, on which date L. W. Oring saw one at Lake Hefner, Oklahoma County, central Oklahoma (1961, Audubon Field Notes, 15: 342; Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 82). The several fall and winter sightings on record span the period from 18 October to 24 January: on 18 October 1970 F. S. Romero *et al.* saw one in Tulsa, Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma (1971, Amer. Birds, 25: 75); on 24 January 1960 J. G. Newell saw one on Lake Overholser in Canadian County.—Rena Ross, 2805 Travis St., Amarillo, Texas 69109, 17 June 1975.

Mississippi Kite strikes flying Chimney Swift.—At about 1000 on 29 July 1974, as George Alexander and I were watching a company of about 50 Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) circling above the Cameron University campus in Lawton, Comanche County, southwestern Oklahoma, we saw a lone Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) fly in from the east and strike one of the swifts from the side, knocking it to the ground. The swift was about 20 meters up when hit. The kite did not appear to increase its speed as it attacked. Momentum carried it within about 15 meters of the ground before it executed a right turn of about 45 degrees and flew off northeastward. It did not return to pick up its prey. At 1003 we found the swift, alive though obviously dazed, with back up and wings closed, in an open grassy area. It made no attempt to get away as we approached, nor did it struggle when I picked it up. Close examination revealed no obvious injury. At 1010 I held it in my open hand about 1.5 meters from the ground. It hesitated momentarily, then took off in strong, steady flight.—Michael Waggener, Department of Biology, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501, 15 May 1975.

Caracara sighted in northern Texas.—Around noon on 30 August 1974, as Elizabeth Hayes, my husband Herbert, and I were travelling south toward Dallas on

U.S. Highway 77, we stopped for coffee and a sandwich about 5 miles north of McKinney, Collin County, Texas. Herbert, who happened to see a large bird with white head and tail high in the sky, commented that it must be a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), but when we looked at it through our binoculars we saw at once that it was a Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*). In addition to the white of the head and tail, there was a large white patch toward the end of each wing, a field mark somewhat like that in a Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). The bird was so high that we could not see the black band at the tail-tip. As it circled higher, it drifted northward until out of sight. On our return trip the following day we again looked for it, but without success. The spot was about 35 miles south of the Oklahoma state line.—Polly Keating, 5213 South Toledo, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135, 17 May 1975.

Black Rail in Noble County, Oklahoma.—In his check-list of Oklahoma birds, Sutton (1974, p. 13) erred in stating that a Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) seen on 22 September 1973 was in Payne County, Oklahoma. The bird was in southern Noble County, on the north shore of Lake McMurtry, a comparatively recent impoundment about 8 miles northwest of the city of Stillwater.

I had been walking along the lake shore that day (weather somewhat humid; sky partly cloudy; air temperature about 80° F.; stiff southerly breeze 10-15 mph) observing water birds, notably several Soras (*Porzana carolina*). At about 1400 I saw what I thought was a small black or dark gray mammal moving through the switch-grass at the water's edge. Kicking at the grass, I finally flushed a little black bird whose flight was obviously rail-like, whose back was flecked with white, and whose hind-neck was reddish brown. It flew about 10 yards along the water-line and dropped into the grass. After consulting a field-guide, I flushed it again and this time saw it well as it alighted and walked back into the grass. The bird was a Black Rail, the first I had ever seen.—William Bartush, Route 3, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074, 30 September 1974.

Late nesting of Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Oklahoma.—On 6 September 1971, while hunting near Lexington, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma, I happened upon the nest of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) holding two eggs. When I returned to the nest on 11 September it held two young birds. On 15 September it was empty, but I had no way of knowing whether the chicks had fledged. I collected the nest and gave it to William A. Carter, who placed it in the collection at East Central State College at Ada, Oklahoma.

The date is decidedly late. So far as I know, the only other fall nesting record for Oklahoma pertains to a young bird not long out of the nest found dead in a road on 2 October 1971 in Bryan County, southeastern Oklahoma (Haller, 1972, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 5: 19-20). The latest "egg-dates" mentioned by Bent (1941, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 176: 66) are August 19 (New York), August 20 (California), August 24 (Arizona), and August 25 (Florida). The latest breeding date on record for Georgia is September 8 (three eggs: Burleigh, 1958, Georgia birds, p. 316); for Colorado, September 10 ("half-grown fledgling": Bailey, 1965, Birds of Colorado, 1: 404); for Kansas, September 9 (adult on nest: Linsdale, 1928, Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 18: 543; September 10 ("egg-laying": Johnston, 1964, Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., 12: 616).

The above makes clear that bird students in Oklahoma should look for Yellow-billed Cuckoo nests after the peak breeding months of June, July, and August. Many Oklahoma birds are two brooded and delayed second broods may protract the span of the breeding period considerably. Late broods should fare well, it would seem, since food is readily available and predation pressure therefore reduced at that time of year.—David O. Dillon, Dept. of Biology, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76703, 3 June 1973.

THE BULLETIN, the official scientific organ of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, is published quarterly, in March, June, September, and December, at Norman, Oklahoma. Subscription is by membership in the OOS: \$4.00 single or \$6.00 family per year. Treasurer, Walter Doane, 9912 Mahler Place, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120. Editor, Jack D. Tyler, Department of Biological Sciences, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501.