

town (Ault); on 14 October 1975, two adults 5 miles east and 3 south of town (Heller and Bartush); on 16 October 1975, two adults at the same place (Tinsley and Ricky S. Hill), and later that day three adults at the same place (Ault). All of these sightings were, be it noted, in the fall.

4213 BEDFORD DR., LAWTON, OKLAHOMA 73501, 29 OCTOBER 1975.

## GENERAL NOTES

**First winter record for Green Heron in Oklahoma.**—On four occasions between 4 January and 2 March 1975 competent observers saw what they believe to have been the same Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) along a swift, steep-banked, 12-foot wide stretch of Sandy (Lebos) Creek near a wooden bridge 2 3/4 miles south of Eldorado, Jackson County, southwestern Oklahoma. Woody cover there, primarily salt-cedar (*Tamarix gallica*) and hackberry (*Celtis* sp.), is dense close to the stream. On 4 January John W. Ault and Jimmy W. Tinsley first saw the bird, which flew upstream from the bridge. On 7 January (sunny day; temperature near 60° F. at noon; light south wind), Tinsley, Robert E. Morgan, and Jack D. Tyler flushed it from the very same spot, this time noting its orange legs and blue-gray upperparts. On 25 January Tinsley and William S. Bartush saw it again along the same stretch of the creek.

On 2 March it was collected. The specimen (immature female, Cameron University Museum of Zoology No. 545) weighed 238.9 grams. The ovary measured 6 × 12 mm. The stomach contained nothing but traces of vegetable matter, though food in the form of fishes and insects must have been readily obtainable since neither the creek nor farmponds of the vicinity froze much during the comparatively mild winter of 1974-75. During the first week of January the air temperature at Eldorado climbed to 50° F. on several days.

The Green Heron is said to inhabit Oklahoma from 1 April to 5 November (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, p. 3). The species has not heretofore been reported from anywhere in the state in winter. There is one winter record for Arkansas, that of a single bird seen at Fort Smith, just east of Sequoyah County, east-central Oklahoma, on 27 December 1971 (Armstrong, 1972, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 5: 26-27).—Jack D. Tyler, *Dept. of Biology, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501*, and John W. Ault III, *4213 Bedford Drive, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501*, 5 March 1975.

**Rufous Hummingbird winters again in northeastern Oklahoma.**—From mid-October 1974 to 26 January 1975 a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) wintered in Bartlesville, Washington County, northeastern Oklahoma. On 25 October my neighbor Norma Drehman called to say that she "still" had a hummingbird coming to her feeder. Thinking the bird to be a Ruby-throat (*Archilochus colubris*), I did not look at it until mid-December, when Mrs. Drehman called to say that it was still there. On 16 December I was able to inspect it at a distance of about three feet through a sliding glass door. Noting its strongly rufous sides, axillars, and wing linings, gorget with red speckling, and 5 mm. wide red central spot, green back, rufous rump and tail base, white spot back of the eye, and white-tipped outer tail feathers, I decided that it was a Rufous, probably a male in first winter feather. My proximity to its "flower" caused it to dart toward me repeatedly, uttering a *ding,ding,ding* challenge. On 14 January Ella Delap, Odie McReynolds, Goldie Scheeler, and Madge Hildreth confirmed my identification.

The Drehman backyard is surrounded by thick privet hedge (*Ligustrum vulgare*). Inside its southeast corner is an evergreen vine of trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). "Rufous" frequently flew to this corner, and we believe he roosted there. He

came to the feeder sometimes as early as 15 minutes before sunup. On the evening of 23 December (temperature that day 37-68° F. (3-24° C.) he fed at 1610, 1628, 1642, and 1656. Sunset was at 1714. The following day (temperature 38-48° F. (3-9° C.) he fed at 0819, 0835, 0847, 0935, 1000, 1115, 1135, and 1250. Electric heating tape around the syrup tube kept the solution from freezing.

The winter of 1974-75 was extremely mild in northeastern Oklahoma. Between 1 December and 26 January the average daily low air temperature was 28° F. (-2° C.), the average high 49° F. (9° C.), the lowest temperature 10° F. (-12° C.). Precipitation during the same period was 2.66 inches, all in the form of rain. Fifteen days were 55° F. (13° C.) or warmer, so small insects and spiders continued to be available as hummingbird food.

"Rufous" often visited the feeder during the week before he disappeared. He was last seen at 0830 on 26 January. He looked frisky and smooth-feathered at that time.

*Selasphorus rufus* is known to have wintered in Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma (late August 1971 to 12 January 1972), and the species was seen in Washington County repeatedly from 23 August to 30 August 1972 (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, p. 23).—Dotty M. Goard, P.O. Box 591, Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003, 3 February 1975.

**Lewis's Woodpecker in Stephens County, Oklahoma.**—From 15 December 1973 to 31 March 1974 a Lewis's Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewis*) spent much of its time in a dead tree that stood by itself in a farm-pond 2 miles north and ½ mile east of Bray, Stephens County, south-central Oklahoma. During the 15-week period no fewer than 30 persons saw it. William Rice and I discovered it during a Christmas Count. When first seen it was working its way up its tree, investigating what appeared to be holes made by other woodpeckers over the years. We could not call it anything but a "puzzling dark woodpecker" until it moved into the brilliant afternoon sunshine (day clear, air temperature about 55° F.), at which instant I recognized it, for I had had good looks at a Lewis's Woodpecker in Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma, the preceding spring.

Since the pale gray collar was not very distinct and the underparts only faintly washed with pink, we decided that the bird was immature. In good light the back showed metallic green and we noted the crowlike flight as described by Bent (1929, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 174: 226-27) and others. At no time did we see it carrying or caching an acorn or attempting to catch an insect on the wing.

On 9 February I found the woodpecker in its farm-pond tree, preening its plumage and pecking casually at the limb to which it clung. The following day John Craythorne, his wife Moryne, and I went to the pond, this time with camera and telephoto lens, but the woodpecker and its tree were both so dark that we decided to drive the bird to a more lightly colored cottonwood across the sectionline road north of the pond. We drove the woodpecker from its special tree several times in getting pictures. Finally it flew southward from the pond and out of sight. The three best slides, each showing an identifiable bird figure, are on file at the Cameron University Museum of Zoology in Lawton, Oklahoma.

On 15 February Jack D. Tyler and his natural history class from Cameron University watched the woodpecker under overcast skies for about 15 minutes. That day the temperature was about 40° F. and the 10-15 mph north wind biting. John Craythorne observed the bird further on 23 and 28 February and on 9, 18, 23, and 31 March. When last seen it was in its favorite dead tree.—Frances Neeld, 1219 Elder, Duncan, Oklahoma 73533, 12 September 1975.

**Bay-breasted Warbler in Oklahoma in winter.**—On 14 December 1974 (weather

mild), while participating in a Christmas Count at Hospital Lake, Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma, George M. Sutton, Richard Gilliland, and I observed a Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) at close range (1975, Amer. Birds, 29: 172, 476). When first seen, the bird was fly-catching from the edge of a juniper tree in which a small flock of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) also were feeding. The warbler did not fly off when the finches did, thus allowing us an extended viewing as close as 15 feet.

We carefully noted the yellowish tone of the head, the streaked back, white tail-corners, white wing-bars, unstreaked breast, faint tawny-buff of the sides and flanks, and darkish legs and feet. About two hours after our observation I studied the Bay-breasted Warbler specimens at the OU Bird Range and found that the bird we had been watching was precisely like immature female *D. castanea* in Dr. Sutton's collection.

According to the AOU Check-list (1957, p. 500), the Bay-breasted Warbler winters from "central and eastern Panama" southward to northern South America. Although Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 509) mentions Oklahoma "records" for 4 October and 9 November, these are open to question; a warbler that Sutton himself saw on 8 September 1973 at Hospital Lake was, in his opinion, a Bay-breasted Warbler in first winter feather. In any event, the 14 December sighting reported above is important.—Warren D. Harden, 1416 Huntington Way, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 6 November 1975.

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Cindy A. Felis, 102 Cimarron Trail, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501 — *Scissortail*

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