

Tordoff states that his captive crossbills "fed adeptly" on sunflower seeds "only after considerable practise." Red Crossbills that I watched on 2 November 1972, while they were feeding on wild sunflower seeds, seemed to be having no difficulty. The seeds were not as large as commercial sunflower seeds, of course. It appeared to me that each bird was scooping the seeds from the seed-heads with its saliva-covered tongue, lifting or pulling each seed back into the mouth with the tongue, and, again using the tongue, working the seed into position between the tomia, where it was cracked.

As stated at the first of this paper, the crossbills did most of their feeding in the pines, but when the supply of pine seeds was exhausted the birds subsisted to a considerable extent on red cedar seeds picked up on the ground under the trees. The stomachs of crossbills collected while they were on the ground feeding held not the whole juniper berries, pulp and all, but only the seeds.

STOVALL MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069, 1 APRIL 1975.

GENERAL NOTES

Scaled Quail in Custer County, Oklahoma.—On 17 January 1976, shortly after flushing a covey of about a dozen Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) 4½ miles west and 1 north of Butler, Custer County, west-central Oklahoma, Russell Blanchard, Jr. shot a Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*). The bird was by itself in moderately grazed short-grass pastureland that had little brush in it. Blanchard had no way of knowing whether it had been with the Bobwhites, but he was fairly certain that every bird in the covey that he had flushed was a Bobwhite. Head and chest feathers of the Scaled Quail have been preserved for reference. These do not appear to have come from a hybrid individual.

It is doubtful that *Callipepla squamata* has ever before been seen or taken in Custer County. Though the species is known to have ranged eastward irregularly as far as "Alfalfa, Woodward, Dewey, Caddo, and Jefferson counties" (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 142), and though the map in Schemnitz (1959, Southwest. Nat., 4: 150) shows southwestern Custer County to be within the Scaled Quail's range, no actual sighting or capture within the county's borders has been reported, so far as I know.—J. Brent Giezantner, *Washita National Wildlife Refuge, R.R. 1, Box 68, Butler, Oklahoma 73625, 19 January 1976.*

Third specimen of Glaucous Gull for Oklahoma.—About noon on 27 December 1974, I saw a very large white-looking gull near a duck blind along the east shore of Lake Hefner in the northwestern part of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, central Oklahoma. The gull was at the water's edge, not standing on its toes, but "sitting" with its bill pointed backward and tucked in between the scapulars and back feathers. I thought it was asleep, so approached it cautiously. To my surprise, I found that it was dead.

I showed the specimen to my friend Jack S. Roberts, who confirmed my belief that it was an immature Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) probably in first winter feather. Its plumage was largely white but mottled and suffused with pale buff throughout. Its bill was dark, almost black, at the tip, but pinkish flesh-color otherwise. Its legs, feet, and eyelids were pinkish flesh color, its eyes light brown.

On skinning it, I found it to be thin. In its stomach was a single item—a small quartzite pebble. The prepared skin is now in the bird collection at the University of Oklahoma (male, UOMZ 7913). It is the third specimen of *Larus hyperboreus* for Oklahoma. The first was taken along the Red River south of either Jefferson County or

Cotton County on 17 December 1880 (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 137). The second was collected by Bertin W. Anderson along the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River below the Salt Plains Reservoir dam on 5 February 1971 (1971, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 4: 31). This third specimen may well have been the very bird seen "sitting" among the rocks of the Lake Hefner dam by Jack Roberts and V. J. Vacin on 22 December — Christmas Count day. That day the bird had appeared to be sluggish.—Mark Ports, 2924 Lakeside, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120, 4 February 1975.

Say's Phoebe in southwestern Oklahoma.—Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), a "transient and summer resident in western Oklahoma" known to breed "in small numbers in Black Mesa country of Cimarron County" (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 339), has heretofore been reported only twice from southwestern Oklahoma. The one specimen from this part of the state, a male with unenlarged gonads (UOMZ 3298), was collected on 22 March 1958 by Sutton himself along Cave Creek in Greer County 4 miles south of Reed. The only other record is of a single bird seen 14 February 1973 on a fence near the North Fork of the Red River a few miles south of Headrick, Jackson County (Carlton, 1974, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 7: 8).

In the spring of 1974, Say's Phoebe was seen at three new localities in southwestern Oklahoma. On 21 March (sunny day; afternoon high 45° F.), Buford W. Mauck, William R. Miller, Robert E. Morgan, and Charles M. Scott watched a single bird at close range for several minutes near Rush Lake in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. This was the first sighting on record for Comanche County, despite the fact that bird observations had been recorded at the refuge for many years.

At 1900 on 26 March (calm day; temperature about 60° F.), Brad Carlton again found a Say's Phoebe in Jackson County, this time a single bird hawking for insects from a large cholla cactus (*Opuntia imbricata*) back of an abandoned farmhouse 4½ miles east and 4 north of Duke. Carlton approached the bird to within about 10 feet.

At 1400 on 12 April (sunny day with light south breeze and clear sky; temperature 80° F.), during a natural history field trip, my students and I happened upon a Say's Phoebe perched on a barbed wire fence near a small stock pond 3½ miles east and 4 south of Lawton, Comanche County. This bird was busy catching insects midair. We noted its pale rusty underparts, black tail with white edging, and gray upperparts. We saw the bird again at 1630 as it flew off high in the air.

The above-reported sightings convince me that *Sayornis saya* migrates through southwestern Oklahoma regularly in spring, perhaps in considerable numbers. The possibility that it breeds in the area must not be forgotten.—Jack D. Tyler, Department of Biology, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501, 16 May 1974.

Cape May Warbler in Alfalfa County, Oklahoma.—The Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) is rare in Oklahoma. Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 501) reported four records, all for spring, two for Tulsa County, one for Greer County, and one for Cimarron County. One of the Tulsa County sightings was confirmed by collection of the specimen—a male (Tomer, 1956, Wilson Bull., 68: 320).

About noon on 27 April 1973, Mildred Tewell and I observed a singing male Cape May at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Alfalfa County, north-central Oklahoma. In a roadside park along the north edge of the refuge's main reservoir that day, we had decided to eat lunch. The trees near the table were alive with Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), which drifted away soon after we had sat down. Several small birds that remained in the trees puzzled me until one or two of them sang: they were Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*). Twice I heard what I took to be a warbler's song, first at a distance, then close by. The song was unmusical and all on one note. Without my binocular, which I had left in my car, I could not tell what the singer's colors were, but Mrs. Tewell said she could see that its underparts were yellow, heavily streaked with black.

After lunch, I had good looks through my binocular. I saw the yellow on the rump and at each side of the neck as well as the chestnut cheek-patch. The bird was seldom

still and it was sometimes partly or wholly hidden by leaves, so I did not see the white wing-patch at all clearly.

In Sutton's "Check-list of Oklahoma birds" (1974, p. 36), Alfalfa is mentioned among the counties from which *Dendroica tigrina* has been reported. The above account makes clear what the Alfalfa County sighting was. The species has not thus far been seen in Oklahoma in fall.—Zella Moorman, *Route 2, Box 55, Perkins, Oklahoma 74059, 25 May 1973*.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow in northeastern Texas.—In the western part of the Juniper Point Recreation Area, about 5 miles north of Gordonville, Grayson County, northeastern Texas, a small population of Rufous-crowned Sparrows (*Aimophila ruficeps*) inhabits the juniper- and oak-clad bluffs along the south shore of Lake Texoma. Large numbers of campers, boaters, and fishermen visit the area in summer and additional campsites were cleared in 1971, but the sparrows survive. During the past four years I have seen them in every month except November and December.

I first saw the species there on 7 September 1969. On that date James Beach III and I heard a Rufous-crown singing several times. It was in a dead tree about 30 feet up. While it was singing, a duller bird with streaked breast, obviously a juvenal, flew to its side, perching there while the singing continued. Neither did it beg for food nor did the adult seem to pay any attention to it. Presently the adult flew off, alighted out of sight, and started singing again. The young bird followed it.

On four dates in May 1970 I saw a single singing bird in the area. On each of six visits in June 1970 I saw a pair of birds. On one of these visits (21 June) I observed one bird on the ground, searching for nest material, while another, probably its mate, sang whisper-songs from an exposed perch about 40 feet overhead. Though the day was calm, I could barely hear this song. I moved so as to get a better look: the singing bird did not, so far as I could tell, open its bill at all. The bird on the ground was not wary. When it flew off, it had dry grass in its bill. Though I followed it, I did not see it again.

On 28 July 1970 I located a singing bird at the top of a short dead juniper. After singing briefly, it flew down to a fallen tree and disappeared in the tangle of branches. Presently a streaked-breasted young bird, with wings quivering and beak open, moved into sight and the adult, having found a caterpillar, fed its offspring.

On 11 September 1971, I "squeaked" a family group of four birds close. The two young birds, with streaked breasts, approached to within about 15 feet. The adults stayed farther off, calling *teer, teer, teer* continually, until all four birds slipped away.

In Oklahoma, where *Aimophila ruficeps* is regularly two-brooded, it may, during exceptionally dry seasons, nest in the fall: a singing male with greatly enlarged testes was collected on 11 September 1953 in the Arbuckle Mountains about 50 miles north of the Juniper Point Recreation Area (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, p. 614). My observations reported above may indicate a slight recent eastward extension of range. Wolfe, in his "Check-list of the birds of Texas" (1956: 78), states that the species ranges "east to Cooke County," the county just west of Grayson. On 2 July 1954, George M. Sutton collected a male Rufous-crowned Sparrow in juvenal plumage (UOMZ 1250) among rocks along the shore of Lake Texoma near Willis, Marshall County, south-central Oklahoma, in an area directly north of Grayson County, Texas.—Karl W. Haller, *Box 1615, Austin College, Sherman, Texas 75090, 12 August 1972*.

FROM THE EDITOR: The death of Zella Moorman in late January dealt a blow felt by every member of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, especially by those of us who have been concerned with the *Bulletin*. Miss Moorman was herself a tireless and careful observer; more than this, she encouraged her friends to watch birds closely, to take notes carefully, and to report their findings. She has contributed several excellent notes to the *Bulletin*. One of these appears in this issue.

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