

anche County is of three birds seen by A. F. Halloran and G. M. Sutton in the same general area on 24 June 1960. One of these, a male with much enlarged testes (UOMZ 3938), was collected that day (Davis and Halloran, 1962, South-west. Nat., 7: 264).

WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE, CACHE, OKLAHOMA 73527, 9 FEBRUARY 1976

GENERAL NOTES

Birds killed at a TV tower near Coweta, Oklahoma.—In October 1974 many birds were found dead under a TV tower 2 miles north of Coweta, Wagoner County, northeastern Oklahoma (see Norman, 1975, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 8: 25-27). In mid-September 1975 I picked up many more birds under the same tower. A listing of these is in order despite the fact that I found nothing very surprising.

On the morning of 12 September I found the following, none of which appeared to have been dead more than a day or so: 1 Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), 1 Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*), 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*: wing only), 1 Black-billed Cuckoo (*C. erythrophthalmus*), 3 Gray Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 2 Swainson's Thrushes (*Catharus ustulatus*), 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), 3 Red-eyed Vireos (*Vireo olivaceus*), 2 Warbling Vireos (*V. gilvus*), 4 Black-and-white Warblers (*Mniotilta varia*), 10 Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica petechia*), 1 Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), 2 Northern Waterthrushes (*S. noveboracensis*), 9 Mourning Warblers (*Oporornis philadelphia*), 2 Wilson's Warblers (*Wilsonia pusilla*), 3 Canada Warblers (*W. canadensis*), 3 Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), 3 Northern Orioles (*Icterus galbula*), and 5 Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*).

On the morning of 13 September I picked up the following, all of which presumably had struck the tower the preceding night: 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 1 Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*), 1 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), 3 Gray Catbirds, 3 Red-eyed Vireos, 1 Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*), 1 Black-and-white Warbler, 1 Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), 1 Yellow Warbler, 1 Northern Waterthrush, 1 Wilson's Warbler, and 1 Northern Oriole.

On the morning of 15 September I picked up the following: 1 Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), 1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), 1 House Wren, 1 Gray Catbird, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 3 Red-eyed Vireos, 1 Philadelphia Vireo, 8 Black-and-white Warblers, 1 Yellow Warbler, 1 Mourning Warbler, 1 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), 2 Northern Orioles, 2 Dickcissels, and 1 Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus sавannarum*).

The most notable of the above-listed specimens, most of which are being preserved as skeletons, are probably the two Philadelphia Vireos, a species long thought to migrate through Oklahoma only in spring (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 482); the Black-billed Cuckoo, which has not heretofore been reported from Wagoner County; and three of the Northern Orioles, all of which were of the black-headed "Baltimore" type picked up on 12 September. Interesting also is the fact that the important genus *Dendroica* is represented by only one species, the Yellow Warbler, this despite the fact that several species of the genus either breed in or move through eastern Oklahoma more or less regularly. Perhaps the most striking fact of all is that I found only one Nashville Warbler: on 9 October 1974 I picked up 64 specimens of this species (Norman, *op. cit.*, p. 26), one that observers will surely agree is among the commonest transient birds of Oklahoma in both spring and fall.

The weather from 12 to 15 September was in no way exceptional in northeastern Oklahoma.—James L. Norman, 502 N. 14th St., Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401, 10 March 1976.

Prairie Falcon in Tulsa County in late May.—The Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), a more or less montane species, has been sighted in northeastern Oklahoma from time to time in fall, winter, and early spring, but not heretofore at other seasons. Though not strongly migratory, it wanders from its rough western "homeland" after the breeding season.

At about 1130 on 30 May 1976, while my husband Kenneth and I were driving about the prairielands of northern Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma, looking for Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*), we saw a large bird that at first we thought was an owl because of its pale brown color. It was perched in a tree not far from a ranch house about 3 miles west and 2 south of Collinsville. When we stopped the car, the bird flew, giving us a glimpse of its falcon-shaped wings before passing back of the ranch buildings. It alighted on a utility pole west of the buildings. Here we inspected it through good binoculars, noting its streaked underparts and indistinctly barred tail. When I opened the car door, hoping to set up a spotting scope, the falcon flew, again passing back of the ranch buildings on its way to some trees.

Presently it flew again toward the utility pole, but it alighted instead on a wire where we were able to observe it for about five minutes. We clearly saw the dark vertical mark on each side of its head. We decided that no Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) could come as close as this to being clay-colored on its upperparts. As it flew we did our best to see the black axillars, but its rapid downward flight prevented our seeing this important fieldmark.

On 25 January 1975, John S. Tomer and Richard Sherry saw a Prairie Falcon in this same part of Tulsa County. But finding the species here on 30 May was puzzling. Perhaps the high winds that had torn across western Oklahoma the preceding day were responsible for the bird's presence.—Elizabeth Hayes, 5307 E. 27th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114, 6 June 1976.

Black-bellied Plover in Oklahoma in July.—In late afternoon on 19 July 1975 (air temperature about 95° F.), while Dotty M. Goard and I were looking for shorebirds on a large mudflat along the east shore of Oologah Reservoir just south of Winganon, Rogers County, northeastern Oklahoma, we observed a Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) for some time through Mrs. Goard's 30x spotting scope. The bird must have been an adult largely in breeding feather for it was boldly black-and-white in general appearance. It was noticeably heavier than the Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*) that were feeding nearby. Heat waves made observation difficult; but when the bird lifted its wing I could see the black axillars. According to Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 177), August 2 is the earliest Oklahoma date for the southward migration of this species: on 2 August 1943, Seth H. Low saw a Black-bellied Plover at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Alfalfa County, north-central Oklahoma.—Ella L. Delap, 409 Wyandotte, Dewey, Oklahoma 74029, 10 October 1975.

Common Snipe in Oklahoma in midsummer.—On 5 July 1973 I flushed a Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*) along a sluggish, marshlike stretch of Indian Creek about 6½ miles southeast of Woodward, Woodward County, northwestern Oklahoma. The bird evidently had been finding food among the sedge (*Eleocharis* sp.) and cattail (*Typha* sp.) bordering the stream. Three days later (8 July) I flushed another Common Snipe from weeds along the southwest shore of Webb's Lake, a playa lake 7 miles east and ½ mile south of Hardesty, Texas County, in the Panhandle. This low-lying area does not always hold water, but if there has been much rain the pond covers a considerable north-south stretch of section-line road.

The two snipes just reported might, of course, have been arrivals from the north, but the possibility that they had bred or been reared in Oklahoma must be borne in mind. R. Crompton Tate found a Common Snipe nest (3 eggs) on 3 June 1910 near Kenton, Cimarron County, at the west end of the Panhandle (Tate, 1923, Proc. Oklahoma Acad. Sci., 3: 42; Nice, 1931, Birds of Oklahoma, p. 89; Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 182). According to data on file at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, the earliest Oklahoma date for *Capella gallinago* in southward migration is 21 July 1963, when W. Marvin Davis saw a snipe at fishery ponds 1 mile northeast of Armstrong, Bryan County, southeastern Oklahoma. Dr. Davis saw a snipe at the same ponds a week later. The latest spring specimen on record for Oklahoma was collected on 12 May 1960 by George M. Sutton in Alfalfa County at a fishery pond 2 miles north of the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge headquarters buildings. The latest spring sighting for the state since 1910 was of two birds flushed on 17 May 1937 along the Cimarron River near Kenton by J. B. Semple and George M. Sutton.

The Common Snipe is not known to breed in New Mexico (Bailey, Florence M., 1928, Birds of New Mexico, p. 256; Ligon, 1960, New Mexico birds and where to find them, p. 115; Hubbard, 1970, Check-list of the birds of New Mexico, pp. 30-31); it does breed in Colorado, however, usually (perhaps always) at elevations greater than that of the highest point in Oklahoma (Bailey and Niedrach, 1965, Birds of Colorado, 1: 327). The San Luis Lakes, where Aiken found the species breeding in 1875 (Bailey, Florence M., loc. cit.) are about 155 miles west-northwest of Kenton, Oklahoma.—Jack D. Tyler, Department of Biology, Cameron College, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501, 8 November 1973.

Red Knot in north-central Texas.—Each year from 1969 through 1973 I have recorded the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) on the Big Mineral Arm of Lake Texoma in the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge about 9.1 km southwest of Pottsboro, Grayson County, north-central Texas. In 1969 I saw it on four occasions—on 30 August a flock of five, four in mixed feather, one decidedly red below; on 31 August, in the same area, one not very red bird; on 1 September the same (or another) not very red bird; on 5 October a wholly gray bird whose back had a scaled appearance and whose underparts were without a trace of red. When put to flight, this bird gave two calls, a *knut-knut* repeatedly, a *wah-quoit* occasionally, but it stopped calling when it alighted at the base of a steep rocky bank and began feeding at the water's edge. When flushed a second and third time, it uttered again the *knut-knut* call.

In 1970 I saw the Red Knot twice—on 4 August a flock of four birds, all in winter feather, on 15 October a single bird also in gray feather. The October bird took flight without being flushed, called *knut-knut* as it flew to damp ground about 20 meters from the water's edge, and started feeding.

In 1971 I did not see the species in summer, but on 17 October I observed a single all-gray bird for about half an hour. Though I put it to flight several times, it did not call.

In 1972 I saw the species briefly on 10 and 12 August, possibly the same bird on each date. It was obviously molting, for the red of the faded breeding plumage was mixed with gray. On neither occasion did it call.

In 1973 I saw the species once. On 9 September, while I was watching a mixed flock of shorebirds, a Red Knot flew in from the northwest, settled with the flock, preened briefly, then flew off a way and proceeded to feed by itself within about 50 meters of me. While I watched through my spotting scope, it suddenly flew up, called *knut-knut* as it circled low over the feeding area several times, and to my surprise headed south and out of sight.

As for Texas as a whole, Red Knot records have been summarized thus: "Late Mar. to late May; late Aug. to early Nov.—a few locally to late Dec. (extremes: Feb. 10, June

16, July 1, Jan. 2). Common to fairly common along coast; rare to casual (most records in fall) through interior. May occasionally winter in small numbers locally along coast, but over-winter records lacking" (Oberholser, 1974, *The bird life of Texas*, Univ. Texas Press, 1: 344). Oklahoma records have been summarized thus: "July 26 to October 18; May 14, 15; records chiefly for Oklahoma County, but reported also from Washington, Bryan, Alfalfa, and Cimarron counties" (Sutton, 1974, *A check-list of Oklahoma birds*, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., p. 15).

From the above it appears that *Calidris canutus* is a regular, though uncommon, south-bound transient in Oklahoma and north-central Texas, less regular and decidedly uncommon in spring. In north-central Texas I have not seen the species at any season since 1973, and I have yet to see it in this area in spring.—Karl W. Haller, *Box 1615, Austin College, Sherman, Texas 75090, 18 February 1974*.

Sanderling in southwestern Oklahoma.—At about 1830 on 17 September 1975, along the sandy northeast shore of Lake Altus in Kiowa County, southwestern Oklahoma, about 6 miles west and 2 south of the town of Lone Wolf, I observed two Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*) in "white" winter plumage. The birds stayed close to each other, allowing me to approach to within about 20 yards. I clearly saw the black bills and legs and—when the twosome flew—the white wing-stripes. Air temperature was about 60° F., light conditions excellent.

According to the summary of records at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, there are only two other Sanderling records for southwestern Oklahoma. On 25 September 1967, Janet M. McGee, Dorothy A. Paul, *et al.* observed two birds at close range at Clear Creek Lake near Marlow, Stephens County. On 13 May 1971, I saw two birds at Lake Ellsworth in Comanche County, 3 miles south of Apache. Sutton (1967, *Oklahoma birds*, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, pp. 204-205) mentions no record of any sort for southwestern Oklahoma.—Brad Carlton, *5949 Northwest 27th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127, 26 September 1975*.

Cleveland and Oklahoma county records for the Rock Wren.—During the past 35 years the Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) has been recorded eight times in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties, central Oklahoma, as follows: on 7 April 1920, when H. M. Hefley saw one at a brick kiln in Norman, Cleveland County (Nice, 1931, *Birds of Oklahoma*, p. 137); on 5 October 1921, when Margaret M. Nice observed one along Snail Brook in or near Norman as it ran over logs, "the best substitute for rocks that it could find" (Nice, 1928, *Proc. Oklahoma Acad. Sci.*, 7: 89 and 1931, *loc. cit.*); on 8 October 1950, when H. P. Clemens *et al.* saw one in a washed-out roadbed near Lexington, Cleveland County (1951, *Audubon Field Notes*, 5: 26); on 10 November 1957, when W. M. Davis saw one at the Lake Hefner dam in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County; on 4 March 1961, when J. D. Ligon collected a male specimen (UOMZ 4654) at the same dam; on 30 September 1965, when Dan F. Penney and I observed one for fifteen minutes or so as it moved about under cars parked near the Bird Range on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman; on 16 October 1966, when J. S. Weske collected an immature male (UOMZ 5946) along a dirt road 4 miles east and 1½ miles north of Norman; and from 1-31 December 1969, when J. G. Newell *et al.* saw one repeatedly at the Lake Hefner dam (1970, *Audubon Field Notes*, 24: 370, 517).

Six of the above-discussed records fall definitely within the season of southward migration for passerine birds of the Northern Hemisphere. One is a winter record. One (7 April) falls within the Rock Wren's breeding season. Considered offhand, the records seem to represent a scattering eastward from established breeding areas in western Oklahoma, a mere scattering rather than migration in the accepted sense of the word. It must be remembered, however, that *Salpinctes obsoletus* breeds well to the north of Oklahoma as well as in western Oklahoma—in "central southern British Columbia . . .

southern Alberta . . . , southwestern Saskatchewan . . . , western North Dakota . . . , and southern South Dakota . . ." (1957, AOU Check-list, p. 421); that it is "resident [only] in the southern part of its range" (Bent, 1948, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 195: 292); and that these eight late summer, fall, and spring sightings in central Oklahoma may have been of birds that were migrating. Banding may eventually give us the answer. Meanwhile, we may continue to be impressed with the fact that there are no records of any sort for the Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*), apparently a strictly non-migratory bird, east of Comanche, Caddo, Canadian, Blaine, and Woodward counties (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 415; Messerly, 1968, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 1: 11-12).—George M. Sutton, *Stovall Museum of Science and History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73019, 10 September 1975.*

Canada Warbler in Comanche County, Oklahoma.—On 8 September 1973, while "birding" with the Lawton-Fort Sill Bird Club along a heavily wooded tributary to Lake Elmer Thomas about 2 miles west of Medicine Park, Comanche County, southwestern Oklahoma, I noticed a rather slow-moving, long-tailed warbler with bright yellow venter and gray upperparts among the shaded lower branches of some small junipers and oaks. It had no wingbars and the conspicuous yellow eye-ring gave it a big-headed appearance. Others joined me in looking at it. Close study revealed that it had a "necklace" of black streaks. We decided that it could be nothing but a Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*). Time: 1100; air temperature about 75° F.; sky overcast; light wind in treeless areas; rain had been falling until about 0730.

At 1745 that same day, Anne Powell and I returned to the place where the bird had been seen, hoping to find it again. By this time the sun was out, the sky partly clear, and the air temperature about 80° F. We found our warbler—this time in company with a female American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), a female Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*), and another Canada Warbler, this one with a necklace so faint that it was barely perceptible.

About noon on 9 September Janet McGee watched what I suspect was one of these same two Canada Warblers for about five minutes in the same heavily wooded area.

Wilsonia canadensis has not heretofore been reported from Comanche County or from any other part of southwestern Oklahoma.—Jack D. Tyler, *Department of Biology, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501, 15 May 1974.*

FROM THE EDITOR: The Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society invites contribution of notes and longer papers concerning the status, distribution, behavior, ecology, and historical aspects of the avifauna of Oklahoma and its contiguous regions. Lead papers require a black-and-white glossy photograph of the subject, preferably 5 x 7 inches. Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate, typed on good quality paper. Depending on the quality and quantity of material at hand, each issue is kept seasonal insofar as possible. General notes are arranged in phylogenetic sequence and an attempt is made to represent as many bird families as possible. To maintain balance further, geographic spread of subject matter and of authorship is sought. Thus a manuscript may be used if it (1) is seasonal, (2) pertains to a bird family or an area for which little or no other material is available, and (3) is authored by a person (or persons) not already represented in that particular issue. Preference naturally is given to members of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society.

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