

Louis Agassiz Fuertes's fine portrait of the "immature" male (1925, Bird-Lore, plate opp. p. 85) clearly shows the green (not red) of the top of the head and the red throat-spotting. The two male birds in the Crawford H. Greenewalt color-photo reproduced in "Song and Garden Birds of North America" (1964, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., p. 64) both appear to be immature; in neither of them has the crown plumage been replaced by "the full perfection of the adult."

5213 SOUTH TOLEDO, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74135, 1 MAY 1976.

ANOTHER NEW BIRD FOR OKLAHOMA: PYRRHULOXIA

BY SEBASTIAN T. PATTI

On 28 December 1975 and again on 1 May 1976, a female Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) was carefully identified and photographed along a short stretch of Texakeet Creek on the Laurance Regnier Ranch about 4 miles south of Kenton, northwestern Cimarron County, Oklahoma. The creek, which is thinly lined with hackberries, cottonwoods, willows, and other deciduous trees, was "dry" on both dates, though where "holes" in its bed were deep there was standing water. Back from the creek, on higher ground, were scattered juniper and mesquite trees and clumps of prickly pear cactus. Those who saw the bird in December — JoAnn Garrett, Nanette Johnson, Jananne McNitt, Margaret Schulenberg, Jean Schulenberg, and myself — are all members of the Kansas



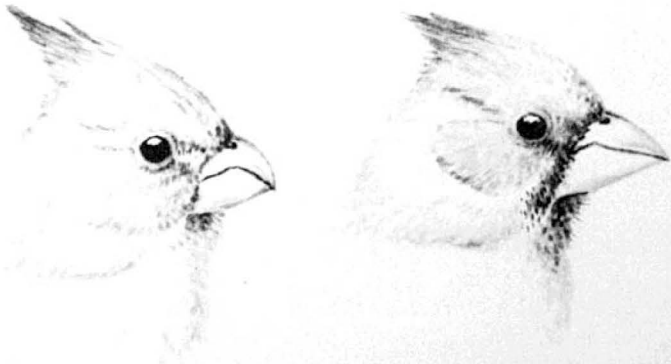
PYRRHULOXIA

Female bird photographed by JoAnn Garrett along Texakeet Creek near Kenton, Cimarron County, Oklahoma on 28 December 1975. Note that the bill is blunter and the crest longer than that of a Cardinal.

Ornithological Society. Those who saw it in May were Jack D. Tyler, David A. Wiggins, and the following members of Dr. Tyler's class in ornithology at Cameron University: Stephen A. Krasovetz, Michael J. Lodes, Stephen F. Chapman, John L. Younger, and Debra D. McGuffin. Photographs taken (in December by Garrett and Jean Schulenberg, in May by Wiggins) are not very good, but all of them show the distinctively shaped bill, and one clearly shows the slight recurvature of the long crest.

The Kansas group observed the bird for some time under ideal light conditions in late morning and the following color description is taken from my notes made at that time: upperparts — back, rump, and head titmouse gray; crest gray, becoming red toward the tip; eye-ring reddish; underparts generally lighter gray than the back; upper breast warm buff; tail grayish, upper surface showing no red except in flight, but under surface reddish both during flight and while the bird was at rest; wings grayish with only a trace of red visible when the bird was perched, but remiges showing extensive red in flight; bill pale yellow. Perhaps the single most distinctive field mark was the sharply decurved culmen, which gave the bill an almost parrot-like appearance; voice — a "chip" like that of a Cardinal [*Cardinalis cardinalis*].

That afternoon Garrett and Schulenberg photographed the bird, but unfortunately the excellent light of morning had given way to heavily overcast skies as the wind increased and the temperature fell. Consequently, the bird became



TO SHOW HOW THEY DIFFER

Female Pyrrhuloxia (left) and female Cardinal, showing bill- and crest-differences. From wash drawing by George Miksch Sutton.

rather inactive and much less cooperative. Two pictures taken by Garrett, although dim, clearly show the distinctive Pyrrhuloxia bill.

In May, when Dr. Tyler and his students happened upon the bird, it was about 200 yards north of the Regnier ranch house. David Wiggins took recognizable photographs which are now on file at Cameron University and at the University of Oklahoma. The bird was in a hackberry tree when photographed.

The occurrence of the Pyrrhuloxia in the Oklahoma Panhandle is unexpected. The AOU Check-list of North American Birds (1957, p. 548) states that *C. sinuatus* ranges from "central southern and southeastern Arizona, southern New Mexico, and western, central, and southeastern Texas south . . ." In Arizona, the species is largely restricted to the Lower Sonoran Zone south of the Gila River (Phillips *et al.*, 1964, The birds of Arizona, Univ. Arizona Press, Tucson, p. 177); in New Mexico, it is "confined to the Lower Sonoran Zone in the southern part of the state" (Ligon, 1961, New Mexico birds, Univ. New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, p. 270; in Texas, it ranges as far north as the southern part of the Panhandle (Oberholser, 1974, The bird life of Texas, Univ. Texas Press, Austin, p. 855), a distance of about 275 air miles from the Black Mesa country of Oklahoma.

Although the appearance of this southwestern bird in Oklahoma cannot easily be explained, the species does tend to wander after the breeding season, especially in winter. Phillips *et al.* (*op. cit.*, p. 178) comment that: "Contrasted with the steady expansion in breeding range of the more sedentary Cardinal, extensions, retractions, wanderings, and migrations are shown in the more mobile Pyrrhuloxia." Oberholser (*loc. cit.*) makes this comment: "Since the 1880's, mesquite has been pushing northward into the [Texas] Panhandle; by the 1940's, it was widespread in all but the northernmost tier of counties. The Pyrrhuloxia has followed this invasion as far as the southern Panhandle, so that it now occurs farther north than range maps based solely on old data indicate."

6528 WENONGA TERRACE, MISSION HILLS, KANSAS 66208, 19 OCTOBER 1976.

ANOTHER NEW BIRD FOR OKLAHOMA: COMMON REDPOLL

BY ELIZABETH C HAYES

From 3 to 12 March 1976 a Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) visited a feeder just outside a kitchen window at the southeast corner of the residence of Ervin Blevins and his wife Alice at 4239 S. 26th West Avenue in Tulsa, Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma. The weather on 3 March was cold and rainy, but the 10-day period as a whole was unseasonably mild, the air temperature only infrequently dropping as low as freezing. Other birds that visited the feeder during the period were Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*), Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*), and American Goldfinches (*C. tristis*) chiefly. At least 42 persons, most of them members of the Tulsa Audubon Society, observed the