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

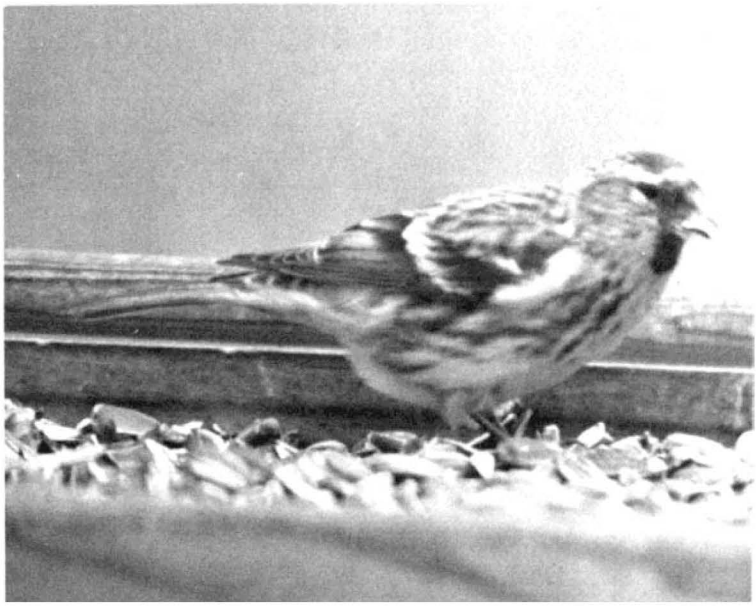
BY ELIZABETH C. HAYES

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

redpoll. Identifiable photographs, many in color, were taken by Robert Farris, H. L. Keating, Wallace Whaling, and myself — all of Tulsa — and by John S. Shackford and Wesley Isaacs of Oklahoma City.

The redpoll appeared to be a female, for there was not a trace of pink on its breast. Its upperparts, sides, and flanks were heavily streaked with brown of a shade close to that of a female Purple Finch. A light line across the forehead just in front of the red cap extended back over each eye. The two light wingbars were distinct, though not conspicuous. The bill was conical, sharply pointed, and yellow. A noticeable feature was the blackish gray chin. The rump, though a trifle paler than the back, was distinctly streaked, thus ruling out the possibility that the bird was a Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemannii*). The streaking on the rump was especially visible when the bird flew off.

The comings and goings of the bird were unpredictable. Hopeful "watchers" sometimes waited an hour or more before it appeared. During the first few days it would stay only a moment, picking hurriedly through the sunflower seed chaff left by other birds. After Ervin Blevins added "wild bird mix" to the provender, it remained for longer periods, eating small grains, millet, and finely cracked corn. Intolerant of the usually belligerent siskins, it would lower its head and



COMMON REDPOLL

Photographed at a feeding counter in Tulsa, Oklahoma on 6 March 1976 by Elizabeth C. Hayes.

drive them off whenever they came too close. No one observed it obtaining food anywhere except at the Blevins feeder.

At about 1050 on 5 March, Hannah Bass and I heard the redpoll give a series of faint warbling trills, a kind of whisper song, suggesting that the bird might have been an immature male. Female redpolls are not known to sing, the calls given by "both parents when they are anxious," as reported by Lawrence I. Grinnell (in Bent, 1968, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237, Pt. 1, p. 417), not being songs in the accepted sense of that word.

Hazel Ekholm, formerly of Connecticut, but now a resident of Tulsa, and familiar with both the Common Redpoll and the Hoary in the field, concurs in our identification of the Tulsa bird as a Common Redpoll.

There are two other Oklahoma records for *Carduelis flammea*. On 23 January 1946, Marguerite H. Baumgartner observed one at close range as it was eating wild sunflower seeds near Stillwater, Payne County, north-central Oklahoma (Baumgartner and Howell, 1948, Proc. Oklahoma Acad. Sci., 27: 58; Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 592). On 8, 10, and 12 January 1976, Hubert Frings and his wife Mable observed one at a feeder in their yard in Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma (Frings and Frings, 1976, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 9: 16).

5307 E. 27TH PLACE, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74114, JUNE 15, 1976.

GENERAL NOTES

Third specimen of Ross's Goose for Oklahoma.—On 15 November 1975 I shot as game a Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) in a public hunting area near the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge in Johnston County, southeastern Oklahoma. The bird was feeding with a flock composed of several small Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) and one "mixed blue-snow" Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*); it was obviously immature, for there was a good deal of gray on its head, hind neck, and other upperparts. George M. Sutton, who prepared the specimen (female, UOMZ 11131), found it to be exceedingly thin (weight 1105.4 grams); its ovary was unenlarged but distinct; an old wound in the manus of the right wing caused one primary feather to be considerably out of alignment. The specimen appears to be the third to have been taken in Oklahoma (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 6).—Paul W. Newsom, *537 N. E. Fifth St., Lexington, Oklahoma 73051, 1 November 1976.*

Albinistic Turkey Vulture in Harmon County, Oklahoma.—In the early afternoon on 28 September 1976, about 3 miles west of Hollis, Harmon County, southwestern Oklahoma, I noticed a strange-looking bird soaring with five Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) just north of U. S. Highway 62. The puzzling bird's whole tail was white, though badly soiled, a few secondary wing feathers were white, and there were scattered white patches on its back between the base of the tail and the nape. As I watched it through my binocular, it flew above me at a height of about 40 feet. I saw its naked red head clearly. Without doubt it was a Turkey Vulture. The six birds had been attracted by a badly decomposed carcass not far from the highway. There was no wind; the sky was clear; the