

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

air temperature was about 80° F.—William G. Voelker, *Box 384, Cyril, Oklahoma 73029*, 26 October 1976.

**Second and third specimens of Yellow Rail for Oklahoma.**—On the morning of 27 September 1976 I found a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) dead under the KTUL TV tower 2 miles north of Coweta, Wagoner County, northeastern Oklahoma. The specimen (adult female, UOMZ 11137) was prepared by George M. Sutton, who found it to be very fat (weight, 55.3 grams). It is the second of this species for the state, the first having been taken by H. L. Eustis on 7 March 1842 in Delaware County at old Fort Wayne near the Oklahoma-Arkansas state line (Tomer, 1959, *Auk*, 76: 94-95; Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma birds*, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 163). The site of Fort Wayne is only about 60 miles from Coweta. On the morning of 3 October I found another dead Yellow Rail under the same tower. This one was so mangled that it will be prepared not as a skin but as a skeleton. The many other birds found dead under the tower on the two dates just mentioned will be reported on later.—James L. Norman, *502 N. 14th St., Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401*, 4 November 1976.

**Greater Yellowlegs in central Oklahoma in winter.**—At about 1145 on 20 December 1975 (sunny day with slight wind; air temperature about 50° F. at noon), while participating in a Christmas Count, I observed a Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) for ten minutes or so at an ice-covered pond in Canadian County, central Oklahoma, about 5 miles northwest of Lake Overholser and Oklahoma City. When I first saw the bird it was flying down to a bit of shallow water along a thawed stretch of shore. I noted its long yellow legs, white rump, and largely white tail as it alighted. It allowed me to approach to within about 60 feet. Through my 7 × 35 binocular I clearly saw its long, slightly upturned bill. As it flew up, it gave three sharp calls. It crossed the pond and alighted near a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), giving me an excellent chance to see that it was much larger than that bird.

According to summaries of sightings on file at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, the Greater Yellowlegs is a hardier bird than the Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). In southward migration the Greater has been seen in Oklahoma repeatedly as late as late November and early December, while the Lesser has been seen no later than 16 November. In spring the Greater has been seen as early as 23 February, the Lesser no earlier than 4 March. The only mid-winter sightings of the Greater heretofore on record (21 December to 23 February) are all from the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River below the spillway of the Salt Plains Reservoir dam in Alfalfa County, north-central Oklahoma (Sutton, 1974, *A check-list of Oklahoma birds*, *Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist.*, Univ. Oklahoma, p. 15). There is no winter record for the Lesser in Oklahoma.—John S. Shackford, *10731 N. Western, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73114*, 15 August 1976.

**Inca Dove in Caddo County, Oklahoma.**—On 31 October 1975, along the west edge of a sorghum field at the north end of Lake Ellsworth and 1½ miles south of Apache, Caddo County, southwestern Oklahoma, Owen J. Felis (my husband) and I happened upon an Inca Dove (*Scardafella inca*) that was feeding in a furrow. The field was bounded on the south and east by the lake, on the north by open grassland, on the west by deciduous bottomland woods. The bird was not particularly wild; my husband collected it without difficulty. The specimen (sex uncertain) proved to be young; it weighed 43.8 grams. The stomach contained 61 seeds of wild sunflower (*Helianthus* sp.). The skin is now No. 607 in the collection of the Museum of Zoology at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma.

The Inca Dove has heretofore been reported from Cimarron, Harper, Jackson, Kay, Oklahoma, and Cleveland counties, Oklahoma (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, *Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist.*, Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 20). The several sightings of one to four birds in Altus, Jackson County, reported by Tyler (1974, *Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc.*, 7: 63-64) are the only other sightings on record for southwestern Oklahoma.—Cindy A. Felis, 102 Cimarron Trail, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501, 15 January 1976.

**Oklahoma fall records for the Yellow-throated Warbler.**—A Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) found dead on 6 October 1972 in Johnstone Park, Bartlesville, Washington County, northeastern Oklahoma, was taken to the Public Library, where it was tentatively (and correctly) identified as a Sycamore Warbler by H. E. Winn, Librarian, and turned over to me. I sent it to George M. Sutton, at the University of Oklahoma, who found it to represent *D. d. albilora*, the white-browed, western race of Yellow-throated Warbler described by Ridgway in 1873 and widely known as the Sycamore Warbler because it has so often been found along streams where sycamores grow. The skull of the specimen was largely unossified. The superciliary line was white, with only the faintest hint of yellow above and in front of the eye. The outermost right rectrix was little more than half its full length, probably a result of accidental feather-loss. The specimen (UOMZ 7382, female), prepared by Dr. Sutton, is now in the University of Oklahoma collection.

*Dendroica dominica* has never before been taken in the fall in Oklahoma. According to records filed at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, it has been seen at that season largely in the northeastern part of the state. Fall records are: 1 September 1950, one seen at Wister Reservoir, LeFlore County, southeastern Oklahoma by J. L. Norman; 2, 3, and 4 September 1972, species seen in Tulsa, Tulsa County, by L. B. Reynolds and his wife Anne, one bird on September 2, two on September 3, two on September 4; 3 and 7 September 1965, one seen each date in Johnstone Park, Bartlesville by H. W. Goard and his wife Dotty; 10 September 1955, one seen in Mohawk Park, Tulsa by L. B. Reynolds, Anne Reynolds, O. W. Letson, and Ethel Letson; 10 September 1967, one seen in the same park by Ethel Getgood *et al.* (1968, *Audubon Field Notes*, 22: 59); 19 September 1956, one seen in the same park by Anne Reynolds and Ethel Letson; 21 September 1969, one seen in Tulsa by John F. Rodgers and his wife Lois; 6 October 1972, one found dead in Bartlesville as reported above; and 10 October 1974, one seen in Tulsa by Lois Rodgers. It is obvious that the Yellow-throated Warbler is commoner in fall in Oklahoma than has been supposed.—Sophia C. Mery, 345 S. E. Boston, Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003, 10 November 1974.

**Dickcissel in winter in central Oklahoma.**—On 16 of the 40 days from 10 January through 18 February 1975 my daughter Elizabeth and I observed a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in our yard in rural McClain County, central Oklahoma, about 5 miles southwest of the main postoffice in the city of Norman. The bird always fed on the ground where we had continued to scatter a commercial wild-bird seed mix. Other birds that fed at the same spot were chiefly House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), most of them females, and Harris's Sparrows (*Zonotrichia querula*). The earliest hour at which we saw the Dickcissel was 0730, the latest 1915. We have no idea where it was while away from the spot. Our house, at the edge of a wooded part of our 40 acres, is almost surrounded by pasture and small-grain fields.

The Dickcissel was less excitable than the House Sparrows. It often remained on the ground and continued feeding after the sparrows had flown off. We clearly saw it on many

occasions and carefully noted certain diagnostic marks. We believe it was a female, since we could see no chestnut on the lesser wing coverts.

*Spiza americana* has not heretofore been reported from central Oklahoma in winter. There are four other winter records for the state, all for northeastern counties—two for Tulsa County (14 November 1969 to 25 March 1970; 27 December 1970), one for Washington County (1-8 February 1966), and one for Muskogee County (7 January 1973); each of these records was of a single bird (Sutton, 1974, A check-list Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 42).—Patricia Bergey, *Route 1, Box 151 B, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 9 April 1975.*

**FROM THE EDITOR:** With great sadness we must report the death on 27 August 1976 of Walter Doane, a loyal member of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society and our Treasurer since 1970. He wrote several articles for *The Scissortail*, some of them dealing with his experiences in Colima, southwestern Mexico. His wit and perpetual good-naturedness will be sorely missed.

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