

after returning to the surface. After consuming all they wanted, they floated or flew downstream where, standing in shallow water or on a low mudbank, they rested. On mild days they often flew back to the reservoir after a short rest, but on cold days they lingered along the river, sometimes for several hours. In bad weather the afternoon feeding period sometimes started as early as 1400 and it seemed to us that the birds moved back and forth more often than usual, as if requiring more food when circumstances were adverse. Proof of this would, of course, require marking birds and watching them.

If mergansers feeding below the spillway were disturbed while feeding, they usually flew back to the reservoir for a short time, then returned to the favored feeding spot.

529 NORTH BROADWAY, BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA 92225, ROUTE 2, VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA 57069. 18 AUGUST 1975.

## GENERAL NOTES

**Birds killed at a TV tower near Coweta, Oklahoma in the fall of 1976.**—In the fall of 1976 personnel at the KUTL TV tower 2 miles north of Coweta, Wagoner County, northeastern Oklahoma, telephoned me whenever they saw dead birds under the tower. As a result of their calls I visited the tower several times between 1 September and 30 October. The birds that I found did not differ greatly from those found there in the fall of 1974 (Norman, 1975, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 8: 25-27) and 1975 (Norman, 1976, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 9: 20), the most noteworthy of them being two Yellow Rails (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) picked up on 27 September and 3 October and a Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) picked up on 27 September. On the two rail specimens I have reported briefly (1976, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 9: 33). The weather was in no way exceptional throughout the period, a surprising fact related to it being that a cold front in mid-October was not accompanied by a heavy kill at the tower.

On 1 September I found only one bird, a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). On 14 September I again found only one bird, this time a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). Between 14 and 20 September (exact date or dates not recorded), four birds were picked up for me — a Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*), 2 Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), and a parulid or vireonid whose mangled remains were unidentifiable. The plumage of this specimen's upperparts was olive in tone; but the bill-remains were not by any means flat enough or wide enough for a small flycatcher of the genus *Empidonax*.

In Table I (which see) the total of 24 birds shown as having been picked up by me on 20 September includes the four just mentioned (each indicated in the table by an asterisk). Notable among these are the two Carolina Wrens, a species believed to be strictly non-migratory in Oklahoma, if not throughout its range. Quite possibly these wrens killed themselves not at night but while chasing each other recklessly during daylight or twilight hours.

The fact that the Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) was found on four dates in 1976 as well as on several dates in 1974 and 1975 suggests that this bird migrates through Oklahoma in considerable numbers. It is to be looked for from 20 September to 15 October (see Table I) and in spring from 28 April to 18 May (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 34). The Bay-breasted Warbler found on 27 September (male in first

**Table I**  
**Birds Found Dead Under TV Tower in Northeastern Oklahoma, Fall of 1976**

Species	September						October						
	1	14	20	27	28	30	3	7	9	15	26	27	30
Pied-billed Grebe ( <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> )	1												
Ring-necked Duck ( <i>Aythya collaris</i> )										1			
Sora ( <i>Porzana carolina</i> )			1*		1		1		1		2		
Yellow Rail ( <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i> )				1			1						
American Coot ( <i>Fulica americana</i> )								1					
Mourning Dove ( <i>Zenaida macroura</i> )						1							1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> )			3										
Common Nighthawk ( <i>Chordeiles minor</i> )								1					
Common Flicker ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> )			2										
Red-headed Woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> )						1					2		
Brown Creeper ( <i>Certhia familiaris</i> )											1	1	
House Wren ( <i>Troglodytes aedon</i> )		1	1	1					1				
Winter Wren ( <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> )											1	1	
Carolina Wren ( <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i> )			2*										
Long-billed Marsh Wren ( <i>Cistothorus palustris</i> )				1	1				1				
Short-billed Marsh Wren ( <i>Cistothorus platensis</i> )						1							
Gray Catbird ( <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i> )		4	5	2		3							
Brown Thrasher ( <i>Toxostoma rufum</i> )				1		3	1						
Swainson's Thrush ( <i>Catharus ustulatus</i> )					1	1	1						
Golden-crowned Kinglet ( <i>Regulus satrapa</i> )													3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet ( <i>Regulus calendula</i> )						1					8	7	
White-eyed Vireo ( <i>Vireo griseus</i> )		1											
Solitary Vireo ( <i>Vireo solitarius</i> )		1		1									
Red-eyed Vireo ( <i>Vireo olivaceus</i> )		1	3	2	2	2				2			
Philadelphia Vireo ( <i>Vireo philadelphicus</i> )			1	1	4					1			
small vireonid or parulid			1*										
Black-and-white Warbler ( <i>Mniotilta varia</i> )				2	2								
Orange-crowned Warbler ( <i>Vermivora celata</i> )												3	1
Nashville Warbler ( <i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i> )				1					2	2		1	
Yellow-rumped Warbler ( <i>Dendroica coronata</i> )												7	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler ( <i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i> )		1											
Bay-breasted Warbler ( <i>Dendroica castanea</i> )				1									
Ovenbird ( <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i> )					1								
Mourning Warbler ( <i>Oporornis philadelphia</i> )					1								
Common Yellowthroat ( <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> )									1				
Wilson's Warbler ( <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i> )									1				
American Redstart ( <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> )					1								
Bobolink ( <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> )			1										
Western Meadowlark ( <i>Sturnella neglecta</i> )													1
Northern Oriole ( <i>Icterus galbula</i> )		1											
Savannah Sparrow ( <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> )													7
Grasshopper Sparrow ( <i>Ammodramus saviannarum</i> )			1										
Le Conte's Sparrow ( <i>Ammodramus leconteii</i> )											1	8	1
Dark-eyed Junco ( <i>Junco hyemalis</i> )													4
Chipping Sparrow ( <i>Spizella passerina</i> )													1
White-crowned Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> )													1
White-throated Sparrow ( <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> )													3
Lincoln's Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza lincolni</i> )											1		
Swamp Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza georgiana</i> )							1						3
Song Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza melodia</i> )													1

\*Picked up between 14 and 20 September.

winter feather, UOMZ 11307) is the first fall specimen of its species for the state and it represents the third fall record to be reported, the other two being (1) for 8 September 1973, when George M. Sutton saw an immature bird at Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma, and (2) for 14 December 1974, when Warren D. Harden, J. Richard Gilliland, and George M. Sutton saw an immature bird at Norman (1975, Amer. Birds, 29: 172, 476). The two specimens of Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) were both "yellow-shafted"; the nine Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) were all of the white-throated "Myrtle" form, though not necessarily of the eastern race of that form.

A glance at the table clearly shows how species that regularly winter in Oklahoma — e.g., the Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), and Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)—tend to arrive from the north after such transients as the Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) have passed through.—James L. Norman, 502 N. 14th St., Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401, 30 November 1976.

**Late spring sightings of Western Grebe in Oklahoma.**—From 18 to 26 May 1974, I saw a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) repeatedly at Lake Hefner in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, central Oklahoma. On 18 May I was able to approach it to within about 100 yards several times and saw it clearly through my binocular. The dates are late for migration northward. According to records on file at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, the only other May sightings for the state are of a single bird seen on 10 May 1970 by W. D. Harden and his wife Mary Ann at Draper Lake near Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma, and of two birds seen repeatedly from 9 to 13 May 1973 by W. A. Carter, J. D. Tyler, W. D. Harden, Deloris Isted, et al. at Lake Etling, Black Mesa State Park, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma. Only four sightings are on record for April (Ponca City; Lake Altus; Lake Murray; Salt Fork of Arkansas River below Salt Plains Reservoir dam); the several winter records (21 December to 2 February) are for the following counties: Wagoner (3), Tulsa (1), Oklahoma (2), Cleveland (1), Stephens (1), Woodward (1).—J. G. Newell, 4129 N. Everest, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111, 11 January 1977.

**Long-billed Dowitcher in Caddo County, Oklahoma in winter.**—At about 0930 on 2 January 1976, while sitting with Douglas and Rodney Kemper in a duck blind at the north end of Lake Ellsworth, 1½ miles south of Apache in Caddo County, southwestern Oklahoma, I observed a close-knit flock of 12 Long-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) that were feeding near a mud bar about 80 yards south of us. Through my 8-power binocular I clearly saw the birds' dark legs and very long, straight bills. Several Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*) near them were small by comparison. The dowitchers were wading in water an inch or so deep; as they probed in the soft mud their heads went partly under. The sky was somewhat overcast; a 10-15 mph north wind was blowing; the air temperature was 30° F.

Average daily temperature during the last two weeks of December 1975 had been 38° F.; indeed, the whole fall and early winter had been unseasonably mild. The temperature high on 1 January had been 57° F., but a cold front had swept through the area that evening, bringing light snow flurries which lasted until 0900 on 2 January. The dowitchers probably arrived just ahead of this cold front.

According to Sutton (1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 16), *Limnodromus scolopaceus* has not heretofore been recorded in Oklahoma in winter, though it has been seen in the fall as late as 18 December and in spring as early as 21 February.—Jack D. Tyler, Department of Biology, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501, 16 January 1976.