

Carnegie Mus., 18: 231); the song I heard in Norman seemed to me to have the same general pattern, though not quite so many syllables. The day was mild, though hardly springlike; I did, however, hear four-noted spring songs of Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*) that same day.—George M. Sutton, *Stovall Museum of Science and History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73019, 28 July 1975.*

Late winter sighting of Black-throated Sparrow.—In late afternoon on 11 February 1977, after a full day of field-work, I found two Black-throated Sparrows (*Amphispiza bilineata*) about 2 miles east of Kenton, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma. The birds were on the ground under low brush on a rocky slope. I saw them clearly. In the same general area were several Mountain Bluebirds (*Sialia currucoides*), White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), and Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*). According to the summary of records on file at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, *Amphispiza bilineata* has not heretofore been seen in Oklahoma between 2 January and 3 April (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 46). On 2 January 1962, George M. Sutton collected a male specimen (UOMZ 5595) along Texakeet Creek southeast of Kenton (1962, Audubon Field Notes, 16: 242, 346); on 3 April 1966, John S. Weske collected one (female, UOMZ 5878) of two birds that he saw 2½ mi. east of Kenton. It appears from the above that the Black-throated Sparrow winters sparingly in the Black Mesa region.—Debra L. Hickman, *P.O. Box 376, Warner, Oklahoma 74469, 15 March 1977.*

FROM THE EDITOR: A recent article in *The Oklahoma Observer* (1977, 9: 12) by R. John Taylor and his wife Constance, both on the staff of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma, deserves comment. Entitled "Those endangered species," it explores ecological, esthetic, and economic incentives for preserving seemingly insignificant species of plants and animals. The cogent analogy is made between species in their natural environment and thread in woven cloth. Each thread represents a species and the cloth the ecosystem. The cloth weakens in proportion to the number of threads removed because of the interdependence of all organisms. Only a small number of species, among them wheat, corn, chickens, and cattle, are directly "useful" to man; but all of these are descendants of once-wild forms. No species is so trivial that man has a right to obliterate it. What he obliterates might contribute to his survival. Who, for example, would have predicted the derivation of penicillin from bread mold? With increasing world population, destruction of natural areas accelerates proportionately. Forgoing immediate economic gain for intangible values is necessary. Through preserving natural areas we may be protecting ourselves.

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