

some extent, such behavior might be observable in February or January or even December.

ROUTE 4, BOX 182, SALLISAW, OKLAHOMA 74955. 20 SEPTEMBER 1976.

GENERAL NOTES

Early spring date for Green Heron in Oklahoma.—At about 0830 on 22 March 1977 (morning cold and cloudy; air temperature that day 31°F. to 66°F.), several persons, including Elizabeth Hayes and me, saw two Green Herons (*Butorides striatus*) along Bird Creek in the northern part of Mohawk Park in Tulsa, Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma. No part of the creek had frozen at all recently, so far as we could tell. We were looking for Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), a species reported to have bred in the area. As we approached a clearing on the creek bank, I saw a Green Heron perched on a bare branch that jutted over the water from the opposite bank. Presently, joined by a second Green Heron that had been in or under shrubbery close by, it flew downstream low over the water. Everyone clearly saw the two herons as the birds made off.

Scattered early spring and late fall sightings indicate that the Green Heron is to be looked for in winter in Oklahoma in areas having some open water. The only winter record for the state is of a bird seen repeatedly from 4 January to 2 March 1975 along Sandy Creek near Eldorado, Jackson County, southwestern Oklahoma (Tyler and Ault, 1975, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 8: 36), though a bird seen on 27 December 1971 in Ft. Smith, Arkansas (Armstrong, 1972, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 5: 26-27) was within only a few miles of the Oklahoma state line.—Jayne Christo, 5239 S. Sandusky, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135, 9 July 1977.

Early spring sighting of Common Nighthawk in Oklahoma.—Not long before dark on the evening of 14 March 1975, 1 mile north and ¼ mile west of Indianahoma, Comanche County, southwestern Oklahoma, I watched a Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) as it circled above overgrazed pastureland about 30 feet up. The weather was mild, so I assumed that the bird was capturing moths, midges, and other flying insects. The date was exceptionally early for a Common Nighthawk — indeed a full month earlier than 15 April, the date given for arrival of the species from the south by Sutton (1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 22). According to the summary of records kept at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, on 15 April 1974, Kenneth Burns saw four Common Nighthawks circling with six Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) over Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma. The next earliest date on record is 18 April 1904, when G. E. Stilwell saw the species in Custer County, west-central Oklahoma (Nice, 1931, Birds of Oklahoma, p. 108).

I did not, admittedly, note the position of the white patch in each of the nighthawk's wings, so cannot say positively that the bird was not a Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*), a species for which there is one Oklahoma record — that of a male collected by W. Marvin Davis in Boise City, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma on 23 April 1961 (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, p. 275)—but behavior of the bird seemed to me to be that of *Chordeiles minor*.—John W. Ault III, 4213 Bedford Drive, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501, 15 September 1975.

Eastern Phoebe three-brooded in southwestern Oklahoma.—During the nesting season of 1974, three broods of Eastern Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*) fledged at a nest under a concrete overhang in a settling tank at the water-pollution control station at Fort Sill, Comanche County, southwestern Oklahoma. The nest had been built and used the previous season by Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*). In 1974, the phoebes relined it. Whether all three clutches of phoebe eggs were laid by the same female bird I do not know,

for neither the male nor the female was banded or color-marked.

The first egg was laid 21 March; four young hatched from a clutch of five; and three young fledged on 27 or 28 April. The first egg of the second clutch was laid 10 May; four eggs were laid; hatching started 28 May; and four young fledged on or about 16 June. The third clutch, of four eggs, was started 24 June; all eggs had hatched by 11 July; and two young fledged 29 July. I was able to inspect the nest often, for my work required that I visit the station daily except on Sundays. Newly fledged young observed while they were leaving the nest flew strongly.

According to Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 338), nesting of *Sayornis phoebe* in Oklahoma extends from 13 March ("nest building") to 20 July ("brood just out of nest"); he states further that the species is "probably two-brooded as a rule."

Three broods have been mentioned often in the literature, but documentation is lacking. Todd (1940, Birds of Western Pennsylvania, Univ. Pittsburgh Press, p. 345) says: "Phoebes nest early and frequently raise two and sometimes three broods in a season." Simmons (1925, Birds of the Austin region, Univ. Texas Press, p. 157) says: "Two or three broods, generally third week in March, last week in April, and first week in June." Forbush (1927, Birds of Massachusetts and other New England states, Massachusetts Dept. Agric., Norwood, 2: 339) says: "Two broods yearly, sometimes three, when there is a long hot summer."

In the Fort Sill nestings reported above, none of the young birds seemed to be troubled by ectoparasites. Pertinent to this observation is this statement from Lewis O. Shelley: "The first nestings are invariably pretty free from parasitic pests, but second nestings may be literally overrun with mites and possible third broods will often be forced prematurely into leaving the nest. I am of the opinion that mites invariably prevent Phoebes from raising a third brood" (*in Bent*, 1942, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 179: 151).

At no time did I see an egg of the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in the Fort Sill nestings reported above. This is noteworthy, for I did see cowbirds on several occasions near the water-pollution control station and the Eastern Phoebe "is often parasitized by cowbirds" in Oklahoma (Sutton, *loc. cit.*).—Louis E. McGee, 1703 N.W. 43rd St., Lawton, Oklahoma 73505, 9 November 1977.

Third sighting of Violet-green Swallow in Oklahoma.—At about 1100 on 17 April 1976, on the northeast side of Lake Etling in Black Mesa State Park, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma, we sighted a Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*). It was foraging along with Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), and Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) just above the bluffs near the lake. The wind was 25-30 mph and the sky clear. We observed the bird as close as 20 meters (about 65 feet). The white of the throat extended around the eye and included the auricular region. Each side of the rump was white. Scott Wood (field notes), looking at the bird from above, also noted the "green back with violet on the upper tail coverts."

This constitutes the third sighting of the Violet-green Swallow in Oklahoma, the other two also being from Lake Etling (Kaufman, 1971, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 4: 27-28; Tyler, 1972, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 5: 21-22).—Joseph A. Grzybowski, D. Scott Wood, and Gary D. Schnell, *Dept. of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73019, 15 September 1976.*

FROM THE EDITOR: Thanks to Joseph A. Grzybowski for his work with the Bald Eagle halftone that appears in this issue.