with Fred F. Pianalto of Tulsa, in the afternoon with John S. Shackford of Oklahoma City and Deloris Isted of Cushing, Oklahoma.

During the rest of December and in early January, the thrush was seen repeatedly in the same general area of the park not only by Tulsa observers but by bird students from several parts of Oklahoma (1977, Amer. Birds, 32: 371). Herbert L. Keating and his wife Pauline saw it on 17 December, the day of the Christmas Count (1977, Amer. Birds, 32: 437, 761). As a rule it was found feeding in grassy cleared areas, but when disturbed it would retreat to heavy woods. Several good color photographs were taken, two of which (by John Shackford) are on file at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range. One of these is reproduced here.

So far as anyone knows, the thrush was last seen on 10 January 1978. Its observers that day were Elizabeth Hayes and Hazel Ekholm. It was not far from the spot at which it had first been seen. On 11 January a storm covered the ground with several inches of snow. On 15 January, after the snow had started to melt, Richard L. Reeder and I spent three hours looking for the bird. We failed to find it.

On 12 February 1978, Elizabeth and Kenneth Hayes found what they felt sure was a second Varied Thrush in Mohawk Park, this one in an area about half a mile northeast of the spot at which the first bird had been seen. This second bird was described as being paler over-all, and less boldly marked, than the first bird. No one else saw this second bird.

Ixoreus naevius breeds from "Alaska, central Yukon, and northwestern Mackenzie south to northwestern California, northern Idaho, and northwestern Montana," wintering "south to northern Baja California" (1957, AOU Checklist, p. 434). It has not heretofore been reported from Oklahoma, nor has the possibility of its being found here been mentioned in literature dealing with the birdlife of the state.

5911 EAST 46TH STREET, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74135. 18 OCTOBER 1978.

DISPERSAL OF COMMON GRACKLES BANDED IN SOUTH-CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

BY J. E. WATSON AND W. C. ROYALL, JR.

Investigations of bird damage to windrowed peanuts in south-central Oklahoma from 1969 through 1971 showed that losses were caused mainly by Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*). As many as 3.5 million grackles migrate into the area of the Washita River Arm of Lake Texoma and roost there in early November (Mott, D. F., J. F. Besser, R. R. West, and J. W. De Grazio, 1972. Bird damage to peanuts and methods for alleviating the problem, Proc. Vert. Pest Control Conf., 5:118-120). During November 1969-71, 2,075 grackles were banded in peanut-growing areas north and east of Lake Texoma in Johnston, Atoka, and Bryan counties, Oklahoma, to determine their breeding and wintering areas.

Forty-six banded grackles were recovered from late 1969 through 1976

(Fig. 1). Twenty-one recoveries from 4 November through April were obtained within a fairly compact wintering range in eastern Texas and southwestern Arkansas. Twenty-four recoveries in seven states (Kansas and Missouri to Montana and North Dakota) were obtained from March through November; 15 in Kansas and southern Nebraska from 29 April through September suggest that these two states comprised the main breeding range of the banded population. The 46th recovery — a grackle banded in 1971 and recovered within the banding area in August 1976 — does not fit the clear-cut seasonal-geographic

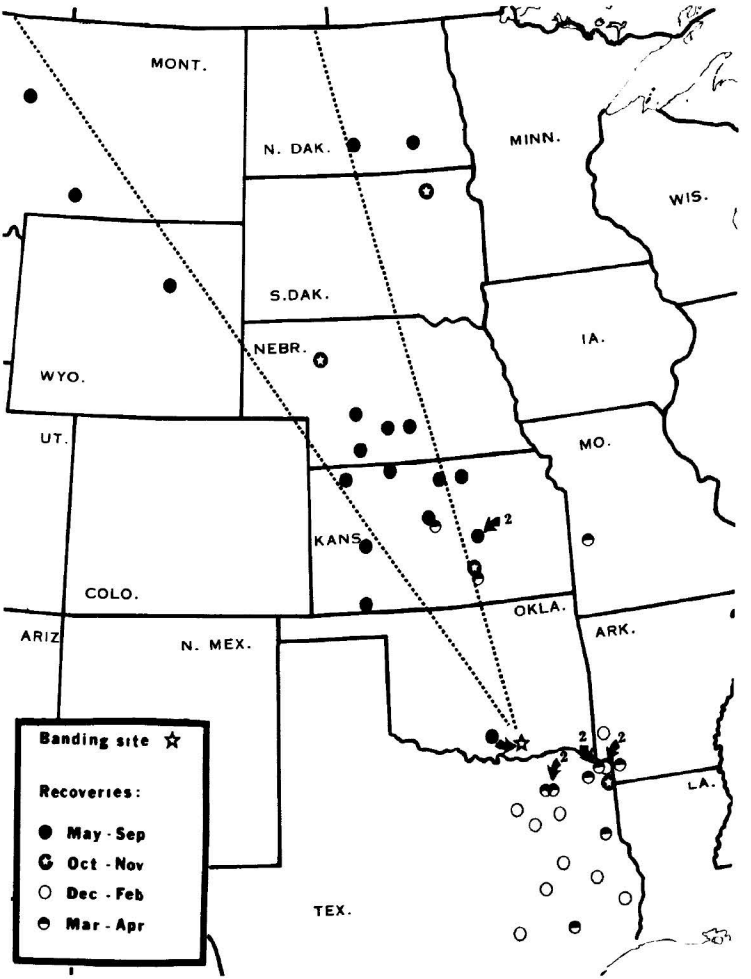

Fig. 1. *Distribution of 46 recoveries of Common Grackles banded in south-central Oklahoma during November 1969-71.*

pattern of the other 45 records. This bird might have bred in the study area.

Of 24 grackles recovered north of Oklahoma, the 9 recovered east of the right dashed line in Figure 1 were banded in 1969 and the 5 recovered west of the left dashed line were banded in 1970 and 1971. The 10 birds recovered between these lines include 6 banded in 1969 and 4 banded in 1970-71. D. P. Fankhauser (1971, Percentages of grackles taken in subsequent breeding seasons in a different breeding area from the area where banded, Bird-Banding, 42:43-45) showed that most grackles return to the same breeding area in subsequent breeding seasons; thus the pattern in Fig. 1 indicates some difference in summer distributions between birds captured in November 1969 and those captured in November of 1970 and 1971. From a review of all banding data, we judge that this is probably a real difference in distributions rather than a chance result.

Based on findings of this and previous studies (Bray, O. E., W. C. Royall, Jr., J. L. Guarino, and J. W. De Grazio, 1973, Migration and seasonal distribution of Common Grackles banded in North and South Dakota, Bird-Banding, 44:1-12; Royall, W. C., Jr., 1973, The Common Grackle in Texas — a review of fifty years of band recovery data, Bull. Texas Orn. Soc., 6:20-22), the study area is an important migration stop for populations breeding from Oklahoma north to South Dakota, primarily Kansas and Nebraska, and wintering in eastern Texas. It is also on the western fringe of the recovery patterns of populations banded in North Dakota and wintering more in Arkansas and Louisiana than in Texas (Bray *et al.*, *op. cit.*) and lies along the northern edge of the winter range of grackles banded in north-central Colorado and recovered in eastern Texas (Mott, D. F., J. L. Guarino, P. P. Woronecki, and W. C. Royall, Jr., 1972, Long-distance recoveries of Common Grackles banded in north-central Colorado, Colo. Field Orn., 12:16-17). This study has shown that the breeding range of Common Grackles extends northwestward at least into Wyoming and western Montana.

Colored plastic leg streamers (Guarino, J. L., 1968, Evaluation of a colored leg tag for starlings and blackbirds, Bird-Banding, 39:6-13) were attached to 1,705 (82%) of the grackles to obtain additional information from sightings of marked birds. The main finding from the use of leg streamers was that color-marked grackles were not seen near their capture locations for more than a day or so. This lack of feeding site fidelity was also revealed by tracking radio-equipped grackles (Bray, O. E., W. C. Royall, Jr., J. L. Guarino, and R. E. Johnson, Activities of radio-equipped Common Grackles in Oklahoma during fall migration (Unpubl. MS in senior author's file).

The capture, banding, and tagging of grackles in this study were performed largely by the authors and J. F. Besser, J. W. De Grazio, D. F. Mott, and R. R. West (deceased).

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, P.O. BOX 162, MARIETTA, OKLAHOMA 73448; DENVER WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, BUILDING 16, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, COLORADO 80225. 30 AUGUST 1977.