

latter two nests to have been built by the same pair of thrashers.

Other evidence of breeding has been found on three occasions. On 3 August 1976 (not 6 August, as reported incorrectly in Tyler, 1979, *loc. cit.*), two young thrashers were observed in mesquite land 6½ miles north and a half mile east of Eldorado. These had a yellowish tinge to their bills, a "scruffy" appearance, and were only two-thirds adult size. A family group of at least six birds was noted 3 miles north and 1½ miles east of town on 31 August 1976 in similar habitat (Tyler, 1979, *loc. cit.*). In a mesquite pasture 4¼ miles north and a half mile east of Eldorado, another family of five thrashers was seen on 1 September 1977.

The nearest known breeding localities to Eldorado are approximately 100 miles south-southwest in Kent County, Texas (Oberholser, 1974, *loc. cit.*), and 120 miles to the northwest in Randall County, Texas (Williams, F., 1975, *Am. Birds* 29:1002). A sight record from King County, Texas, is only about 65 miles south-southwest (Oberholser, 1974, *loc. cit.*). In a study of the summer birds of Wilbarger County, Texas, 25 miles southeast of Eldorado, R. L. More and J. K. Strecker (1929, *Contrib. Baylor Univ. Mus.* 20:3-16) did not report the Curve-billed Thrasher. Recently, however, it has been observed in several nearby Texas counties (Cottle, Foard, Childress, and Hardeman; pers. comm., Peggy Acord) and in a number of other counties in the central and northern Texas panhandle (pers. comm., K. D. Seyffert).

On the basis of the preceding observations, it appears that the Curve-billed Thrasher is a permanent resident in western Jackson County, and should be looked for in adjacent mesquitelands of western Oklahoma and north-western Texas.

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### GENERAL NOTES

**Wood Storks in Lake Texoma area.**—G. M. Sutton (1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, *Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman*, p. 4) reported that non-breeding Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) had been recorded from 1 May to 27 September in Oklahoma, westward to Alfalfa, Cleveland and Oklahoma counties. At 1445 on 19 July 1982, several Wood Storks were observed at the Fobb Bottom Public Hunting Area adjacent to northwestern Lake Texoma, Marshall County, south-central Oklahoma. McCarley and members of his natural history of vertebrates class from the University of Oklahoma Biological Station nearby were seining a small pond when five immature storks started to settle in willow trees (*Salix nigra*) around the pond. These birds flared away when they saw the students. Several minutes later, two birds, then three, flew over but they, too, veered off. McCarley could clearly see their yellow bills and "fuzzy" (partially feathered) heads, convincing him that they were all immature. This sighting apparently constitutes the first record for Marshall County.

On 21 July, 1982, Haller watched five immature Wood Storks at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, Grayson County, Texas, on the Big Mineral Arm of Lake Texoma and about 10 miles (16 km) SSE of the Marshall County

sighting. We believe that these were probably the same individuals seen on 19 July. On 12 August 1982, Haller saw four immature birds on the refuge, but it is not known whether or not these were part of the aforementioned group. Records between 1946 and 1969 at Hagerman Wildlife Refuge show that from 4 August to 25 September, in 1963 and 1964, sightings of from 1 to 58 storks were reported.—Howard McCarley and Karl W. Haller, *Department of Biology, Austin College, Sherman, Texas 75090, 18 February, 1983.*

**Cooper's Hawk nests in Cimarron County, Oklahoma.** — On 13 June 1980, at the Laurance Regnier ranch 4 miles south of Kenton, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma, I was shown the nest of a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) about 20 feet up in a middle-sized tree just north of the house. When Mr. Regnier's wife, Carrie, showed it to me, the female flew from it, voicing a harsh, cackled *ka-ka-ka-ka-ka* as she sped toward a cottonwood nearby and alighted. I did not climb to the nest, for I did not want to disturb the birds. When I returned half an hour later, the female again was there. Since I could not see the heads of young birds, I concluded that the nest probably held eggs or small chicks.

In 1981 a pair of Cooper's Hawks, presumably the same pair, again nested on the Regnier Ranch, this time about 40 feet up in a large cottonwood tree which was several hundred yards upstream (south) from the first nest site. On 6 June, Jack Tyler, John Newell, Wesley Isaacs, John Tomer, Neil Garrison, and I saw the female fly from this nest while the male circled about near the canyon rim. Since we could not see the heads of any young, we concluded that the nest held, once again, eggs or small young.

The Cooper's Hawk has been seen regularly in Cimarron County since the turn of the century, but the nests discussed above are the first to have been reported from there since 1922 (see Nice, M. M., 1931, *The birds of Oklahoma*, Rev. ed., Publ. Univ. Oklahoma Biol. Surv., Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 71). The species is nowhere common in Oklahoma today. — John S. Shackford, *Rt. 1, Box 125, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111, 23 June 1981.*

**Common Grackle nest in tree cavity.** — A recent paper describing a "cavity nest" of the Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) observed in Oswego, New York (see Maxwell, G. R. II, J. M. Nocilly, and R. I. Shearer, 1976, *Wilson Bull.*, 88: 505-507), prompts me to report a "cavity nest" that I found on 31 May 1971 in a dead tree among cottonwoods along the Cimarron River near Kenton, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma. I had been following a female Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) about that morning, for she had had what appeared to be nest material in her bill. While watching her, I noticed that several Common Grackles were flying about above me, one of them a female carrying nest material. The goldfinch flew across the river and out of sight among some willows. Believing that I might lure her back, I "squeaked" loudly, thus exciting the grackles. The goldfinch did not reappear, but almost directly above me I heard the muffled scratching of a female grackle as she moved up and out of a cavity about eight feet from the ground in a not very large tree, probably an ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), whose base was only a few yards

from where I sat. Her excited *chacks* summoned first a male grackle, likely her mate, then a second female grackle. Climbing to the nest was easy enough, but the entrance to the cavity, which was about a foot deep, was narrow, so I had difficulty reaching the four eggs. These I collected. I could not see the nest very clearly, but it felt as if well lined. I collected first the male bird, then the female that had flown from the nest (UOMZ 7133, 7134). The eggs proved to be fresh. The clutch may not have been complete.

A fairly large colony of Common Grackles has nested for years about an iron bridge that crosses Carrizozo Creek, a major tributary to the Cimarron about a mile west of Kenton. I am not sure, however, that a colony nested there in 1971.—George M. Sutton, *Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman 73019, 15 December 1976.*

**Say's Phoebe nest in Beaver County, Oklahoma.**—On the 27th of June, 1983, at 0618, Wayne Lewis, Paul Nighswonger and I, while conducting a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey (Route No. 035) in Beaver County, Oklahoma, heard the call note of a Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) 9 miles west and 2 south of the town of Beaver. Because survey regulations stipulate that observers must remain exactly three minutes at each half-mile interval, we took note of the location and returned at 1030 after we had completed the route, hoping to find a nest. Near the spot where we had heard the call was a 10 x 16 foot open-face shed adjoined by a small corral. As we approached, a pair of phoebes was perched on the corral fence.

Entering the wooden shed, we soon located the nest, which contained four white eggs, possibly a full clutch. However, the birds did not appear to be incubating them yet. The nest, situated on a sill about eight feet off the floor, was composed principally of weed stems but also of leaves, grasses, and other fibrous material.

The species is not known to have bred outside Cimarron County, Oklahoma, at the west end of the panhandle, but according to H. A. Stephens, Say's Phoebe has nested in Seward, Meade, and Clark counties of southwestern Kansas, immediately north of Beaver and Harper counties, Oklahoma (Sutton, G. M., 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p., 340). It has been observed in Oklahoma on numerous occasions during migration as far east as Garfield, Cleveland, Tulsa, and Nowata counties (Sutton, G. M, 1974, A checklist of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 25). — Laurence Dunn, *Gate, Oklahoma 73844, 20 September, 1983.*

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