

GENERAL NOTES

A Black-shouldered Kite in Marshall County, Oklahoma. — On 29 April 1984 at 1300 (CDT), we saw a Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus* — formerly the White-tailed Kite) in southern Marshall County, south-central Oklahoma. We observed the bird for about 30 minutes from distances of 25-150 m (80-500 ft). The sighting was in a mixed grassland-deciduous forest area of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station. Our observations were made during a dust storm commanding west winds of 25-40 kph (16-25 mph). Just one hour before our observation, strong south winds and severe thunderstorms had swept through the area. The white bird with prominent black wing patches was initially perched on a highline wire along U.S. Highway 377 (Oklahoma Highway 99) .5 km (.3 mi) north of the Red River Arm of Lake Texoma. When we approached to within 25 m (80 ft) the kite retreated to a dead tree nearby from which it occasionally soared away, only to return within a few minutes. We saw no other kites in the vicinity and were unable to find this kite there the following day.

Five other records of this species in Oklahoma are known, one nest in 1860 and four sightings since 1982, including two recent nestings. A review of these was presented by Andrew, J. M., *et al.*, 1983, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 16:30-31; see also Kennington, J., 1984, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 17:22. — E. M. Choinski and Steve T. Threlkeld, *University of Oklahoma Biological Station, Star Rt. B, Kingston, Oklahoma 73439, 20 June, 1984.*

First Black-shouldered Kite Record for northeastern Oklahoma — At 11:30 on 19 May 1984, a quiet day with clear skies and a temperature of 75°F, Dee Ann and Barbara Wilson and I were watching birds near the Oxley Nature Center located in Mohawk Park, northeast Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. The 2830-acre park encompasses two small lakes and numerous streams, is forested with open stands of mixed hardwoods and bottomland trees, and lies along the south of Bird Creek. Approximately 500 feet away, we noticed a gull-like bird that continually hovered above a clearing. After viewing it through a 20X telescope, however, we quickly agreed that this bird was not a gull at all, but a kite, because of its long, pointed wings and longish tail. Appearing slightly larger and much whiter than a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), it hovered considerably more than that species. Careful inspection revealed a dark patch around each eye that contrasted sharply with the light gray head color. The general grayness of the upperparts was interrupted only by a distinct patch of black at the bend of the wings and the wide white edges of the tail. As the field characters fell into place, I was astonished that before us was a species I had encountered in California just three months earlier — a Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*).

Until 1982, this kite had not been recorded in Oklahoma since 1860 (Nice, M.M., 1931, The birds of Oklahoma, Rev. ed., Publ. Univ. Oklahoma Biol. Surv. 3(1):70). There are four recent state sightings (including two nestings). For a summary of these, see Andrew, J. M., *et al.*, 1983, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 16:30-31, and Choinski, E. M., and S. Threlkeld, 1984, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 17:22. — John Kennington, 9143 Marshall Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74115, 5 July, 1984.

Late spring record for Bonaparte's Gull in Oklahoma. — The cold, wet spring of 1984 brought several late sightings of Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) to northeastern Oklahoma. The latest was on 28 May 1984 (a cool, windy day) when I noticed a small black-headed gull flying buoyantly in the channel below Copan Lake Dam, in northern Washington County. Since the date was a month late for our area, I carefully rechecked all field marks and was satisfied that the gull was indeed an adult Bonaparte's and, moreover, that it was in nuptial plumage. One gate of the dam was open, allowing water to rush voluminously into the channel, carrying great numbers of fish with it, while many others could be seen jumping in the spillway. All that I saw were shad (*Dorosoma* sp.), and they were being preyed on by the Bonaparte's Gull, two Franklin's Gulls (*L. pipixcan*), one Ringed-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*), and a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) along the shore.

Dotty Goard later told me that she, too, had seen possibly the same bird near the Copan Dam on the previous day, 27 May, in company with two Franklin's Gulls and two Caspian Terns (*Sterna caspia*), the latter species not having been recorded before in the county. Almost two months earlier (on 1 April), Don Verser had identified a Bonaparte's Gull in the same vicinity, this one in winter feather.

On 23 April 1984 Mary Vogh saw approximately 200 Bonaparte's Gulls, most or all in breeding plumage, below the dam of Oologah Reservoir in Rogers County, 35 miles southeast of Copan Lake. All the gates were open that day, and fish were jumping in the stilling basin. Only a solitary Bonaparte's Gull, still in winter feather, was found there by Randy Porter on 17 May 1984.

G.M. Sutton (1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p.18) gave 8 May as the latest date in spring that Bonaparte's Gull had been seen in Oklahoma; a bird in breeding plumage seen in Marshall County on 17 May he considered exceptionally late. Sutton commented further that the species is "probably commoner now than formerly because of extensive impoundment of water within recent years" (1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 221). — Melinda Droege, Route 1, Box 516AA, Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74006, 9 July, 1984.

Black-capped Vireo in marshy habitat in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. — At 0825 on 16 June 1984, while banding birds near the coffer dam at the north end of Lake Overholser in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, central Oklahoma, I was surprised to net a female Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*), for the habitat here was atypical for that species. After banding it (no. 2000-26803), I examined this uncommon bird closely. Its red eye was surrounded by a full white eye ring continuous with the white lores except for a broken section above and slightly in front of the eye. Its underparts were largely buffy and the head grayish, blending into olive-gray on back and wings. Two yellowish wing bars were discernible on each wing. Measurements were: total length 105 mm, wing chord 53 mm, tail 38 mm, and weight 10 grams. A photo is on file in the Cameron University Museum of Zoology, Lawton, Oklahoma.

The nets had been set in a cattail marsh, much of it inundated with shallow water. Furthermore, the place was heavily overgrown with small willows (*Salix nigra*), red mulberries (*Morus rubra*), and roughleaf dogwoods (*Cornus drummondii*) in which tangles of wild grape (*Vitis sp.*) were not uncommon. *Vireo atricapillus* is usually found in drier, more upland habitats where there is some relief in the topography. Jean W. Graber (Distribution, habitat requirements, and life history of the Black-capped Vireo, Ecol. Monogr. 31:334, 1961) characterized the species' favored habitat as being extensive stands (one square mile or more) of mixed, scrubby blackjack oak, post oak, and juniper, in clumps of irregular height and distribution in areas of rough topography, often where eroded slopes are present. She also noted that the presence of water was not essential.

This species is a summer resident in Oklahoma and there is one other record for Oklahoma County: on 12 April 1965, V.J. Vacin saw a non-singing male at Silver Lake in northwest Oklahoma City (Baumgartner, F.M., 1965, Aud. Field Notes 19:488). — Hubert H. Harris, 4907 North Willow, Bethany, Oklahoma 73008 2 July 1984.

Late fall record for Northern Waterthrush. — At 1615 on the late date of 8 November 1979, at a settling-pond near the north end of Lake Overholser (a place which lies along the Oklahoma-Canadian County line in central Oklahoma), I "squeaked up" a Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) from an area of small saplings growing near the bank not far from a dense stand of cattails. Its constantly bobbing tail first caught my attention. The yellowish or buffy-white breast, overlain with heavy dark streaks, was in sharp contrast to the bird's uniformly dull brown back. Also noticeable was the light stripe over the eye, unquestionably yellowish rather than white. By comparison, the color of the eyestripe, breast, and unstreaked throat of the very similar Louisiana Waterthrush (*S. motacilla*) is clear white.

Wesley S. Isaacs and I returned the following day (9 November) and caught the waterthrush in a mist net. We banded and then measured it (band #890-79022; wing 71 mm, tail 48 mm, exposed culmen 12 mm, tarsus 24 mm). The age and sex were not determined. Several color photographs we took plainly show that the streaking of the breast extended high onto the buffy throat. The bird was not subsequently seen. We also caught a Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) and a Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) in the same place that day.

Heretofore, the latest fall record for *Seiurus noveboracensis* in Oklahoma was 19 September. On that date in 1955, Elizabeth Hayes and Anne Reynolds saw a single bird in Tulsa, Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma (Baumgartner, F.M., 1956, Aud. Field Notes 10:36). — John S. Shackford, Rt. 1, Box 125, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111, 13 July, 1984.