

male that sang as often as did the others. Two large fledglings noisily pursued a male for food; when they finally caught him, he hung upside down from a branch as the young fought to take the tidbit from his bill.

A visit to Red Rock Canyon on 2 August revealed that the female at nest two was still incubating. At least three males were yet actively singing. Near this nest we saw three youngsters chasing a male and begging food. On 9 August, the female on nest two seemed to be brooding; she frequently arose and looked under her body, and as the sun climbed higher, she stood over the nest with partially raised wings. Two days later, she was still on the nest and moved around a good deal, but I saw no young birds.

On 19 September, Sutton collected both nests for the Stovall Museum at the University of Oklahoma. Nest one was broken during the process, but nest two he recovered intact, noting that the inside was dirty, as if used by young birds. Its outside diameter measured $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches, the bowl $1\frac{3}{4}$ x 2 inches, and the depth about 1 inch. Distances to the nearest known nesting areas are 280 miles to Cimarron County, Oklahoma (Sutton, G. M., 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 596), and about 200 miles to Palo Duro Canyon in the Texas Panhandle (Stevenson, J. O., 1942, Condor 44:115).

Three adult males and ten or more female-like birds I found in the brush along the west canyon wall on 27 September. They appeared to be eating something from a freshly exposed sandstone rock surface.

Between 1971 and 1980 I continued to monitor the Lesser Goldfinches in both canyons. Although I located no more nests, I observed as many as five bright males in the park through 1973. The males were very aggressive after establishing territories. There were at least five territories in the playground area on 11 July 1971, and I observed several territorial skirmishes. On 25 July, a female flew across to the small stream to drink and bathe. As she crossed the open area, three males, apparently from adjoining territories, darted down to follow, met in the air a few feet from the ground and tumbled earthward in the most vicious three-way fight I've ever seen. They resembled a group of black and white butterflies. From 1974 through 1979 it was unusual to see even two or three males. Only rarely did I observe a female-plumaged bird. I did see two males on 3 August 1980, but none has been found since.

8304 LAKEAIRE DRIVE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73132. 26 JULY, 1984.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS KILLED BY HAILSTORM IN DEWEY COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

BY ALAN STACEY

Dewey County lies near the heart of west central Oklahoma. Two major rivers, the North and South Canadian, meander from west to east through the county. A portion of Canton Lake, a major impoundment of the North Canadian, lies in the northeastern corner. During migration, considerable numbers of waterfowl, as well as many shorebirds and other aquatic species, spend time at Canton Lake and the numerous farm ponds and croplands in the area. The American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) is a regular transient

through western Oklahoma, and huge flocks may occasionally be seen. The pelicans use Canton Lake as a regular stopover where they feed and rest.

At approximately 1500 on 20 April 1984, a severe thunderstorm struck Dewey County, killing and injuring several members of a large flock of pelicans that had been loitering along the South Canadian River a few miles southwest of the lake. This area received the brunt of the storm, which produced excessively high winds, torrential rain, and hailstones up to three inches in diameter.

During the two weeks prior to the storm, a flock of between 200 and 250 pelicans had been repeatedly sighted resting and foraging in the South Canadian River just north of a bridge 5½ miles south and 8½ miles east of Taloga. They were probably attracted to that spot by the hordes of minnows thought by game ranger James Edwards (pers. comm.) to be spawning there. I consulted several local landowners. None could recall seeing pelicans in the vicinity before.

Minutes before the hailstorm hit, Joe Anson, an area resident, was driving along a road about a mile northeast of the river bridge when he noticed a large group of pelicans very high up. Alternately soaring and flapping, they were riding a thermal slowly upward. Because he was travelling away from the scene, Anson failed to observe the fatal incident which happened soon thereafter.

Following the storm, dead and crippled pelicans were discovered in its wake, a swath approximately 3 miles wide and 10 miles in length. Most of the birds were recovered not far from the area described above. Some pelicans had been impaled on tree limbs, others were tangled in barbed wire fences, lodged on utility poles, or otherwise incapacitated. Many birds were still alive, but seriously injured. A few appeared to be healthy except that they were unable to fly. These had probably been weakened and battered by the strong winds and large hail. Also noticed in the vicinity were a small number of Franklin's Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*) that had been killed. Surprisingly, no other kinds of birds were found dead.

Next day, employees of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and of the Washita National Wildlife Refuge (which is located about 50 miles southwest of Canton Lake, and which surrounds Foss Lake) began collection and cleanup operations. Live pelicans (49) were caught and released on Foss and Canton Lakes, and dead ones (51) were discarded. For about two weeks afterward, reports of local residents resulted in the procurement of at least 11 more crippled pelicans and 19 dead ones.

Heflebower and Klett (1980, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 13:25-28) reported that among a total of 3426 water birds killed on 17 October 1979 by a hailstorm at the Washita Refuge in Custer County, Oklahoma, only four were American White Pelicans. Most fatalities of that storm were waterfowl (e.g., 1143 Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) and 861 American Wigeons (*Anas americana*)), although 600 were Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*). Hail from another storm in Greer County, southwestern Oklahoma, on 5 October 1951 (see Jones, G. E., 1952, Wilson Bull. 64:166-167) inflicted widespread damage to wildlife. Although no water birds were found dead following that storm, 43 raptors, 41 Northern Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*) and 30 American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) were.