Albinistic Turkey Vulture in Alfalfa County, Oklahoma.—During the spring of 1982 Paul W. Grover procured a large number of salvaged bird specimens from a freezer at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Alfalfa County, northwestern Oklahoma, for the Oklahoma State University Museum in Stillwater. One of these was a white Turkey Vulture *(Cathartes aura)*. Although it had been frozen since 18 September 1979, it was still in remarkably good condition. Fortunately, Assistant Refuge Manager John Kirk had attached a label to the bird containing a great deal of information. The vulture had been brought to the refuge by Dale Long, an Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Game Ranger. Long had obtained the bird from a couple who lived 4 miles west of Aline, a town about 20 miles southwest of the refuge. They had found it, weak and incapable of flight, on the preceding day. Having no idea as to what kind of bird it was, they attempted to force-feed it poultry pellets. To treat its heavy infestation of feather lice, they had dusted the plumage with a pesticide. The next morning, it was dead.

I obtained the specimen from Grover in the spring of 1983 and photographed it. A photo is on file in my personal collection and at the Cameron University Museum of Zoology in Lawton, Oklahoma. The vulture was fully albinistic, for there were no dark pigments whatsoever in the plumage, the eyes were noticeably pink, the bill was ivory in color, the legs whitish, and skin of the head was pinkish gray. During the summer of 1983, William R. Eddleman made the bird into a study skin for the OSU Department of Zoology Musuem (OKSU 2510). Shotgun pellets were found embedded in the bird's body.

Albinism in the family Cathartidae is apparently very rare. A. O. Gross (1965, The incidence of albinism in North American birds, Bird-Banding 36:67-71) examined records of 1847 individuals of 304 species among which were only 12 albino vultures. W. G. Voelker reported seeing a partially white Turkey Vulture in Harmon County, southwestern Oklahoma, during the fall of 1976 (Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 9:32-33, 1976), and P. N. Allaire (1977, Aberrant pigmentation in Kentucky birds, Kentucky Birds 53(1):13-16) described another from Kentucky.—James W. Lish, *Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078, 17 January, 1985.*

Common Poorwill in Tulsa County, Oklahoma.—George M. Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 272) lists the Common Poorwill *(Phalaenoptilus nuttallii)* as a "summer resident in western Oklahoma" but states that it has been recorded eastward to Washington, Oklahoma, Cleveland and Murray counties. William A. Carter (1968, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 1:19), reporting on the 7 July 1967 occurrence of an adult female Common Poorwill 7 miles south of Ada in Pontotoc County, reviewed records for the species in Oklahoma, pointing out that although sight records may extend farther east in Oklahoma, the easternmost breeding record is from the vicinity of Cogar in Caddo County. Carter cited an old record by White (Oologist 1931, 48:158-159; incorrectly reported by Carter as 1935) of Common Poorwill eggs in Tulsa County and stated that they were probably Mourning Dove *(Zenaida macroura)* eggs. In his publications, G. M. Sutton (1967, 1974) omitted this

Tulsa County egg record and R. M. Barnes, editor and publisher of the Oologist at the time, stated doubt about it.

On 21 March 1974, a recently killed Common Poorwill was brought to the author by Dr. Paul Buck of the University of Tulsa Faculty of Natural Sciences. It had been found dead that day in a southeastern Tulsa residential area. The skin was prepared by John S. Tomer and is deposited in the University of Tulsa collections (No. 157). The bird is an adult female that had very little body fat. Its throat patch is pure white with no buffy feathers. The date is five days earlier than any previous record for Oklahoma (Sutton Summary of Bird Records, Stovall Museum, Univ. Oklahoma, Norman) and is the easternmost specimen for the state.—Hague L. Lindsay, *Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tulsa, 600 South College Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104, 28 July 1984.*

Unusual death of Cedar Waxwing.—On 5 April 1980, an adult Cedar Waxwing *(Bombycilla cedrorum)* was found dead beneath a mimosa tree in a residential part of Chickasha in Grady County, Oklahoma. Upon examination, a 25mm-long twig about .09mm in diameter was discovered protruding from its breast, and on the surrounding feathers could be seen a trace of dried blood. An autopsy revealed that the branch had passed completely through the pectoral muscles, fracturing the keel of the sternum as it penetrated that bone to enter the thoracic cavity.

How the bird managed to impale itself is conjectural. A Loggerhead Shrike *(Lanius ludovicianus)* might have rammed the waxwing onto the tip of the twig after dispatching it, but this seems unlikely because shrikes ordinarily impale avian prey "between the gullet and windpipe just above the breast" (H. L. Stoddard *in* Bent, A. C., 1950, Life histories of North American wagtails, shrikes, vireos, and their allies. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 197). Also, the force of impact required to do so much damage would seem possible only if the bird had collided with the tiny branch while flying at full speed as if, for example, it were being pursued through woody cover by a raptor.

The specimen was preserved and catalogued into the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Collection (USAO 63) in Chickasha. The species of the twig was not determined.—Charles M. Mather, *Box 82517, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018, 24 January 1985.*

European Starlings lining nest or roosting quarters in fall.—From about 0900 to 0910 on 23 October 1979 (bright day; air sharp, but well above freezing), I watched two European Starlings *(Sturnus vulgaris)* taking what appeared to be nesting material through the slats of a second-floor louver at the south end of the Stovall Museum's main building on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma. One bird took in two rather large body feathers of a Sandhill Crane *(Grus canadensis)*, the other what appeared to be a flake of bark or part of a pine cone. The two crane feathers were together in the starling's bill when I first saw them, but they separated and the starling made two trips carrying them in.

The whole fall had been notably mild, but hardly springlike enough to prompt initiation of a reproductive cycle despite decreasing day-length. The thought occurs to me that the birds were adding material to roosting quarters

that would be used more or less communally during the coming winter. I have been watching starlings at that louvered window year after year since the fall of 1952. Many broods have been reared there in spring and summer. Often on cold but bright winter mornings several starlings are to be seen there standing in a row on the window ledge, making soft, somewhat conversational sounds.

The crane feathers were from one of several specimens killed by a freak hailstorm in Custer County, southwestern Oklahoma, in mid-October. The specimens were being skeletonized by D. Scott Wood.—George M. Sutton (deceased), *Stovall Museum of Science and History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73019, 26 October 1979.*

First Kentucky Warbler record for Comanche County, Oklahoma.—On 10 September 1984 I banded and photographed an adult male Kentucky Warbler *(Oporornis formosus)* that I netted in my back yard along the East Branch of Wolf Creek in Lawton, Oklahoma. A photograph is on file in the Cameron University Museum of Zoology (CUMZ 960). This bird is a migrant and summer resident in central and eastern Oklahoma, but is uncommon in western sectors (Sutton, G.M., 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 516). Not only is this the first record for Comanche County, but it is also the second sighting in the fall west of the 98th Meridian in Oklahoma. Other reports west of this longitude include a singing male that Lewis W. Oring saw 2.5 miles southeast of Davidson, Tillman County, on 8 May 1965 (Tyler, J. D., 1979, Birds of Southwestern Oklahoma, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 44); one that Rena Ross observed near Durham, in Roger Mills County, on 23 September 1967 (G. M. Sutton Summary of Bird Records, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman); and the species was found repeatedly in Alfalfa County between 30 April 1978 and 24 June 1979 (Sutton Summary). The closest nesting locality is in Caddo County about 30 air miles to the northeast: during the spring of 1867, Edwin Palmer collected a specimen (USNM 53017) and a nest containing three eggs (USNM 13542) near the Kiowa Agency that was located 17 miles southeast of Fort Cobb (Tyler, *loc. cit.*). There are two specimens from Cimarron County in far western Oklahoma, both males. UOMZ 5438 was collected by J. L. Cracraft along the Cimarron River 13 miles north of Boise City on 25 April 1964, and UOMZ 6279 by John S. Weske 9 miles east of Kenton on 11 May 1968. The former specimen was erroneously reported as a female by G. M. Sutton (1967, *loc. cit.).*—Louis E. McGee, *1703 NW 43rd, Lawton, Oklahoma 73505, 20 November 1984.*

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