

where (Brewer 1963, Johnston 1971, Robbins *et al.* 1986). Dr. Max Thompson has assembled a fine series of some 30 putative hybrid specimens at Southwestern College in Winfield, southeastern Kansas, that show considerable individual variation. All were collected along a 15-mile stretch of the Arkansas River northwest of Winfield along the interface of the two species' ranges. Multivariate comparisons in Kansas by Rising (1968) suggest that these two species may produce a viable F₂ generation. If so, the two species may yet be taxonomically "lumped" (see also Braun and Robbins 1986, Mack *et al.* 1986).

Although the relationships between the two species in Oklahoma are still unclear, we now know that at least an occasional Black-cap wanders into western sections of the state in winter. We have yet to determine how often or exactly where this takes place, the numbers of birds involved, or the extent of their sojourn here. Further study of these closely related parids is needed.

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PILEATED WOODPECKER IN WOODWARD COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

BY VERNON N. POWDERS

The Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) is a resident principally of heavy woods in eastern sections of Oklahoma, but has been seen westward to Alfalfa, Major, Canadian, Caddo, Comanche, Stephens, and Jefferson counties. The westernmost record for breeding is from Stephens County (Sutton, G. M., 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 23), and the species is considered rare along this edge of its

range (Sutton, G. M., 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 303). There is a record for southwestern Major County: on 6 April 1955, J. L. Steele, Jr. saw a single bird among cottonwoods along the North Canadian River near Chester (McGee and Neeld, 1972, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 5:5).

On 14 December 1985, while deer hunting from a tree stand about eight feet from the ground, I noticed a large bird that flew in typical woodpecker "undulating" fashion through the mixed woods and landed about 10 feet up in a dead American elm (*Ulmus americana*). I knew that it was some kind of woodpecker, for it immediately began to hammer loudly on the tree. The bird was nearly crow-sized, had a blackish back, and its brilliant crimson crest extended forward all the way to the bill. There was no doubt that it was a male Pileated Woodpecker. I watched it for approximately 30 minutes (1630-1700) through 7x35 binoculars. As the bird left the elm tree, its wings flashed white and it gave the typical Pileated call. The location was 3½ miles west and ¼ mile north of Mooreland, Woodward County, Oklahoma, on State Highway 50B, or 1 mile east of Boiling Springs State Park.

On 23 February 1986, at about 1100 and in the same general location described above, the author and his father, V. L. Powders, saw possibly the same bird fly through a small grove of black locust trees (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and into some large cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*). Both sightings occurred about 1 mile northeast of the North Canadian River, a richly wooded area conspicuous for its many large cottonwood trees, some dead but still standing. Numerous American elm, green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), chittumwood (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), hackberry (*Celtis* sp.), mulberry (*Morus* sp.), oak (*Quercus* sp.), black locust, and soapberry (*Sapindus drummondii*) trees complemented this riparian forest. Farmland was intermixed with these bottomland woods along their margins.

This constitutes a new county record and an extension of the Pileated Woodpecker's range about 20 miles westward or about 30 miles northwestward up the North Canadian River in Oklahoma. This species should be looked for in other areas of western Oklahoma amongst big timber bordering major rivers and their tributaries. An interesting note is the fact that, of the scores of persons who attended the fall field meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science at Boiling Springs State Park during late September 1985, not a single one reported seeing a Pileated Woodpecker.

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11 MARCH 1986.

GENERAL NOTES

Albinistic Blue Jay in Grady County, Oklahoma.—In early May of 1982 I was informed by Mrs. Mildred Looney that a white Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) was frequenting her back yard in Chickasha, Grady County, central Oklahoma. When I went to the alley behind Mrs. Looney's house, I found the strange bird almost immediately. During the next several weeks, it was also observed by Jeanne Mather, Derald and Mary Swineford, and Maude and Dana Dews. On 21 May 1982 photographs were taken. That same day, it visited a