

In searching North American collections for pre-flight young of the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) for a study of geographic variation in the juvenal plumage of that species, I found a stubby-tailed Lesser Nighthawk from Tulsa County, Oklahoma! The specimen in the U.S. National Museum (No. 340247) was found on 15 June 1933, apparently by Edith R. Force, and was prepared as a "life-like" mount by A.E. Gilmore. The obverse of the original "watch-tag" label bears the field number "WJH 241" (= Wilson Junior High, *vide* John S. Tomer). Unfortunately, Tomer informed me that he was unable to find mention of this specimen in Miss Force's field notes which he is preparing for archiving in the University of Tulsa Library.

I have compared the specimen with series of nestlings of both species, including all of the North American subspecies of the Common Nighthawk. Its dorsal cinnamon color is among the richest of any *acutipennis* specimen I have seen (Dickerman, R.W., 1981, Geographic variation in the juvenal plumage of the Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*), *Auk* 98:619-621; and 1982, Further notes on the juvenal plumage of the Lesser Nighthawk, *Auk* 99:764). The specimen is finely vermiculated dorsally, lacking entirely the black shaft streakings found in all subspecies of the Common Nighthawk except the northern prairie form *sennetti* which is pale grayish to buffy, never cinnamon.

In the U.S. National Museum the specimen was identified as *Chordeiles minor howelli*; on the field tag is the notation in pencil: "*howelli* HCO." Harry C. Oberholser earlier had revised the nighthawks (1914, A monograph of the genus *Chordeiles* Swainson, type of a new family of goatsuckers, *Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus.* 86:1-121). The identification of the Oklahoma juvenile was obviously based on Oberholser's concept of what "should" have been in the area, rather than on the characters of the specimen itself.

Be that as it may, the specimen is assumed to have been found in Tulsa County. If so, because it obviously could not fly, the bird would have hatched there, thus providing the first breeding record for Oklahoma, and indicating at least a sporadic extension of the known nesting range of the species. The possibility that the chick was brought to Tulsa from somewhere in its known breeding range, however, cannot be discounted unequivocally.

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## NESTING AND SUMMER RECORDS FOR OSPREYS IN OKLAHOMA

BY LOYD D. ISLEY AND JAMES W. LISH

In Oklahoma the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is best categorized as a transient species, most often being encountered around large bodies of water during spring and fall. Some birds spend the winter, but this is a rare occurrence. There are midsummer sightings, but no nests, for Alfalfa, Payne, and Tulsa counties (Sutton, G.M., 1967, *Oklahoma birds*, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 121). Even though M.M. Nice (1931, *The birds of Oklahoma*, Rev. ed., *Publ. Univ. Oklahoma Biol. Surv.* 3(1):76) reported that a pair nested during June

of 1928 along the Illinois River near Tahlequah in Cherokee County, there are no *valid* breeding records for the state (Sutton, G.M., 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 11). Herein are reported two records of Osprey nesting activity, one recent, the other from the late 1950's. The earlier account was related to James W. Lish by Phillip C. Clover.

About 1958 or 1959, Phillip C. Clover, now employed as a biological technician at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, and his uncle discovered an Osprey nest near the Salt Fork River below the Salt Plains Reservoir dam, between section 30 and 31, T27N, R8W. Clover was unfamiliar with the species at that time but, because of the fishing activity of the birds, called them "fish hawks." He described the nest as being a large platform of sticks. On one occasion, he watched the adults feed fish to one (possibly two) young in the nest. Since he is now acquainted with the species, Clover is positive that these "fish hawks" were indeed Ospreys.

More recent nesting activity was observed by the senior author. In the spring of 1983 a pair of Ospreys at Robert S. Kerr Reservoir in east central Oklahoma produced young. Sometime between 15 March and 15 April, as Isley was taking his wife Danna and son Wayne fishing by boat up the Big Sallisaw Creek arm of the lake 4 miles southwest of Sallisaw, in Sequoyah County, they noticed a huge, bulky nest, composed primarily of good-sized branches and smaller twigs, 30 or 40 feet up in a large tree on the creek bank. Upon closer examination, they discovered that the nest was active. One of the old birds was perched on its edge, and appeared to be feeding a chick inside. Another adult flew in from the east and circled the nest tree for several moments.

They watched the Ospreys for a few minutes, then moved upstream to keep from scaring them. Numerous boats passed within 50 meters of the nest without startling the birds, but when one stopped in the immediate area, the raptors were noticeably agitated. From their vantage point a short distance upstream, the Isleys could at times see a young bird's head above the nest rim as the adult fed it. The other adult soon arrived, carrying a five-inch fish in its talons. When it landed on the edge of the nest, the other parent took to the air. During their limited observations, the Isley family never saw both parents on the nest together, although both actively dived for fish to feed the chicks.

Later in the month of April, Isley, Robert M. Burnett, and Debi Christie all had the opportunity to watch the feeding of the young by one parent as the other perched or flew about nearby. Their work took them up Sallisaw Creek, so they were able to check the nest often. For some reason, however, none of them thought to take pictures.

In the spring of 1984, flood waters prevented checking of the nest site. Water in the creek was moving too swiftly for safe boat operation, and overflows prevented gaining access by land. The fact that the nest tree was alive is worthy of note. Sutton (1967, *op. cit.*, p. 120) commented that the nest is "usually placed at the top of a dead stub."