there is enough variation in weights and measurements within each species, as well as between sexes of the same species, that positive identification is tenuous without physical examination of each bird.

Albinism in hummingbirds remains a prime interest of the author. New sightings and any additional information would be gratefully received.

1022 South Sycamore Drive, Grove, Oklahoma 74344, 6 August 1994.

GENERAL NOTES

Roseate Spoonbills and Wood Storks in Johnston County, Oklahoma. — The Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) is a "very rare summer and fall visitant at large impoundments and rivers, chiefly in eastern and central Oklahoma..." (F.M. Baumgartner and A.M. Baumgartner, 1992, *Oklahoma bird life*, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 75). On 17 August 1994 we spotted two pinkish immature Roseate Spoonbills in a slough 50 yards south of Nida Point on the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge in Johnston County, Oklahoma. Here, exposed mudflats and shallow pools of water were interspersed with numerous willow stumps. The slough was 30 to 60 yards wide and surrounded by woodlands except for its confluence with the lake at the north end.

The spoonbills were loafing and preening in the shallows with several Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), Great Egrets (*Casmerodias albus*), Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), Green Herons (*Butorides striatus*), and a few female Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*). When they became aware of our presence, the two spoonbills flew off to the west and landed near the outflow of Pennington Creek from Cumberland Pool.

On the morning of 19 August, Jeri McMahon, James L. and Marion Norman and the senior author watched the spoonbills in the same place for 45 minutes. At 1830, June Ketchum, John Sterling and the authors returned. In addition to the aforementioned associates, the spoonbills were consorting loosely with several American White Pelicans (*Pelicanus erythrorynchos*). The spoonbills were not seen again at Nida Point.

We spotted probably the same two spoonbills at Big Bottom on the Tishomingo Wildlife Management Unit on 5 September. Big Bottom is a 200-acre diked field along the banks of the Washita River 4 miles west of Nida Point. The large pink waders were feeding in a large shallow pool near the dike at the south end of the field, together with several Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

Four days later, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation game warden Mike Stafford reported sighting 10 Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) at Big Bottom. This species, too, is rarely encountered in the state (see Baumgartner and Baumgartner, *op. cit.*, p. 76). At 1700 on 11 September, the authors, Arnella Trent, Steve Metz, and John Sterling found four Wood Storks, two immature spoonbills, and three Great Egrets perched in a large dead tree 50 yards south of the Big Bottom dike. However, we did not realize that the spoonbills were present until we were within about 300 yards of the roost. They left the tree and fed in the shallow pool at the base of the dike at 1800.

On 15 September the authors and Leonard and June Ketchum observed a single Wood Stork at Reeves Ravine on the Tishomingo Wildlife Management Unit. It was roosting in a large dead tree in standing water just east of the ravine. Several egrets and vultures were also present in the same and adjacent trees. We studied the stork from 50 yards for 15 minutes before darkness and traffic forced us to leave. — Mike and Cindy Goddard, *Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge, Rt. 1, Box 151, Tishomingo, Oklahoma 73460, 6 October 1994.*

Re-evaluation of possible Iceland Gull record for Tulsa County, Oklahoma. — From 6 January to 5 March 1969, an "all-white" gull, believed to be an Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) in second winter plumage, was seen at various places in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, mainly along the Arkansas River below Keystone Dam. The bird was initially discovered by Anne L. and L. Bruce Reynolds who showed it to several members of the Tulsa Audubon Society, including John S. Tomer. The Reynoldses later asked Tomer to write an account of the observations for publication (Tomer 1970). Although the identification was provisional, as the title "Possible Iceland Gull..." indicated, the record afforded quasi-official status for the Iceland Gull as a new species for Oklahoma when listed as a hypothetical by Sutton (1974, p. 18).

In 1986, the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee (OBRC) began evaluating observations of unusual birds using a more structured and rigorous set of standards than had previously been applied. The committee also re-evaluated a number of old records for seldom-reported species previously recognized as occurring in Oklahoma (Grzybowski 1986). At the 25 January 1992 meeting of the OBRC, the Iceland Gull record for Tulsa County was re-examined.

Since this observation, much new information has become available on the identification of gulls. A current evaluation indicates that the Tulsa County gull should not be considered an Iceland Gull, but more likely a Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*), a species already known to occur in Oklahoma. This was the basis for the OBRC recommendation that the Iceland Gull should not be regarded, even in hypothetical status, on the Oklahoma state bird list (Grzybowski *et al.* 1992, p. 37). The following aspects of the 1969 gull observation were considered in reaching this conclusion.

The primary basis for the gull's identification was its small size approximating that of the Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) it accompanied, and thus it was smaller than expected for most Glaucous Gulls. While Iceland Gulls can fall in this range, they average slightly smaller than Herring Gulls. This would place the observed bird at the upper extreme for Iceland Gulls. However, the ranges of body lengths given for these three gull species by Cramp (1983) are: Herring, 55-67 cm. (p. 815); Iceland, 52-60 cm. (p. 837); Glaucous, 62-68 cm. (p. 840). They indicated that a Glaucous Gull is twice as likely to be the size of a Herring Gull as an Iceland. For these reasons, the size of the observed bird does not as strongly indicate that it was an Iceland Gull as was originally believed.

Iceland Gulls have a smaller and more noticeably rounded head, and more petite bill than Herring Gulls (Zimmer 1991, p. 257). Although the Tulsa County white-winged gull was compared directly with Herring Gulls, no mention was made of these characteristics. The differences were apparently not dramatic; the head and bill of the white-winged gull was similar in size and shape to that of a Herring Gull, and, thus, consistent with a Glaucous Gull. In 1970, while visiting the bird collection at the American Museum of Natural History, Tomer compared the head and bill size of several study skins of Iceland and Herring gulls, and was very surprised by the obvious differences. This was the first of Tomer's misgivings about the identification of the Tulsa County white-winged gull.

Another characteristic, not well known at the time, was the length of the wings. Because Iceland Gulls are proportionately longer-winged than Glaucous Gulls, their wingtips at rest extend considerably beyond the tip of the tail. This distance is typically *greater than* the length of the bill which averages about 1.77 inches (Cramp 1983, p. 837; Zimmer 1991, p. 258). However, the wingtips of the gull observed in Tulsa extended only slightly beyond the tail (Tomer 1970), as in Glau-

cous Gulls.

The bird's pale pink bill with dark top suggested that the gull, if an Iceland, was in its second winter, as this species' bill is almost entirely black during its first winter (Zimmer 1991, pp.261-264). However, there was no mention of gray feathers in the mantle that most Iceland Gulls attain during their second winter (Cramp 1983, pp. 839-840). Although some birds are slow in attaining their gray mantles (Zimmer 1990, p. 125), the lack of it in the Tulsa bird points more strongly to the gull having been a Glaucous Gull than an Iceland.

The observers noted that the plumage of the bird was "entirely creamy white" except for some buffy-edges on the feathers of the belly, rump and undertail coverts. However, creamy plumage is apparently more characteristic of Glaucous Gulls than Iceland Gulls (Harrison 1983, p. 348), which are whiter (see photographs in Zimmer 1991, pp. 254-263.)

To date, the Tulsa County bird has been the only record for Oklahoma given potential as an Iceland Gull. The OBRC has considered another record of *L.g. kumlieni*, but found the written documentation unacceptable. Thus, no acceptable record currently exists for the occurrence of the Iceland Gull in Oklahoma.

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— John S. Tomer, *5911 East 46th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135 and* Joseph A. Grzybowski, *715 Elmwood Drive, Norman, Oklahoma 73072, 25 February 1994.*

Lone Bank Swallow pair nesting in Logan County, Oklahoma. — On 19 July 1985, Dana Base, John S. Shackford and I found an active Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) nest along the Cimarron River in western Logan County, Oklahoma. Paul A. Johnsgard (1979, *Birds of the Great Plains*, Univ. Nebraska Press, Lincoln, p. 273) stated that the species "is characterized by colonial rather than solitary nesting." In his extensive study of this species, Dayton Stoner (1936, Studies on the Bank Swallow in the Oneida Lake region, *Bull. New York State Col. Forestry at Syracuse Univ.* 9(2:126-233) made no reference to solitary nests.

We had planned to walk the river in search of nesting Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) that day. We entered the Cimarron River bed near Crescent in Logan County. Flying above the river was a Bank Swallow. Its back and wings were brown, below the white throat was a conspicuous brownish band, and the tail was slight-

ly notched. Within a few minutes, a second bird appeared. In a tall vertical sand cliff along the northern bank of the river were a few widely scattered holes, so we sat down on the opposite shore to observe them. Soon, a swallow entered one of the larger holes in the bank, then reappeared a few seconds later. Not long thereafter, the second bird appeared. We watched them for 1½ hours, during which time they entered the nest cavity 12 times at intervals of less than one minute to about 5 minutes. At 1024, one swallow departed with a fecal sac in its bill, which it dropped into the river. As noon approached, the pair visited the cavity less and less frequently, sometimes being absent for intervals of up to 15 minutes. At 1125, we walked downriver in search of terns, but found no other evidence of Bank Swallows.

Returning to the Bank Swallow nest about 1500, we again observed both adults flying about, but they failed to enter the nest during the 15 minutes that we watched. Unfortunately, we had no flashlight or other means to ascertain the exact contents of the nest.

Two days later, Shackford and the author returned for photographs. After waiting 30 minutes without seeing the swallows, we investigated the cavity with a flashlight. It was empty. Whether or not the one or more nestlings present on 19 July had fledged we could not ascertain. Because of its location in the bank, the nest would seemingly have been accessible only to snakes. This solitary Bank Swallow nest was apparently a rare exception to the species' usual colonial habits.

The nest hole was eight feet above the water and two feet below the top of the bank. It extended 26 inches into the bank and was lined extensively with assorted feathers. A.C. Bent (1942, Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows and their allies, *Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus.* No. 179, p. 407) reported that Bank Swallow nesting material includes "...a few feathers for the lining of the structure. Generally large numbers of feathers are not added until after the set of eggs is completed and incubation under way." His extensive description of nest materials used in Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) nests mentioned feathers in only a single case (Bent, *op. cit.* pp. 427-428).

We examined several hundred yards of bank upriver for Bank Swallow nest cavities, but discovered none. We did observe two Northern Rough-winged Swallows at their bank-nest downriver, which held one well-feathered juvenile bird.

Sutton (1967, *Oklahoma birds*, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p.358) described the Bank Swallow as a transient and summer visitant, "...but is not known to have nested successfully in Oklahoma..." However, in the spring of 1980, Paul W. Wilson (1981, *Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 14:9-11) documented nesting in large chat piles near the town of Picher in Ottawa County, northeastern Oklahoma. Northern Rough-winged Swallows also raised young in old Bank Swallow burrows there. Scattered and sporadic nesting has also been recorded in several other areas of Oklahoma (Baumgartner, F.M., and A.M. Baumgartner, 1992, *Oklahoma bird life*, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 246). — David F. Evans, *1619 NW 35th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, 11 October 1985.*

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