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GENERAL NOTE

Common Poorwills during fall in Tulsa, Oklahoma.—During the fall of 1993, 1994 and 1995, I monitored, several times daily, bird life in the Williams Center Green, a small .52 ha park-like area in downtown Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. This green area is bordered by Second Street and the Bank of Oklahoma Tower on the north and Third Street to the south, by the 15-story Adam's Mark Hotel westward, and the three-story Tulsa Performing Arts Center building to the east. The green is made up of open grassy areas, paved walkways, plentiful trees, shrubs and flowers and a small man-made stream and pond.

At about 0950 on 26 October 1993, I came upon a Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) sitting in the open underneath a Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) on the east side of the green near a brick wall. Photographs of this bird are on file with the Tulsa Audubon Society and the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee. The poorwill was observed later that day by James B. Thayer, James C. Hoffman, M. Jo Loyd and Patricia L. Seibert, but was not seen thereafter.

Almost exactly a year later, on 24 October 1994, I located a Common Poorwill at approximately 1000 under a 1.3 m-high hedge about 1.5 m from a main walkway on the green bordered by Second Street, the hotel, and other downtown buildings. As I approached to within .7 m, this bird began to rock from side to side. When I came within .3 m, it opened its mouth, hissed, and spread its wings and tail, revealing the rufous primaries and white outer rectrices. Loyd and Seibert saw this bird at about 1200 that same day, but I could not relocate it at 1730. Both organizations mentioned above also have pictures of this poorwill.

Less than three weeks later, on 11 November 1994, I flushed a Common Poorwill at about 1130 from within 4.4 m of the spot where I had found the species on 24 October. As it flew up, it reminded me of a big moth, and the rusty primaries and white tips of the outer three rectrices were noticeable. It lit on a manhole cover beneath a stand of Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) about 15 m away. This time, I drew to within 3 m and could discern that this individual was darker than the one I had seen on 24 October. I could not find it when I returned at 1500.

At 0750 on 8 September 1995 I found a Common Poorwill sitting under a crab apple tree (*Malus* sp.) in a 19 by 22 m elevated landscaped area on the east side of the bank tower. As I neared the bird, it took off and flew directly into the windows of the bank tower. The poorwill fluttered to the ground, but as I approached, it arose again, flew across Second Street, and landed on the patio railing of a fifth-floor room of the Adam's Mark Hotel. After about five minutes, the bird flew down to the south end of the Williams Center Green and I could not find it again.

Thayer and I discovered this or another Common Poorwill under a Magnolia Tree (*Magnolia grandiflora*) at 0920 on 1 October 1995. At 1430 the bird was still in the same place. John S. Tomer and I relocated it at 1730 about 22 m directly south of its original location, but we could not approach it very closely. Color slides of this bird have been deposited with both the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee and the Tulsa Audubon Society.

As I was walking around the raised landscape area on the west side of the bank tower at 0710 on 3 October 1995, a Common Poorwill suddenly took wing from the concrete. Its slow, erratic flight took it directly over me and toward the windows of the lighted bank tower before it veered off to the south and the Williams Center Green. As it flew, I could discern the rounded wings and short, round, grayish tail with buff in its outer corners. I found it again at 1105 under a stand of yaupon holly on the east side of the Williams Center Green, but it flew as I walked up, and I could not subsequently relocate it. This may have been the same individual seen two days before.

At 0740 on 18 October 1995, as I was descending the north-south sidewalk through the center of the green, a landscape maintenance man flushed a Common Poorwill from under a stand of yaupon holly. The bird flew east to west, passing about 10 m in front of me, and landed under a hedge 20 m away. Seibert, Loyd and I searched in vain for it that evening.

In Oklahoma, the Common Poorwill is an uncommon to rare summer resident in western regions, an irregular visitant throughout much of the state (Baumgartner and Baumgartner, 1992, Oklahoma bird life, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 202), and has also nested in northeastern Oklahoma (Glass, et al., 1994, *Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 27: 12-13.) It may breed more commonly in the Flint Hills of east-central Kansas than in western sections of that state (Thompson, M.C., and C. Ely, 1989, *Birds in Kansas*, Vol. 1, Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist., Lawrence, p. 349). The only other Tulsa County record was a recently-killed bird found in a southeast Tulsa residential area by Dr. Paul Buck of the University of Tulsa Faculty of Natural Sciences on 21 March 1974 (Lindsay, H.L., 1985, *Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 18:6-7).

The latest sighting for the species in Oklahoma heretofore was of a freshly killed specimen found near the western edge of Lawton in Comanche County on 9 November 1993 by Michael D. Brown (Brown, M.D., 1994, *Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol.*

Soc. 27:13-14). According to files of the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee (J.A. Grzybowski, pers. comm.), there have been no previous fall occurrences of the Common Poorwill in northeastern Oklahoma. The above six (or seven) sightings are not only the second through seventh for northeastern Oklahoma, but that of 11 November 1994 postdates the latest record for the state by two days.

One wonders just how common the silent Common Poorwill is in Tulsa County during fall migration. The Williams Center Green, with its obvious attraction to migrating birds and the ease with which one can observe them, deserves further study.--James W. Arterburn, 5806 East 78th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136, 6 August 1995.

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