

## GENERAL NOTE

**First nesting record for the Cedar Waxwing in eastern Oklahoma** — Two Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) were observed nest building on 7 June 1997 in Bicentennial State Park, Ottawa County, extreme northeastern Oklahoma. The nest was about 8 m high in a sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) tree situated well out on a west-facing fork of a horizontal limb. The nest appeared to be about half complete. The birds were using pieces of the sycamore's paper-thin outer bark and dead grass-like stems of ragweed (*Ambrosia* sp.) for nesting material. I observed one bird pass a thin stem to the other, bill to bill, and the recipient used this stem to line the nest.

The Cedar Waxwings were silent during my observation time, which was approximately 0800 to 0845. However, waxwings were heard before 0800 hours, and there may have been more than two individuals in the area. The Cedar Waxwings were identified by their brownish appearance and a yellowish wash on the belly with white undertail coverts. I also observed the black face mask, the yellow band at the tip of the tail, and the crest.

When I returned to the site on 26 June, the nest was gone but there were three or four Cedar Waxwings flying and chattering in some trees about 30 m west of the previous nest site.

Bicentennial State Park is a small park on the Spring River about 6 km east of Quapaw, Oklahoma, on county road E 22. It has a boat access and picnic tables, but much of it was destroyed in the spring and summer floods of 1993. Oaks (*Quercus* spp.), sycamores, and hackberry (*Celtis* sp.) trees predominate. Nesting birds present, and typical of this open woodland habitat, include Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), and Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*).

This account represents only the second known nest for the Cedar Waxwing in Oklahoma exclusive of the Panhandle (D. Reinking, pers. comm.). The first nest was discovered in Oklahoma City on 17 June 1961 (Tyler, J.D., 1993, *Bull. Okla. Ornithol. Soc.* 26:7-8). That nest was 7 m up in an elm (*Ulmus* sp.) tree. Three nests have been reported for the Panhandle in 1914, 1920, and 1921 (Tyler 1993).

Tyler (1993) found two Cedar Waxwings along the Illinois River in Cherokee County on 20 June 1992. No nests were observed, but interestingly, one of those birds was also first seen in a sycamore tree. Tyler observed another Cedar Waxwing on the following day approximately 7 km downstream. Those two Cherokee County sites are only about 100 km

ssw of the Bicentennial State Park site where I observed nesting. Another recent summer record is that of a flock of 10 Cedar Waxwings on 15 and 17 June 1995 in Norman, Cleveland County (J.A. Grzybowski, pers. comm.).

In Kansas there are only a few nesting records for the Cedar Waxwing, and most of them are in the northeastern part of the state (Thompson, M.C., and C. Ely, 1992, *Birds in Kansas*, Vol. 2, Mus. Nat. Hist., Univ. Kansas, Lawrence, KS). The exception was an adult tending fledged young in Cowley County, Kansas, in August (year not stated). Cowley County is on the Oklahoma border in south-central Kansas. Field work associated with the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas yielded 16 confirmed Cedar Waxwing nests in 1992-96. Most of those were in the northeast and east-central part of the state. Only one nest was in the southeast: a Cedar Waxwing feeding young was reported in Neosho County on 2 July 1995 (Bill Busby, pers. comm.). The southern border of Neosho County is about 60 km north of the Oklahoma border.

In Missouri, 32 confirmed Cedar Waxwing nests were found in 1207 atlas blocks in 1986-92 (Jacobs, B., and J.D. Wilson, 1997, *Missouri breeding bird atlas 1986-1992*, Nat. Hist. Ser. No. 6, Missouri Dept. Conserv., Jefferson City, MO). Six of the nest records were in southwestern Missouri. The closest to Oklahoma was found in Barry County, Missouri, about 40 km from Oklahoma's eastern border. Cedar Waxwings were scattered throughout Missouri, and were recorded within Missouri's "safe dates" (15 June - 31 July) in 13.6% of the blocks. Historically, it has been felt that many of the summer records for Cedar Waxwings may represent a nonbreeding population (Robbins, M.B., and D. A. Easterla, 1992, *Birds of Missouri: their distribution and abundance*, Univ. Missouri Press, Columbia, MO).

Based on these occurrences for Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma, we should watch for breeding Cedar Waxwings in the future, especially in northeastern Oklahoma. Whether the recent nesting records represent a southerly expansion of the species' breeding range in recent times, or merely reflect greater probability of detection associated with breeding bird atlas field work, is unknown.

This observation has been submitted for review to the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee. This work was done while participating in the Oklahoma breeding bird atlas project. I thank Charles Brown, Jeff Cox, and Joseph Grzybowski for commenting on an earlier draft of this manuscript.— Lawrence Herbert, 1711 Goetz, Joplin, MO 64801. Accepted 29 October 1997.