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NOTES

Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc. 31:33–34, 1998

Late record of the Purple Martin for Oklahoma.—On 1 November 1998, we observed a female Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) perched on the porch of a lowered and closed martin house in our backyard in northeastern Broken Arrow, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. The martin house was only about 2 m off the ground and its entrances all plugged for the winter. The bird sat on an intermediate tier, shielded from the heavy rain that continued throughout the time the bird was present, and we photographed it. We first saw it at about 0950 CST, and it remained there continually until we last saw it at about 1450. The bird disappeared as soon as the rain stopped, and we did not see it again. Judging from the almost complete lack of blue feathering on the bird's back and the light undertail coverts (Brown, C. R., Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), In: *The birds of North America*, A. Poole and F. Gill, eds., No. 287, Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, and Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, DC., 1997), the bird was a yearling female. It did not seem to be injured or sick and appeared only to be trying to escape the driving rain. Until this, we had seen no Purple Martins around our martin houses since early September.

The latest exact fall date for the Purple Martin in Oklahoma that we are aware of is 25 September in Tulsa (Baumgartner, F. M., and A. M. Baumgartner, Oklahoma bird life, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1992), although Jennings (The birds of Tulsa County, Tulsa Aud. Soc., Tulsa, 1988) shows the species as "infrequent to rare" into mid October. The latest date for north central Texas (Grayson County) is 11 October (Pulich, W. M., The birds of north central Texas, Texas A&M Press, College Station, 1988). Purple Martins are seldom seen anywhere in Texas after late October (Oberholser, H. C., The bird life of Texas, Univ. Texas Press, Austin, 1974), although stragglers sometimes appear on the Gulf coast on Christmas counts (Brown 1997). The bird in Broken Arrow appears to be two to three weeks later than the previous late date for Oklahoma. October 1998 had been mild, and perhaps this accounted for the bird's lingering.—CHARLES R. BROWN AND MARY BOMBERGER BROWN, *Department of Biological Sciences, University of Tulsa, 600 S. College Ave., Tulsa, OK. 74104.* Received 26 November 1998, accepted 26 November 1998.

Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc. 31:34, 1998

Carolina Wren feeds fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird.—On the morning of 1 June 1998, I observed an adult Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), a young Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), and a second adult Carolina Wren hopping, one after the other, in my backyard in Bartlesville, Washington County, Oklahoma. Both wrens appeared to be feeding on insects they found in the ground cover of wild strawberries (*Fragaria* sp.). The young cowbird fluttered its wings, and twice the leading wren turned and fed the cowbird that pecked at the vegetation. The cowbird did not appear to find food for itself. Something disturbed the wrens, and they disappeared under the hedge at the edge of the yard. The cowbird flew into a nearby redbud tree (*Cercis canadensis*). I did not see the birds again.

The Carolina Wren is an "infrequent" host of the Brown-headed Cowbird (Friedmann, H., and L. F. Kiff, The parasitic cowbirds and their hosts, Proc. West. Found. Vert. Zool. 2, 1985). According to Nice (The birds of Oklahoma, revised ed., Publ. Univ. Biol. Surv. 3, 1931), A. J. B. Kirn found 16 nests of the Carolina Wren in northeastern Oklahoma from 1910–1917, four of which were parasitized by cowbirds. However, Sutton (Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1967) stated that Carolina Wrens had not been seen feeding fledgling cowbirds in Oklahoma. Grzybowski (*Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 28:6–7, 1995) reported Carolina Wrens attending a fledgling cowbird in Cleveland County, Oklahoma, although he did not see the wrens actually feed the cowbird. My observation in Washington County is the first record of a Carolina Wren feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird in Oklahoma.—EMMA H. MESSERLY, 344 S. E. *Elmhurst, Bartlesville, OK. 74006.* Received 2 November 1998, accepted 26 November 1998.