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6736 EAST 28TH STREET, TULSA, OK. 74129 (JL); 6422 SOUTH INDIANAPOLIS PLACE, TULSA OK. 74136 (MBK). Received 20 February 1999, accepted 27 February 1999.

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First nesting record of the Tricolored Heron for Oklahoma

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The Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) breeds primarily along the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico coastlines in estuaries, salt marshes, mangrove swamps, and river deltas (Frederick 1997). Since the mid to late 1970s, the Tricolored Heron has expanded its breeding range. Tricolored Herons have been reported breeding in western and north central Texas (Oberholser 1974, Runnels 1980), central Kansas (Thompson and Ely 1989), South Dakota (Skadsen 1986, Meeks et al. 1996), and North Dakota (Schmidt 1979). Prior to 1998, the Tricolored Heron had not been documented to breed in Oklahoma and had been recorded as only a "very rare" visitor in the nonbreeding season (Sutton 1967, Baumgartner and Baumgartner 1992).

While studying the mixed-species heron rookery on Ralston Island, Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, during summer 1998, Feirer discovered a pair of Tricolored Herons and a nest with two eggs, situated 1.8 m high in a small mulberry tree. The nest was

monitored until 22 June when it was found destroyed by unknown causes. On 28 June, a second nesting attempt was discovered in a clump of salt cedar. This nest was situated 1.2 m high, and it contained 3 eggs. On 12 July, the first egg hatched, and by 15 July all three eggs had completed hatching. On 3 August, we banded three Tricolored Heron hatchlings with a numbered vinyl flag attached to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal band. On 30 August, three banded fledglings and two adult Tricolored Herons were observed flying at Ralston Island.

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