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## NOTES

*Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 34:17, 2001  
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**First nesting records of the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in southeastern Oklahoma.**—Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) were first recorded in Oklahoma in 1983 (Baumgartner and Baumgartner, Oklahoma bird life, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1992). In 1999, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks first nested in Oklahoma, with three records of breeding in Osage, Kingfisher, and Tulsa counties (Kamp and Loyd, *Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 34:13–17, 2001).

On 23 June 2000, we observed two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks perched on top of a nest box erected for Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) on the 1560-ha U. S. Forest Service Red Slough Wetland Reserve Project, 10 km south of Haworth, McCurtain Co., southeastern Oklahoma. On 7 July 2000, Robert A. Bastarache (pers. comm.) inspected a nest box adjacent to the one we observed, and saw a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck exit the box that contained 14 eggs. On 19 July and 1 August 2000, the female was incubating 15 eggs, and on 10 August the nest box held 13 nestlings and two unhatched eggs (Bastarache, pers. comm.). No brood was later seen in the immediate vicinity of the nest box, although on 5 September we observed a family of two adults and 13 flightless young in a previously uncensused area of Red Slough 5 km east of the original nest. There were no natural cavities or nest boxes nearby. However, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks will at times nest on the ground when suitable cavities are unavailable (Bolen, E. G., The ecology of the Black-bellied Tree Duck in southern Texas, Ph.D. dissertation, Utah State Univ., 1967), and such nesting may have produced some of the 45 flightless young in four family groups (with eight adults) that we observed in the same part of Red Slough on 12 September 2000. On 1 October 2000, we again saw four family groups with six adults and 41 fully feathered immatures. Our final observation of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Red Slough in 2000 was of one adult and 16 fully feathered immatures in two family groups on 10 October.—BERLINA A. HECK, 109 Kaye Dr., Broken Bow, OK. 74728 and W. DAVID ARBOUR, 1462 Collin Raye Dr., DeQueen, AR. 71832. Received 25 January 2001, accepted 3 August 2001.

Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc. 34:18, 2001  
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**Early nesting date for the Eastern Bluebird in Oklahoma.**—While visiting Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) nest boxes on 26 February 2000 on the Fort Sill Military Reservation, Commanche County, southwestern Oklahoma, I discovered a completed bluebird nest in a box in a mesquite savanna approximately 2.5 km west of Blue Beaver Creek. On 28 February it held two blue-colored eggs. On 6 and 10 March 2000, there were five eggs in the nest, the usual clutch size for Eastern Bluebirds (Bent, Life histories of North American thrushes, kinglets, and their allies, Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus. 196, Washington, DC). The female bird was sitting on the nest when I visited on 18 March, and it would not move even though I approached closely. This would have been the 16<sup>th</sup> day after the last egg was laid, and by this day the young had probably hatched; the normal incubation period is 12–14 days (Bent 1949). On 25 and 27 March 2000, the nest held four young, but it was empty on 3 April. Young Eastern Bluebirds usually fledge between 17 and 19 days (Bent 1949).

Sutton (Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1967) stated that a pair of Eastern Bluebirds was fighting House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) for a nest site on 4 February 1954 in Cleveland County, Oklahoma. Both Sutton (1967) and Baumgartner and Baumgartner (Oklahoma bird life, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1992) listed the earliest egg date for Oklahoma as 27 March 1921 in Cleveland County. However, the earliest egg in the Fort Sill nest would have been laid on 27 February, a full month earlier. According to unpublished Fort Sill records, the earliest fledging that has been seen there was on 7 April 1999.—KEVIN M. McCURDY, Fort Sill Natural Resources Division, DEQ, ATZR-BN, Fort Sill, OK. 73503. Received 22 January 2001, accepted 3 August 2001.

Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc. 34:18–19, 2001  
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**Baltimore Oriole feeds fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird.**—On 13 July 1973 I observed a young Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) come into my backyard in Bartlesville, Washington County, northeastern Oklahoma. It was followed by a Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). The fledgling cowbird alighted on the ground, and the oriole proceeded to feed the young cowbird two times, then flew away. The cowbird flew into a persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) tree, and I did not see the oriole go to it again, although the young bird gaped several times.

The Baltimore Oriole is an uncommon victim of the Brown-headed Cowbird according to Friedmann (The cowbirds, a study in the biology of social parasitism, Charles C. Thompson, Baltimore, 1929). Sutton (Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1967) stated that there was no evidence of cowbird parasitism in Oklahoma. To my knowledge, the

above observation is the first record of a Baltimore Oriole feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird in Oklahoma.—EMMA H. MESSERLY, 200 Brady Dr., Rolla, MO. 65401. Received 29 January 2001, accepted 3 August 2001.

*Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 34:19–20, 2001  
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**Common Yellowthroat captured in spider's web.**—On 16 September 2000 at 0720, we observed an adult female Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) struggling in a spider's web at the U. S. Forest Service Red Slough Wetland Reserve Project, 10 km southeast of Haworth, McCurtain Co., southeastern Oklahoma. The warbler was firmly held by its first four primaries, around which the web had twisted (Fig. 1). It was necessary to cut the strong, twisted spider web from the wing in order to free the bird, whose feather webs were disheveled, but the shafts were not damaged.



**Fig. 1.** Common Yellowthroat captured in spider's web at Red Slough Wetland Reserve Project, McCurtain Co., Oklahoma. Photograph by Charles H. Heck.

The 2-m high vegetation of the area contained abundant webs of orb-weaver spiders (*Argiope aurantia*), which we believe is the type of web in

which the warbler was captured. However, we observed no spider near the web. We are not aware of any previous reports of Common Yellowthroats being caught in spider's webs.—BERLIN A. HECK, 109 Kaye Dr., Broken Bow, OK. 74728 and CHARLES H. HECK, 3610 Forsythe Ave., Monroe, LA. 71201. Received 3 November 2000, accepted 3 August 2001.

*The Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society* (ISSN 0474-0750) is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December, at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Editor, CHARLES R. BROWN, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK. 74104-3189; Editorial board, JAMES ARTERBURN, MARY BOMBERGER BROWN, VICKI BYRE, JEFFREY COX, JOSEPH GRZYBOWSKI, JAMES HOFFMAN, DOUGLAS MOCK, GARY SCHNELL, and JOHN TOMER. Subscription is by membership in the OOS: \$5 student, \$10 regular, \$15 family, \$15 or more sustaining, per year; life membership \$200. Questions regarding subscription, replacement copies, back issues, or payment of dues should be directed to: DON GLASS, OOS Membership/Circulation Chairman, P. O. Box 2931, Claremore, OK. 74018.