

**BULLETIN OF THE  
OKLAHOMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

VOL. 42

DECEMBER 2009

NO. 4

**FIRST RECORD OF BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD PARASITISM ON  
CASSIN'S SPARROW IN OKLAHOMA**

PAUL VAN ELS, BRETT S. COOPER, AND ELIZABETH D. DOXON  
*Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Oklahoma State  
University, Stillwater, OK 74078; E-mail: paulvanel@yahoo.com*

*Abstract*—Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassini*), an emberizid with a distribution limited to the shrub-grasslands of the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico, has been reported to be an infrequent host of the brood parasite, Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). We present the first documented records of parasitism on Cassin's Sparrow by cowbirds for Oklahoma. Eleven of 45 (24.4%) Cassin's Sparrow nests found during 2006–2008 were parasitized by cowbirds. This may indicate that Cassin's Sparrows are more frequently parasitized than previously thought or that this species experiences a higher rate of brood parasitism in the northeastern part of its range in Oklahoma. Reasons for locally increased parasitism rates may include small-scale geographic variation in host preference by cowbirds or variation in host nest availability due to the highly fluctuating nature of Cassin's Sparrow abundance.

Cassin's Sparrow breeds in fluctuating numbers in the arid shrub-grasslands of the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico. In Oklahoma, this species is restricted to the Panhandle and the westernmost counties and rarely in the center of the state (Carter and Duggan 2004). Friedmann (1963) and Dunning et al. (1999) found Cassin's Sparrow to be infrequently parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds range-wide. Friedmann found only 10 cases, all from Texas. In an additional record from western Texas, 3 of 12 nests were parasitized (Schnase 1984). One parasitized nest (3 sparrow eggs, 1 cowbird egg) was found in southeastern Colorado (Kingery and Julian 1971). In New Mexico, a record exists of a nest with 1 cowbird and 2 sparrow fledglings, as well as feeding of young cowbirds by adult Cassin's Sparrows (W.C. Hunter and W.A. Howe, in litt.). No parasitism has been reported in Arizona (Dunning et al. 1999), and we are not aware of any cases in Mexico. Sutton (1967) reported that Cassin's Sparrow nests were not used by cowbirds in Oklahoma. Parasitism on 2 related species found in Oklahoma, Bachman's Sparrow (*A. aestivalis*) and Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*A. ruficeps*) also is uncommon (Dunning 1993; Collins 1999; Reetz et al. 2008).

In 2006–2008, we performed field research in Cooper Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Woodward County (36°60'N, 99°35'W) and at the Sutter Ranch, Ellis County (36°36'N, 97°71'W). Between 10 May 2006 and 24 July 2008, we located 45 Cassin's Sparrow nests in mixed-grass prairie dominated by sand sagebrush (*Artemisia filifolia*) but also containing fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), sand plum (*Prunus angustifolia*), and soapweed yucca (*Yucca glauca*). Cowbirds were seen frequently, and other frequent breeding birds in the area

## Literature Cited

- Carter, W. A. and M. D. Duggan. 2004. Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassini*). Pp. 394–395 in Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas (D. Reinking, ed.). University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
- Collins, P. W. 1999. Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*). The Birds of North America No 472 (A. Poole, ed.). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, online at <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/472>.
- Doxon, E. D., S. L. Winter, C. A. Davis, and S. D. Fuhlendorf. 2008. Patch-burn management: enhancing habitat for imperiled grassland bird species. Final Report, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma City.
- Dunning, J. B. 1993. Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*). The Birds of North America No 38 (A. Poole, ed.). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, online at <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/038>.
- Dunning, J. B., Jr., R. K. Bowers, Jr., S. J. Suter, and C. E. Bock. 1999. Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassini*). The Birds of North America No 471 (A. Poole, ed.). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, online at <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/471>.
- Friedmann, H. 1963. Host relations of the parasitic cowbirds. United States National Museum Bulletin 233:1–276.
- Jensen, W. E. and J. F. Cully, Jr. 2005. Geographic variation in Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) parasitism on Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) in Great Plains tallgrass prairie. *Auk* 122:648–660.
- Kingery, H. P., and P. R. Julian. 1971. Cassin's Sparrow parasitized by cowbird. *Wilson Bulletin* 83:4.
- Peterjohn, B. G., J. R. Sauer, and S. Schwarz. 2000. Temporal and geographic patterns in population trends of Brown-headed Cowbirds. Pp. 21–34 in Ecology and management of cowbirds and their hosts (J. N. M. Smith, T. L. Cook, S. I. Rothstein, S. K. Robinson, and S. G. Sealy, eds.). University of Texas Press, Austin.
- Purcell, K. L. and J. Verner. 1999. Abundance and rates of brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds over an elevational gradient in the southern Sierra Nevada. *Studies in Avian Biology* 18:97–103.
- Reetz, M. J., Farley, E., and T. E. Contreras. 2008. Evidence for Bachman's Sparrow raising Brown-headed Cowbirds to fledgling. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 120:625–627.
- Sauer, J. R., Hines, J. E., and J. Fallon. 2008. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, results and analysis 1966–2007. Version 5.15.2008. U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland.
- Schnase, J. L. 1984. The breeding biology of Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassini*) in Tom Green County, Texas. M.S. thesis, Angelo State University, San Angelo.
- Sutton, G.M. 1967. Oklahoma birds. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
- Tewksbury, J. J., T. E. Martin, S. J. Hejl, T. S. Redman, and F. J. Wheeler. 1999. Cowbirds in a western valley: effects of landscape structure, vegetation and host density. *Studies in Avian Biology* 18:23–33.

Received 3 December 2008; accepted 1 April 2009.

**Western Kingbird predation of a Black-chinned Hummingbird.**—At 2000 h on 30 May 2008, DL began a daily search of his 2 acre tract in Chickasha (Grady County) for female hummingbird activity as part of an ongoing study to monitor the breeding biology of Black-chinned Hummingbirds (*Archilochus alexandri*). At 2032 h, an Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) landed on a limb on the dead eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) on the east side of the tract. Within a few seconds a female hummingbird flew east toward the dead tree. The hummingbird flew up to the Eastern Bluebird and attempted to drive it away before eventually settling on a dead limb 2 m away. At this time, a male Black-chinned Hummingbird flew to the dead tree and began chasing the female hummingbird. The female hummingbird retreated several times around and between dead limbs on the dead tree and then flew back to the limb she was previously perched on. The male Black-chinned Hummingbird flew completely around the perimeter of the dead tree and rose in the air ca. 5 m above the female. Suddenly, a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) flew up from the dead tree, caught the male hummingbird and returned to a limb on the east side of the tree. The Western Kingbird lifted its head several times as if trying to swallowing the hummingbird and within 20 s flew back behind other trees and out of view.

Western Kingbirds feed primarily on insects (but will also take fruit) and have the smallest bills of any kingbird in North America (Gamble and Bergin 1996); consequently, this predation event was surprising. Although other bird species have been observed occasionally preying on hummingbirds (e.g. a Baltimore Oriole [*Icterus galbula*] was observed killing a Ruby-throated Hummingbird [*Archilochus colubris*; Wright 1962], and an American Kestrel [*Falco sparverius*] was observed catching one on the wing [Mayr 1966]) predation by kingbirds on hummingbirds appears to be rare. A Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) was observed catching and attempting to swallow a *Eulampis* hummingbird (i.e. either a Purple-throated Carib *Eulampis jugularis* or a Green-throated Carib *Eulampis holosericeus*) in Dominica (Seutin and Apanius 1995). We have been unable to find any published reports of Western Kingbirds preying on hummingbirds, and this appears to be the first report of a Western Kingbird killing a hummingbird.

#### Literature Cited

- Gamble, L. R. and T. M. Bergin. 1996. Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 227 (A. Poole, and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- Mayr, E. 1966. Hummingbird caught by Sparrow Hawk. *Auk* 83:664.
- Seutin, G., and V. Apanius. 1995. Gray flycatcher predation on a hummingbird. *Wilson Bulletin* 107:565–567.
- Wright, B. S. 1962. Baltimore Oriole kills hummingbird. *Auk* 79:112.

DICK LEDBETTER, 3103 Frisco Avenue, Chickasha, OK 73018  
dledbett106@suddenlink.net

CHRISTOPHER J. BUTLER, University of Central Oklahoma, 100 North University Drive, Edmond, OK 73034 cbutler11@uco.edu

Received 25 August 2008; accepted 29 January 2009

**Monk Parakeet nesting attempts in Oklahoma.**—The Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) is native to the subtropical and temperate zones of South America and was introduced to the United States during the 1960s through the caged bird trade when it was accidentally or intentionally freed from pet shops and private homes (Bull 1973; Weathers and Caccamise 1975). The first report of free-flying Monk Parakeets in the U.S. was in 1967 in the New York City metropolitan area (Lever 1987). The species is now the most abundant and widespread naturalized psittacid in the United States (Hyman and Pruett-Jones 1995) and is naturalized in Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Texas (Spreyer and Bucher 1998). In some populations where analyses have been carried out, Monk Parakeets are growing exponentially, doubling their population every 6 to 7 years (Pruett-Jones et al. 2007). Other populations (e.g. Oregon) are declining (Butler 2003).

The first reports of Monk Parakeets in Oklahoma date to 1972 when a pair was observed in Norman, and a single bird was observed in Tulsa (Harden 1974). From this first sighting up until 2001, records of Monk Parakeets in Oklahoma are lacking. This absence of records could be due to the absence of Monk Parakeets, or it could be due to not publishing their presence. On 24 March 2001, a Monk Parakeet nest was found in Altus, Oklahoma (C. Browning, pers. comm.). Two birds were initially present (Arterburn 2003) but only a single bird was present by 28 July 2001 (B. Shalvey, pers. comm.). The nest was gone by 3 October 2001 (J. Harris, pers. comm.). On 3 June 2004, S. Harris and P. Velte reported (to OKBIRDS) a nest on an electric pole in south Oklahoma City on SW 89<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (S. Harris, P. Velte, pers. comm.). Velte (pers. comm.) noted seeing 6 Monk Parakeets on 4 June 2004 and seeing them again on 19 June 2004 (pers. comm.). This nest was present through at least 12 August 2004 (B. Heck, pers. comm.) but had disappeared by 27 September 2004 (J. Dolph pers. comm.). It is speculated that the local electricity provider, OG&E, removed the nest for hazardous reasons. We tried to obtain confirmation with OG&E but were unsuccessful. We searched for the birds on 9, 18, and 19 October 2008 in the vicinity of SW 89<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania and did not find any Monk Parakeets. During the summer of 2005, 6 Monk Parakeets were present at the Cedar Valley Golf Course in Guthrie. C. Flesner (pers. comm.) confirmed the presence of the parakeets at the Cedar Valley Golf Course from the second week of June 2005 to about the end of September 2005 or the beginning of October 2005. We visited the golf course in February and August 2008 and located a stick nest but saw no birds.

Monk Parakeets have the ability to survive in extreme climates (Weathers and Caccamise 1975; Hyman and Pruett-Jones 1995). They have a varied diet but can live solely on food from bird feeders during winter months (South and Pruett-Jones 2000). They are adaptable to urban and suburban habitats, especially in parks (Hyman and Pruett-Jones 1995). Monk Parakeets are the only stick-nesting psittacids and maintain their nest year-round, using it for the breeding season and a dormitory for other seasons (Neidermyer and Hickey 1977). Their adaptability to cold temperatures, urban landscapes, limited food supply in the winter, and their

unique nesting characteristics seem to contribute to their success in establishing self-sustaining populations in the United States. Given that Monk Parakeets are thriving in Chicago, Illinois and Connecticut (Hyman and Pruett-Jones 1995, Spreyer and Butcher 1998), Oklahoma appears to be a place where Monk Parakeets could potentially become established in the future. Observers should be alert of Monk Parakeets (and their associated nests), particularly when birding in urban areas. Documenting the presence of Monk Parakeets is important to monitoring these birds in Oklahoma.

#### Literature Cited

- Arterburn, J. W. 2003. Oklahoma bird records committee: 2001 report. Bulletin of Oklahoma Ornithological Society 36:9–12.
- Bull, J. 1973. Exotic birds in the New York City Area. Wilson Bulletin 85:501–505.
- Butler, C. 2003. Species status review; Monk Parakeets in Oregon. Oregon Birds 29:97–100.
- Neidermyer, W. J., and J. J. Hickey. 1977. The Monk Parakeet in the United States, 1970–75. American Birds 31:273–278.
- Harden, W. D. 1974. Monk parakeet in Oklahoma. Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society 7:55–56.
- Hyman, J., and S. Pruett-Jones. 1995. Natural history of the Monk Parakeet in Hyde Park, Chicago. Wilson Bulletin 107:510–517.
- Pruett-Jones, S., J. R. Newman, C. M. Newman, M. L. Avery, and J. R. Lindsay. 2007. Population viability analysis of monk parakeets in the United States and examination of alternative management strategies. Human-Wildlife Conflicts 1:35–44.
- Lever, C. 1987. Naturalized birds of the world. Longman Scientific & Technical, London, United Kingdom.
- South, J. M., and S. Pruett-Jones. 2000. Patterns of flock size, diet, and vigilance of naturalized monk parakeets in Hyde Park, Chicago. Condor 102:848–854.
- Spreyer, M. F., and E. H. Bucher. 1998. Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Birds of North American Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/332>
- Weathers, W. W., and D. F. Caccamise. 1975. Temperature regulation and water requirements of the monk parakeet, *Myiopsitta monachus*. Oecologia 18:329–342.

L. LISA PHAM, CHRIS ROY, ERICA DAVIS, AND CHRISTOPHER J. BUTLER  
 University of Central Oklahoma, 100 North University Drive, Edmond, OK  
 73034; email: [lpham8@uco.edu](mailto:lpham8@uco.edu)

Received 18 November 2008; accepted 29 January 2009.

#### First nesting attempts by Glossy Ibis in Oklahoma halted by Anhingas.—

During May 2007, we documented the first nesting attempts by Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) in Oklahoma at the U.S. Forest Service Red Slough Wildlife

Management Area about 8 km south of Haworth, McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Five to 8 Glossy Ibises were observed at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Alfalfa County, in a heron and egret nesting colony, several times from 27 May to 24 June 2008 by J. Arterburn and R. Sheppard, but none was observed nesting (J. Arterburn pers. comm.).

On 15 May 2007, D. Arbour observed 4 breeding plumage Glossy Ibis in a 6.5-ha wading-bird nesting colony in black willows (*Salix nigra*) about 5 m in height, located in a 29.5-ha impoundment (R. Bastarache, pers. comm.). On 16 May, B. Heck observed 2 pairs of Glossy Ibis in the colony, with 1 pair constructing a nest (nest 1) in a willow tree about 4 m above the water. The other pair was pulling at green twigs near this nest, but no nest construction was observed. On 20 May, Heck observed 1 Glossy Ibis sitting in nest 1 but saw no other Glossy Ibis. On the morning of 22 May, Arbour observed a Glossy Ibis in nest 1, and an Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) performing its wing-rolling courtship display about 2 m from the nest. During that afternoon, Arbour located a Glossy Ibis sitting in a new nest (nest 2) about 20 m from nest 1. He then observed an Anhinga fly to nest 2, threaten the Glossy Ibis in the nest, and chase it from the nest, where the Anhinga then sat. At the same time, Arbour observed an Anhinga displaying while standing in nest 1. On 23 May, Heck observed 2 Glossy Ibis about 10 m from nest 1, which was falling apart, and an Anhinga was displaying about 1 m from the nest before it moved into the nest and continued its display. On 24 May, Arbour observed an Anhinga displaying in the remnants of nest 1 and a Glossy Ibis sitting in nest 2, with an Anhinga displaying in the tree above nest 2. On 30 May, Arbour could not locate either nest; their components apparently scavenged by other nest-building birds in the colony. It is unknown if any eggs were laid by these ibis, and no further nesting activities by Glossy Ibis were observed. No Glossy Ibis were observed in the colony area in 2008.

There is no previous report of agonistic behavior by Anhingas against Glossy Ibis. Baynard (1913) reported, "Glossy Ibis appear to have less enemies than any other bird in the rookeries." Davis and Kricher (2000) reported, "In interspecific encounters, Glossy Ibis were the smallest species and hardly ever won!" They also reported, "Anhingas may appropriate freshly built nests of Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*), White Ibises (*Eudocimus albus*), or Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*)." Glossy Ibis may now be added to this list of victims of Anhinga aggression.

#### Literature Cited

- Baynard, O. E. 1913. Home life of the Glossy Ibis. *Wilson Bulletin* 25:103–117.  
 Davis, W. E. Jr., and J. Kricher. 2000. Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), *The Birds of North America*, No. 545 (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and the American Ornithologist's Union, Washington, D.C.

BERLIN A. HECK, 109 Kaye Drive, Broken Bow, OK 74728; E-mail: baheck@pine-net.com

W. DAVID ARBOUR, 1462 Collin Rae Drive, DeQueen, AR 71832; E-mail: arbour@windstream.net

Received 27 November 2008; accepted 29 January 2009.

**Two new county breeding records for the American Avocet in Oklahoma.**—American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) are a predominately western species, with their range extending fragmentarily into the central and eastern great plains (Robinson et. al. 1997). American Avocet nesting has been well documented in Oklahoma with 3 areas that consistently provide breeding records for this species: the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Alfalfa County, Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area in Tillman County, and the panhandle counties of Beaver, Texas, and Cimarron (Reinking 2004, Tyler 2005). During the Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas project (1997–2001), all confirmed and probable breeding events were documented at those locations (Reinking 2004). Here, we report on 2 new county records of breeding by American Avocets during the spring and summer of 2008 in Harper (northwestern Oklahoma) and Jackson (southwest) counties, Oklahoma.

On 2 June 2008, 4 adult American Avocets were observed 4.9 km north of Laverne (Harper County) in a spring-fed, privately owned pond (ca. 0.9 ha), and 1 of the adults was observed sitting on what appeared to be a nest. Due to the distance of the initial observation (>160 m), permission from owners was acquired to confirm the presence of a nest. After EB reached the site, adults began distraction displays and somewhat aggressive aerial swoops. The nest was located and contained 3 eggs. Documentation photos were taken, and the nest left undisturbed. The adults were then observed from a distance to confirm that they did return to the nest. A separate observer (K. Dawson, pers. comm.) visited the site again on 26 June 2008 and confirmed the presence of 3 chicks.

Two small, adjacent ponds in Jackson County provided the second new breeding record. Adult birds aggressively swooped EB's truck while he conducted surveys in the region indicated potential for breeding activity. Two juvenile avocets still unable to fly were subsequently observed foraging at the ponds. Their presence and condition likely explain adults' aggressive behavior. The two small ponds were located 3.2 km west of the North Fork of the Red River just 1.6 km north of Rt. 5, and 9.6 km west of Tipton, Oklahoma.

Breeding accounts along the eastern limits of this species distribution are scattered, and new breeding accounts provide an opportunity to better understand the demographics of these "eastern" populations. The site in Harper County is about 16 km east of Beaver County where the closest probable breeding events were noted during the Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas (Reinking 2004), and the site in Jackson County is located ca. 40 km northwest of the Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area, Tillman County, where stable breeding populations occur annually (Reinking 2004; Tyler 2005). Thus, this account helps fill apparent gaps in the breeding distribution of the species in the state. Future observations may help determine if these sightings represent part of a more contiguous and/or stable breeding population.

*Acknowledgements.*—We thank D.M. Leslie Jr. and D.L. Reinking for assistance with this note.

#### Literature Cited

- Reinking, D. L.(ed). 2004. Oklahoma breeding bird atlas. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
- Robinson, J. A., L. W. Oring, J. P. Skorupa, and R. Boettcher. 1997. American Avocet. In *The birds of North America*, No. 275 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- Tyler, J. D. 2005. *Birds of southwestern Oklahoma and north central Texas*. Transcript Press, Norman, Oklahoma.

ERIC BECK, *Department of Biological Sciences, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma 73505 and G. M. Sutton Avian Research Center, Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74005. E-mail: brdbrn1979@yahoo.com*

MICHAEL S. HUSAK, *Department of Biological Sciences, Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma 73505. E-mail: michaelh@cameron.edu*

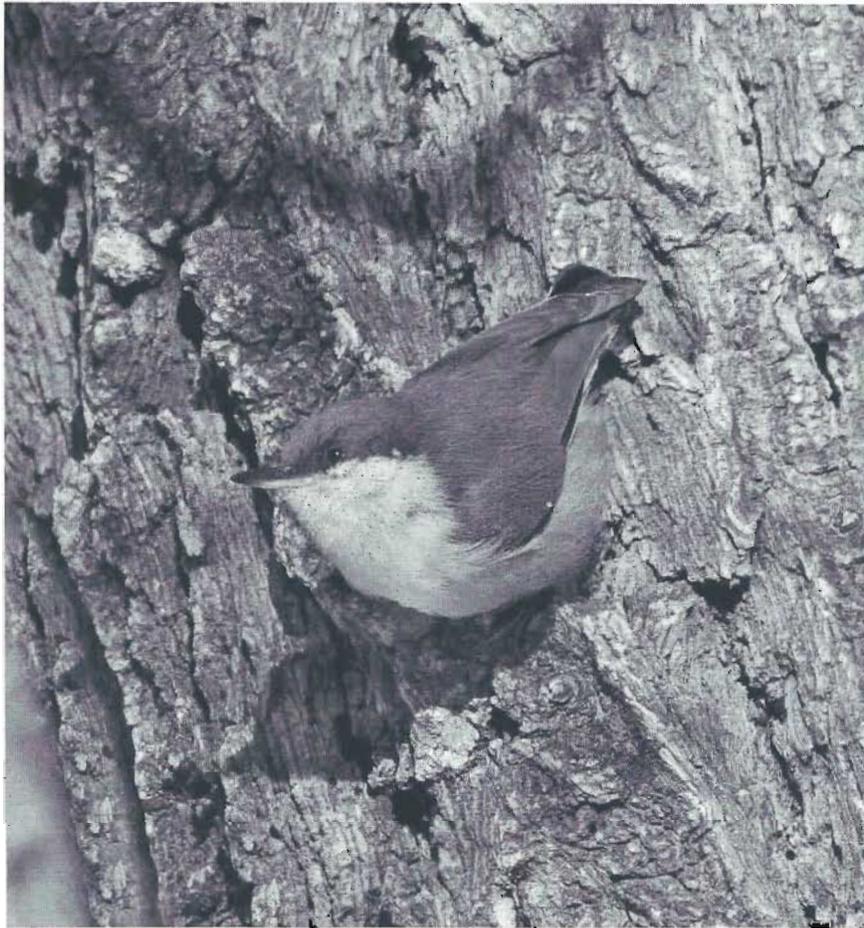
*Received 10 September 2008; accepted 29 January 2009.*

**First Record of Pygmy Nuthatch in Texas County, Oklahoma.**—The Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*) is a small nuthatch with a short stubby tail, slate-colored back and a pale, creamy yellow belly and breast. It has a dark head with a dark eyeline and white throat. It forages on limbs and trunks of trees in typical nuthatch fashion. This species is typically found in the forested mountains of New Mexico and Colorado and is a resident in the mountains of southwestern Texas.

On 29 November 2007, we were birding Sunset Park in Guymon, Texas County, Oklahoma. It was a cold overcast day with a high of  $-2^{\circ}$  C and a sharp north wind of over 32 kph. At 0915 CST, one of us (MD) heard a high-pitched squeaky sound high in the pines, a call she had not ever heard before. We were unable to locate the birds at that time. Because it was extremely cold, we decided to warm up in the car, while still searching the trees nearby. Suddenly, one of us (JM) had a nuthatch in view at eye level, but it then went deeper in the tree. JM was sure it was not a Red-breasted Nuthatch (*S. canadensis*) and almost sure it was not a White-breasted Nuthatch (*S. carolinensis*). The bird in question came into view again, and we both identified it as a Pygmy Nuthatch (*S. pygmaea*). After leaving the car, we observed 2 individuals making penetrating peeps and squeaks over the wind. We watched for over 20 minutes as the tiny active birds flew from tree to tree, calling loudly. JM was able to photograph them enough for documentation.

Three Pygmy Nuthatches were observed and photographed (Figure 1) at this location on 30 December 2007 by Steve Metz, Kim Wade, Berlin Heck, John Sterling and Terry Mitchell (S.Metz, 2009, pers comm.). These observations were accepted by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee (OBRC) as published in the *Scissortail* (Sept. 2008, Vol. 58). Pygmy Nuthatches were observed again at this

location on 2 December 2007 by George Kamp, Steve Metz, Kim Wade, Max Fuller and Garey Harritt.



**Fig. 1.** Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*) photographed at Sunset Lake Park in Guymon, Oklahoma on 29 December 2007 by Steve Metz.

The Pygmy Nuthatch has been a rare and irregular visitor to the Black Mesa area of Cimarron County, Oklahoma. Sixteen Pygmy Nuthatches were tallied in late December 1970 during a Christmas Bird Count in Cimarron County (Baumgartner 1992: 266). The last Pygmy Nuthatch reported was on 22 August 1972 along the Cimarron River (Baumgartner 1992:266). But the Pygmy Nuthatch has not been recorded previously in Texas County. This observation is over 120 Km east of these previous state sightings. This species is an uncommon winter visitor in Kansas (Sutton, G.M., 1967:398). However, on 30 December 2007, 35 Pygmy Nuthatches were found during the Christmas Bird Count in Harrison, Nebraska, Sioux County (Grzybowski and Silcock 2008). The winter of

2007/2008 was a period of unusual observations, as the Pygmy Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee and Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) were all observed in Sunset Park during this timeframe. With its thick stand of mixed evergreens, Sunset Park is apparently attractive to northern montane species. Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) and Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulous*) have also been found there in recent years.

#### Literature Cited

- Baumgartner, F.M., and A.M. Baumgartner. 1992. Oklahoma Bird Life. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.  
 Grzybowski, J.A., and W.R. Silcock, 2008. Southern Great Plains, the winter season. North American Birds 62:267.  
 Sutton, G.M., 1967. Oklahoma Birds. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

JERI A. MCMAHON, 311 Bayou Road., Fort Gibson, OK 74434;  
 okiebirder@allegiance.tv

MELINDA M. DROEGE, 20412 North 4030 Road., Bartlesville, OK 74006;  
 oklagranny26@gmail.com

Submitted 26 July 2009; accepted 29 October 2009.

---

### Index of Bird Names

Vol. 41, 2008

---

- Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*): 19  
 Ani, Groove-billed (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*): 6  
 Avocet, American (*Recurvirostra americana*)  
 Black-chinned Hummingbirds (*Archilochus alexandri*): 15–16  
 Bluebird, Eastern (*Sialia sialis*): 16  
 Cardinal, Northern (*Cardinalis cardinalis*): 4–8  
 Carib, Green-throated (*Eulampis holosericeus*): 16  
     Purple-throated (*Eulampis jugularis*): 16  
 Cowbird, Brown-headed (*Molothrus ater*): 6, 13  
 Crossbill, Red (*Loxia curvirostra*): 23  
 Cuckoo, Guira (*Guira guira*): 6  
 Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)  
 Duck, Wood (*Aix sponsa*): 6  
 Egret, Great (*Ardea alba*): 19  
     Snowy (*Egretta thula*): 19  
 Grosbeak, Pine (*Pinicola enucleator*): 23  
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated (*Archilochus colubris*): 15  
 Heron, Little Blue (*Egretta caerulea*): 15  
 Ibis, Glossy (*Plegadis falcinellus*): 18–19  
     White (*Eudocimus albus*): 19  
 Junco, Dark-eyed (*Junco hyemalis*): 9–11  
 Kestrel, American (*Falco sparverius*): 15

Kingbird, Gray ( <i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i> ):	15
Western ( <i>Tyrannus verticalis</i> ):	15
Meadowlark, Western ( <i>Sturnella neglecta</i> )	
Mockingbird, Northern ( <i>Mimus polyglottus</i> ):	6
Nuthatch, Pygmy ( <i>Sitta pygmaea</i> ):	21–23
Red-breasted ( <i>Sitta canadensis</i> ):	21
White breasted ( <i>Sitta carolinensis</i> ):	21
Oriole, Baltimore ( <i>Icterus galbula</i> ):	16
Owl, Burrowing ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> ):	1–3
Parakeet, Monk ( <i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> ):	17
Pheobe, Black ( <i>Sayornis nigricans</i> ):	4
Sparrow, Bachman's ( <i>Aimophila aestivalis</i> ):	12
Cassin's ( <i>Aimophila cassinni</i> ):	13–14
Field ( <i>Spizella pusilla</i> ):	14
Lark ( <i>Chondestes grammacus</i> ):	6, 14
Rufous-Crowned ( <i>Aimophila ruficeps</i> ):	13
Starling, European ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> ):	6
Vireo, Black-capped ( <i>Vireo atricapillus</i> ):	14
Warbler, Swainsons ( <i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i> ):	12
Waxwing, Bohemian ( <i>Bombycilla garrulous</i> ):	23
Woodpecker, Acorn ( <i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i> ):	6

---

The *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society* (ISSN 0474-0750) is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December in Norman, Oklahoma. Co-editors, Bryan Coppedge (to whom manuscripts should be directed), Science and Mathematics, Tulsa Community College, 7505 West 41st Street, Tulsa, OK 74107-8633 e-mail: bcoppedg@tulsacc.edu; Jeffrey F. Kelly, University of Oklahoma; and David M. Leslie, Jr., U.S. Geological Survey. Subscription is by membership in the Oklahoma Ornithological Society: \$15 student, \$25 regular, \$35 family, \$40 or more sustaining, per year; life membership, \$500. Direct questions regarding subscription, replacement copies, back issues, or payment of dues to Don Glass, OOS Membership/Circulation Chair, P.O. Box 2931, Claremore, OK 74018.

© 2009 Oklahoma Ornithological Society