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THIRD SPECIMEN OF FRIGATEBIRD FOR OKLAHOMA

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On the morning of 3 November 1975, Delbert Foltz, a Ranger of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, received a call from Oklahoma Highway Department personnel concerning a strange bird that had been found atop the Highway Department building in Perry, Noble County,

FRIGATEBIRD

Found in weakened condition atop a building in Perry, Oklahoma, this wanderer from the ocean may well be the first of its species to have been taken in North America. Photograph by Victor J. Heller.

north-central Oklahoma. Foltz captured the weakened bird and brought it to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, where we identified it at once as a frigatebird of the genus *Fregata*. Its most notable features were its extremely long wings, deeply forked tail, long, strongly hooked beak, small, flesh-colored feet, and red gular pouch. It weighed 718 grams.

We offered it living and dead fish, which it refused to eat. For three days we tried to force-feed it, but to no avail. On 7 November it died. Its plumage was alive with mallophagans, some of which we preserved. The carcass was extremely emaciated. The sex organs were not discernible, but the redness of the gular pouch led us to believe that the bird was a male. A No. 8 lead shot was found in the anterior lobe of the left kidney. The specimen (Oklahoma State University Museum No. 1770) was mounted with wings partly spread.

The bird is so small (wing chord 546 mm.; flattened wing 573; tail 404; culmen 94) that we seriously question its being a Magnificent Frigatebird (*F. magnificens*), two Oklahoma specimens of which have been preserved, one taken in Woods County, northwestern Oklahoma in August 1936, the other in Caddo County, southwestern Oklahoma, in April 1933 (Sutton, 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 23). Two Magnificent Frigatebird specimens available for direct comparison, one (sex unknown) in the University of Oklahoma collection, the other a male courteously lent by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, measure, respectively: wing chord 622, 610; flattened wing 631, 621; tail 418, 410; culmen 108, 110. We suspect that our bird is a Great Frigatebird (*F. minor*), a species that has never been taken in North America, but final identification must await further investigation. The important fact of the moment is that another individual of the wide-ranging genus *Fregata* has strayed from the ocean, across a vast stretch of land, into Oklahoma.

The Family Fregatidae contains five closely allied species, all placed in the genus *Fregata*. Though essentially oceanic birds, they do not habitually frequent the high seas. They nest on islands, many of which are far removed from continents. The fact that in early November of 1975 wind that blew across north-central Oklahoma was from the southwest suggests strongly that the frigatebird found in Perry had been carried inland from the Pacific coast.

We wish to thank Wesley E. Lanyon and John Farrand Jr. of the American Museum of Natural History in New York for lending specimens of *F. magnificens*, *F. minor*, and *F. aquila* (Ascension Frigatebird) for our use, and George M. Sutton, of the University of Oklahoma, for his help.

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY PROGRAM, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074, 23 APRIL 1977.

GENERAL NOTES

Olivaceous Cormorant in Oklahoma City area.—The Olivaceous Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*) has recently become a fairly regular summer visitor to lakes and marshes in the vicinity of Oklahoma City, central Oklahoma. During the past several years (1970-1977) I have seen it every year except in 1973, 1974, and 1977. The species is easy enough to identify from its smallness if a Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*) happens to be close by, but direct comparison of the two species is not often possible: valid Oklahoma records for *auritus* indicate that that species is usually away from central Oklahoma while *olivaceus* is here.

My *P. olivaceus* records span the summer period from 27 February to 31 October. I have no record for November, December, or January, only one record for February (one date, one bird), and only one record for March (one date, one bird). The white area bordering the gular pouch has not thus far proved to be a very good field mark insofar as Oklahoma is concerned, for most *olivaceus* that visit this state seem to be immature or subadult. In the first specimen for the state, an adult female (UOMZ 365) collected on Lake Texoma near Willis, Marshall County, south-central Oklahoma on 18 August 1950 (Starks, 1951, Wilson Bull., 63: 333-34), the white area is distinct though narrow and not at all conspicuous; in the eight other Oklahoma specimens now in the University of Oklahoma collection (one adult, seven immature) the white is barely perceptible even with the bird in hand. Some of my size-estimates of *olivaceus* I have based on crude measurement of fencepost diameters, most wooden fenceposts in the vicinity of Oklahoma City being of slightly greater diameter than that of an Olivaceous Cormorant. Here is a year by year summary of my records:

1970: Species present from 9 May to 31 October, on 9 May two birds at Lake Overholser, all other sightings for Lake Hefner (five birds on 19 May, six or seven birds on 22 July, eight birds on 26 July; from 26 July to 4 October up to eight birds repeatedly, sometimes all eight standing in a row at the water's edge along the southwest shore; between 4 and 31 October no bird; on 31 October one bird).

1971: One bird (possibly two) seen repeatedly at Lake Overholser from 9 April through 12 May.

1972: Species seen twice at Lake Overholser, one bird on 27 February, one bird on 19 March.

1973-1974: No sightings in area.

1975: On 30 April Jack S. Roberts photographed one at a small pond near the southeast corner of Lake Hefner. From 11 May through 23 August the species frequented Rose Lake, a shallow, sometimes quite extensive body of water that forms in Canadian County about 2½ miles northwest of Lake Overholser as a result of flooding of the North Canadian River, that sometimes persists all summer, but that during some summers does not form at all. Here I saw one bird on 11 May; from 16 May through 9 August nine birds were seen by myself and other observers; on 10 August one bird, an adult in heavy molt, was collected by Roberts; from 11 through 23 August seven birds were seen by me on several occasions.

1976: From 10 April through 27 June one to six birds were seen at Rose Lake by various observers (including me). In July the "lake" dried up rapidly, forcing the cormorants to find food elsewhere. On 4 July I saw one bird at Lake Hefner, on 17 July two birds at Lake Hefner, on 18 July one bird on the North Canadian River, and on 8 August four birds on "Prothonotary Warbler Lake" (impounded North Canadian River). On 28 August I saw two cormorants that I could not identify to species on Lake Overholser.

When there *is* a Rose Lake, that shallow body of water seems to meet many of the Olivaceous Cormorant's requirements admirably. If and when the birds attempt to breed in the Oklahoma City area it will be interesting to see where they place their nests.—John G. Newell, *4129 N. Everest, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111, 30 March 1977.*

Recovery of five-year-old Swainson's Hawk.—On 15 July 1956, near the town of Anthony, Harper County, south-central Kansas, a Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) that had been banded on 22 July 1951 as a nestling about 12 miles northwest of Alva, Woods County, northwestern Oklahoma, probably by the late Stanley F. Little, was found dead. The bird was, in other words, almost exactly five years old when it died. Anthony, Kansas is about 50 miles northeast of the place of banding. In view of what is known about the winter range of *Buteo swainsoni* ("Argentina," according to AOU Check-list, 1957, p. 108), we are fully justified in believing that the bird had travelled literally thousands of miles during its short life.—Paul F. Nighswonger, *Dept. of Biology, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma 73717, 9 November 1976.*

Breeding of Common Gallinule in Grant County, Oklahoma.—In the spring of 1975 the Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) nested on a farm pond near our house about 6½ miles southwest of Wakita, Grant County, north-central Oklahoma. I first noticed one of the adults as I was riding past the pond on my bicycle. Several American Coots (*Fulica americana*) and other waterfowl were on the pond that day, but I knew that the cootlike bird with red bill was a gallinule. I went home for my field glasses, but when I returned no red-billed bird was in sight. I did, however, hear clucks and other bird-sounds from the cattails, grass, and cottonwood saplings growing in a ditch along the road. I waited for some time, hoping that at least one gallinule would show itself, but none did. I returned the following day and on several days thereafter without even glimpsing a gallinule. Then, perhaps two weeks later, there they were — an adult and seven tiny chicks. I could not believe what I was seeing, so I called Lyle Byfield and his wife Ann, who came to the pond and verified my identification. A few days later I again saw an adult gallinule, this time with five chicks. From time to time thereafter I saw two adults with chicks. I believe that two pairs nested at the pond, though I never saw more than two adults at any one time. Coots nested there too, and the gallinules and coots fought each other fiercely at times. Even when I could see no gallinules I could tell about where they were from the clucking that issued from the vegetation. I could not, however, be sure which cries were from gallinules and which from coots.

We did not see any gallinules on the pond in 1976. This spring (1977) there is no water in the pond.—Ruby Seibel, *Wakita, Oklahoma 73771, 14 April 1977.*

Late spring date for Glaucous Gull.—On 25 March 1976 (partly cloudy; wind moderate), while on the Canadian County shore of Lake Overholser in Oklahoma City, central Oklahoma, we observed a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) in second winter plumage at rest on the water about 450 meters away. The sun was behind us as we watched the bird for about 15 minutes through 20X and 30X spotting scopes. The all-white plumage (including wing tips) and large pale bill with dark tip were clearly visible. Size comparison was possible, for a Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), also at rest on the water, was about 10 m. from it. Others who saw the bird with us were Gary D. Schnell and the members of his ornithology class at the University of Oklahoma. The sighting is the latest for Oklahoma in spring by nearly two weeks (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 17). For other records of this species, which is uncommon in the state, see Ports (1976, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 9: 6-7)

and Sutton (1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 216).—D. Scott Wood and Joseph A. Grzybowski, *Dept. of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73019, 15 November 1976.*

Black-chinned Hummingbird in Johnston County, Oklahoma.—While my wife Pamela and I were in residence at the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge in Johnston County, southeastern Oklahoma from the spring of 1972 to the early fall of 1975, we kept a hummingbird feeder just outside our kitchen window every summer. Several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) regularly fed there. During the week of 20 April 1975, my wife remarked that she had been seeing a male bird that "looked different" from a male Ruby-throat. I increased my watch at the window and on the morning of 2 May ascertained that this "different" bird was a Black-chin (*A. alexandri*). I told Virgie Fly and Ida K. Yandel, avid bird students of Tishomingo, about the bird and they came to see it that same day. Its coal-black throat had a shining purple band along its lower edge. From 2 May to 24 July my wife and I saw the Black-chin almost daily, along with at least one male Ruby-throat and several female or female-like birds. On 24 July the only male bird that I saw was the Black-chin, but several female or female-like birds visited the feeder that day.

Archilochus alexandri has heretofore been observed in Oklahoma no farther eastward than Grant, Oklahoma, Cleveland, and Comanche counties (Sutton, 1974, A checklist of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 22).—Billy J. Hawthorne, *508 Ridgecrest, Port Lavaca, Texas 77979, 14 March 1977.*

Blue Jay kills adult House Sparrow.—At about 0800 on 14 May 1976, I noticed through a window at my house in Norman, Cleveland County, central Oklahoma, that a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) was pecking at something under a bush along the edge of the yard. A male Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) and several smaller birds, most of them House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), were close by, all of them obviously agitated. Presently I perceived that the jay had pinned an adult male sparrow to the ground and that the sparrow was struggling. For some time I watched the jay pounding the sparrow vigorously with its bill.

Suddenly the jay flew off. The sparrow, motionless for about thirty seconds, "came to" and fluttered about, unable to fly and obviously trying to hide. It moved about 4 feet from the place at which the jay had been pounding it and crouched there motionless. Presently the jay returned, alighted directly above the spot at which it had left the sparrow, looked about as if puzzled, and began hopping from twig to twig, watching the ground. Soon it was about 3 feet directly above the sparrow, and I could tell from the jay's behavior that its search had ended. Instantly it pounced. I had an idiotic impulse to chase it away but decided (1) that I was seeing something unusual that should be witnessed from start to finish, and (2) that a jay had as much right as a hawk or owl to hunt and kill.

The jay pecked its victim hard for a time, then dragged it onto the cement driveway, where I could see just what it was doing. Holding the sparrow down, it directed its blows at its victim's head. The sparrow continued to struggle, but its movements became steadily more feeble. Now the jay seized the sparrow with its beak, flew to a branch about 3 feet up, and began eating. I could see it clearly. Tearing the sparrow apart was not easy, but occasionally a billful came free and was swallowed. After feeding for two minutes or so, the jay dropped its prey and flew off.

On examining the sparrow, I found that its head was completely gone. I searched the ground for scattered remains, but all I could find was the headless body. The victim's plumage was infested with mites or feather lice (or both), suggesting that the sparrow might have been in poor health when the jay attacked it.

Johnson and Johnson (1976, Wilson Bull., 88: 509) have recently reported the killing of a Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) by a Blue Jay in Texas at a time when

there was no obvious food shortage.—Jerry Redmond, *902 S. Lahoma St., Norman, Oklahoma 73069, 15 July 1976.*

Worm-eating Warbler in Osage County, Oklahoma.—A little after sunup on 13 May 1976 (weather clear and calm; air temperature about 55°F.), while Dotty M. Goard and I were making a "count" on a National Audubon Society census plot in Osage County, northeastern Oklahoma, we happened upon a Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) near the head of a wooded canyon. The plot is about 5 miles west of Bartlesville and 2 miles south of State Highway 60, on a ranch owned by Mrs. Margaret Hackmuth.

We became aware of the bird through hearing its buzzy trill, which I thought was that of a Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), but which Mrs. Goard, with her more experienced ear, knew to be too fast for that species' song. Scrambling over rocks and through scrubby trees, we found the bird in an oak whose crown was largely above the canyon but whose roots were in the canyon wall. Alarmed by our approach, the warbler stopped singing and flew down into the canyon. We did not see or hear it again that day, but Mrs. Goard found it at the very same place six days later (19 May).

Throughout the 40-acre census plot, which includes a considerable stretch of the canyon, there are many sandstone outcroppings. Between these grow sapling post oaks (*Quercus stellata*) and blackjack oaks (*Q. marilandica*) 4 to 6 feet high. The canyon has steep 40-foot walls and no stream, though it drains a sizeable area and its bottom is usually wetter than the rest of the plot. In it the two above-mentioned oaks and the black oak (*Q. velutina*), shadbush (*Amelanchier arborea*), chittamwood (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), and smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) grow.

According to the summary of records filed at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range, the Worm-eating Warbler has heretofore been sighted in Osage County only once—on 1 May 1966, when Robert Haas and his wife Charlene saw a single bird in Osage Hills State Park. The species has been seen 12 times in Washington County, ten times in the spring, twice in the fall. The "spring" sightings include one for June (exact date not recorded), one for May (exact date not recorded), the others for the 1-18 May period. The species may well nest in this part of the state, but no one has yet observed it throughout the breeding season.—Ella Delap, *409 N. Wyandotte, Dewey, Okla. 74029, 15 July 1976.*

Cerulean Warbler in central Oklahoma.—The Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), a summer resident of the eastern United States, has heretofore been known to occur westward in Oklahoma as far as Washington, Tulsa, and Latimer counties (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 37). Scattered sightings have placed the western limits of occurrence near the 96th meridian, which passes approximately through the cities of Bartlesville, Tulsa, Okmulgee and Atoka. I know of two sightings for the Oklahoma City area, an area about 75 miles west of the 96th meridian.

The first of these is of a male seen along the North Canadian River north of Lake Overholser in eastern Canadian County on 14 June 1960 by John S. Shackford. The second is of a singing male that I saw in my yard in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, on 28 April 1976. The previous night had been very stormy and rain was still falling intermittently all morning. Accompanying the Cerulean were several other warblers, among them a male Black-poll (*D. striata*) and two Black-throated Greens (*D. virens*). The Cerulean remained in my yard much of the morning, at times feeding low in the wet trees, allowing excellent viewing.—John G. Newell, *4129 N. Everest, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111, 21 May 1976.*

Possible breeding of Western Meadowlark in northeastern Oklahoma.—On 29 May 1966, after an all-night run for Whip-poor-wills (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), I paused shortly after daybreak to tape bird calls on US Highway 59 about 5 miles south of Stilwell, Adair County, northeastern Oklahoma. One of the best performers there was a Western

Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) that sang from atop a telephone pole. I taped about five minutes of its singing and its songs were also in the background of other species taped nearby. The bird gave every appearance of being on territory. It was the only Western Meadowlark heard by me in several seasons (1963-76) of taping in late May and early June in eastern Oklahoma. During the earlier years of this period I taped songs chiefly in the Ozark Mountains, during more recent years in the Ouachitas.

The singing of *Sturnella neglecta* in summer has heretofore been reported from as far eastward in Oklahoma as Payne, Oklahoma, Cleveland, and Marshall counties (Sutton, 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 39). The mate of a male bird seen and heard repeatedly in Cleveland County in the summer of 1965 proved (on collection) to be an Eastern Meadowlark (*S. magna*) — i.e., a specimen whose malar region had no hint of yellow and whose tertials and middle rectrices were dark medially from base to tip (Sutton and Dickson, 1965, Southwest. Nat., 10: 307). The Western Meadowlark is not known to have bred in Arkansas, though a male bird seen and heard on 14 May 1938 in Washington County, in the northwestern corner of the state, was "apparently nesting" (Baerg, 1951, Birds of Arkansas, Agric. Exper. Sta., Univ. Arkansas, Fayetteville, p. 154). In southwestern Tennessee during the early summer of 1951 repeated weekend searches at the Penal Farm near Memphis culminated in the discovery on 20 May of a nest containing six well feathered young (R. Demett Smith Jr., 1951, The Migrant, 22: 21-22). The male parent of this brood assuredly was a Western Meadowlark, but no one knows the species to which the female parent belonged.—Ben B. Coffey Jr., *672 N. Belvedere, Memphis, Tennessee 38107, 9 December 1976.*

Late spring sighting of White-crowned Sparrow.—On the morning of 8 June 1975, I watched a lone adult White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) looking for food in our yard ½ mile southeast of Duncan, Stephens County, south-central Oklahoma. I watched the bird for about five minutes through a window. Part of this time it was within 3 feet of me. The date is late. According to Sutton (1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 47) the species has not been seen in Oklahoma heretofore later than 2 June. The summary of records at the University of Oklahoma Bird Range makes clear that on 2 June 1965, along the Cimarron River 13 miles north of Boise City, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma, John S. Weske collected one of two White-crowned Sparrows that he saw there. The specimen proved to be a male in breeding feather of the dark-lored eastern race, *Z. l. leucophrys*.—John R. Craythorne, *P.O. Box 745, Duncan, Oklahoma 73533.*

Late dates for spring departure of Lapland Longspur.—On the morning of 9 April 1976, while Jayne Christo and I were driving along South Sheridan Road between 121st St. and 131st St. in the southern part of Tulsa, Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma, Jayne saw a small bird moving among heavy clods in a recently plowed field. When we stopped the car for a look through our spotting scope, we saw that there were three birds rather than one. We thought at first that they were Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*), but bill-shape and markings declared them to be Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*).

At about noon two days later (11 April), Elizabeth Hayes and I happened upon two Lapland Longspurs along 76th St. North, 1 mile east of Harvard Ave., in the northern part of Tulsa. They were bathing in a puddle among green grass near a fence row. The breast in each had noticeable dark blotches, the size of which may have been accentuated by wetness. The line above the eye was almost "yellow-gold" in tone, not white or gray. Nearby we found a flock composed of several Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and two Vesper Sparrows (*Pooecetes gramineus*). Each longspur had white along its tail-edges, but when the birds flew this did not show nearly as plainly as it did in the Vesper Sparrows.

According to Sutton (1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 48), the latest spring date on record for *Calcarius lapponicus* in Oklahoma is 7 April. On 7 April 1963, near the Norman airfield, in Cleveland County, central Oklahoma, Lewis W. Oring, John Janovy Jr., and George M. Sutton collected a female specimen (UOMZ 5188) whose neck region was in "slight molt."—Eleanor Sieg, *5152 Urbana St., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135, 7 February 1977.*

FROM THE EDITOR: In the recently published Third Supplement (1976, Auk, 93: 875-79) to the Fifth Edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's "Check-list of North American birds" (1957), several name-changes for bird species on Oklahoma's "official list" are announced. The Green Heron, long known as *Butorides virescens*, is now considered a subspecies of the wide-ranging Striated Heron (*B. striatus*), so the scientific name of the form found in Oklahoma becomes *Butorides striatus virescens*; the scientific species-name of the Mississippi Kite, mis-spelled once in Wilson's original description of the bird, will now incorporate correct spelling, so the full scientific name will read *Ictinia mississippiensis*; the tern genus *Hydroprogne* is merged with the cosmopolitan genus *Sterna*, so the name of the Caspian Tern becomes *Sterna caspia*; the Burrowing Owl, a New World species long placed in the genus *Speotyto*, is believed to be closely related to two small Old World owls of the genus *Athene*, so its name becomes *Athene cunicularia*; the genera *Centurus* (Red-bellied and Golden-fronted woodpeckers) and *Asyndesmus* (Lewis's Woodpecker) are merged with *Melanerpes* (Red-headed Woodpecker), so the Red-bellied, Golden-fronted, and Lewis's woodpeckers are now to be called, respectively, *Melanerpes carolinus, M. aurifrons,* and *M. lewis;* the woodpecker genus *Dendrocopos* is merged with *Picoides* (this despite the fact that two species of the enlarged genus have three toes while the rest have four !), so the Hairy, Downy, Ladder-backed, and Red-cockaded woodpeckers are to be called, respectively, *Picoides villosus, P. pubescens, P. scalaris,* and *P. borealis*; the Black-crested and Tufted titmice are now considered conspecific, so the name of the former becomes *Parus bicolor atricristatus; Telmatodytes* (Long-billed Marsh Wren) is merged with *Cistothorus* (Short-billed Marsh Wren), so the former's name becomes *Cistothorus palustris; Cassidix* (Great-tailed Grackle) is merged with *Quiscalus* (Common Grackle), so the former's name becomes *Quiscalus mexicanus; Pyrrhuloxia* is merged with *Cardinalis,* so the Pyrrhuloxia's scientific name becomes *Cardinalis sinuatus;* the genera *Acanthis* and *Spinus* are merged with *Carduelis* (European Goldfinch and several Old World allies), so the Common Redpoll, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, and Pine Siskin are to be called *Carduelis flammea, C. tristis, C. psaltria,* and *C. pinus,* respectively; and *Chlorura* (Green-tailed Towhee) is merged with *Pipilo* (Rufous-sided Towhee), so the name of the former becomes *Pipilo chlorurus* (an adjectival specific name must agree with the generic name in gender, hence the change from the feminine *chlorura* to the masculine *chlorurus*).

Edgar B. Kinkaid Jr., the editor of H. C. Oberholser's recently published "The bird life of Texas" (1974, Univ. Texas Press, Austin), made a point of preserving the author's taxonomic concepts, many of which depart widely from those of present as well as former members of the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. The truly impressive Texas work may appear to bird students of this region to be the "last word" on taxonomic matters, but obviously it is that in only a restricted sense. Some of Oberholser's concepts may eventually be adopted, but writers who do not follow the A.O.U. Committee's lead should carefully explain why they do not.

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