

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK IN COMANCHE COUNTY,  
OKLAHOMA

BY JACK D. TYLER

At 1800 on 1 July 1983 (little wind, temperature near 90°F), while visiting the marshy sewage lagoons at Medicine Park in Comanche County, southwestern Oklahoma, I discovered a strange, mid-sized duck sitting low in the water with tail held high that I could not immediately identify. In body size and neck length it resembled a Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*). A light cinnamon color prevailed on its neck, chest, head, and lower sides and the darkness of its back contrasted with the white undertail coverts. A light stripe paralleled the lower margin of the bird's folded wing. From the posterior crown, a dark band extended downward along the hind neck. The duck continuously remained on the water, and I made no effort to flush it. Sometimes it rested in the brush or cattails (*Typha* sp.) along the pond's edge. Other species that were nesting in the dense fringing cattails included the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) and American Coot (*Fulica americana*).

After consulting Peter Scott's *A colored key to the wildfowl of the world*



**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK**

*A lone bird observed 1-16 July, 1983 at the Medicine Park sewage lagoons in Comanche County, Oklahoma. Photographed on 6 July by Kevin Mason.*

(1957, The Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, England, p. 35), I was still perplexed as to the unusual duck's identity. In company with Sue Firman, I saw it again at 1445 on 4 July, but still could not satisfactorily identify it. On 6 July, Kevin Mason and I returned to the pond at 1830 and took several photographs of it as it rested on the water (see cover photo). When we flushed it, we were able, for the first time, to see the duck's rather stout body and dark legs that extended *well past* the tail. A conspicuous white subterminal band on the black tail was diagnostic; it was a Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). After it landed again on the other pond, I (through my telescope) noted several dark, nearly vertical bars on the broad white neck band immediately below its throat, and that the light lateral stripe was actually composed of alternating black and white bars.

I observed the bird again on 8 July, as did Louis E. and Janet M. McGee, but I did not find it on 12 July. However, Vicky Belcher found it there on the 12th. Tracy Hubbard was apparently the last to see it, on 16 July.

*Dendrocygna bicolor* occurs in the Old and the New World and in parts of both North and South America. In North America, it breeds principally in coastal areas of Texas and Louisiana southward to the state of Campeche, Mexico, and also along the Pacific Coast of Mexico northward sporadically to central California (Bellrose, F. C., 1976, Ducks, geese and swans of North America, Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, p. 77). It has been recorded casually as far north as British Columbia, Minnesota, Quebec and New Brunswick (Bellrose, *loc. cit.*).

The provenance of this bird may never be known with certainty. One must always consider the possibility that it was an escape. However, Harty (1962, *Cassinia* 46:10-12) and H. L. Jones (1966, *Chat* 30:4-7), have discussed eruptions of this species along the Gulf and East coasts, and it has recently been recorded inland. For example, two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks appeared at the Ted Shanks Wildlife Management Area, Missouri, from 2-22 June 1981 (Peterjohn, B. G., 1981, *Am. Birds* 35:944), and a flock of 22 that visited Dundee, Illinois, on 18 May 1979 represented the third state record (Kleen, V. M., 1979, *Am. Birds* 33:776). Closer to Oklahoma, one was recorded at the Fort Worth, Texas, Fish Hatchery on 9 November 1979 (Williams, F., 1980, *Am. Birds* 34:176), and during the summer of 1969, Richard Gritman photographed three birds at Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge in the Texas panhandle (pers. comm., K. S. Seyffert). In addition, a pair of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (possibly escapes) reportedly bred at Elkhart, Kansas, during the summer of 1971 (Williams, F., 1971, *Am. Birds* 25:873). The only other record for Oklahoma is that of a bird observed by R. E. Frank with two drake Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) at a farm pond 2 miles east of Norman, in Cleveland County, central Oklahoma, on 3 March 1956 (Sutton, G. M., 1967, *Oklahoma birds*, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 59).

## GYRFALCON IN OKLAHOMA CITY: SOUTHERNMOST RECORD FOR NORTH AMERICA.

BY JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI

On 1 December 1982 at about 0845, I was driving east on an elevated portion of Interstate 40 near the Myriad Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. The day was overcast, wind was from the south at 20 miles per hour, and the temperature 60°F. To my surprise, I saw a large falcon sweep up over the highway about a quarter-mile ahead. I noted its slow wingbeat, similar to that of a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). As I drew nearer, I saw that the falcon, which was then dropping off to the north side of the interstate at about eye-level, was very darkly marked. Suspecting that it was a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), I began searching for characters that would distinguish between adult and immature. The dark chest precluded it from being an adult Peregrine, and I could discern no bold "mustache" mark. I became confused, however, when I observed whitish streakings on the nape and crown; an immature Peregrine should have had a solid brown "helmet." I did note that the underparts and wing linings were very heavily streaked. As the falcon coursed about 20 feet above some Rock Doves (*Columba livia*), I estimated that it was greater than one and one-half times their length. With some apprehension, I concluded that this bird was a Gyrfalcon (*F. rusticolus*), a circumboreal species well south of its normal range.

John S. Shackford searched in vain for the bird later that afternoon. However, on 6 December he saw a large blunt-winged falcon at a distance, soaring high over the area of my earlier sighting. The following afternoon, John ob-



### IMMATURE BLACK GYRFALCON

*Immature black Gyrfalcon observed from 1-19 December 1982 in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Note the diagnostic pale area at the base of the primaries. Photographed 14 December 1982 by Wesley S. Isaacs.*

served the Gyrfalcon chasing Rock Doves around a grain elevator near Walnut Street and Southeast Third Avenue, and later among the tall skyscrapers in the downtown business district. On 8 December, he watched it at close range; the blue-gray cere and eyelids confirmed that it was an immature bird.

This bird was observed sporadically thereafter. Laurie MacIver saw the Gyrfalcon as it perched on the arm of a light atop the U-Haul building next to Interstate 40 during the evening rush-hour on 9 December. On 13 December, Shackford photographed it consuming a Rock Dove (see photo in *Am. Birds* 37:315, 1983). His pictures show the indistinct mustache mark on the right side of the face to be bolder than that on the left. On 14 December, Wesley S. Isaacs also took photographs of the Gyrfalcon, one of which is reproduced here. The big raptor consumed a Rock Dove in a large cottonwood tree (*Populus deltoides*) and then flew to another cottonwood and slept. The bird was last reported on 19 December by Brad Carlton. Because it was not easily found, the falcon may have been in the vicinity longer. Never was it observed eating or chasing prey other than Rock Doves, which were abundant in the area.

The Gyrfalcon has been recorded in Oklahoma on two other occasions, both times in Osage County, near the Kansas state line. The first sighting was on 12 January 1974 when Steve W. Platt observed an immature white bird near Grainola (1977, *Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc.* 10:27-28); this bird was captured the next day, but later died and was prepared as a specimen by George M. Sutton (UOMZ 12739). More recently, Steve K. Sherrod recognized an adult male gray Gyrfalcon on 4 November 1982 (Williams, F., 1983, *Am. Birds* 37:315) near Foraker; Sherrod (pers. comm.) writes that the falcon flew 30 feet over his head, landed in a tree nearby, and, after five minutes, briefly gave chase to a lone Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*).

Tom J. Cade (1982, *The falcons of the world*, Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, N.Y., p. 76) indicates that Gyrfalcons are observed south on the Atlantic Coast to New Jersey, on the Pacific Coast to Washington, and to eastern Colorado and western Nebraska in the Great Plains. The southernmost records outside Oklahoma have been at Wilmington, Delaware, on 5 November 1974 (Scott, F. R., and D. A. Cutler, 1975, *Am. Birds* 29:36), Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri, on 18 December 1977 (Kleen, V. M., 1978, *Am. Birds* 32:358), and Davis, California, from 22 January to 8 February 1982 (LeValley, R., 1982, *Am. Birds* 36:326). The records for Oklahoma are apparently the most southerly; thus the Gyrfalcon at Oklahoma City (latitude 35° 30' N, longitude 97° 30' W) represent the southernmost for North America.

Because falcons are kept in captivity, extralimital records may be of escapes. The pictures of the Gyrfalcon taken by Shackford and Isaacs reveal no jesses or signs of abrasion on the legs and toes. The tail feathers do show some tattered edges, but this may represent normal wear in wild birds which ordinarily attain their first winter retrices between June and August (S. Cramp, ed., 1980, *Handbook of the birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa*, Vol. 2, Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, England, p. 360). The Oklahoma City falcon ate Rock Doves on the ground several times, a habit which might account for some wear of the tail feathers; however, this wear may also be attributable to past captivity.

Hank Coburn is to be thanked for his cooperation in allowing numerous birdwatchers to search the area around the grain elevator near Southeast Third Avenue and Walnut Street. John Shackford and Wes Isaacs both shared their fine photographs with me.

1701 LENOX, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069, 26 JULY 1983.

## GENERAL NOTES

**Barrow's Goldeneyes in Cimarron County, Oklahoma.**—Participants in the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count for Kenton, Oklahoma, have twice observed drake Barrow's Goldeneyes (*Bucephala islandica*) on Lake Carl Etling in Black Mesa State Park, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma. On 31 December 1979, nine other persons and I discovered a drake Barrow's among 25 Common Goldeneyes (*B. clangula*) (Williams F., 1980, Am. Birds 34:572) that were aggregated in a small ice-free part of the lake. Nannette Johnson and I again identified the species there on 1 January 1983, this time two drakes that were with another flock of Commons (Williams, F., 1983, Am. Birds 37:665).

In each case, the Barrow's Goldeneyes were resting quietly on the lake with heads tucked under their scapular feathers when first noticed. The extensive black on their backs initially drew our attention to them because it continued approximately two-thirds of the way down their sides; the black dorsum of the Common Goldeneye drake extends only about a third of the way down. Another distinguishing feature was the black vertical bar just in front of the folded wing, a character lacking in *B. clangula*. When the Barrow's became more active, we could see that the white patch in front of their eyes was vertically elongate (unlike the round spot of the Common Goldeneye) and that it extended upward past eye-level. Also prominent was a broken dorsolateral stripe formed by successive white blotches on the scapular feathers. On neither date could we tell whether or not any of the several female-type birds present in the flocks were Barrow's Goldeneyes.

During each sighting, the Barrow's Goldeneyes were studied carefully with the aid of several 20-60X telescopes under optimal conditions of light; however, because the birds were as far away as one-quarter mile, we were unable to photograph them. Other observers present on at least one of the sightings were: JoAnn S. Garrett, Julie Halford, Earl McHugh, Jananne McNitt, Malana Mock, Jean Schulenberg, Marvin Schwillig and Harold Smith.

*Bucephala islandica* has been reported in Oklahoma on four other occasions: on 22 November 1956, two adult drakes, accompanied by three female-type goldeneyes, were observed in Mohawk Park, Tulsa, Tulsa County, northeastern Oklahoma by E. J. and Lena Esst (Baumgartner, F. M., 1957, Aud. Field Notes 11:36); on 28 January 1961, A. M. and Sophia Mery and others reported "several" on Hulah Reservoir in Osage County, northeastern Oklahoma (Baumgartner, F. M., 1961, Aud. Field Notes 15:341); Richard A. Ellis saw a drake in a shallow roadside pothole near Lake Humphrey in Stephens

County, southwestern Oklahoma, in February, 1964, and J. M. Carrel saw a drake on the City Lake in Altus, Jackson County, southwestern Oklahoma on 2 February 1972 (G. M. Sutton Summary of Bird Records, Univ. Oklahoma). No specimen of Barrow's Goldeneye has yet been collected in Oklahoma. — Sebastian T. Patti, 6528 Wenonga Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66208, 12 January 1983.

**Black-shouldered Kite in Comanche County, Oklahoma.**—At approximately 1800 on 26 March 1983 (temperature 45°F, wind north at 10 mph, skies partly cloudy), while driving south on the east boundary road of the Fort Sill Military Reservation, Comanche County, southwestern Oklahoma, Andrew spied a bird cruising low over the open prairie that he thought was a Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). He watched it slowly descend into the grass, then fly to an iron post, where it consumed a small rodent. Approaching to within 300 feet, and aided by a 20X telescope, Andrew identified the bird as a Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) when it flew again, for he could then clearly see its white head, tail, and underparts contrasting vividly with the black of its shoulders and ventral wrist spots. After the kite landed, Andrew also noticed its ashy gray back, striking red eyes, and yellowish-orange tarsi.

Andrew returned at dawn the following day with Charles P. Boydston and Allan R. Pfister; within minutes, they found the kite again. After hunting a few moments, it perched atop a lone tree trunk immediately beyond the Reservation's east boundary fence. Pfister and Boydston slowly advanced until only some 80 feet away, and took several photographs. Boydston, who had had three years of experience with the Black-shouldered Kite on its breeding grounds in southern Texas, agreed with Andrew's earlier identification.

Andrew recorded additional observations on 27, 28, and 31 March. On 27 March at 0930, Mike A. and Mark J. England saw the kite. At 1600, Mike took Jack D. Tyler and his young son Jeff to see it. Between 1620 and 1740, they photographed it (slides on file in Cameron University Museum of Zoology). Under a black locust tree (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) where the kite frequently perched, Tyler recovered three round pellets (averaging .6x1 in.), each containing the remains of one vole (*Microtus* sp.). The kite cruised slowly just above the grass — much like a Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Frequently it rested on a low dirt ridge nearby (where we found remains of several rodents), or atop some other isolated prominence. Sometimes it hovered in the 10-20 mph north wind. A few times it plummeted straight down after prey with wings held vertically, gull-fashion. During this time, the temperature was 50°F and skies were mostly overcast.

Between 26 March and 9 April, the kite was observed by several other persons: by Jay K. Banta, by Kevin M. McCurdy, and, amid north winds exceeding 50 mph on 1 April, by Louis E. and Janet M. McGee. The last person to see it was Mike A. England on 7 and 9 April.

This is the third recent sighting of this species in Oklahoma, there being an early record in 1860 (Nice, M. M., 1931, *The birds of Oklahoma*, Rev. ed., Publ. Univ. Oklahoma Biol. Surv. 3(1):70). In July 1982, W.A. Carter and C.L.

Fowler found it nesting in Latimer County (1983, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 16:9-11); another kite was sighted in Tillman County by R.M. Carter in November, 1982 (1983, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 16:21); *not* in October as reported in Am. Birds 37:197, 1983 — Jonathan M. Andrew, Charles P. Boyd-stun, and Allan R. Pfister, *Fish and Wildlife Branch, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503, 10 August 1983.*

**Goshawk in southern Oklahoma.** — At 1200 on 5 December 1982, eight other members of the Dallas Audubon Society and I watched a large accipiter as it soared over the camping area near the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge headquarters in Johnston County, southern Oklahoma. The bird stayed in view for about five minutes, never exceeding a range of one quarter mile, and circled nearby several times. In size, this bird appeared to be larger than a crow. The light gray barring on the breast I saw, but it was the blackish auricular patch and white superciliary line that finally convinced me that the bird was an adult Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).

The Goshawk has been recorded southward in Oklahoma to Garvin, Caddo, and Grady counties (Sutton, G. M., 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, p. 9). The record at Tishomingo is the first for southern Oklahoma. — Kenneth Nanney, *1005 Roman Road, Grand Prairie, Texas 75050, 12 December 1982.*

**Saw-whet Owl in central Oklahoma.** — On the afternoon of 25 November 1979 (a pleasant day), as I was approaching a thick clump of junipers in a juniper-lined ravine about half a mile north of Lake Hefner, Oklahoma County, central Oklahoma, I clapped my hands to see what might fly out. To my surprise, out came a small owl that I immediately suspected was something other than an Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*). It alighted in a juniper not far from me about three feet above the ground. It was so "tame", that I was able to observe it at close range for about 20 minutes. It was a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*).

About an hour later — after going home for my camera and notifying others who might want to see the bird — I found it in the very same tree. It had moved about two feet to a perch close to the trunk. Before long, Hubert Harris, Carolyn Gritzmaker, Henry Walter, John G. Newell, Nancy Krosley, and Kathryn Belcher came for a look. Able to approach it to within four feet, I took several photographs in both color and black-and-white. All who observed it were able to see clearly the species' several diagnostic features.

The following day (26 November), I found the little owl in the same tree, again close to the trunk, but this time about six feet up. Brad Carlton, Ernest Wilson, and Douglas Weeks also saw it that day. Though several persons looked for it day after day from then on, no one was able to find it again.

*Aegolius acadicus* has not heretofore been reported from Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, though a specimen was found dead in Blaine County, central Oklahoma, on 11 November 1969 (Lamb, M., 1970, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 3:6-7). The species has been seen once in Texas County (Schwindt, K. E., 1982, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 15:30-31), and according to George M.

Sutton's summary of records at the University of Oklahoma's Stovall Museum, has been collected twice in that county and once in Osage County, northeastern Oklahoma (Osten, P., 1980, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 13:29). It has also been sighted in Washington County, northeastern Oklahoma (Baumgartner, F. M., 1965, Aud. Field Notes 19:499), and in Grant County, north-central Oklahoma (Sutton, G. M., 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, p. 21). — John S. Shackford, *Route 1, Box 125, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111, 29 January 1980.*

**Prothonotary Warbler in Cimarron County, Oklahoma, in October.**— On the morning of 2 October 1982, I collected a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) on the Apple Ranch 15 km (9 mi) east of Kenton, Cimarron County, far western Oklahoma. The specimen, prepared by C. W. Wood as a study skin, proved to be an immature (skull not fully pneumatized) female and is deposited in the collection at the University of Oklahoma Museum of Zoology (UOMZ 17760). The bird was in company with a loose flock of other small birds working their way through stands of shrubby hackberry trees (*Celtis* sp.) along the Cimarron River floodplain 1 km (.6 mi) east of the low water bridge known locally as Watson's Crossing. Other species composing the flock included approximately 75 Mountain Chickadees (*Parus gambeli*), at least 6 Orange-crowned Warblers (*Vermivora celata*), 2 Wilson's Warblers (*Wilsonia pusilla*), 10 Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*), and about 20 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*).

The Prothonotary Warbler is rarely observed west of riparian woodlands in eastern and central Oklahoma, where it breeds. Heretofore, there were but two records for the whole of the panhandle and extreme northwestern Oklahoma: C. W. Comer and several others watched a male for some time along the Cimarron River woodlands 3 miles northeast of Kenton, Cimarron County, on 7 May 1970; on 28 April 1978 Scott Collins reported one at Black Mesa State Park, also in Cimarron County (G. M. Sutton Summary of Bird Records, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma). J. P. Hubbard (1978, Revised check-list of birds of New Mexico, New Mexico Orn. Soc. Publ. No. 6, Albuquerque, p. 71) listed it as a "rare and very local" migrant in New Mexico, with nine known records, including one from Clayton, 35 miles southwest of Kenton. The nearest breeding locality on record is in Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, nearly 400 km (250 mi) to the east (Sutton, G. M., 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 489).

There are few fall records after 15 September for the state; on 19 September 1936, Edith R. Force saw one bird in Sapulpa, Creek County; J. A. Grzybowski observed a female or young bird along the Canadian River in Cleveland County on 11 October 1980 (Sutton Summary, *op. cit.*). Even so, fall records of any sort are unusual for this species. — D. Scott Wood, *Section of Birds, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213, 9 November 1982.*



**Green-tailed Towhee in Johnston County, Oklahoma.**—At about 1300 on 12 February 1983, as I was returning to the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge headquarters from the goose field observation point, a bird with noticeable green plumage darted across the road in front of my car. Quickly, I investigated the brushy thicket into which it had disappeared. “Squeaking” the back of my hand, I soon attracted several Harris’ (*Zonotrichia querula*), White-crowned (*Z. leucophrys*), and White-throated (*Z. albicollis*) sparrows. While checking this flock with 7 x 50 binoculars, my attention became fixed on a bird about 20 yards back in the thicket that was not quite as large as a Harris’ Sparrow. It was definitely unlike the others as it sat quietly facing me. Especially conspicuous were its clear white throat and eyeline which combined to give its face an “X-like” pattern when viewed head-on. Dark whisker-marks too, were evident. When the bird changed position, its rusty crown and the striking green cast of its upperparts and tail became apparent. For approximately five minutes I studied the finch, concluding that it was a Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*). Fortuitously, I had observed another Green-tailed Towhee in Dallas, Texas, just three days before.

Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge is located in Johnston County in south-central Oklahoma. Although there are numerous records for Cimarron County in far western Oklahoma, and scattered sightings for a few western and central counties (Texas, Kiowa, Comanche, Cleveland and Oklahoma), there is no previous record of Green-tailed Towhee for this part of the state (Sutton, G. M., 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 44). — Robin M. Carter, 8927 Liptonshire Drive, Dallas, Texas 75238, 11 August 1983.

**Brewer’s Sparrow in Cimarron County, Oklahoma, in winter.** — On 31 December 1979, several other bird observers and I happened onto a small flock of six Brewer’s Sparrows (*Spizella breweri*) along a blacktop road about 2½ miles east of the village of Kenton, Cimarron County, at the western end of the Oklahoma panhandle. After studying them closely in good light through a 30X telescope, several field marks convinced us that they were Brewer’s rather than Clay-colored Sparrows (*S. pallida*), both of which have similar winter and breeding plumages. First, the auricular pattern was not as well differentiated as it is in the Clay-colored Sparrow. Secondly, the plumages of the sparrows we observed were pale with a grayish cast; the Clay-colored tends to be more brownish, particularly during the winter months. Finally, *S. pallida* has a light median crown stripe, a feature not present on the birds we saw. Instead, the brownish crowns of our six sparrows were marked with fine black streaks. Furthermore, their brown (not gray) rumps precluded their being immature Chipping Sparrows (*S. passerina*). Photographs are on file in the Cameron University Museum of Zoology in Lawton, Oklahoma.

*S. breweri* is a transient in Cimarron County and there are single records for Woodward and Cleveland counties, both in late April. It has been recorded from 25 August to 11 October in fall, as early as 20 March in spring. There are no previous records for winter (Sutton, G. M., 1974, A check-list of Oklahoma

birds, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma, Norman, p. 47). The first state record as well as the latest fall date of occurrence heretofore was 11 October 1925, when R. Crompton Tate observed 14 of these birds near Kenton (Tate, R. C., 1926, Condor 28:181). — Sebastian T. Patti, 6528 Wenonga Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66208, 10 January 1980.

**White-winged Crossbill in Beckham County, Oklahoma.**—From 9 February to 3 March 1982 a White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) visited Elk City, Beckham County, western Oklahoma. I first saw the bird at 0745 on 9 February at the feeder in my yard. The weather that day was decidedly wintry. Air temperature rose from a low of 4°F in the early morning to a high of 16° in mid-afternoon. The sky was overcast; icy sleet and snow covered the ground. Also visiting the feeder that morning were six House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), several House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), and a female Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). I had no trouble identifying the crossbill, for its white wingbars were conspicuous and I could see its crossed mandibles easily when I looked at them through my binocular. Its fierceness toward the other birds surprised me. The House Finches and House Sparrows gave way to it. More than once while I watched it, before leaving the house for the day, it chased off the House Sparrows.

When I returned home in the evening, I saw the white wingbars flash as the crossbill flew from the feeder with the House Finches. A few minutes later I had a telephone call from Pope Almon and his wife Alma, who had just seen at their feeder a "white-winged finch-like bird" whose pugnacious attitude toward the other birds was noticeable. They continued to see the crossbill frequently at their feeder along with the House Finches from 10 to 16 February, during most of which period I was out of town. They last saw it on 3 March. It was with House Finches on that date.

*Loxia leucoptera* has now been recorded on six occasions in Oklahoma. A specimen was found dead in Beaver County; the other records are for the following counties: Tulsa 2, Cleveland 1, Washington 1, McCurtain 1 (G. M. Sutton Summary of Bird Records, Stovall Mus. Sci. & Hist., Univ. Oklahoma). The species was well photographed by Robert J. Farris in Tulsa County on 26 February 1977 (1977, Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc. 10:25). — Ina S. Brown, 106 Sunset, Elk City, Oklahoma 73644, 3 March 1982.

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