

OKLAHOMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2003 REPORT

JAMES W. ARTERBURN

5806 East 78 Place, Tulsa, OK 74136

E-mail: [j.w.arterburn@att.net](mailto:j.w.arterburn@att.net)

This is the annual report of the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee (hereafter OBRC) of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. The OBRC requests and reviews documentation of rare and unusual records as per the *Date Guide to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma* (Third Ed., 2000, Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Tulsa; hereafter the Date Guide). The OBRC publishes full, quarterly seasonal reports in *The Scissortail*, the newsletter of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. This report summarizes the activities of the OBRC for the calendar year 2003, including any decisions pending from prior years. OBRC members evaluating 2003 records included in this report were: Jim Arterburn, Jeff Cox, Bonnie Gall, Joe Grzybowski, Jo Loyd, Larry Mays, Dan Reinking, Jim Thayer, and Don Verser.



Fig. 1. Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) photographed at Lake Hefner, Oklahoma County, on 7 September 2003. Photograph by Steve Metz.

During 2003, the OBRC received 641 records from 44 observers: 552 records of 195 species were accepted (86%), 50 records of 40 species were rejected (8%), and 39 records of 22 species required no action by the Committee (6%). Below are comments on 61 records for species that were either first state records, or for those species that have no dates listed in the Date Guide: 48 of those records were accepted (79%) and 13 records were rejected (21%).

Three species were added to the Oklahoma state list and 1 species was elevated in status. White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes sasatalis*), Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*), and Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) were added in hypothetical status in 2003, and Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) was elevated from hypothetical status to full status in 2003. This brings the number of species on *The Oklahoma Ornithological Society Check-List of Oklahoma Birds* to 467, of which 18 are in hypothetical status (based on written documentation alone, or for species where wild origin was uncertain).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the AOU Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (AOU 1998) through the 44th supplement published in 2003 (Auk 120:923-931). Each record consists of the English name, scientific name, OBRC record number(s), number of individuals and age and sex if known, specific location and county of observation (county in italics), date(s) of observation, observer(s) [if the record was accepted], and any comments. All observers who submitted documentation (written descriptions or photographs) of accepted records are listed. The observer who first discovered the bird and/or submitted the documentation is in italics. For rejected records, the observer's name is omitted, and an explanation is given detailing the reason(s) for rejection.

### RECORDS ACCEPTED

- Red-throated Loon** (*Gavia stellata*), (2003-116). One bird at Lake Tenkiller, *Sequoyah*, on 20 December 2002. *Berlin Heck*.
- Red-throated Loon** (*Gavia stellata*), (2003-115). One bird at Ft. Gibson Lake, *Wagoner*, on 21 December 2002. *Berlin Heck*.
- Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*), (2003-093-144-173). One immature photographed at Lake Tenkiller, *Sequoyah*, on 11 February, 21 March, and 17 April 2003. *James W. Arterburn*.
- Red-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps grisegena*), (2003-027). One immature on Lake Yahola, *Tulsa*, from 15 November 2002 through 25 November 2002. *William C. Carrell*.
- Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), (2003-191). One bird on Lake Hefner, *Oklahoma*, from 10 May 2003 through 31 July 2003 and photographed on 11 May 2003. *Mitchell Oliphant*.
- Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), (2003-343). One adult photographed at Salt Plains NWR, *Alfalfa*, on 8 May 2003. *Christopher L. Wood*.
- Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), (2003-339). One adult photographed near the Salt Plains, *Alfalfa*, on 13 May 2003. *Christopher L. Wood*.
- Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), (2003-277-279). One to 2 adults photographed at Salt Plains NWR, *Alfalfa*, on 9-10 June 2003. *James W. Arterburn*.

- Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*), (2003-074). One individual on a pond 8.9 km east of Strong City, Roger Mills, on 3 January 2003. *Joseph A. Grzybowski*.
- Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*), (2003-641). Two adults at Hulah Reservoir Wildlife Management Area, Osage, on 16 December 2003. *Bonnie L. Gall*.
- Mottled Duck** (*Anas fulvigula*), (2003-274). One adult photographed at Salt Plains NWR, Alfalfa, on 10 June 2003. *James W. Arterburn*.
- Black Scoter** (*Melanitta nigra*), (2003-026). Four immature birds on Lake Yahola, Tulsa, on 3 November 2002. *William C. Carrell*.
- Black Scoter** (*Melanitta nigra*), (2003-517). One bird photographed on Lake Yahola, Tulsa, on 10 November 2003. *James W. Arterburn*.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*), (2003-612). One female on Foss Reservoir, Custer, on 19 December 2003. *Joseph A. Grzybowski*.
- White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) (2003-019-020-021-022). One to 2 adults at Ft. Sill Military Reservation, Comanche, from 27 December 2002 to 21 February 2003 and photographed on 14 January 2003. *Joe Roberts, Steve Metz, Lou Truex, Kurt Meisenzahl*.
- Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), (2003-546). One to 2 birds at Red Slough WMA, McCurtain, from 3 November 2003 through 6 November 2003. *David Arbour*.
- Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), (2003-443-444). One immature on Lake Hefner, Oklahoma, from 5 September 2003 through 16 September 2003; photographed on 5 and 7 September 2003. *Nathan Kuhnert, Steve Metz, Kurt Meisenzahl*.
- Mew Gull** (*Larus canus*), (2003-070). One adult on Lake Hefner Water Treatment Plant, Oklahoma, on 16 December 2002. *Joseph A. Grzybowski*.
- Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*), (2003-639). One adult photographed on Lake Hefner, Oklahoma, on 29 December 2003. *James W. Arterburn*.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*), (2003-068). One adult and 1 second-winter bird on Lake Overholser, Oklahoma/Canadian. Adult seen on 7 December 2002. Both the adult and a second-winter bird seen on 28 December 2002. *Joseph A. Grzybowski*.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*), (2003-018). One adult photographed on Lake Overholser, Oklahoma, on 2 January 2003. *Mitchell Oliphant*.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*), (2003-471). One juvenile photographed on Ft. Gibson Lake, Wagoner, on 26 and 27 September 2003. *James W. Arterburn*.
- Ringed Turtle-Dove** (*Streptopelia risoria*), (2003-096). One adult photographed in Wagoner, Wagoner, on 10 February 2003. *James W. Arterburn*. Origin uncertain.
- Ringed Turtle-Dove** (*Streptopelia risoria*), (2003-597). One bird in Keyes, Cimarron, on 17 December 2003. *Berlin Heck*. Origin uncertain.
- Common Ground-Dove** (*Columbina passerina*), (2003-515). One bird collected 3.2 km east of Calera, Bryan, on 11 October 2003 by *Boyd Vanderfriff, Doug Wood*.
- Common Ground-Dove** (*Columbina passerina*), (2003-549). One bird at Red Slough WMA, McCurtain, on 29 October 2003. *David Arbour*.

- White-throated Swift** (*Aeronautes sasatalis*), (2003-520). One immature at Boise City Sewage Ponds, *Cimarron*, on 6 September 2003. *James W. Arterburn*. **First state record.**
- Broad-billed Hummingbird** (*Cynathus latirostris*), (2003-224). One adult male at the Elaine Adam's residence in Durham, *Roger Mills*, 14–16 May 2003, and photographed on 15 May 2003. *Patricia Velte*.
- Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliopoae*), (2003-430). One bird in Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 23 August 2003. *Bonnie L. Gall*.
- Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliopoae*), (2003-531). One bird in Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 30 August 2003. *Joseph A. Grzybowski*.
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus platycercus*), (2003-431). One immature 6.4 km south of Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 25 August 2003. *Bonnie L. Gall*.
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus platycercus*), (2003-442). One immature photographed in Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 31 August 2003. *Steve Metz*. **Photograph elevates species from hypothetical status to full status.**
- Gray Flycatcher** (*Empidonax wrightii*), (2003-232-234). One bird at Benton Ranch, 16.1 km northeast of Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 20 May 2003. *Berlin Heck*, *Jeri McMahon*. **First state record.**
- Violet-green Swallow** (*Tachycineta thalassina*), (2003-040). One adult and 1 immature in Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 12 September 2002. *Jo Loyd*. **Second state record.**
- Cape May Warbler** (*Dendroica tigrina*), (2003-225). One adult male at end of Clear Creek Road and Ft. Gibson Lake, *Cherokee*, on 9 May 2003. *James W. Arterburn*.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** (*Dendroica caerulescens*), (2003-222). One adult male at Flower Creek, *Cherokee*, on 7 May 2003. *James W. Arterburn*.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** (*Dendroica caerulescens*), (2003-414). One adult female 6.4 km south of Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 24–25 August 2003. *Jeri McMahon*.
- Townsend's Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendi*), (2003-454). Two birds 6.4 km south of Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 11 September 2003. *Berlin Heck*.
- Bronzed Cowbird** (*Molothrus aeneus*), (2003-230-240). One male in Keyes, *Cimarron*, on 18 May 2003. *Jeri McMahon*, *Berlin Heck*. **First state record.**

## RECORDS REJECTED

The OBRC believes it is important to note that rejection of a record does not necessarily mean the identification was incorrect. In some cases, conditions of the observation were brief or distant, or the observation was made under difficult viewing conditions. In other cases, the description provided was incomplete or did not rule out other possible species. The OBRC thanks all contributors of documentations and strongly encourages continued participation in this process, which serves to strengthen the ornithological record of bird occurrences in Oklahoma.

- Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), (2003-194). One adult photographed on Lake Etling, *Cimarron*, on 27 April 2003. Based upon the photograph the bird was a probable hybrid.
- Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), (2003-325). One adult at Salt Plains NWR, *Alfalfa*, on 23 June 2003. Description very brief and inconclusive.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*), (2003-609). One female on farm pond 19.3 km north of Elk City, *Roger Mills*. Description very brief and did not rule out Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*).
- White-tailed Ptarmigan** (*Lagopus leucurus*), (2003-100). One bird at Black Mesa State Park, *Cimarron*, on 7 October 2001. Very brief and cursory description.
- Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), (2003-023). One bird at Red Slough WMA, *McCurtain*, on 30 November 2002. Brief description did not rule out Sora (*Porzana carolina*).
- Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), (2003-007). One adult at Red Slough WMA, *McCurtain*, on 4 January 2003. Very brief description given.
- Gray Flycatcher** (*Empidonax wrightii*), (2003-419-458). One bird 6.4 km south of Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 24 August 2003. Brief description did not rule out other *Empidonax* flycatchers.
- Gray Flycatcher** (*Empidonax wrightii*), (2003-571). One bird 6.4 km south of Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 26 August 2003. Brief and casual description did not rule out other *Empidonax* flycatchers.
- Cordilleran Flycatcher** (*Empidonax occidentalis*), (2003-043). One bird at Black Mesa State Park, *Cimarron*, on 12 September 2002. Very brief description did not rule out other *Empidonax* flycatchers. Description also incorrect for Cordilleran on several points.
- Cordilleran Flycatcher** (*Empidonax occidentalis*), (2003-417-570). One bird 6.4 km south of Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 26 August 2003. Very brief description did not rule out other *Empidonax* flycatchers.
- Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*), 2003-363. One bird photographed at Hackberry Flat, *Tillman*, on 31 July 2003. Photograph did not rule out Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*).

Received 8 August 2004; accepted 13 October 2004.

**Late Nesting of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Oklahoma.**—Nest initiation dates in Texas for the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) range from 2 April to 18 October, and the incubation period is about 28 days, with flight stage 56-63 days later. The heaviest concentration of breeding Whistling-Ducks in Texas is now concentrated north of Corpus Christi (James and Thompson, 2001). The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck has spread north into Oklahoma in recent years, a distance of about 640 km from Corpus Christi, Texas. The first record for this duck in Oklahoma was in Tulsa County in 1983 (Baumgartner and Baumgartner, 1992), and the first breeding record was in Osage County in 1999 (Kamp and Loyd, 2001). The first breed-

ing record for southeastern Oklahoma was in McCurtain County on 7 July 2000 (Heck and Arbour, 2001).

It would be expected that, due to the distance north from Corpus Christi and the shorter nesting season length, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Oklahoma should complete nesting earlier in the autumn than ducks in Texas, and any nests initiated in Oklahoma in late summer could be considered "late" nests. The first "late" hatch (September or later) in Oklahoma was recorded 11 September 1999 in Osage County where a brood of downy young was photographed 13 September 1999. That brood could not be relocated on 28 September when the water in the pond was very low (Kamp and Loyd, 2001).

On 5 September 2000, we observed 2 adults with 13 flightless young at the Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, 11 km S of Haworth, McCurtain County, Oklahoma. In that same area, we observed 45 flightless young in 4 family groups on 12 September 2000. We continued to observe those young birds until 10 October when we observed 16 fully-feathered immature ducks in 2 family groups.

On 18 September 2002, Heck received a report from Charlie Stewart regarding a brood of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on his farm pond 2 km NW of Broken Bow in McCurtain County. Two adults and 7 downy young were monitored until 18 November when the young had reached flight stage and were not seen after this date. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks returned to the pond in 2003, and Stewart reported a brood on his pond on 21 September. On 22 September, Heck observed 2 adults and 5 downy young and monitored them until they migrated. These young were observed flying 2 days before they were last observed on 11 November 2003.

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*Received 18 February 2004; accepted 15 June 2004.*

BERLIN A. HECK 109 Kaye Drive, Broken Bow, OK 74728, W. DAVID ARBOUR  
1462 Collin Raye Drive, DeQueen, AR 71832

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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: bcoppedge@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: \$5 student, \$10 regular, \$15 family, \$15 or more sustaining, per year; life membership, \$200. 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.