

sumably the women had disturbed them, and there they laid one egg each, three terns and one skimmer. The bosun saw the birds and he later collected the eggs, which he brought to me. Obviously the birds were not intending to nest, four to a square yard of tarpaulin, and they did not return on subsequent days.

Birds have often been observed on ships, and in fact several spine-tails and perhaps other birds came aboard the *Venimos* and stayed many hours; but the casual or emergency laying of eggs on shipboard must be a rather rare event.—F. W. PRESTON, *Box 149, Butler, Pennsylvania, 11 September 1961.*

Lesser Nighthawk in Oklahoma.—On 22–23 April 1961, I visited Cimarron County at the western end of the Oklahoma Panhandle. While driving in a residential area of Boise City on 23 April, I observed a caprimulgid perched on a horizontal tree branch which impressed me as being too small to be a Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*). When the bird flew I was able to note the presence and position of white wing marks indicative of the Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*). The bird was lost from view soon after taking flight; however, when I returned one hour later with John P. O'Neill and Odis A. Cook, it was found again in the same vicinity and was viewed both perched and in flight. It did not call during the time of observation. I collected the bird and it proved to be a very fat male weighing 65.1 grams, and with testes measuring about 3.0×3.5 mm. The identification was confirmed by Dr. George M. Sutton, and the specimen is No. 4794 in the University of Oklahoma Museum of Zoology. There is no previous specimen, and to my knowledge no previous sighting of this species in Oklahoma. The Lesser Nighthawk has not been recorded from Kansas or from the Texas Panhandle, however, the Fifth A.O.U. Check-list mentions a casual occurrence at Trinidad, Colorado, about 110 miles northwest of Boise City. The A.O.U. Check-list and Wolfe (1956. "Check-list of the Birds of Texas") indicate that the limits of its breeding range in west Texas lie about 360 miles south to 385 miles southeast of Boise City.

Ligon (1961. "New Mexico Birds") comments that the Lesser Nighthawk is among the latest spring migrants to arrive and gives usual dates as 6 to 10 May in southern and southeastern New Mexico. The earliness of the 23 April 1961 date in Cimarron County, Oklahoma, is thus rather striking. No Common Nighthawk was seen by us on 22–23 April 1961 in Cimarron County, and judging from other areas of Oklahoma it would not be expected to arrive until a week or more later.

A second unusual species on 23 April in Boise City was a warbler that was almost certainly a female of the genus *Parula*. John O'Neill and I observed it briefly but clearly at close range and in bright light but were not able to collect the bird. We both noted the small size, yellow throat and breast, white wing-bars, and bluish upperparts with a greenish patch on the back. A breast band was very indistinct or perhaps completely absent. We cannot state for certain that an eye-ring was present. Therefore, we cannot exclude positively the Olive-backed Warbler (*Parula pityayumi*). Except for the presence of the Lesser Nighthawk, another Rio Grande Valley inhabitant, we would hesitate to suggest the possibility of such an accidental occurrence. Certainly the greater likelihood is that the bird was a Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*). Since the Parula Warbler has not been found previously in Oklahoma west of the central portion of the state, even its occurrence in Cimarron County probably would be classified as casual.

The finding of both the nighthawk and the warbler on the same date displaced from their normal ranges or migratory paths might be related to a common factor. An analysis of weather relative to the 1961 spring migration has been presented by Bagg and Baird (1961. *Aud. Field Notes*, 15:380–389). Their discussion emphasizes a strong, sustained

flow of tropical air northwestward from Yucatan into south Texas and on northward into Oklahoma between 19 and 24 April 1961. Thus, conditions favorable to rapid north-northwestward movement from the known wintering areas of the species involved occurred at about the time of our unusual observations. It would seem that these weather conditions might have been the cause for the displacements in direction, distance, and time which are described above.—W. MARVIN DAVIS, *College of Pharmacy, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, 23 October 1961.*

Grasshopper Sparrow wintering in central Missouri.—On 14 January 1961, David Snyder, James Gilmore, and I visited an area approximately 16 miles south of Sedalia, Benton County, Missouri, for the purpose of listing birds wintering in grassland.

A visit to a one-half acre pond surrounded by tall grasses and weeds located in the center of a timothy (*Phleum pratense*) stubble field, revealed the presence of two Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*). A male was mist-netted, photographed, sacrificed for food habits study, and preserved as a study skin. According to Widmann (1907. "Birds of Missouri," *Trans. Acad. of Sci., St. Louis*, 17:1-296) and Bennitt (1932. "Check-list of the Birds of Missouri," *Univ. of Mo. Studies*, 7(3):1-81) this seems to be the first record of a Grasshopper Sparrow wintering in Missouri. The area of collecting had a great variety of tall and short grasses and many weeds and herbaceous plants. The dominants were: foxtail (*Setaria*), millet (*Echinochloa*), spike-rush (*Eleocharis*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), cord-grass (*Spartina*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), big bluestem (*Andropogon Gerardi*) and false loosestrife (*Ludwigia*).

On a subsequent visit to the area on 24 January 1961, when the temperature was -10 F, we found one Grasshopper Sparrow, which again eluded our nets.—DAVID A. EASTERLA, *Missouri Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Stephens Hall, Columbia, Missouri, 15 December 1961.*

Red Phalarope in West Virginia.—On 3 November 1961, I was informed by Mr. Norville Hall that he had just seen a phalarope on one of the ponds in Oglebay Park, near Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia.

Later, in the company of James Denham, Miss Dorothy Broemsen and Mr. Hall, I observed the bird at close range. It was identified as an adult Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in winter plumage.

The next morning, Mr. Denham returned to the impoundment, was unable to locate the bird at first, but eventually found it dead at the mouth of the spillway of the dam. The specimen was retrieved and put in refrigeration.

Several days later a study skin was prepared and internal examination revealed that the bird was a female showing signs of emaciation. The identification was verified by Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes of The Carnegie Museum, where the specimen has been deposited.

So far as is known, this is the first record of the Red Phalarope for West Virginia.—GEORGE H. BREIDING, *Oglebay Institute, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia, 20 March 1962.*

Specimens of unusual Indiana birds.—Over the past several years, the Purdue University Wildlife Laboratory Collection has acquired a number of interesting bird specimens from Indiana. Some of these represent first records (those marked with an asterisk), and others are of birds sufficiently uncommon in the state to warrant notice.