

Hylocichla guttata auduboni. AUDUBON'S HERMIT THRUSH.—One was found at Lick Creek Ranger Station, July 27, 1920.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus. WESTERN ROBIN.—A very abundant summer resident throughout the county.

Ixoreus naevius meruloides. NORTHERN VARIED THRUSH.—A common bird of the mountain districts of the county. It is particularly abundant about Stanley Ranger Station and adjacent districts.

Sialia mexicana occidentalis. WESTERN BLUEBIRD.—A fairly common migrant and summer resident, particularly of the Wallowa Valley and Innaha Canyon.

Sialia currucoides. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD.—An abundant summer resident of the mountain districts.

Portland, Oregon.

EXTENSION OF RANGE OF THE ROBIN AND ARKANSAS KINGBIRD IN OKLAHOMA.

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WITHIN the last fifteen or twenty years Robins have been extending their breeding range westward in Oklahoma, and more recently Arkansas¹ Kingbirds have been moving eastward. Since little has been published on the ornithology of this State it is difficult to get definite dates especially in regard to the first nesting of the Robin in various localities; but, thanks to the courtesy of several correspondents and also of the United States Biological Survey who kindly sent me copies of migration records and reports of their investigators in this region, I have been able to gather a number of facts. (Unless otherwise stated my authority is that of the Biological Survey reports.)

The earliest record of the Robin in the State is given by W. W. Cooke² who found it a winter resident in 1883-4 in Caddo in southern Oklahoma; this is still its status in Bryan County. The first mention of its breeding was made by Mr. E. A. Preble who in 1892 stated that it "breeds sparingly" in Pittsburgh County in eastern Oklahoma. In central Oklahoma, in 1890, Robins were transients only at Fort Reno (J. C. Merrill), but now are common

¹ While conforming to the A. O. U. Check-List in the use of this name we contend that Western Kingbird is in every way more appropriate.

² 'Auk,' 1914, XXXI, p. 493.

breeders (J. C. Melton); in 1905 they did not breed at Minco,¹ whereas we found them nesting there in 1923. Mr. U. B. Worcester gives the only definite date of the first breeding of this bird in any locality in the State—in 1908 in Enid. In western Oklahoma, they were winter visitants only in 1904 in Custer County (G. E. Stilwell), but were nesting in 1911 (R. O. Whitenton); in 1905 they were not reported from July 13–23 at Woodward, while we found them breeding in 1922; in 1901 they were not seen in Alva from Aug. 3–7, but nested in small numbers in 1908.²

Robins are now distributed as breeding birds over most of Oklahoma except the extreme west, the southwest and south central portion. We saw five of these birds in the southeastern corner of the State—McCurtain County—on June 28 and July 1 and 2, 1923; (one of these was collected and was identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser as *Planesticus migratorius migratorius*). The only others we have seen south of the South Canadian River in summer from 1920 to 1923 have been one or two individuals in Latimer, LeFlore, Murray and Caddo Counties and several in Grady County. Mr. Frank Rush reports Robins as breeding at Hobart in Kiowa County. At Gate in Beaver County on the 100th meridian they are “regular but not common migrants” according to Mr. W. E. Lewis.

The advance of the Arkansas Kingbird has been more recent than that of the Robin and is in active progress at present; our data therefore are more extensive. The first record of this bird for the State was given by C. A. H. McCauley,³ who saw it in the spring of 1876 in northwestern Oklahoma. In 1901 it does not seem to have been a breeder in the main body of the State, for it is not mentioned in the Biological Survey report from Alva from Aug. 3–7 of that year nor had it been collected by Dr. A. H. VanVleet⁴ or Mr. C. D. Bunker although they made an extensive field trip during that summer to the southeastern corner of Oklahoma; now it has spread over the western half of the State.

¹ Wetmore. 1918 and 1920. 'Wilson Bulletin,' XXX, pp. 2-10, 55-61; XXXII, pp. 93-94.

² Carter and Trenton. 1908. 'The Northwestern,' I. 3, pp. 11-16.

³ 'Bul. U. S. G. and G. Surv. Tex.' 1877. III. pp. 655-695.

⁴ 'Second Biennial Report Dept. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Terr. of Olka.' 1902, pp. 161-166.

It would seem to have come first into northwestern Oklahoma; in 1908 it is listed as breeding at Alva;¹ Mr. Wm. Bayliff first noted a nesting pair in Alfalfa County in 1916, while Mr. U. B. Worcester writes that they first nested in Enid "ten years ago and each year become a little more plentiful."

We have no information as to southwestern Oklahoma until 1920, when on a trip to Comanche County we saw one bird, June 15. In early July, 1923, we went for the first time to the southwestern corner of the State and found a few of these Kingbirds in Harmon, Jackson, Tillman and Stephens Counties. Mr. R. L. More of Vernon, Texas (eight miles south of the Red River, opposite Tillman County), reports that this bird "is now (1923) a common breeder while five years ago was about the first nest in the county."

As to central Oklahoma, in Payne County they still occur as transients only according to Prof. R. O. Whitenton. In Kingfisher they were summer residents at the time of our first visit there in 1920. Dr. A. Wetmore² did not find them at Minco, Grady County, in 1905, but on May 20, 1923 we observed four, one of which was building a nest on a telegraph pole. Mr. E. D. Crabb informs me that 1916 was the first year in which he saw these birds in Canadian County, while now they breed there. Their arrival in Cleveland County has been even more recent. The first Western Kingbird that we observed here was one individual on Aug. 29, 1919. During the next two years single birds were seen on May 8 and 18, 1920 and May 11 and 24, 1921. In 1922 one was seen May 13, and two pairs appeared to have summered in the vicinity for they were seen through June and July, one three miles east of Norman and another five miles west. In 1923, the first arrival was noted April 29, the second May 6; the following pairs seem to have been established by farm houses, being seen from late May through July; two in the same localities as the previous year, one seven miles west, one, one mile west, one four miles north, while one settled in Norman, the nest being found in a Russian mulberry, June 4.

In June, 1923, we saw single birds while driving through McClain

¹ Carter and Trentoon. *Loc. cit.*

² *Loc. cit.*

and Garvin Counties. If *Tyrannus verticalis* keeps up this progress it may eventually reach Arkansas!

As yet Western Kingbirds have not become common in any place that we have visited in the main part of the State; (we have not been in the central western counties; Prof. Whitenton did not find them in Custer County in 1913). Mr. W. E. Lewis writes that at Gate they are "common migrants, some nest." In the western part of the Oklahoma Panhandle, in Texhoma and Kenton, and also in Liberal, Kansas, and Clayton, New Mexico, they are abundant, being the chief "song bird" in all these towns except Kenton which is blessed with Bullock's Orioles and Western Meadowlarks. In late May just before daybreak these Kingbirds raised quite a chorus, apparently as satisfying to them as something musical would have been.

The Robins had the start of the Kingbirds for trees grew faster in fairly well-watered central Oklahoma than in the semi-arid regions along the western border. It seems as if now the Robins are increasing their numbers in the localities they have already adopted rather than making further advances west; at any rate they have nested in Alva for at least fifteen years but have not spread to Gate. It will be interesting to see what the Kingbirds do—extend their range to the east or multiply in the towns where they already are. It is pleasant that civilization has some compensations; while many kinds of birds disappear, others thrive and increase.¹

Norman, Oklahoma.

¹ We have some evidence that Brown Thrashers, Catbirds and Bullock's Orioles have recently extended their ranges; the two former birds were not found by Dr. Wetmore in Minco in 1905, but were there May 20, 1923; the last was not recorded by Dr. VanVleet in southwestern Oklahoma in 1901, but was breeding there in 1923.