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Douglas A. James

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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ARKANSAS AVIFAUNA: SOME SIGNIFICANT
FINDINGS, 1960 TO 1964

Douglas James
University of Arkansas

This paper continues a practice adopted in an earlier one (James, 1960. *Ark. Acad. Sci. Proc.*, 14:8-13) by describing some of the unusual recent findings about the avifauna of Arkansas. Whenever the previous status of a bird is described without a specific citation, this background information was compiled from a general knowledge of the total ornithological literature of Arkansas supplemented by the data contained in the file of bird observations maintained at the University of Arkansas by the Arkansas Audubon Society. Information from specimens collected in Arkansas and housed at various museums also was helpful in supplying general information about Arkansas birds.

The person(s) responsible for each of the reports of birds included herein is named after each record. Catalogue numbers following specimens and photographs refer to the collections in the Department of Zoology at the University of Arkansas (UADZ). The numbers following sight records designate specific written forms submitted to document unusual sightings (AAS). These standardized forms are required by the Arkansas Audubon Society for all field findings which are extraordinary. The completed forms are kept at the University.

In addition to funds provided by the Arkansas Audubon Society, in recent years assistance in compiling the specimen and field data has come from grants to Frances C. James, who actively has maintained the bird file. These grants were provided by the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History, and the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Research Grant of the Wilson Ornithological Society. This help is appreciated.

Gavia stellata. Red-throated Loon. One was seen (AAS 86) at Big Maumelle Lake in Pulaski Co. on January 12, 1963 (H. N. & E. M. Halberg), which was the third record for Arkansas and the first one since 1933.

Podiceps caspicus. Eared Grebe. After being virtually unreported in the state prior to 1956 (James, loc. cit.) this species has been reported about every other year since. In 1961, single birds were observed at El Dorado on April 5 and on May 1 and 2 (AAS 62), and again there on August 15 (AAS 65) and November 18 to 26 (P. W. Mattocks, Jr., Hank Shugart, C. R. Amason, et al.). In 1963, one was photographed (UADZ 540, AAS 87) at Big Maumelle Lake on March 23 (R. S. & M.

Wilson), and another was found five miles south of Hot Springs on November 28 (H. N. & E. M. Halberg).

Fregata magnificens. Magnificent Frigate-Bird. When the forceful winds of hurricane Carla passed through Arkansas on September 13, 1961, a lone frigate-bird was seen (AAS 71) flying over Horseshoe Lake in southern Crittenden Co. (R. K. Strawn, et al.). It was the first record of this coastal bird in the state. Obviously it had been displaced by the hurricane, which had struck the Gulf Coast of Texas.

Bubulcus ibis. Cattle Egret. The long expected arrival in Arkansas of this newcomer to the Western Hemisphere finally has occurred. The first one was seen near Arkadelphia on November 15 and 17, 1962 (AAS 98; H. N. & E. M. Halberg, W. P. Scarlett, R. L. Jamison). Next, six were found at Lonoke on July 21, 1963 (W. P. & V. B. Scarlett). Later the same year three were observed near Texarkana on September 27 and 28 (Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Gardner, et al.) and another was seen near Booker in Crittenden Co. on November 10 (B. B. Coffey, Jr.).

Branta canadensis maxima. Canada Goose. A male of this large subspecies was collected on January 5, 1964, near Rose-dale, Mississippi (Vaiden, 1964, *Occ. Pap. Miss. Nat. Club*, v. 1, n. 8) when it flew over from the Desha Co., Arkansas, side of the Mississippi River. This race once nested throughout the prairies of the Middle West, including Arkansas, but until recently was thought to be extinct.

Aythya marila. Greater Scaup. One seen at El Dorado on December 13, 1961 (AAS 91; P. W. Mattocks, Jr.) was the fifth record for the state.

Clangula hyemalis. Oldsquaw. Previously there were only four records of this duck in Arkansas. Recent reports of single birds were: at Lonoke on January 26 and 27, 1961 (AAS 82; H. N. & E. M. Halberg, W. P. & V. B. Scarlett); near Lake Village, December 14, 1962 (M. G. Vaiden); at El Dorado on December 28, 1963 (W. P. Mattocks, Jr.); and near Pine Bluff, February 16 to 22, 1964 (photographed, UADZ 572; H. S. & J. Stern).

Melanitta deglandi. White-winged Scoter. The first two of these ducks found in the state were caught on February 23, 1958, by commercial fish nets in De Soto Lake, Phillips Co. (M. G. Vaiden, pers. comm.). Another one was found at El Dorado on November 20, 1963, and collected on the 21st (UADZ 634; Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Shugart, T. F. Daniel, Mrs. M. Brown, et al.).

Accipiter gentilis. Goshawk. The first record since 1929, and only the third for the state, was shot by a hunter on Dec-

ember 19, 1963, at Snow Lake. It was identified by Ben B. Coffey, Jr. (pers. comm.).

Pandion haliaetus. Osprey. The first winter record for the state was a lone bird seen at Calion on December 28, 1963 (Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Goodwin, Mrs. M. Brown).

Coturnicops noveboracensis. Yellow Rail. The recent 5th and 6th records for the state were the only winter occurrences known: one photographed at Booneville on January 5, 1963 (UADZ 432; B. W. Beall, R. M. Armstrong); and another collected in January, 1963, eight miles west of Beebe (B. Smith).

Numenius americanus. Long-billed Curlew. Other than an old record ascribed to Audubon, the reports of this species in the state, both previously unpublished, were two birds at Lonoke, October 5, 1934 (M. G. Vaiden), and more recently a single bird nine miles east of Texarkana, December 9, 1961 (AAS 90; C. L. Gardner).

Erolia melanotos. Pectoral Sandpiper. A lame bird seen at Lonoke on December 23, 1961 (AAS 95; H. N. & E. M. Halberg, W. P. & V. B. Scarlett) was the first December record of this common migrant.

Limosa fedoa. Marbled Godwit. One seen at Big Mammelle Lake in Pulaski Co., April 28, 1963 (AAS 89; R. S. & M. Wilson) was the second record for the state.

Limosa haemastica. Hudsonian Godwit. Two found five miles east of Fayetteville, May 9, 1960 (AAS 47; D. A. & F. C. James) was the second record for the state.

Himantopus mexicanus. Black-necked Stilt. One observed 18 miles northeast of Texarkana, May 9, 1960 (AAS 46; Mrs. B. S. Pagan) was the first record of this species in Arkansas.

Speotyto cunicularia. Burrowing Owl. On October 28, 1962, B. B. Coffey, Jr., discovered a population of this owl in two prairie fields near Lonoke. After that up to three birds were seen there frequently by several observers through March 3, 1963. Three were seen there again from October 6, 1963, through March 1, 1964. Previously, a band recovery was the only documentation of this species in Arkansas (Cooke, 1941. *Bird-Banding*, 12:160). The Lonoke birds were known to be new arrivals in the fields where they were found because these same fields had been investigated several times annually prior to autumn 1962.

Tyrannus verticalis. Western Kingbird. The specimen collected at Eudora on September 14, 1961 (UADZ 408; B.

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Meanley) was the first occurrence of this flycatcher ever recorded in Arkansas.

Muscivora forficata. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. This species breeds regularly in the western half of the state, but it was not found in winter until 1963, when one was seen 18 miles west of El Dorado on January 15 (AAS 101; Mrs. M. Brown), and another was found in southern Hot Spring Co., about 10 miles northeast of Arkadelphia, on February 9 (AAS 102; E. G. Williams).

Salpinctes obsoletus. Rock Wren. One seen March 10 and April 9, 1961, on the rip rap rocks of Cove Lake dam nine miles southeast of Paris (AAS 58; R. M. LaVal, B. W. Beall, W. J. Stewart) was the second record for the state.

Dumetella carolinensis. Catbird. There have been several winter records of this bird recently, a species which previously was not known to overwinter. Single birds were recorded at Texarkana on December 26, 1960 (AAS 77; D. W. Woodward), at El Dorado on several dates in December and January in 1961 and 1963, and from late January to late February, 1963, at Clarksville (I. T. Beach, T. B. & J. O. Wilson).

Myadestes townsendi. Townsend's Solitaire. One found on December 8, 1963 (AAS 109; D. A. James, et al.), and seen subsequently on five dates through January 4, 1964, was the first Arkansas record of this species.

Bombycilla garrula. Bohemian Waxwing. Previously there were only two Arkansas records, and none since 1947. One was seen at Clarksville on January 27, 1960 (AAS 42; I. T. Beach), and another was seen in Little Rock on March 16, 1962 (AAS 97; E. M. Halberg).

Dendroica caerulescens. Black-throated Blue Warbler. Only three records were known before 1960 when one was seen at El Dorado on May 17 (Hank Shugart), and a male and female were seen there on May 22 (AAS 55; Hank Shugart).

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. Yellow-headed Blackbird. The fifth and sixth state records were: one at Geridge, October 15, 1961 (AAS 72; B. W. Beall, T. H. Johnston, et al.); another near Fayetteville, January 2, 1962 (L. Kimbrough).

Icterus bullockii. Bullock's Oriole. A male was photographed during one of its visits to a feeding tray in El Dorado between February 13 and March 16, 1963 (UADZ 635, T. F. Daniel). The only other times this species has been found in the state was late April, 1937, and early September, 1938 (Lincoln, *Auk*, 64: 318-320).

Piranga rubra. Summer Tanager. This breeding bird was

not known to overwinter until one was photographed at Texarkana during its visits to a feeding tray from December 29, 1960, to February 15, 1961 (UADZ 418 & AAS 81; G. Hoffman, Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Gardner), and another was seen at a feeding tray in Fort Smith, January 3 to February 4, 1961 (AAS 80; B. W. Beall, R. M. Armstrong).

Hesperiphona vespertina. Evening Grosbeak. The first recorded statewide invasion performed by this finch occurred in winter 1961-1962. Grosbeaks were seen in 27 cities covering all parts of the state. The first ones were found on December 20, and some were seen as late as May 13. In winter 1963-1964 there was a smaller invasion which began on November 2, and was confined to eight localities in the northern half of the state. The only previous recorded occurrence of Evening Grosbeaks was a group of three birds in Rogers in 1942.

Loxia curvirostra. Red Crossbill. There were four reports of this finch prior to 1935, but none since then until two were seen at Texarkana on September 10, 1963 (AAS 105; Mrs. C. L. Gardner, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Homan, et al.), and 12 were recorded near Rudy, Crawford Co., on November 30, 1963 (B. B. Coffey, Jr., B. W. Beall, et al.).

Junco hyemalis. Slate-colored Junco. The first summer record of this winter resident was reported on June 2, 1961 (AAS 64; W. P. Mattocks, Jr.).

Junco caniceps. Gray-headed Junco. One was photographed at Little Rock during the period it was observed there from February 22 to March 2, 1963 (UADZ 542; E. M. Halberg, W. P. & V. B. Scarlett). This was a new bird for Arkansas.

Spizella pallida. Clay-colored Sparrow. The third record for the state and the first for southern Arkansas was collected at Calion, September 11, 1960 (UADZ 383; Hank Shugart; W. P. Mattocks, Jr.).

Zonotrichia albicollis. White-throated Sparrow. The first prolonged summer records of this winter resident occurred in 1963, when one was noted at Clarksville from June 1 to August 5 (I. T. Beach, T. B. & J. O. Wilson), and another one was seen at Pine Bluff from June 12 to September 25 (AAS 104; G. Hoffman, J. Stern, Mrs. J. Miller). An earlier isolated summer record was recorded on June 2, 1960 (AAS 50; W. P. Mattocks, Jr.).