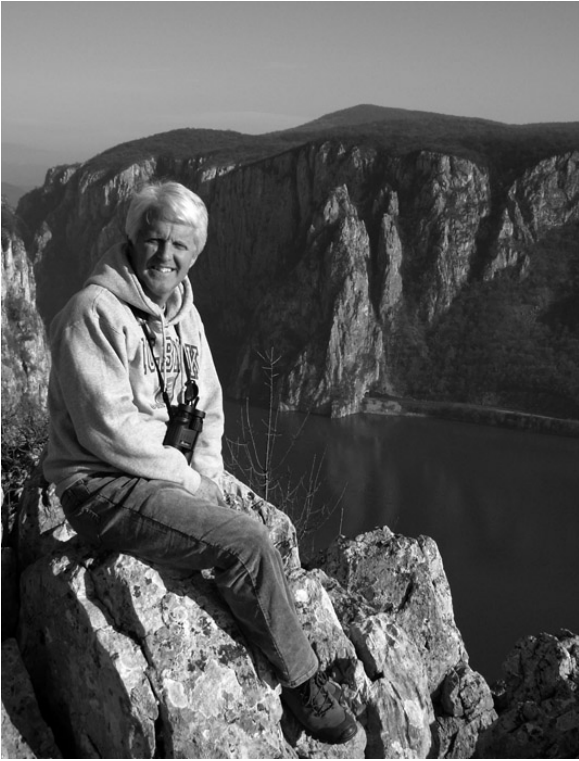




# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

March 2013



*Bob Holbrook perches several hundred feet above the Danube River along the Southwestern border of Romania and Serbia.*

## Romania: Europe's Best Kept Secret

Our March 18 program will be "Romania: Europe's Best Kept Secret" presented by OKC Audubon member Bob Holbrook whose wife Dana is a native Romanian currently there completing degree work. They both are expert birders with extensive experience in and around Romania.

Within Romania's borders are various valuable and beautiful ecosystems. The famous Danube River and its delta are home to thousands of riparian and marsh birds and migrants. Romania's Carpathian Mountains contain one of the largest virgin forests in Europe, sporting Europe's largest populations of bears, lynx and other mammals along with many native plants. Woodland birds are still plentiful as are the birds of the plains south of the mountains.

Bob's fascination with nature dates back to when he was about two years old (according to his mother) when he'd come home with his pockets full of frogs. His interest in birding dates back to the age of 12 when he spent a month on the Ucayali River in Peru along with his 9-year-old brother (sans parents) visiting a native village. He traded for bird pets—a woodpecker that ate bits of food off his tongue, a pair of Araçari, a Razor-billed Guan and other cool birds. Since those days, Bob has traveled to 85 countries, lived for 14 years in Peru, two of which were on the

upper Amazon River, lived in Brazil, Bolivia, and Ecuador. He is fluent in English and Spanish, and speaks Portuguese with a South Brazilian "Gaúcho" accent. Now retired, he volunteers most of his summer months at Wewoka Woods Youth Camp near Seminole, OK where he is the curator and developer of a nature. He is a life member of the American Birding Association (since 1972), was a long-time member of the National Speleological Society, has climbed numerous over-14,000 ft. mountains in both North and South America, and the list can go on. His most favorite bird of all birds is the Costa Rican Fiery-throated Hummingbird, but he says there are many "very close seconds."

Bob will illustrate his presentation with beautiful photos and commentary. Come out and bring some friends. They will love it. Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month. They begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 and NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.

## Cookie Patrol

The refreshments volunteers for the March 18th meeting are: Nadine Varner, Nancy Vicars and Anna Kuc.

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# President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



Last month we completed an examination of the superfamily, Corvoidea. The next supergroup we are going to look at and listen to is the superfamily, Sylvioidea. The composition of this supergroup can be seen on the ToL page here, <http://tolweb.org/Sylvioidea/67276>. Sylvioidea is much more diverse in the Old World than in the New as was true for the Corvoidea. Most of our North

American sylvioid species come from just two of the 22 groups listed on the ToL page, the Paridae (titmice and chickadees) and the Hirundinidae (swallows). However North America also has single representatives of five other sylvioid groups, the Verdin (penduline tits), the Horned Lark (larks), the Bushtit (long-tailed tits), the Arctic Warbler (leaf warblers) and the Wrentit (babblers, white-eyes, sylvine warblers). There is another sylvioid species in tropical America, the Donacobius.

Let's start our investigation with the parids. Listen to the call and song of a Tufted Titmouse in the first recording of the Calls section here, [http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Tufted\\_Titmouse/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Tufted_Titmouse/sounds). The calls at the beginning of the recording resemble some calls of Blue Jays or Vireos. The song phrases at the end of the recording, usually rendered in text as "peter peter", are short, sweet and change quickly in pitch, and although each "peter" isn't exactly the "toolili" of a Blue Jay, it has a basic similarity to it. Now let's listen to a Carolina Chickadee in the second recording of the Calls section at the All About Birds site, [http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Carolina\\_Chickadee/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Carolina_Chickadee/sounds). The classic alarm call sequence consists of some high twittering, the "chicka" part, which for Carolina Chickadees is often repeated, followed by harsh notes, the "dee" notes. The number of "dee" notes has been interpreted to increase with the level of threat, see <http://birdnote.org/show/chickadee-codes>. Can you recognize a similarity between an individual "dee" and the call of a Tufted Titmouse or the "jay" of a Blue Jay. Now what about the song? Let's listen to the recording in the Songs section at the link just visited. It is similar in tone to the Blue Jay's toolili call or the Titmouse's song, but the changes in pitch are not rapid. How important is it that the changes in pitch are not rapid? If the recording were speeded up, would it sound a lot like "peter peter"? Carolina Chickadees make a great variety of calls called "gargles" by some authors. Following is a link to a recording of some Carolina Chickadee gargles, and this is followed without introduction by the same recording played at half speed. On my computer the combined recording is read by the Apple Quicktime application which takes a half a minute or so to load automatically (be patient), <https://math.uc.edu/~pelikan/BirdSong/gargle2.mp3>. (The source is a fascinating discussion of chickadee vocalizations which you can access when/if you

like here, <https://math.uc.edu/~pelikan/BirdSong/cach.html>). Now compare the slowed down chickadee calls to the song recording of the White-eyed Vireo here, [http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/White-eyed\\_Vireo/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/White-eyed_Vireo/sounds). It is hard to escape the conclusion that the vocalizations of two sylvioids, the Tufted Titmouse and the Carolina Chickadee, have much in common with the vocalizations of two corvids, the Blue Jays and the White-eyed Vireo. This evidence is insufficient to conclude that sylvioid vocalizations are similar to corvid vocalizations in the general case. However the absence or presence of this corvid-sylvioid similarity is something to keep track of as we progress through the sylvioids.

The 11 species of titmice and chickadees are Western Hemisphere representatives of the family, Paridae. There are 45 more members of the Paridae in the Old World. To see a complete list of the family and its range map use the following link, <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/family/tits-chickadees-paridae>. Down on the bottom right are photos of three birds in the family. To hear a recording of the bird in the first photo, Parus nuchalis, go to the following link and click on the little triangle arrow in front of the name of the bird down at the bottom of the page (be sure to click on the arrow), <http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Parus-nuchalis>. To hear a recording of the bird in the second photo, Cyanistes caeruleus, click on the first arrow in the list here, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Cyanistes-caeruleus>. The calls of both birds are very similar to chickadees. More on the sylvioids next month.

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## Oklahoma City Audubon Society

### Officers 2013

President	Bill Diffin	722-3778
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
Secretary	Sharon Henthorn	521-9958
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	831-1945
Parliament	Ted Goulden	354-3619
Programs	Warren Harden	364-3491
Recorder	Esther M. Key	735-1021
Conservation	Dave Woodson	601-622-3467
Field Trips	Mark Delgrosso	242-2759
Newsletter Editors:		
	Pat Velte	751-5263
	Carla Brueggen	495-3259
	Doug Eide	495-8192
Publicity		
Historian	Vacant	
Refreshments	Sue Woodson	601-622-3467
Webmaster	Pat Velte	751-5263

*The Oklahoma City Audubon society is neither a chapter of nor affiliated with National Audubon.*

## Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



The **American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*) has long been awaited as a harbinger of spring across the northern U.S. and in much of the tree-covered parts of Canada. But across most of its extensive range in the U.S., including Oklahoma, this member of the thrush family is both a wintering and breeding species.

Most members of the thrush family are rather wary of man. I suspect the robin started off being a wary thrush too. Bent (Life histories of North American thrushes, kinglets, and their allies) quotes H. C. Kyllingstad as saying that the robin around Mountain Village, Alaska, (before statehood) "...is not the confiding creature that it is in the States. Most frequently it nests away from the village as the native children like robin eggs to eat..."

In much of the U.S. and over many generations of robins, the robin probably adapted to living in man-altered environments. For the last 200 years, as the number of lawns in the U.S. has increased, I suspect robin numbers have too. These lawns have provided a common food item for robins—earthworms. In addition to the increase in the number of lawns, the Migratory Birds Act now protects the robins in our yards from some of the negative consequences of human activity.

To support this supposition further, I compare the robins' behavior with that of a close relative, the Varied Thrush, a bird of the northwestern part of the North American continent. Many years ago a Varied Thrush showed up at Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa. I went there with a big lens camera to try to substantiate its presence with photographs. Seldom have I encountered such a retiring, difficult bird to photograph (the male Painted Bunting being another good example of a shy bird). The thrush would jump onto open ground for a few seconds, then rather quickly retire into nearby woods to become invisible again. I finally got a few pictures that could verify the bird's presence, but they were very hard-earned. I could have taken many photos of robin of equal or higher qual-

ity in the same amount of time I spent getting these marginal Varied Thrush pictures. I suspect the robin was once a similarly shy species, before lawns became commonplace on the North American continent

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data from 1966-2003 show that for some 80% of the central part of the U.S.—west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the Rocky Mountains—the robin has increased, on average, more than 1.5% a year or more than about 55% over the entire period. This area of the robin's range is the largest area of population increase in its North American range over this time period. These years of robin increase—since the BBS began in 1966—likely relate most directly to another fortuitous habitat change for the robin—the population explosion of Eastern redcedar trees, a tree that has become quite a "pest" in Oklahoma and elsewhere. The mechanism may be quite simple. Robins

eat redcedar berries, then regurgitate the seeds or void them in their droppings; more cedars grow from these seeds, feeding more robins and so on, until numbers of both species are quite high.

It is hard to believe now but back in the 1960s, we sometimes had trouble finding any robins at all on our Christmas Bird Counts.

On the evening of 19 January 2013 Warren Harden had a remarkable observation of robins. As he was about to go into his home in Norman, he saw a bunch of birds flying overhead, some at treetop level, others just dots in the sky above. With a binocular he observed that all the birds he was seeing that were flying from

NNW to the SSE were robins. The flock stretched as far as he could see to the east and west of him. He began estimating the number of birds in a wedge of sky above him and noted that about 50-100 birds were passing overhead every 8 seconds. He watched this huge flock of robins as it continued for 40 minutes. When he multiplied out the estimated number of birds, the number was so large as to be unbelievable. So he divided the number by 2, then 2 more, and still came up with over 100,000 birds; he will not tell me exactly how much over that number he came up with because the number, apparently, still sounds ridiculous to him. The birds did not reappear the following evening or thereafter.

(Continued on page 4.)



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## Field Trip Report:

# Draper Woodcock Trip

*By Jimmy Woodard*

Nine OKC area birders met up at Lupe's Mexican restaurant in Midwest City on Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> to dine before heading out on our annual Woodcock field trip.

We enjoyed some decent food and drink and some lively banter as well during our meal. Participants were Steve Davis, Bob Holbrook, Mary Lane, Laura Pollard, Susan Prescott, Gavin Small, Sue Woodson, Nadine Varner, and Jimmy Woodard. Later, Carol Enwall joined us at the watch site.

We caravanned to the north side of Lake Draper arriving a little before 6:30PM. The weather was cool and a bit breezy at first. Luckily, the sky was mostly clear allowing for full effect of the setting sun to help silhouette any birds that showed. And show they did. The first call was heard coming from the woods just east of us about 6:40.

We were fortunate as two woodcocks made separate passes virtually right next to us as they emerged from the woods to the east of the parking area. They flew past us and landed in a grassy field on the west edge of the lot. We were able to see their distinctive shapes and flight styles as they winged by us.

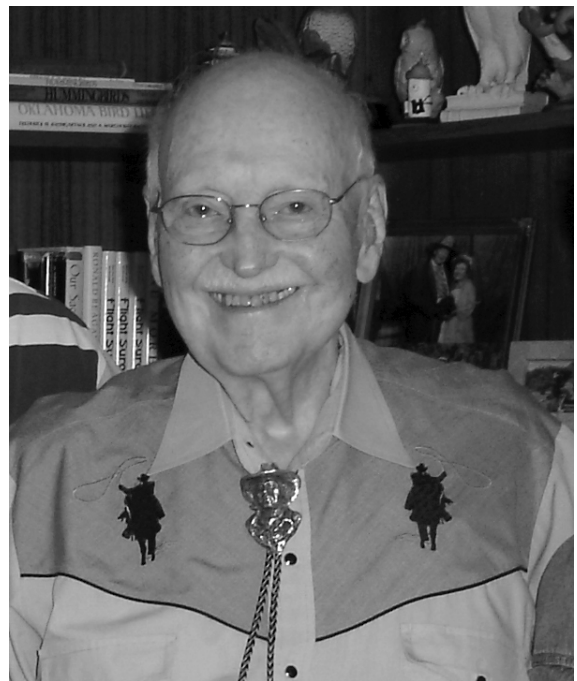
The first flight displays began shortly after and continued until we all left about 7:15PM. At least two birds began rising off the ground and doing their twittering and whistling from about 30 yards in front of us. At one point, several of us were able to see the bird on the ground in the light from Gavin's flashlight.

Most of the while, we were focused on the closest bird but there were at least two others displaying from the farther fringes of the short grassy field where the show was occurring. I think there may have been one or two others but it was difficult to keep track of where each bird landed in the fading twilight.

Happily, everyone was able to get looks at the Woodcocks as they did their impressive displays. I believe everyone was able to hear their "peenting" calls as well. The softer, musical flight songs and calls were harder for us to hear as there was some significant road noise coming from nearby I-240. There are surely other sites around Draper with displaying woodcocks. The habitat looks good for them. Perhaps in the future, we can locate an area with less noise pollution.

## Bird of the Month (cont.)

Warren could not come up with any satisfactory explanation for the huge flock. If the birds had been migrating, they were flying the wrong way, NNW to SSE. If they were going to a roost nearby, why did the birds not "condense" into a smaller stream of birds rather than remaining in a "river of birds" as far as Warren could see from east to west. All About Birds ([http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/American\\_Robin/id](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Robin/id)) says that "In fall and winter they form large flocks and gather in trees to roost or eat berries." Warren's sighting, a remarkable report, certainly falls into the category of large. Huge is more like it.



## 100 Years Young!

Members of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society are cordially invited to a birthday celebration in honor of Dr. Samuel Turner Moore III's 100th Birthday! The celebration will be held Saturday, March 30 from 2:30 - 4:30 pm at the Fountains at Canterbury, 1404 NW 122nd Street (Commons Room). A tree dedication will be held at 2:30; hors d'oeuvre at 3:30 pm.

Dr. Sam Moore is a founding member of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society; he served in 1947 and 1948 as its first president.



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# Minutes of the Meeting

## February 18, 2013

Called to order by President Bill Diffin.

Minutes from the January 28 meeting were approved with the following correction: Jimmy Woodard states the correct date for the Lake Draper woodcock watch is March 5, not 15 as published.

### Committee reports

**Field trips:** Jimmy Woodard reported on field trips in Mark Delgrosso's absence. We will meet at Lupe's restaurant at 1000 S. Douglas Blvd, MWC, at 5pm March 5 for the Woodcock Courtship watch at Lake Draper.

Jimmy will be traveling March 29-31 to southwestern Oklahoma for a birding trip and staying at the Microtel in Altus, if anyone wants to join him.

Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival is April 11-14, but there will be a pre-festival trip to either Wichita Wildlife Refuge and/or Hackberry Flat; and post-festival trip to Black Mesa as well. Go to [www.lekstrek.org](http://www.lekstrek.org) for more detail.

A pamphlet with info regarding the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge is available. Birdfest Texoma will be held May 3-5 at Hagerman NWR, Sherman, TX.

**Conservation:** Dave Woodson reminded the participants to report their data from the Great Backyard Bird Count. He asked for a show of hands for those participating, dates February 15-18, just completed.

Friends of Lake Overholser will be hosting a trash pickup day on February 23 at the lake.

Sharon Henthorn reported that the University of Central Oklahoma will be doing community service on March 9 and we have submitted a request for help with trash pickup at Prairie Dog Point. This info was forwarded by Susan Schmidt and much appreciated. More info will be available prior to that date.

**Treasurer's report:** Nancy Vicars was absent; President Bill Diffin reported that after expenses, the account contains \$6065, and dues are still being accepted at \$15 per member.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** none

**Comments:** Members reported large rookeries of Great Blue Herons east of May and North of Waterloo Rd and south of Arcadia on Hiwassee Rd.

Visitors included Laura Pollard of Edmond, Danielle Michels of Harrah, Theresa Pella of Littleton, CO; Carla Brocksmith and family from OKC, Mark Brickmann of Yukon, Jean Calhoun of Newalla. Patrick Schlect, Joe Messenbaum, Laura from Minneapolis. My apologies for errors or omissions.

**Program:** Larry Hancock gave a photo slide presentation of flora and fauna from Wichita Wildlife Refuge.

Next meeting will be March 18.

*Submitted by Sharon Henthorn, Secretary*

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## TOP 25: Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*)

**FAMILY:** Accipitridae

**RANGE:** throughout sub-Saharan Africa from east to west and south to n. South Africa (excepting the central and w. coastal rain forest zone); also in extreme sw. Arabia

**HABITAT:** open grasslands or mixed grass-/woodlands, thorn scrub.

**STATUS:** though numerous in some locales has been dramatically reduced in others (South Africa especially).

The Bateleur is a *great* eagle. Not great in size - it's actually fair to middlin' on that score. And probably not likely to come out on top in a *mano a mano* with one of the really big guns of Accipitridae - the Steller's, Golden, Bald. But what the Bateleur lacks in muscle mass is more than made up for by *charisma*. It's a bird you've got to see - as remarkable in its plumage (quite colorful indeed) as in some of its behaviors. It is a strange raptor, no doubt. It is considered a snake-eagle, a sub-group within the larger hawk/eagle/kite family.

This group consists of stocky little birds-of-prey whose specialty, as the name suggests, is targeting and capturing snakes (and lizards) of all types. However, the Bateleur is decidedly less particular in its tastes and is known to grab birds and mammals. For such a smallish hunter it can take hornbills, bustards, and young antelopes. Even roadkill is on the menu (indeed, the Bateleur has been linked with the Old World vultures). It is a wonderfully colored bird as well. From bright red on bare parts to touches of cream and chestnut on jet black body to snow white underwings there is no mistaking this raptor for anything else. Especially in flight this bird is exceptional with a very long-winged and tailless look (indeed, the Bateleur has more secondaries than any other bird-of-prey) that gives it a unique, dwarf-like appearance. And then there are its courtship displays and aerial fights - as spectacular as any member of the eagle family. Spiralling and mid-air talon-grasping are among such displays. Indeed, the name Bateleur, from the French for acrobat or tumbler, derives from this bird's aerial antics.



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## Recorders Report – February 2013

### GBBC

This was a busy month with the GBBC and weather changes. The drought continues even though water from Canton Lake began flowing into Lake Hefner and several moisture events occurred during the month. Although most of Central Oklahoma missed a winter blizzard, everyone is wondering “when will the first birds of spring arrive?”

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Donna Mackiewicz had a Brown Creeper in her yard in Logan County. Along South Jenkins On the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Norman Dick Gunn had a Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Song Sparrows, Lincoln Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Spotted Towhee and a Turkey Vulture. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Matt Jung checked the west Stinchcomb WMA and located Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Joe Grzybowski spotted a Great Horned Owl in Logan County near I-35 and Cimarron River.

David Fenton, a Canadian visitor, regularly walked in Midwest City Regional Park and on the 7<sup>th</sup> reported a pair of Gadwalls, Eastern Bluebirds, and Harris's Sparrows. Along South Jenkins Matt Jung discovered **Fish Crows**, and TK had a Marsh Wren; while at Lake Carl Blackwell Alex James had Chipping Sparrows. On the 8<sup>th</sup> near Guthrie Larry and Jan Kraemer located a Greater White-fronted and

Snow Goose, and on the 9<sup>th</sup> Garey Harritt had a nice bunch of birds at his feeders including Purple Finch and Pine Siskins.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> Jim Bates reported seeing a Prairie Falcon three times the last week on the east side of the Fair Grounds near a Coca-Cola Plant usually around 6:00 pm. At Lake Carl Blackwell after 4 or 5 tries John Polo found some Red Crossbills as well as Northern Bobwhite and Wild Turkey, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> he discovered a **Short-eared Owl** east of I-35 north of East Seward Road.

Beginning the weekend of the GBBC on the 15<sup>th</sup> Christie Stoops had a Hermit Thrush near Cottonwood Creek in Logan County. Doni McClain had a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at the Rockin HD Ranch east of Wayne in McClain County. In Grady County Lisa Handwerker had Downy and Hairy Woodpecker at Wildwood located west of I-44 along Hwy 37. In Oklahoma County Christy Kucera

discovered a Brown Thrasher at Edmond Park. On the 16<sup>th</sup> the OCAS field trip searched Lake Carl Blackwell in Payne County and discovered American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Lesser Scaup and Common Mergansers, and at the Oklahoma Botanical Gardens Alicia Maple spotted an Eastern Screech Owl. In Kingfisher County at Lake Elmer Esther Key had a Savanna Sparrow and Wilson's Snipe, and near Okarche John Grellner found Brewer's Blackbird. In Grady County at the Ninnekay Outdoor Classroom, Connie Taylor had a Song Sparrow. In Canadian County Dakota McNeill spotted a Redhead Duck southeast of El Reno. In Lincoln County Jimmy Woodward found Northern Harrier and Red-shouldered Hawk. In Cleveland County at Lake Thunderbird TK discovered a **Spotted Sandpiper**, and in Norman VA Ospovat locate an **Inca Dove**.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> Donald Winslow spotted a Cooper's Hawk and Field Sparrow at Tecumseh Lake in Pottawatomie County and at Catalpa Cottage a Golden-crowned Kinglet. Melinda West had both a Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatch in Logan County. In Grady County in Minco, Jaake Bodley had Yellow-rumped Warbler and Field Sparrow. On the 18<sup>th</sup> Jimmy Woodard was making a pass around Lake Hefner and found a **Red-throated Loon** on the northwest corner of the lake. At final tally, reports were received from 10 of the 11 counties in Central Oklahoma. Great Job !!!!

On the 19<sup>th</sup> Jason Heinen spotted Smith's Longspurs at the OSU Cross Country Field in Payne County. On the 21<sup>st</sup> Hollis Price noticed about 75 Cedar Waxwings in his back yard oak tree in Jones. At Aydelotte Gregory Mayberry had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Purple Finch. Joe Grzybowski spotted



a **Ross's Goose** along Norman's Ten Mile Flats and the Lesser Black-backed Gull at Lake Hefner. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> in Newcastle, Larry Mays had a new yard bird, an American Tree Sparrow. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Jane Boren noticed a Black Vulture and Hairy Woodpecker in the little park east of Twin Bridge on Alameda. Grace Huffman located Great Egrets in downtown Oklahoma City and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jimmy Woodward

discovered Black-crowned Night Herons in northeast Oklahoma City.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> The Cleveland County Audubon Club took a field trip to the Kessler Atmospheric and Ecological Field Station in McClain County and located both singing Eastern Meadowlark and Western Meadowlark and later at Lake Purcell a Greater Yellowlegs and Greater Roadrunner.

*Continued on page 8*

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## Upcoming Field Trips

**Mid-March (13-23): Tufted Jay Preserve, Mazatlan, MEXICO:** see some of Mexico's beautiful endemic birdlife, including the gorgeous Tufted Jay, at the eponymous reserve outside Mazatlan. This is a chance for some exotic lifers plus possible beach R&R in historic Mazatlan. *Coordinator/Leader:* Mark Delgrosso (405 470 4533/ [medelgrosso@gmail.com](mailto:medelgrosso@gmail.com))

### **March 29-31: Southwest Oklahoma / Altus**

We will explore the far southwest corner of the state. Meet at 8AM on Friday morning the 29th at the Homeland parking lot directly behind the new Whattaburger in Mustang. Plan for a prompt departure at 8AM unless you make other arrangements. An alternate meeting time/place is Saturday morning the 30th at the Microtel in Altus at 8AM.

On Friday, we will bird a few places on the way down to Altus. On Saturday, we will bird several of the known spots in Jackson County for most of the day. Possible side trips may include parts of Harmon, Greer and Tillman Counties depending on time, weather, etc.... We will probably not be near a town for lunch and may do a picnic lunch somewhere. On Sunday, possible routes back home may include Quartz Mtn, Wichitas, Sandy Sanders WMA or who knows what. Please make sure you have a current 2013 Conservation Pass/hunting license to access some of the places we may go. Feel free to contact me for further details at my email, [j.woodard@cox.net](mailto:j.woodard@cox.net) or on my cell, 405-365-5685.

### **April 11-14: Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival / Woodward**

This festival gives birders a chance to see the Lessers on their leks with possible trips to view Greaters as well – both Prairie Chickens in one weekend – not a bad deal! For more info. go to: [www.lektreks.org](http://www.lektreks.org)

### **April 20: Hackberry Flat Day, Frederick**

A variety of activities are offered, from birding tours to crawdad fishing and wetland hay rides. Contact the Hackberry Flat Center (405.990.4977) for additional information.

### **April 26-28: OOS Spring Meeting**

The meeting will be held in McCurtain Co. with field trips to McCurtain Co. Wilderness (for Red-Cockadedes), Little River NWR, and Red Slough.

## Financial Report for 2012

**CASH ON HAND 12/31/2011** **\$5,608.47**

### INCOME:

Membership dues	1,319.31
Checking Acct. interest	11.59
Car stickers	52.59
Contributions	55.00
2011 CBC participant	<u>5.04</u>
	1,443.53

**+1,443.53**

**7,052.00**

### EXPENSES:

Meeting room rent	200.00
Newsletter (copies & postage)	819.11
Club Promotion	44.82
2011 Xmas count	15.00
Memb. dues (Garden Council)	15.00
Summer Social	126.71
Speaker Honorarium	25.00
Contribution (Martin Park	100.00
Pay Pal charge back	<u>14.26</u>

**1,359.90**

**- 1,359.90**

**CASH ON HAND 12/31/2012**

**\$5,692.10**

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## Lake Hefner cleanup

Despite poor weather conditions and late notice, three members attended the Prairie Dog Point Clean Up on Saturday, March 9. The crew attacked a particularly trashy cedar tree at the north parking area near the Point. UCO students, schedule for community service duty, didn't make it, but a lot was accomplished considering the small turnout. Thanks to Susan Prescott, Sharon Henthorn, and Bill Diffin.

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## Dues Notice

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2013. OCAS dues are \$15 per household and may be paid at the monthly meetings, online at our website <http://www.okc-audubon.org> or mailed to Nancy Vicars, Treasurer, 820 Arthur Drive, Midwest City, OK 73110

Oklahoma City Audubon Society  
c/o Patricia Velte  
1421 NW 102nd Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114

## Recorder's Report (cont.)

Bill Diffin advised he had observed Common Loons on Lake Hefner a couple of times this week, and Joe found a Loggerhead Shrike along Indian Hills Road east of I-35. Mary and Lou Truex saw a **Rough-legged Hawk** along Hwy 4 near Piedmont. On the 24<sup>th</sup> Torre Hovick located an American Pipit at Lake Hefner. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Dave and Sue Woodson had a nice time birding around Lake Hefner's Prairie Dog Point and the dam. They were happy to report the water is flowing into the lake and now large numbers of waterfowl and other species can be observed feeding close to shore including **Blue-winged Teal**. On the 27<sup>th</sup> at her home Donna Mackiewicz had a White-winged Dove and White-throated Sparrow, and along South Jenkins Dick Gunn reported three Rusty Blackbirds, a species in rapid decline.

During February **111** bird species were reported with **9** new species which brought the 2013 year's total to **142** species in the Central Oklahoma area. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds and can be contacted by e-mail at [emkok@earthlink.net](mailto:emkok@earthlink.net). Esther M. Key, Editor.

## Grey Snow Eagle House



*Dave Woodson (left) photographs a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk exhibited by a staff member during the Grey Snow Eagle House field trip. Also included Joyce Varner, Sue Woodson and a guest.*

Warren Harden led a trip to Grey Snow Eagle House, the Iowa Tribe's eagle rehabilitation facility near Perkins on February 16. Participants included Dave and Sue Woodson (and their guest), Jimmy Woodard, Nadine Varner, Joyce Varner, Bill Diffin, Terri Underhill, and Pat Velte. The group viewed many Bald and Golden Eagles being cared for at the facility as well as a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk and a Mississippi Kite.