



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

APRIL 2017

April: Peru and South Ecuador

June Ketchum returns to us after moving to Colorado in 2015. She is a former president of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society and a former secretary of our club.

June was born in Alabama and spent her childhood in Georgia and Florida. She graduated from Oklahoma State University with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and a M.Ed. from East Central University. She is a former secondary science school teacher and retired in 2015 after practicing for 31 years as a Medical Technologist.

In 2006, June birded Northern Ecuador and gave a presentation to us after that trip. In 2014 she went to Peru and in November of 2016 she travelled to S. Ecuador and Amazonia. She will share her experiences of these last two trips.



Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month (with the exception of January, when the meeting is held on the fourth Monday) at the Will Rogers Garden center, located at the intersection of NW 36th Street and I-44. They begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Welcome New Members

Jena Ray, Paden
Barbara Thomas, Oklahoma City
Laurie MacIvor Gillum, Oklahoma City (Welcome Back!)

Refreshments

Refreshments for our April 17th meeting will be provided by:
Snacks: Marion Homier, Mary Lane & Steve Davis
Ice and Drinks : Diane Newell

President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



At our last meeting, Jimmy Woodard stood up and spoke about birding ethics. This was prompted by events surrounding the recent Long-eared Owl sightings at Waurika Lake. The owls were prone to flush as birders approached their roosting area in a dense grove of trees. A photographer was observed walking into the grove to get close

enough for good pictures while seemingly uncaring about disturbance to the owls. A similar occurrence with a different photographer has been reported since the meeting. It is true that these owls were very difficult to observe without causing some minor disturbance, so many who saw them unintentionally flushed a few. However the behavior of the photographers was not acceptable under any code of birding ethics. It is important for us all to think about how to minimize disturbance while trying to make good observations or take photos. There will always be judgement involved, but the main thing is to have the disturbance factor uppermost in mind at all times when approaching birds in the wild.

In this space in the January and March issues we have looked at photos showing the difference between the nonbreeding and breeding plumages of female Gadwalls and Mallards, particularly the tertial feathers, i.e. the inner secondaries that are visible at the back of the bird and which cover the bases of the primaries. Last month we made reference to the abstract of Peter Pyle's 2005 article renaming the plumages of dabbling ducks. Pyle realized that the brightly colored plumage of male dabbling ducks which is acquired in the fall is the basic plumage in the Humphrey-Parkes system, the plumage corresponding to the dull winter plumage in many migratory songbirds. Therefore the dull summer, aka eclipse, body plumage of males is an alternate plumage. Likewise the plumage acquired by females in the fall which includes rather male-like tertials is the basic

plumage. The more cryptic body plumage acquired by females in the late winter and spring which often includes at least some mottled, cryptically-colored tertials is an alternate plumage. Pat Velte, our newsletter editor who puts all the photographs into our articles, came up with a really good photo for last month's Perspective. It showed



two male Mallards in eclipse plumage and in the middle of the molt of the flight feathers of the wing. The primaries and secondaries are molted on both birds, and the body plumage is the drab, almost monotone eclipse plumage for males during the season of their wing molt. Where there would normally be a speculum, there are instead some white streaks which may be the unsheathed tips of the new secondaries just coming in. It is worth taking another look at this photograph. Male dabbling ducks are hardly ever seen in the condition captured by the photo.

This month we will take a look at a third species of female dabbling duck, the Northern Pintail. First let's look at some females right after the fall molt when we expect them to have rather male-like tertials. Here is a link to a standing female -- note the tertials without light internal markings, and also note the neat pattern of curved light and dark bands on the feathers of the side, <https://goo.gl/x9iZsD>. In the following image you can directly compare the female's tertials to the male's while also noting the same neat pattern of curved bands on the side -- her tertials are pointed and have a dark stripe like the male's, <https://goo.gl/vYJ0yh>. Now note the mottled tertials and the lack of neat bands on the side of the following female photographed on March 20 in North Carolina, <https://goo.gl/FgfWsN>. She has wispy, streaked sides, and her inner tertials are of the breeding type, dark with light internal markings. One of her fall tertials is still remaining, the gray one on the bottom. She might not replace it. In each of the January and March articles there was an example photo of a female late in the breeding season with some male-like outer tertials. The order in which birds typically molt their tertials is from inner to outer (higher to lower on the resting bird). So it is likely these birds were simply incomplete in their replacement of male-like fall tertials. Next is another female Northern Pintail, this one photographed in Japan on March 7, with wispy rather than banded sides and with fall tertials partially replaced with breeding tertials, <https://goo.gl/gE16Ak>. As this photo and the preceding photo show, this is apparently the usual breeding appearance of female Northern Pintails worldwide.

In the Birds Of North America Online article on the Northern Pintail, there is a graphic showing the annual molt, breeding and migration cycles for males and females. The female's spring prealternate body molt occurs from January to April -- see the circular graphic at the upper right of the first page, the outer black bar within the light blue inner circle, <https://goo.gl/zG2Z4u>. The first reference to Pyle's renaming of duck plumages is in the **Plumages** section. Pyle's plumage nomenclature is used throughout. I don't necessarily recommend that you read the whole article as it is quite detailed and therefore a little hard to process on the plumages. However the article is evidence that Pyle's findings and nomenclature have been widely accepted within the ornithology community.

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



The **Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferous*) is undoubtedly the best known of any shorebird in North America. The adults are told from other plovers by their two dark bands on the white breast, orange on the rump, and of course the loud cry (vociferous) of “kill-dee”. I like the way Bent (1962, *Life histories of North American shore birds*), some 55 year ago, began his discussion of this species:

“It may be said of the killdeer that it is probably the most widely distributed and best known of all our shore birds...it is not confined to the borders of lakes and of the sea but is found in meadows, pastures, and dry uplands often many miles from water.”

Unlike most other shorebirds, it does not have a strict timetable for its migratory pattern. As we know here in Oklahoma, some linger through the winter until their numbers are augmented by a swell of incoming birds in the spring.

Sutton (1967, *Oklahoma Birds*) gives the earliest date for nesting as 30 March 1957 when four eggs were found in a nest in Marshall County, south-central Oklahoma, so April is a good time to be on the lookout for Killdeer

nests in our area. The latest date for nesting, according to Sutton, was 19 September 1918 when a brood was seen “running across a road in Texas County.” The species is double-brooded.

Killdeer nests are found in pastures, the gravel of dirt roadways, and even on buildings; thus they readily will nest in towns, something most other shorebirds will not do. In nesting, there is no effort made to conceal the nest in weeds, as there is in many shorebirds. The Killdeer nest is just a slight depression in open ground, sometimes with a few pebbles or other objects scattered outside the

nest several inches. They are known to build several scrapes and then choose one of them for the nest. Near the nest or with precocial young, the Killdeer is famous for its “crippled bird” distraction display. It will drag a wing, spread its tail so the orange rump is flashy; thus the rump and wings are held in an unnatural position. During this “demonstration” they give their loud cries. The object, of course, is to lead the intruder away from nest or young.

When the young are out of the nest, which occurs only an hour or two after hatching—as soon as the young’s down is dry—the adult can give a call where all young stop in their tracks and squat down. They are extremely hard to detect after they crouch, so effective is their camouflage—usually—against the background.

One of the fascinating things about Killdeer nesting is that they will nest on the high flat roof of a building that uses gravel as part of the roof waterproofing. Dr. Sutton discussed this fact in his book, *Birds Worth Watching* (1986). A number of such roof nests have been found and from these, after young are hatched, the young have been

seen on the ground. But I do not believe that anyone has figured out exactly how the young get safely from the roof of the building to the ground: do the adults carry them down or do the young leap off the roof on their own and survive?

One thing that, on first thought, seems to tilts the answer toward the adults carrying the young at least a little way has to do with the three-foot high “railings” that surround most such rooftops, from where the young could jump. Perhaps the adults only carry

the young to the top of the railing. But when I asked my wife Melissa how she thought the young got to the ground, I think she had an interesting thought: at the bottom of the railings of the rooftops there would be some drains or holes for water, after a rainstorm, to escape and she thought the young birds might go through these openings, something no one has considered before, so far as I am aware. In this case the adults would not have to carry the young at all, the young would simply jump from those openings, and then survive the fall to the ground. So aspects of how the Killdeer young get to the ground from building roofs remains something of a mystery, at least for now!



It's Tick Season, Should Birders Worry?

By Dave Woodson, Conservation Chairman

Don't worry but be aware and take precautions when in the field. To help, this article summarizes a few species of ticks found in Oklahoma; the types of diseases they may transmit and common safeguards one should take. Use tape to remove crawling ticks; try to avoid direct contact. If you find a tick attached, don't panic, remove using tweezers. Less than one percent of the ticks are infected with pathogens. Ticks must be attached and feed for several days in order to transmit diseases they may carry. Treat the area with antibiotic and record the date. Monitor for any possible symptoms of tick-borne diseases, and if they do occur, see a medical doctor immediately.

Ticks Species in Oklahoma include:

The **Lone Star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)** is the one most commonly encountered by people during recreational activities in Oklahoma and known to transmit **Human monocytic ehrlichiosis (HME)**. This tick is named for the large white spot on the dorsal shield of the female. The male has white markings around its posterior margin.

The **American Dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)** is known to carry **Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF)**, the most important tick-borne disease in Oklahoma.

The **Brown Dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)** is probably the most widely distributed tick species in the world and very common in Oklahoma. This tick transmits a wide range of pathogens to dogs its primary host, but bites to people become more frequent when dogs and their bedding places are in close association with humans.

The **Gulf Coast tick** has become increasingly abundant in Oklahoma in the last 20 years and reportedly has produced tick paralysis in humans and dogs.

Other Diseases to be aware are: **Lyme disease** one of the most highly publicized diseases by the news media, and because of its wide range of symptoms, has become mistakenly thought of as a common disease in Oklahoma. **Southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI)** is diagnosed by the appearance of a rash similar to the Lyme disease. **Heartland virus** is a recently described virus transmitted by ticks in the Central U.S. transmitted by the lone star tick.

Suggested methods of protection from ticks:

1. Avoid heavily-infested tick areas, especially in the spring and early summer.
 - Stay on cleared or prepared trails or paths
 - Avoid tall grasses or bushy overgrown areas and areas covered with large amounts of leaf litter

2. Wear protective clothing.
 - Wear light colored clothing so ticks can be seen easily and removed before they attach
 - Wear long pants and tuck pant legs into boots or into high socks
 - Wrap tape (masking tape works well) around the cuffs of your pants with the sticky side out. Ticks will be captured on the tape
 - Wear boots or closed toe shoes
3. Use a repellent that indicates it works well against ticks.
 - Many repellents are available but recommend those that contain DEET (N, N-diethyl-M-toluamide) which can be placed on the skin or on clothes. Concentrations of 20%-40
4. Frequently inspect yourself and others for the presence of ticks at least every 2-3hrs.
 - Examine head and hairline especially close, waistline and other tight spots.
 - Crawling, unattached ticks cannot transmit disease and are easily removed using tape.
5. Properly remove attached ticks.
 - Use tweezers to grasp the tick at the surface of the skin.
 - Pull the tick straight out with a slow steady pull. Do not be alarmed if the tick head (mouthparts) stays in your skin. Your body will take care of this wound and heal without removing the head. The important thing is to stop the potential for the tick to secrete disease organisms into the feeding site by severing the connection between the tick and your skin.
 - If you do not have tweezers, use tissues or a cloth to protect your fingers and to grasp the tick firmly. A ziplock bag turned inside out works very well for this purpose. (Protection of your fingers is necessary because you could accidentally crush the tick. The ticks body fluids could be infected and contaminate your fingers. You could accidentally introduce the disease organism into the mucous membranes or a scratch or wound.)
 - Ignore the folklore remedies that claim the final word on removing lodged ticks. Do not try to remove ticks with a match or other hot objects, as this is likely to cause a burn. In addition, folk methods of using alcohol, Vaseline, or nail polish to its head to suffocate the tick are not effective; these methods increase the chances of infection.
 - Record the date of tick bite and save the tick (freeze in the ziplock bag used for removal) in case you become ill.

Suggested articles:

OSU "EPP-7001 Common Ticks of Oklahoma and Tick-Borne Diseases" via <http://osufacts.okstate.edu>
Bill Hilton Jr. science educator, writer, naturalist: <http://hiltonpond.org/ArticleBirdTicksMain.html>
"Get Covered for Tick Season With These Eight Expert Tips" <http://www.audubon.org/news/>

"Tick time: Summer begins with more ticks and new virus threats" *Tulsa World Outdoors* by Kelly Bostian

Minutes of OKC Audubon Society Meeting 03/20/2017

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Diffin.
The minutes of last meeting were approved without objection.

Guest today is Bonnie Pollack of OKC.
Special guest is Jay Pruitt of the Nature Conservancy.

Treasurer's report: Nancy Vicars reports \$5804.16, and she requests renewal of 2017 membership dues.

Field Trip report: Mark Delgrosso reports upcoming trip to Pontotoc Ridge wildlife refuge on April 21st. Contact him for directions and meeting location.

Tuesday morning birders is active, and March 21 visit is to Lake Hefner. Betz Hacker requests birders to bring extra spotting scopes.

Earthfest is April 29th at Stars and Stripes Park, Lake Hefner. Volunteers are needed. Sunday May 2nd is a visit to Wewoka Woods wildlife area. Stay tuned for more details. May 5-7 is spring meeting of the OOS at Hackberry Flat, with lectures and field trips.

New business: A donation is solicited for purchase of the new refrigerator in the Garden Center, and a motion was approved to donate \$100 to the fund.

Our monthly meetings will now be in the renovated Garden Exhibition Center, including tonight's meeting.
A motion was made and passed to include interested colleges and their professors on the e-mail list for the newsletter.

A lesson on ethics of birding was discussed by Jimmy Woodard with the discovery of long-eared owls near Lake Waurika, and avoiding stressing the birds by overzealous interaction.

Recent sighting is of barred owls in the yard of Patti High. Forty-one species were seen on the Tuesday morning Mitch Park visit of March 14, including resident red-breasted nuthatches.

Future birding adventures: The annual Red Slough Birding Convention in Idabel, which is well-attended and well-organized.

Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival (RGVBF) occurs every November based in Harlingen, Texas. When registration opens, the field trip reservations go quickly, so be prepared.

Business meeting was adjourned, and the educational program followed. Naturalist and water resources manager Nathan Kuhnert gave a graphic presentation of the increased deaths of downtown OKC birds with birds crashing into windows. He photographed and tallied the data of bird species, date, building location and approximate crash heights. Studies were done to evaluate specific buildings with glass faces, confusing flight paths, water hazards and other potential risks. More data is needed, but this is a great step-forward in reducing future bird crashes.

—Sharon Henthorn, OCAS Secretary.

American Birding Association Code of Ethics

Used with Permission: <http://aba.org/ethics>

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise, keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

(continued on page 7)

Recorders Report

March 2017

Early Spring

Now is the time to be alert. Migrants are arriving in central Oklahoma; sometimes several new ones in a single day. The drought continued with wild fires in the state; however, by the end of the month some rain arrived, but much more is needed. It appears the last frost for Oklahoma City was on the 15th, and the hottest day at 90° was on the 20th, the first day of spring. All this early warm weather is causing an early spring. So how does the early blooming of spring plants effect the migration and nesting of birds?

On the 3rd Joe Buck spotted a **Short-eared Owl** in north Edmond. On the 4th Brian Marra came across Winter Wren at Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge; Joe Grzybowski turned up **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Ten Mile Flats; and Mike Yough recognized Fish Crow at Couch Park.

On the 5th Brian Marra reported a Prairie Falcon at Calumet and a Brown Creeper at Lake Elmer in Kingfisher County. On the 7th Melissa Winans had a Cooper's Hawk near Wynnewood on I-35 in Garvin County. On the 8th Scott Loss saw a Purple Martin at Whittenberg Park in Stillwater. On the 9th Joe Buck encountered Fish Crow in Edmond.

On the 10th in Grady County Jason Shaw tallied Wild Turkey at USAO Habitat Area, Caleb McKinney found Wilson's Snipe and Eastern Phoebe in Ninnekah and in McClain County at Wiley Post Memorial Lake Esther Key added a Loggerhead Shrike.



On the 11th Bill Diffin documented **Baird's Sandpiper** at Lake Hefner, and Scott Loss discovered an Eared Grebe at Lake Carl Blackwell. The 12th was a busy bird day. An **American Golden-Plover** was detected by T K at Lake Thunderbird Alameda Bridge, and by Bill Diffin at Lake Hefner. **Barn Swallows** were recorded at several locations. Brian Marra counted a Barn Swallow at Guthrie Lake and Wood Duck at Mineral Wells Park in Logan County; Jimmy

Woodard verified a Barn Swallow at Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge and a **Tree Swallow** at Crystal Lake; and Deb Hirt located a Barn Swallow at Boomer Lake Park. On the 13th Emily Hjalmarson got a Barn Swallow along South Jenkins in Norman.

On the 15th Melissa Cunningham identified a Purple Martin at South Lakes Park in OKC. On the 17th Paul Cook saw Vesper Sparrow along South Jenkins; and John Polo noticed **Louisiana Waterthrush** and **Black-and-white Warbler** at Lake Carl Blackwell. On the 18th Larry Mays located a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** near Mustang; Joe Grzybowski searched Ten Miles Flat in Norman for **Sprague's Pipit**; John Tharp uncovered a Black-and-white Warbler at Little River State Park; Brian Marra found a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at the John Marshall Mid-High School Pond in OKC; and Mike Yough acknowledged a Swamp Sparrow at the Cushing Water Treatment Plant.

On the 19th Mitchell Jarrett located an **Upland Sandpiper** at the Goldsby Sod Farm in McClain County; Esther Key counted Purple Martins at Wildhorse Creek Site 107 in Garvin County; and Mike Yough added a Cinnamon Teal at Teal Ridge Wetland in Stillwater. In Cleveland County Jeremy Ross discovered a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at the Oklahoma Biological Survey; and Samantha Wolfe identified a **Yellow-throated Warbler** along South Jenkins. In Grady County Brian Marra encountered a Barn Swallow at Marlow and a **Cliff Swallow** at Ninnekah. On the 20th Richard Hasegawa found a Cooper's Hawk in Lincoln County near Stroud.

On the 21st Larry Mays tallied Purple Martin and Louisiana Waterthrush at Tuttle; Lindell Dillon spotted a **White-eyed Vireo** at Lake Thunderbird Alameda



Bridge; and Bill Diffin saw a Cinnamon Teal at Lake Hefner. On the 22nd Bill Diffin had an American Golden-Plover, Fish Crow, and Lark Sparrow at the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge. On the 23rd Larry Mays saw a Baird's Sandpiper,

Pectoral Sandpiper, and Yellow-headed Blackbird at the North Yukon Parkway Playas; Bill Diffin detected a White-eyed Vireo at the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge; and at Taylor Lake in Grady County Dave Woodson found Pied-billed Grebe and American White Pelican. On the 24th **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were noticed by Brian Stufflebeam at Lake Overholser; Emily Hjalmarson along South Jenkins; and Jimmy Woodard in his Midwest City yard. Chad Ellis uncovered Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at his home in OKC.

On the 25th T K recognized **Lesser Goldfinch** in central Norman; Deanne McKinney turned up a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Saint Francis West Lake in OKC; Brian Marra recorded Black-and-white Warbler at Arcadia Lake; Tim O'Connell saw a Tree Swallow at Lake Carl Blackwell; Scott Loss reported a Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Cliff Swallow at Boomer Lake Park and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Whittenberg Park in Stillwater. On the 26th Ed and Rowena were surprised to verify an **Osprey** at Dolese Lake Park in OKC. In Logan County Zach Poland documented a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Guthrie and a Lark Sparrow near his home.



On the 26th Emily Hjalmarsen saw **Snowy Egret** along South Jenkins. On the 27th Brian Stufflebeam identified **Long-billed Curlew** at Arcadia Lake; Brian Marra encountered Lark Sparrow at Tinker AFB; Laura Madden found Lincoln's Sparrow near Blanchard; Larry Mays added **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** in Cleveland County and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at his

home in McClain County. On the 28th Brian Marra documented an Osprey and **Black-necked Stilt** at Lake Hefner. On the 29th at Meridian Technology Center Pond Scott Loss located American Golden-Plover and Kent Andersson a Pectoral Sandpiper; along Ten Mile Flats Jerry Vanbebber verified a Long-billed Dowitcher and Mitchell Jarret reported a **Little Blue Heron**.

On the 30th along South Jenkins Emily Hjalmarsen found a **Marsh Wren**, and Brian Stufflebeam recognized a **Yellow-throated Vireo**. Melissa Cunningham spotted a **Cattle Egret** near South Lake Park in OKC; and Deanne McKinney turned up a Little Blue Heron near Rose Lake. On the 31st Scott Loss noticed a Little Blue Heron at Whittenberg Park; Jerry Vanbebber detected a **Northern Parula** at Lake Thunderbird; Joe Grzybowski recorded Brewer's Blackbird and American Golden-Plover at Goldsby Sod Farm; and Pat Flannigan surprised a very large flock of Cedar Waxwings near Quail Springs Mall. April is a big month for migration arrivals so get out, watch the show and then enter your sightings in eBird!!

In the Central Oklahoma area during March **155** species were reported with **28** new species added to the 2017 year making the total to date of **178**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds by making reports at <http://ebird.org> and can also be contacted by e-mail at emkok@earthlink.net. Esther M. Key, Editor.

ABA Ethics (cont.)

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member:

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When intervening, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours]:

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g., no audio playback allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

New Land Access Program

ODWC just announce a new Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP). Per a Facebook video and ODWC's web site: birders may have access to new areas in the fall of 2017.

This new Program is aimed at increasing hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities on private lands. Participating landowners receive annual payments to help mitigate operating costs and provide sportspersons with great hunting opportunities. The program is planned to open 1 Sep 2017, the program will offer a variety of recreational activities such as walk-in hunting, walk-in fishing, streams access, and wildlife viewing. For more information go to <https://wildlifedepartment.com/olap>, or contact: either Jeff Tibbits (jeff.tibbits@odwc.ok.gov), or Kasie Joyner (kasie.joyner@odwc.ok.gov).

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

Tuesday Morning Birders:

The Tuesday morning bird walks have been an opportunity to see some unusual birds including a Loggerhead Shrike, a Black-and-White Warbler, Eastern and Spotted Towhees, as well as a Common Loon, Cinnamon Teal, a variety of ducks and many shorebirds. As spring migration picks up, you never know what we'll see. The more eyes, the more possibilities! If it's difficult to make the 7:30 meeting time, we generally take our time so it's possible to catch up with the group or you can call me and I'll direct you to our location.

Tues, April 18: Yukon park: 7:30 Meet Betz Hacker: elizabethhacker66@yahoo.com. Park on W. Parkland Drive. Directions: Take I-40 to Czech Hall Rd. Turn left on 10th. Turn Rt (almost immediately) on Holly. Go 2 blocks and take a RT on Sequoia Park Dr. Then go 2 blocks and take a left on W. Parkland.

Tues, April 25: Lake Hefner (shore birds): 7:30 meet Bob Holbrook: at the Inlet canal. Bring a scope if you have one

Tues: May 2, Myriad Botanic Garden: 301 Reno Ave. 7:30 meet Bob Holbrook. There is unmetered parking on S Harvey Ave (it's a north running one-way so access off SW 2nd St.).

Tues, May 9: Norman: 7:30 Dick Gunn. Meet at Ruby's BBQ, 3450 Chautaugua Ave, Norman 73072

Tues, May 16: Joe Barnes Regional Park: 7:30 Nancy Vicars. Meet in the dog park parking lot, 8517 E Reno Ave, Midwest City 73110.

Field Trip Schedule: (contact trip leader if you are planning to attend)

APRIL 22: Pontotoc Ridge Preserve: this Nature Conservancy property will be opened to interested birders for Spring migration. We will meet the preserve manager Jona Tucker at 8:30 a.m. at the Preserve headquarters and go from there. Directions can be accessed online at: <http://goo.gl/maps/ZUVBG>. The trip leader can also forward via email a basic map of the site w. directions. Leader/Organizer: Mark Delgrosso can be contacted at: (markdelg94@gmail.com) in conjunction with the NC's Jona Tucker (jtucker@tnc.org).
