



# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

DECEMBER 2017

## December: Tall Tales

**Telling “Tall Bird Tales” will again highlight our annual December meeting on December 18, accompanied by holiday culinary delights and camaraderie.**

Bring yourselves and your anecdotes and yarns to regale fellow members with your wonderful, beautiful, harrowing or death defying birding experiences.

Great birds have shown up in Oklahoma this past year and some truly great birders have had truly great times with those and many other birds, not only in Oklahoma but in other parts of the world.

Be certain to practice to insure the believability of your rendering. Come out for the fun and friendship and sharing. A good time will be had by all.

**Refreshments:** Everyone is encouraged to bring something to share for the December meeting. Sue Woodson will bring drinks and coffee.

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). Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

### **Meeting Location:**

Our meetings are held at the Will Rogers Garden center, located at the intersection of NW 36th Street and I-44.

### **Make a note!**

**The Will Rogers Garden Center is closed on the 3rd Monday of January 2018 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The January meeting will be held January 22, 2018.**



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## President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



This is the last Perspective article I will write. Hard to believe.

Starting in January Betz Hacker will be writing them. I am grateful for the many people who contributed to the leadership of the club during my term.

It is the efforts of these people which continue to make OKC Audubon

known in the birding community for its originality, creativity, meeting attendance, citizen science and high tempo of birding activity. Below is a list of all the people who have had responsible roles, great and small, during the last eight years. For everyone on the list, I tried to get their complete service record. The historical information is sourced from our newsletter archive on the website which goes back to November, 2007, and before that time from what was graciously supplied by long time members with either good memories or a file of old newsletters.

I included 2018 service for those who have committed to it. As long as this list is, it doesn't cover every contributor in every role. It would have been too big a task to come up with everyone who wrote a newsletter article or who volunteered for the Election Committee or led field trips or led Tuesday birders outings or participated in the Earthfest, etc. Nevertheless all those efforts were significant contributions to the leadership of the club and deserve our generous thanks.

Here is the list of leaders in alphabetical order of the roles performed.

- CBC Compiler: John Shackford, 2007-2016 (compiler for 10 years, participant for 55 years, since 1962)
- CBC Compiler: Nathan Kuhnert, 2017-2018
- CBC Data Entry: Pat Velte, 2007-2018 (12 years)
- CBC Tally Party Host/Co-host: Diane Newell, 1989-2014 (26 years)
- CBC Tally Party Host: Patti Muzny, 2015-2016
- Conservation Chair: Larry Mays, 2007-2011
- Conservation Chair: Dave Woodson, 2012-2018 (frequent outreach event participant)
- Field Trip Chair: Nancy Vicars, 1994-1998
- Field Trip Chair: Jimmy Woodard, 1998-Sept 2012 (almost 15 years)
- Field Trip Chair: Mark Delgrosso, Sept 2012-2016, Co-chair: 2017-2018
- Field Trip Co-chair: Betz Hacker, 2017-2018
- Historian: Nealand Hill, 2009-2012
- Newsletter Editor: Patti Muzny, 1993-2007 (15 years)
- Newsletter Co-Editor: Carla Brueggen, 2009-2016
- Newsletter Editor/Co-Editor: Pat Velte, 2007-2018 (12 years)

- Newsletter Printing and Mailing: Nancy Vicars, 1993-2018 (26 years)
- Newsletter Article, *Bird of the Month*: John Shackford, at least Nov 2007-2017 (over 100 articles)
- Newsletter Article, Chirpings: Patti Muzny, 1993-2017 (25 years)
- Newsletter Artwork: Brian Muzny, 1993-2007
- Parliamentarian: Sam Moore, at least 1999-2010 (club founder)
- Parliamentarian: Ted Goulden, 2011-2018
- President: Nealand Hill, 2005-2008
- President: Eric Enwall, 2009
- Program Chair: Warren Harden, at least 1999-2018 (over 19 years)
- Publicity: Doug Eide, 2010-2018
- Recorder: Nathan Kuhnert, 1999-2004
- Recorder: Esther Key, 2007-2018
- Refreshments: Jim Vicars, "The Cookie Monster", 2006-2011
- Refreshments: Sue Woodson, 2012-2018
- Secretary: Nancy Reed, 2010-2012
- Secretary: Sharon Henthorn, 2013-2018
- Summer Picnic Host: Patti Muzny, 2013-2016
- Summer Picnic Host: Terri Underhill, 2017
- Treasurer: Nancy Vicars, 1989-2018 (30 years)
- Vice President: John Shackford, 2008-2018 (11 years)
- Webmaster: Pat Velte, Fall 2004-2018 (14-1/2 years)
- Website Contacts and Meeting Nametags: Terri Underhill, 2010-2018 (frequent outreach event participant)

What is obvious from this list is that what makes our club so successful is much like what makes an orchestra successful, many people making artful contributions that blend into a melodious, organized and attractive whole. Not so obvious is the time and effort of the work itself. A lot of these roles involve people working month after month and year after year, tirelessly, silently, out of sight behind the scenes. We only see the end products, the meeting presentations, the parties, the CBC, the newsletters full of articles and reports, the field trips, the website, and the handouts, posters and games at our outreach events, etc. The list you see above is a true Honor Roll of members who have generously given their time and talents for no other compensation than the occasional thanks we give them, the gift of seeing the pleasure of others, and the cool satisfaction of knowing that they have done their part or more. They have our heartfelt gratitude.

## DUES NOTICE

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2018. 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, 24 SE 57th St., OKC 73129.

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## Bird of the Month



By John Shackford

The **Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) is something of an odd duck (as the saying goes); it is a diving duck species. The genus name *Oxyura* means sharp tailed because they often hold their tails stiffly upright while on the water. Breeding males are easy to identify

because they have white cheek patches, combined with a bright ruddy brown body and a striking blue bill. Winter males are not nearly so ruddy in color, a more darkish grey or black body. Females and young birds are relatively easy to identify; they have a dark body with white cheeks that have a dark horizontal line through the white face.

Generally speaking, ruddies winter in the southeastern U.S. They are usually regular in winter from northern Texas southward well into Mexico. This species is quite regular on the Oklahoma City Christmas Bird Count (CBC); the last time we did not record them was 1993. Looking back on the historical record of our CBC, they were seen off and on in quite small numbers, starting from 1951 (our count probably does not go back much, if any, before this year) until 1996. From 1993 until 2003, there was a significant uptick until we reached our highest number per party hour of 3.5 birds in 2003. Since then they have shown a prolonged decline until 2016. It is unclear what this decline is due to; have overall populations in our area been declining faster than climate change has brought them northward? If so, this is against the trend of many other bird species as it relates to climate change.

As for nesting in the state, I found possible nesting birds in a Boise City (Cimarron County) sewer pond in 1978. As to why I was wading around in a sewer pond in Cimarron County I will only say some young people will do most anything for a new state record!

The circumstances were interesting. On 6 June 1978 I found what I believed to be a Ruddy Duck nest that held 5 eggs in cattails at the sewer pond. No bird was on the nest

but when I returned the next day, I thought I heard a bird—unseen—slide into the water. Not long thereafter I saw a female Ruddy Duck some distance away and moving directly away from the nest. I thought the eggs were rather large for a ruddy. Later, reading about ruddy eggs, I learned that Ruddy Ducks have surprisingly large eggs for such a small duck.

But the best part of the story for me came the next year, starting on 28 June 1979: Brooks and Thula Parkhill, former members of our club, reported that they saw a female Ruddy Duck, with six young on the sewer pond.

I very much wanted to get a verifying photo. Likely through trial and error over the next two days, we learned that the female and young “roosted” at night in a thin growth of (noncattail) water plants near shore, and that they could be found there early in the morning, but if you were not early, the ruddies would move well out from shore in the sewer pond.



To complicate the problem of getting a decent photo, I was with several other people and did not want to inconvenience them as I tried to get a picture. So on 30 June 1979, while everyone else went about breakfast, etc. at a nearby

motel, I slipped away for a few minutes to try to get a photo of the ruddies, before they left the thin vegetation.

The day was clear and I arrived at the sewer pond early in the morning, when it still was not very light. I came up over the side of the sewer pond and the ruddies were right where I had hoped they would be—still close to shore in the thin vegetation. As they started swimming toward the middle of the pond, I got my picture, but the contrast of the picture was very low. This was at a time when I was developing and printing black-and-white photos on my own.

To the best of my ability, I tried to get the best contrast I could through darkroom “tricks”, but the photo still was not very good. It became, however, the front page picture of the June 1980 issue of the *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society*, representing unequivocal documentation of nesting Ruddy Ducks for the state. This may be the worst picture I ever had used for a publication, but, given all the obstacles I had faced in getting the picture in the first place, I still remain rather proud of it.

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## The TOP 10: Best National Flags Featuring Birds

By Nate Swick, (aba.org) *excerpt here*

Who can deny the power of the bird as a national symbol? The United States has been associated with the Bald Eagle for as long as it has been a nation, and though the Common Loon has only officially been on Canadian currency since 1987, the “loonie” is as much a part of Canadian culture as the maple leaf and the mountie.

There are a handful of nations that even splash their ornithophilic tendencies right on their national flags. Criteria for ranking is entirely my own, but weight is given for novelty, artistry, and ornithological accuracy, which means the various double-headed eagles of eastern Europe don't make the cut here (not to mention the much rarer and more grotesque triple-headed eagle). At least not when there is a veritable field guide of creative bird iconography to choose from. So without further ado...

**10. Fiji** – The island nation of Fiji is certainly an appropriate place for a dove on its flag as Columbids are well-known for their ability to disperse far and wide.

**9. Zambia** – The veldts of sub-saharan Africa are famously high in raptor diversity, so it's appropriate that this nation in the center of southern Africa features one so prominently, referred to as an African Fish Eagle.

**8. Kazhakstan** – Keeping in the eagle theme, central Asia is no slouch when it comes to raptor diversity. With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1994, the new nation of Kazhakstan looked far back in its history for new national symbols. The Steppe Eagle under a golden sun in a blue sky is as unambiguous a symbol as one could create for this nation of high plains.

**7. Mexico** – As the story goes, the Aztec people of what is now central Mexico picked the site of their capital, Tenochtitlan, based on a vision of an eagle sitting on a cactus devouring a snake. That iconic symbol has been associated with Mexico for centuries, making up the Mexican coat of arms and placed in the center of the Mexican flag.

*(continued on page 7)*

## Upcoming Christmas Bird Counts

### DEC. 20—Fort Gibson

Organizer: Nadine Varner

Contact: [gallinuleofpuple@yahoo.com](mailto:gallinuleofpuple@yahoo.com) or 405-370-5076

Details: Count starts at sunrise. Meet at Braum's in Wagoner at 1:00 pm for lunch and a quick tally.

### DEC. 20—Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge

Compiler: Mike Husak

Contact: [michaelh@cameron.edu](mailto:michaelh@cameron.edu)

### DEC. 21—Red Slough

Organizer: Leif Anderson and David Arbour

Contact: [leanderson@fs.fed.us](mailto:leanderson@fs.fed.us)

Details: For travelers to consider, this is the day prior to the nearby Broken Bow count.

### DEC. 21—Washita National Wildlife Refuge

Compiler: Levi Feltman

Contact: [levi\\_feltman@fws.gov](mailto:levi_feltman@fws.gov) or 580-664-2205

Details: Meet at the Washita NWR Headquarters at 7:00 am. Web site: [washita.fws.gov](http://washita.fws.gov)

### DEC. 22—Broken Bow

Organizer: Mia Revels

Contact: [revels@nsuok.edu](mailto:revels@nsuok.edu)

Details: Meet December 21, Thursday night, at Papa Poblano's Restaurant just north of the traffic light east of Idabel.

### DEC. 28—Stephens County

Compiler: Kurt Meisenzahl

Contact: [meisenzk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meisenzk@sbcglobal.net) or 580-585-0199

Details: Meet at 6:15 a.m. at the DayBreak Diner, 116 S Highway 81 in Duncan

### DEC. 30—Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

Organizer: Don Wolfe

Contact: [dwolfe@suttoncenter.org](mailto:dwolfe@suttoncenter.org) or 918-336-7778

Details: The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is located roughly 15 miles north of Pawhuska.

### DEC. 30—Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge

Organizer: Glen Hensley

Contact: [glen\\_hensley@fws.gov](mailto:glen_hensley@fws.gov)

Details: Meet at the Salt Plains NWR Headquarters at 7 a.m.

### DEC. 30—Stillwater

Organizer: Timothy O'Connell

Contact: [paynecountyaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:paynecountyaudubonsociety@gmail.com)

Details: Watch for updates at [paynecountyaudubonsociety.com/116th-annual-christmas-bird-count](http://paynecountyaudubonsociety.com/116th-annual-christmas-bird-count)

### DEC. 31—Cleveland County

Compiler: Mark Howery

Contact: [mkhowery@juno.com](mailto:mkhowery@juno.com)

### DEC. 31—Black Mesa

Organizer: Max Thompson

Contact: [maxt@cox.net](mailto:maxt@cox.net) or 620-229-3876

Details: Group meets at 9 a.m. in Kenton at the general store.

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## Audubon Society Minutes Nov. 20, 2017

Meeting was called to order by club president Bill Diffin.

Guests attending were Abdul Dominguez, Dennis and Kay Corbin, Gerald and Vicki Davis, Jeanne Mather, Kent and Cheryl McInnis

### Committee Reports:

Treasurer Nancy Vicars reports \$5534.56 in the account.

Field Trips: Marion Homier requests a head count by November 27 for the upcoming trip to Sequoyah Wildlife Refuge on December 2. The trip takes about four hours each way.

Nominating committee of Jimmy Woodard, Marion Homier and Nancy Vicars have received notice of intention to retire from President Bill Diffin, and have canvassed the members for interest in the office. Betz Hacker was among those queried, and she graciously agreed to serve if elected. All other active officers have volunteered to serve another year. Final election will be held at the December meeting.

Christmas Bird Count for Oklahoma City will be co-managed by John Shackford and by new coordinator Nathan Kuhnert. The CBC will be December 16 and information will be updated on the website as it is available.

Old Business: The agreement with the Parks Department will require two volunteer classes for the community in place of room rental for the year's meetings. Potential topics include nest boxes, feeders, and local birding.

The meeting was adjourned and a snack break followed.

The speaker for the evening was Steve Davis who described he adventures he and Mary Lane shared in the islands of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean Sea during the spring of 2016. Other trip participants included Larry Mays, Mike Mather and a group of birders from Arkansas. The storytelling and amazing photos were enjoyed by all in attendance.

The next meeting will be Monday, December 18 at 7 p.m. at the Will Rogers Park Garden Exhibition Center.

*Submitted by club secretary Sharon Henthorn*

## OOS Expands and Updates Checklist

The new Oklahoma Ornithological Society Checklist of Oklahoma Birds, 5th Edition has been added to the OOS website. This is a product of the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee.

We are up to 480 species for Oklahoma through October 2017.

<http://www.okbirds.org/obrc-official-checklist.htm>

## ABA Checklist, now including Hawaii, available

The ABA Checklist includes ABA-area breeding species, regular visitors, and casual and accidental species from other regions that are believed to have strayed here without direct human aid, and well-established introduced species that are now part of our avifauna. Species Total: 1103

<http://listing.aba.org/aba-checklist/>

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## Oklahoma City Audubon Society

### Officers 2017

President	Bill Diffin	722-3778
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
Secretary	Sharon Henthorn	521-9958
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	831-1945
Parliament	Ted Golden	354-3619
Programs	Warren Harden	596-2759
Recorder	Esther M. Key	735-1021
Conservation	Dave Woodson	601-622-3467
Field Trips	Mark Delgrosso	403-5655
Field Trips	Betz Hacker	638-6210
Newsletter Editor	Pat Velte	751-5263
Publicity	Doug Eide	495-8192
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.*

*For up-to-date Oklahoma City Audubon news visit:*  
**OKC-Audubon.org**

# Recorders Report November 2017

## Fall Rarities

As the weather cooled down, several interesting species appeared in the area. Scoters were discovered in various locations for a total of all three species. At one time all five grebe species were seen at the Lake Thunderbird Dam area and individually in other locations. In eBird two species seen earlier in the year were discovered, and the invasion of Red Crossbills continues.

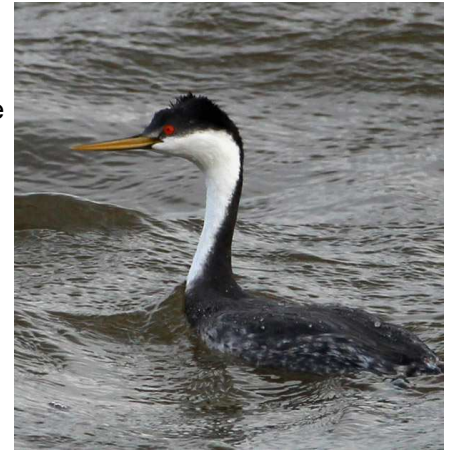
On May 9<sup>th</sup> Joe Grzybowski identified **Philadelphia Vireo** in Norman. On September 28<sup>th</sup> Chad Ellis encountered **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Martin Park Nature Center. On October 30<sup>th</sup> Bill Diffin detected American Bittern at the Stinchcomb WMA East.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> Bill Diffin documented Ross's Goose, **Surf Scoter** and **Black Scoter** at Lake Hefner. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deb Hirt saw Merlin at Boomer Lake Park. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Timothy Cloninger located Wood Duck and Spotted Towhee south of Mulhall in Logan County. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Emily Hjalmarson discovered a Sedge Wren at Lake Hefner West Shoreline Drive. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland noticed Red Crossbill at his home in Logan County; Phillip Crawford recorded Bald Eagle in Garvin County; and Jeremy Ross tallied Red-breasted Nuthatch in Cleveland County.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> Scott Loss verified **White-winged Scoter** at Meridian Technology Center; Brian Stufflebeam spotted American Pipit along Lake Hefner west shoreline drive; Caleb Frome observed at Purcell Lake Hairy Woodpecker, Swamp Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow and at Wiley Post Memorial Lake Loggerhead Shrike, Ruddy Duck and Common Loon. On the 7<sup>th</sup> Ben Sandstrom had Lesser Scaup at the Dolese Sand Pit. On the 8<sup>th</sup> Jason Lewis recognized Prairie Falcon at the Will Rogers World Airport, and Carole Rose counted Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at the Oklahoma City Zoo.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> Caleb Frome birded several locations in

Pottawatomie County and increased the number of species seen in that county by 23. He encountered at Shawnee Reservoir—Upper Section, American Pipit and Pine Siskin; at Tecumseh Lake, Redhead Duck and Brown Creeper; at Wes Watkins—Campgrounds, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Fox Sparrow, and Ruddy Duck. In Logan County Carole Rose reported Hooded Merganser along Coltrane Road, Orlando. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Caleb McKinney spotted Brewer's Blackbird in Grady County; Jack Olson discovered a **Western Grebe** at Lake Hefner; Dala Grissom located White-fronted Goose at Lake Hefner Prairie Dog Point; and Bridger Arrington found Greater Roadrunner in South Mulhall.



On the 11<sup>th</sup> Emily Hjalmarson got a Merlin at the Shawnee

Reservoir; Jason Shaw noticed a Belted Kingfisher at Shannon Springs Park in Chickasaw; Bill Diffin documented Black Scoter and Common Loon at Lake Overholser on the Canadian County side; Joe Grzybowski viewed Greater Scaup at Lake Thunderbird—South Dam; and Deanne McKinney recorded Western Meadowlark and Loggerhead Shrike near El Reno. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Dala Grissom added Brown Thrasher in Bethel Acres in Pottawattamie County, and in Lincoln County at Meeker Lake Canvasback, Gadwall and Ring-necked Duck; while Roy Morris

spotted **Rough-legged Hawk** in Seminole County along I-40. On the 13<sup>th</sup> Scott Loss tallied Western Grebe at Lake Carl Blackwell Dam.



On the 14<sup>th</sup> Cameron Carver documented **Pacific Loon** at Lake Hefner; at Lake Overholser west side Bill Diffin observed Forester's Tern; and

Steve Davis identified Snow Goose and Greater White-fronted Goose. On the 15<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland had Dunlin at Lake Hefner.

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On the 16<sup>th</sup> Joe Grzybowski verified **Red-throated Loon** and Rusty Blackbird at Lake Hefner. On the 18<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland counted Sandhill Crane at his home.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> Rachel Wren and John Tharp reported **Red-necked Grebe** at Lake Thunderbird Dam; Caitlin Laughlin found Sandhill Crane, Smith's Longspur and Lapland Longspur at Lake Carl Blackwell; Matthew Patrick discovered Wood Duck at Isola Bella Lake in Oklahoma City; and Chris Butler tallied Swamp Sparrow at the Embassy Suite Field. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Scott Loss recorded Red-necked Grebe at Lake Carl Blackwell; Heidi Hellstern got Pied-billed Grebe and Pileated Woodpecker in Chandler; Joe Grzybowski



recognized Western Grebe at Lake Thunderbird State Park; and for a brief time all 5 grebes were reported near the dam. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jill Wilson had Horned Lark and Pine Siskin at Dav-  
enport in Lincoln County.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> John Polo encountered Hermit Thrush and Swamp Sparrow at Sanborn Lake; and Joe Grzybowski detected American Pipit at the Goldsby Sod Farm. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Joe Buck noticed American Wigeon and Smith's Longspur at Buck Lake in Lincoln County. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Caleb McKinney located Hermit Thrush, Fox Sparrow, Wild Turkey and Northern Bobwhite in Grady County; and Brian Marra saw a Hermit Thrush at Stinchcomb WMA. On the 27<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland had Greater Yellowlegs at his home; Roy McGraw viewed a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Lake Hefner Marina; and David Drake spotted Eastern Phoebe and American White Pelican at Lake Thunderbird.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> Caleb Frome found White-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet at Lake Thunderbird Dam. On the 29<sup>th</sup> Ben Sandstrom detected Rusty Blackbird at Mineral Wells Park; and Zach Poland identified Winter Wren at Myriad Botanical Gardens. A Newcastle resident reported strange birds at their feeder so Larry Mays and Jimmy Woodward confirmed they were Red Crossbill. What interesting new species will be discovered in December and on Christmas Bird Counts?

During November of 2017 in the Central Oklahoma area **147** species were reported with **10** new species which increased the year's total to **278**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds by making reports at <http://ebird.org> and I can also be contacted by e-mail at [emkok@earthlink.net](mailto:emkok@earthlink.net).

## Birds on Flags (cont.)

**6. Kiribati** – The island nation of Kiribati is perhaps better known by westerners, or fans of World War II history, as the Gilbert Islands. The islands that make it up are scattered widely across a vast stretch of Pacific Ocean northeast of Australia. Perhaps it's appropriate, then, that the flag depicts that great pelagic wanderer, the frigatebird.

**5. Ecuador** – It feels sort of right that one of the most popular South American birding destinations would have a bird, front and center, on its national flag. And what a bird it is, the Andean Condor is a target species for any birder traveling to Ecuador.

**4. Guatemala** –The top four flags are all about novelty, nations who have eschewed the too-easy raptor route and gone with species that symbolize their respective nations in more evocative ways. It's hard to go wrong with a Resplendent Quetzal, the flashy trogon is on the short list of the world's most beautiful species and a can't miss target bird on many trips to Central America.

**3. Papua New Guinea** – Birders think of Papua New Guinea and they think of one thing – birds-of-paradise. And don't let it be said that the people of Papua New Guinea don't know what to lead with. The flashy flag of the southeast Asian nation feature the silhouette of a Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise.

**2. Uganda** – Aside from raptors, cranes are probably the most numerous wild bird depicted in art, and while a number of east Asian nations have used cranes in various symbols only one country features a crane on its flag. For that honor, we have to go to Uganda, whose Gray Crowned Crane has been a national symbol since British colonial days.

**1. Dominica** – The Imperial Parrot, locally called Sisserou, is endemic to the Caribbean island. It's a big, purple red and green, flashy Amazona parrot, and it sits right smack dab in the middle of this flag where it is a proud symbol of a nation's natural heritage. It's the only flag on earth featuring a parrot, and the only flag on earth featuring a national endemic bird species.

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## Field Trips:

**January 20:** Tallgrass Prairie Preserve [in conjunction w. Tulsa Audubon]: Meet at the Preserve Headquarters at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Jim Deming, [birdbrain.jim@gmail.com](mailto:birdbrain.jim@gmail.com), 918-864-4707.

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

