



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

FEBRUARY 2018

February: Papua New Guinea - Birds of Paradise

And some other birds too...

World traveler **Dr. Doug Wood**, professor at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, will present photos and video of his bird trip to Papua New Guinea, New Britain island, plus a dash of Australian birds. He will cover different aspects of PNG's bird communities, behavior, conservation, and local culture.

The island of New Guinea was not isolated during the last ice age. Having then been connected to Australia, it now shares some of its natural history with the northern parts of that country. Geologically, Papua New Guinea, the eastern part of the island, boasts the highest mountains between South America and the Himalayas. The largest orchids, butterflies, moths, lobelias et al. in the world are there. Active volcanoes dot the northern coast. The coastal lowlands are covered with tropical wet forest and the highlands with cool forests. It is said that the wet season with about 180 inches of rain yearly lasts for five months with the dry season lasting seven months delivering only about 120 inches. The native Aboriginal people, as varied and colorful as the birds, have been hunting, fishing and farming there for several tens of thousands of years.

With over 700 species including nearly 600 breeding land and freshwater species plus about 100 migrants from the north, Australia and New Zealand, Papua New Guinea is, indeed, a birder's paradise. Birds of paradise, bowerbirds, cassowaries, mound builders, kingfishers, colorful fruit doves and flycatchers have dazzled outsiders since their discovery in the mid 1800s and are a striking contrast to our North American avifauna.

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.



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.

President's Perspective

By Betsy Hacker

The Year of the Bird

Many birders enjoy attracting birds to feeders and birdbaths. I often wonder who gets more benefit from this, our little feathered friends or we humans. The following photo is an illustration I did of black-capped chickadees that I published in a column I write for a Colorado newspaper. I'm re-purposing it now to make my point.



"Give them a Hand" illustration by Betz Hacker

To commemorate the centennial year of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is important to consider, why do birds matter to us?

According to the Global News, a Canadian newspaper, in 2015, 1 in 5 Canadians now watch birds and it has become one of the fastest growing hobbies in North America. To some, watching birds is a casual backyard activity, still others like to travel and keep lists of all the birds they've seen, and then there are the extreme birders! On average the paper reported that birders spend an average of 133 hours per year on birding.

What has sparked this interest in birds? While earning a degree in Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota, there was a young man in my studio who was very talented and competitive. Back then, neither of us were birders. After graduation, he moved to San Francisco to head up an architectural firm. At some point along the

way, we both became birders. Given his competitive nature, I was not surprised when he told me he was an extreme birder. While talking to him at a convention in Phoenix, his cell phone rang. He immediately excused himself so he could catch a plane to track down a rare bird in some exotic location. My fellow cohorts often say, "you should go birding with Dave," to which I ask if they have seen the movie *The Big Year*. Dave even looks a little like Steve Martin. Dave's passion for birding is very different than mine yet we both share an affinity for birds and have worked in a professional capacity to help communities preserve and rehabilitate land for wildlife habitat.

In his National Geographic essay entitled *Why Birds Matter*, Jonathan Franzen writes that what birds do for us is to indicate the health of our ethical values. Franzen suggests, that one reason wild birds matter, or ought to matter to us, is that they are our last and best connection to the natural world that is otherwise receding due to human self-serving interests that if implemented without restraint, can upset nature's balance.

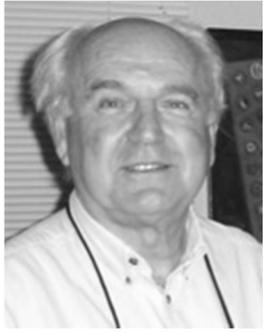
Birds are the most vivid and widespread representatives of the Earth as it was before people arrived on it. Without regulations, like the dinosaurs, many bird species could become extinct. That is why stewardship and best land-use practices, including but not limited to habitat conservation and rehabilitation, are important components to any development or changes in land-use.

If you could see every bird in the world, you would see a vast array of birds living in every conceivable environment. To survive in so many different habitats, the world's 10,000 or so species of birds have, and even today continue to evolve. Birds come in many sizes and colors with many varying features and behaviors. Each bird is uniquely suited to its environment. Some can adapt to changes while others cannot. As researchers continue to study the world of birds, it becomes clear how little is really know and that there is so much more to learn about these amazing creatures.

What would it be like to wake up and not hear a bird chirping, to go over to Lake Hefner and not see waterfowl, to go through the day and not see a hawk soaring overhead, or, what if all the birds that flock to our feeders one day just disappeared? Birds are a gauge on the health of the planet and they really do matter!

Respectfully, Betsy Hacker

Bird of the Month



By John Shackford

This winter, with its arctic air masses coming frequently and deeply into the United States, has brought us several far north bird species we rarely find in the state; one of these is the Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*). *Acanthis* is Latin for small song-bird, and *flammea* is Latin for

flame. The common name—redpoll—is derives from pol, Middle English for head; thus redpoll means red head. At 5 inches in length this species is a small streaked finch with a red forehead. Adult males have a black chin with a wash of red on the chest. There is another species quite similar to the Common Redpoll, the Hoary Redpoll; this species has “lighter, frostier-looking” plumage that shows considerably less strong streaking on the rump, flanks and under tail coverts. So if you see a redpoll you need to be sure it is not a Hoary Redpoll.

On 14 January 2018 members Steve Davis and Mary Lane had a Common Redpoll, apparently a female, show up in their yard. Early that afternoon Steve and Mary were looking at some American Goldfinches and Dark-eyed Juncos feeding on the ground in their backyard.



© Steve Davis and Mary Lane

They were trying to photograph an unusual junco, one with extra white in its tail; Steve had the camera and Mary had binoculars. Steve saw an unusual bird and asked Mary what it was. Upon looking, she thought it was going to be a House Finch, but almost immediately realized it was a Common Redpoll; very quickly Steve posted photos on eBird, OKBirds, and the OOS Facebook page. Soon the redpoll jumped up into a tree, then flew away; their total viewing time was about 10 minutes. This is the only time they have seen the bird, but they are still looking!

The Common Redpoll was not placed on the official list of species for the state until 1976, when Elizabeth Hayes and others got good photos of a bird in Tulsa (Hayes, 1978. Bull. Oklahoma Orn. Soc., 9: 30-32). G. M. Sutton [1982. Species summaries of Oklahoma bird records] listed 10

redpolls or groups of redpolls (many among the 10 were seen at the same location on multiple day and were therefore believed to be “repeats”). eBird, which started in 2002, lists 5 occurrences up to the present (including Steve and Mary’s). I do not know if there were any sightings in the 20 years between Sutton’s death in 1982 and the beginning of eBird in 2002 (it is possible to post records earlier than 2002 on eBird, but I suspect little activity in this regard). Thus there are about 15 records over the 95 years between when the Common Redpoll was first reported in the state (1922) and the present, one record about every 6.3 years.

In 1978 Wesley Isaacs, a former member of our club, had an adult male regularly at a feeder in his yard, from 13 January to 23 February. I heard about it and went to Wes’ house to help him catch the bird. I was supposed to arrive at Wes’s at 0800. Wes put up his banding net at 0800,

then walked around the house to greet me at 0803; we walked back around to the backyard and the bird was in the net! This bird was an adult male with a rosy wash on the breast, the only Oklahoma record I can find of an adult male.

As a nesting bird in the Arctic, the Common Redpoll lays 3-7 eggs, but usually 4-5 in coniferous or birch trees, many of them dwarf. I was surprised to read that their nests can be quite difficult to find, because adult birds would readily slip away from the nest as an intruder

approached. You would think that birds in the far north—“beyond civilization”—would be quite tame, but the birds apparently have other considerations, possibly non-human predators, to worry about.

In writing this column I came across an article about rare winter visitors from the far north, including both the redpoll and Snowy Owl. The discussion came around to an interesting point: It is well-documented that people and at least some animals will work harder to get an intermittent reward than to get a reward that always comes or never comes. You will recognize this as the psychology behind gambling; but instead of gambling for money, we birdwatchers are gambling for the payoff of seeing a rare bird! And I suspect it is probably just as well that most of us “addicted birding personalities” do not spend much time in casinos!

2017 Christmas Bird Count Species List

| Species | Number | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | | Bald Eagle | 1 | Tufted Titmouse | 44 |
| Black-bellied Whistling Duck | 2 | Northern Harrier | 9 | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 2 |
| Snow Goose (white form) | 9 | Sharp-shinned Hawk | 4 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 1 |
| Cackling Goose | 312 | Cooper's Hawk | 6 | Brown Creeper | 9 |
| Canada Goose | 1802 | Northern Goshawk | 1 | Carolina Wren | 80 |
| <i>swan sp.</i> | cw | Red-shouldered Hawk | 9 | Bewick's Wren | 6 |
| Wood Duck | 5 | Red-tailed Hawk | 63 | House Wren | 2 |
| Gadwall | 302 | Harlan's Hawk | 1 | Winter Wren | 12 |
| American Wigeon | 11 | Ferruginous Hawk | 1 | Marsh Wren | 2 |
| Mallard | 1120 | American Kestrel | 20 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 1 |
| Blue-winged Teal | 1 | Merlin | 1 | Golden-crowned Kinglet | 6 |
| Northern Shoveler | 269 | Peregrine Falcon | 1 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 28 |
| Northern Pintail | 77 | American Coot | 307 | Eastern Bluebird | 23 |
| American Green-winged Teal | 94 | Killdeer | 27 | <i>Townsend's Solitaire</i> | cw |
| Canvasback | 50 | Greater Yellowlegs | 22 | Hermit Thrush | 3 |
| Redhead | 16 | Least Sandpiper | 67 | American Robin | 1667 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 47 | Bonaparte's Gull | 699 | Northern Mockingbird | 54 |
| Greater Scaup | 25 | Ring-billed Gull | 4534 | Brown Thrasher | 3 |
| Lesser Scaup | 184 | California Gull | 16 | European Starling | 16976 |
| Bufflehead | 141 | Herring Gull | 13 | American Pipit | 4 |
| Common Goldeneye | 46 | Lesser Black-backed Gull | 2 | Cedar Waxwing | 54 |
| Hooded Merganser | 175 | Forster's Tern | 25 | Common Yellowthroat | 1 |
| Common Merganser | 2 | Rock Pigeon | 637 | Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) | 154 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 200 | Eurasian Collared-Dove | 230 | Spotted Towhee | 76 |
| Ruddy Duck | 86 | White-winged Dove | 19 | American Tree Sparrow | 1 |
| Wild Turkey | 5 | Mourning Dove | 59 | Chipping Sparrow | 2 |
| Northern Bobwhite | 6 | Inca Dove | 1 | Field Sparrow | 6 |
| <i>Red-throated Loon</i> | cw | Great Horned Owl | 7 | <i>Vesper Sparrow</i> | cw |
| Pacific Loon | 1 | Snowy Owl | 1 | Savannah Sparrow | 30 |
| Common Loon | 8 | Barred Owl | 3 | LeConte's Sparrow | 2 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 58 | Belted Kingfisher | 17 | Fox Sparrow | 16 |
| Horned Grebe | 17 | Red-bellied Woodpecker | 37 | Song Sparrow | 107 |
| Red-necked Grebe | 1 | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 4 | Lincoln Sparrow | 7 |
| Eared Grebe | 3 | Downy Woodpecker | 40 | Swamp Sparrow | 1 |
| American White Pelican | 325 | Hairy Woodpecker | 2 | White-throated Sparrow | 13 |
| American Bittern | 1 | Northern Flicker | 42 | Harris's Sparrow | 217 |
| Neotropic Cormorant | 1 | Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker | 7 | White-crowned Sparrow | 19 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 518 | Pileated Woodpecker | 1 | Dark-eyed Junco | 339 |
| Great Blue Heron (blue form) | 90 | Eastern Phoebe | 12 | Northern Cardinal | 267 |
| Great Egret | 9 | Blue Jay | 72 | Red-winged Blackbird | 29824 |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | 29 | American Crow | 153 | Eastern Meadowlark | 74 |
| | | Carolina Chickadee | 123 | meadowlark sp. | 208 |
| | | | | Rusty Blackbird | 12 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| blackbird sp. | 2000 |
| Common Grackle | 54 |
| Great-tailed Grackle | 5689 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 70 |
| Purple Finch | 4 |
| House Finch | 90 |
| Red Crossbill | 40 |
| Pine Siskin | 2 |
| American Goldfinch | 128 |
| House Sparrow | 115 |
| Total (not including subspecies and count week) | 71882 |

Oklahoma City Audubon Society Welcomes New Members

Matt Payne, Edmond
Luanne Dillard, Wynnewood
Terre Chaffin, OKC
Bonnie Pollack, OKC
Donna Cline, Edmond

Oklahoma City Audubon Society

Officers 2018

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| President | Elizabeth Hacker | 638-6210 |
| 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

Minutes January 22, 2018

Meeting was called to order by newly-elected president Betz Hacker.

Guests welcomed were Michael and Carol Reggio.

Minutes of December 18, 2017 were approved without corrections.

Treasurer's report: Nancy Vicars reports \$5561.68 in the account.

Old Business: Program chairman Warren Harden followed up from last month on the most-often-reported sightings in the State Winter Bird Atlas. Nathan Kuhnert reported on the Christmas Bird Count of December 16th, with fifty participants and record species count of 127.

President Hacker congratulated the contributors to the most recent newsletter, which was especially appreciated by the members in attendance.

New Business: Will Rogers Park management is considering making the park a birding Hot Spot, which will bring additional attention and visitation to the park. Volunteers for an ad hoc committee to pursue this opportunity are Nancy Reed and Terri Underhill.

Bill Diffin announced the spring meeting of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, which will be held the second week of May at Dwight Mission Summer Camp near Salisaw, OK

The Red Slough birding convention will be held the first weekend of April.

Field trips planned include Roman Nose Park on February 3rd, and Medicine Park on February 24th. Betz also requests volunteers to lead periodic local birding walks during the months of February and March. Both week-day and weekend dates are available. Please contact Patricia Velte of the OCAS website if you are interested.

The business meeting was adjourned and refreshment break followed.

The night's presentation was by Dr. Claire Curry of the Oklahoma Biological Survey. She has been researching the effects of human-produced noise on the behaviors and vocalizations of songbirds, in particular the Savannah Sparrow and Baird's Sparrow. This information may help us understand how interpersonal communications and species distribution may be affected.

The next meeting will be Monday February 19th at the Will Rogers Park Garden Exposition Building from 7-9 pm.

This report was completed by the club secretary Sharon Henthorn

Recorders Report January 2018

A raft of unusual birds

A New Year and time to start a New Year bird list and an excellent place to record it is in eBird. eBird has redesigned their home page including an exciting new feature. Your individual stats with an interesting bird photo shows at the top. A fun new stat is how many consecutive days you have reported birds in eBird along with a record of your longest streak. It is such an easy way to keep track of your sightings and organizing them by county, state, life list, monthly and yearly lists. It is such a great tool for beginners and expert birders and contains information on where to go birding to possibly find that special bird you are looking for.

On the 1st Laura Madden noticed Pine Siskin and Downy Woodpecker at her home in McClain County. At Summit Lake in Norman, Joe Grzybowski counted Redhead, Common Goldeneye and Eastern Bluebird; and Rachel Wrenn added Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal; while John Tharp spotted Common Loon at Lake Thunderbird West Sentinel. Jerry Taylor found White-winged Dove at his OKC home, Great Egret at Lake Hefner and Wood Duck at Lake Overholser East. Brian Stufflebeam verified Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck and Horned Grebe at Lake Hefner west; and Don Maas had Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers at his OKC home. On the 2nd Larry Mays documented Red-breasted and Common Merganser, plus Ross's Goose at Lake Overholser North; Steven Ireland detected Red-shouldered Hawk at Martin Park Nature Center; John Hurd identified **Iceland Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Lake Hefner; and Larry Butler searched out the **Snowy Owl** at Will Rogers World Airport.

Caleb McKinney birded Shannon Springs Park in Grady County several times and on the 3rd he saw Northern Shoveler and Wilson's Snipe. Meanwhile, in Stillwater Corey Riding confirmed Iceland Gull at the Meridian Technology Center Pond and Scott Loss recognized Lesser Black-backed Gull at Boomer Lake Park. In Oklahoma County Bill Diffin encountered Greater White-fronted Goose and Bald Eagle at Lake Hefner; Zach Poland observed Winter Wren and Orange-crowned Warbler at the Myriad Botanical Gardens in downtown OKC; and Jimmy Woodard tallied Spotted Towhee at his Midwest City yard. On the 4th John Moyer got Horned Grebe at Lake Thunderbird Dam; and in Garvin County Esther Key recorded Loggerhead Shrike, Brown Creeper and Bewick's Wren. In Payne County Kent Andersson had Purple Finch in Stillwater; Scott Loss located **Long-tailed Duck** and **Prairie Falcon** at Lake Carl Blackwell; and he reported six **Trumpeter Swans** and a **Tundra Swan** found by Eric Duell on Boomer Lake.

On the 5th Gretl Landes identified Orange-crowned Warbler at her suet feeder in Norman. On the 6th Zach Poland confirmed Rusty Blackbird, Bonaparte's Gull and Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Liberty Lake in Guthrie County; and Brian Marra verified Northern Bobwhite and Spotted Sandpiper at Arcadia Lake. On the 7th Zach Poland detected **Eared Grebe** at Lake Hefner; and Chad Ellis spotted Snow Goose at his home in OKC. On the 8th Zach Roy verified **Pine Warbler** at Boomer Lake Park; and Bill Diffin observed **Red-necked Grebe** at Lake Hefner. On the 9th Larry Mays documented **Pacific Loon** at Lake Hefner. On the 10th Jason Shaw had a Sharp-shinned Hawk in Chickasha in Grady County. On the 11th Chris Butler saw Northern Harrier at Martin Park Nature Center.



On the 12th Rachel Wrenn discovered **Black Vulture** at Stars and Stripes Park at Lake Hefner. On the 13th Zachary Helmans got a Common Goldeneye at Guthrie Lake; Jim Arnett located Barred Owl at Stinchcomb WMA and at Rose Lake Deanne McKinney counted Lincoln's Sparrow; while Bob Ellis noticed Savannah Sparrow. On the 14th Steve Davis photographed a **Common Redpoll** at his backyard feeder in NW OKC; Thomas Jones saw Northern Pintail and Bonaparte's Gull at Purcell Lake in McClain County; and Rachel Wrenn recognized **Ferruginous Hawk** at Ten Mile Flats west of Norman. On the 15th Caleb McKinney encountered Snow Goose, Greater Roadrunner, Barred Owl and Fox Sparrow on 90 acres Hunting Land in Grady County; Steve Davis recorded Chipping Sparrow at Guthrie Lake and a Vesper Sparrow at Liberty Lake;



while Emily Hjalmarson tallied **Prairie Falcon** at Ten Mile Flats.

On the 17th Grant Beuprez added **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Arcadia Conservation Education Area. On the 18th Emily Hjalmarson reported American Pipit along South Jenkins in Norman.

On the 19th Brian Stufflebeam viewed Northern Pintail and Hairy Woodpecker at Lake El Reno; and Larry Mays turned up Marsh Wren at Stinchcomb WMA East. On the 20th John Hurd counted Snow Goose, Wood Duck, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and LeConte's Sparrow at Cannon Ranch in Lincoln County; Caitlin Laughlin recognized American



Woodcock at West Richmond Road in Payne County; Zach Roy found Smith's Longspur at Boomer Lake Park and Orange-crowned Warbler at Sanborn Wetland; and Larry Mays identified **Red Crossbill** at Lake Carl Blackwell.

On the 21st Zach Poland discovered **Chestnut-collared Longspur** at his home in Logan County; and Brian Marra spotted Wilson's Snipe and Greater Yellowlegs at Stinchcomb WMA West. On the 23rd Jimmy Woodward located Ross's Goose and Bald Eagle at Taylor Lake in Grady County. On the 24th Joe Grzybowski added Eastern Screech-Owl at the North Base in Norman. On the 26th Joe Buck observed Pine Siskin in Edmond. On the 27th John Hurd detected American Tree Sparrow and Western Meadowlark at NW 63rd and Kilpatrick Turnpike; Emily Hjalmaron recorded Red-breasted Nuthatch at Pebblebrook Park in Norman; and John Tharp saw Brown Thrasher at John H Saxon Park in Norman. On the 28th Bridger Arrington noticed a Red-headed Woodpecker in South Muhall; and Joe Grzybowski found Purple Finch in Old Alameda neighborhood in Norman. On the 29th Michael Kane reported Hermit Thrush at Stinchcomb WMA. On the 30th John Tharp documented Winter Wren along South Jenkins. On the 31st Ben Sandstrom confirmed a White-throated Sparrow at Mineral Wells Park in Guthrie. What a busy month with quite a few interesting and unusual birds. Now is the Time to plan for The Great Backyard Bird Count on February 16-19. For information see: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

During January of 2018 in the Central Oklahoma area **139** species were reported for the year. 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. Esther M. Key, Editor.

Field Trip Report

Twelve of us suffered chilly morning temps and a bitter, biting south wind to bird around Roman Nose State Park, Canton lake, and, later in the day, Red Rock Canyon State Park on February 3.

At Roman Nose we got delightful looks at Fox Sparrows along with robins and waxwings coming in to drink. Picked out Common Yellowthroat and Swamp Sparrow from their snug concealment in the cattails.

Canton Lake started with a small disappointment as the dam, where I had hoped to both freeze and check out the waterfowl, was closed to through traffic. Worked along the east side of the lake a bit and discovered the most abundant species along the shore seemed to be Ring-necked Duck (almost exclusively males, for whatever reason). One lone Lake Guy (or Lonely Lake Guy) from whom I seemed unable to escape, devoured my attention while everyone else got to bird a bit and pick up several more species. I now know that there are dangerous hogs, a black panther or two, and seedy politicians prowling the area. Good stuff to know, eh?

By noon, mercifully, the wind had died down, the sun burst out, and lunch was taken. One cooperative roadrunner later, we stopped for prairie dogs, and a look or two at the lake. On over to Big Bend Campground and the boat ramp where Hal Yokum found us our first of two Bald Eagles at such a distance only an eagle-eyed guy like Hal could locate them. Back through Canton for yet another pit stop and south to... Red Rock Canyon State Park, where we hoped to possibly relocate a bird that wasn't even there to begin with (someday I will 'splain that--probably make a good Christmas OKCAS story). Red Rock Canyon is really a nice scenic little spot and well deserving of a visit just to hike around some which for a birder would approach blasphemy.

We began here to disband our little caravan with some folks heading off to bars and other important appointments. Those of us remaining were entertained by a very cooperative Barred Owl which allowed us a few decent photos.



© Jennie Brooks

I have no idea as to what our final trip count was--around 55 species, more or less, I think, though that's likely open to debate.

We finished up our day at Hideaway Pizza. Food, as everyone knows is a birder's second passion.

Thanks, everyone for following me around all day with such heartwarming obedience. You all rock--truly! --Larry Mays

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

Upcoming Field Trips

February

14: Wednesday, Crystal Lake. Time: 9am-11:00: Location: SW 15, about ¼ mile west of SW MacArthur St, OKC. Meet in the parking lot in front of the fishing dock. Leader: Betz Hacker RSVP (would be helpful) eowl321@yahoo.com

24: Saturday, Wichita Mtns NWR. Time: 9am. All day. Location: Meet at Love's Truck Stop, Hwy 49, just off Hwy 44 (Medicine Park exit). Kurt will lead us on a trail in the refuge. We can expect to see many wintering sparrows, wrens, long-spurs and there are always surprises. Leader: Kurt Meisenzahl RSVP (would be helpful) meisenzk@sbglobal.net or eowl321@yahoo.com

28: Wednesday, Soldier Creek Industrial Park trails(SCIP for short). Time: 9:00-11:00. Location: Midwest City. The parking area is just east of the corner of NE 23rd and Air Depot on the south side of the road. It has a porta potty and a nice gazebo with a trail map. The trails are basically for mountain biking. They are decent dirt trails and extend about 3-4 miles. Leader: Jimmy Woodard. RSVP (would be helpful): j.woodard@cox.net

March

6: Tuesday: Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge. Time: 2pm. We've not done afternoon field trips so this is a first. Location: Meet in front of Route 66 Donuts at 8368 NW 39th EXPY, Bethany, OK (It closes at noon) and we can carpool as Wildlife refuge parking area is very small. Time permitting, we will also go to Rose Lake. Leader: To be Determined

17: Saturday, Mitch Park. Time: 7:30 am – 11:00. Location: Old School Bagel Cafe at 775 W. Covell Road, Edmond. Leader: Hal Yocum RSVP drhal2@cox.net

27: Tuesday, Red Rock Canyon State Park. Afternoon walk. Location: Meet at the north end of the Kohl's parking lot behind IHOP on 7708 Northwest Expressway (or if you choose to drive to the park, 2:30 in the parking area). Red Rock Canyon is approximately an hour drive. We'll bird from about 2:30 till 5:30 and you will arrive back around 6:30. Leader: TBD
