# **Oklahoma City Audubon Society**

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

February, 2012

## Searching for the Real Canary: Our Milestone 400<sup>th</sup> on the Canary Islands

Bob and Dana Holbrook will present our program at the February 20 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society. Their topic will be "Searching for the Real Canary: Our Milestone 400th on the Canary Islands."

Most anyone with a bit of the spirit of adventure has probably dreamed of one day visiting some of the far corners of the earth. The Canary Islands seem to be high on the "to do" list of such persons. Bob and



Dana spent 5 days there and discovered that is much cheaper than often imagined, the birds like to be seen right on target, and there's a lot more to do besides getting excited about new birds. When the two decided to get married, it was with a premise that both would reach their 400th bird listed for the Euro-Western Palearctic before any wedding. One month before the wedding they were still a half dozen birds shy and there was almost no place left within the geographical area allotted that could provide the necessary birds sort of guaranteed—until their eyes spotted 7 tiny islands off the coast of Africa and within the birding fauna of the Western Palearctic—THE CANARY ISLANDS...and wedding bells followed.

Dana's has a degree in business management. She has enjoyed focusing on tourism and Romania's incredible natural resources and beauty. She loves the outdoors, backpacking, helping kids enjoy nature, and spending time with some of her favorite friends—the denizens of the Carpathian Mountain forests. Most of her bird list was developed over several years wandering the hidden paths of her country with short forays into other Western Europe countries. Since joining Bob 3 years ago, she's now added 35 States here and the two Central American countries added give her 30 countries total. Her life list is now approaching the 1000 mark for birds and over 100 mammals.

Bob is also a total vagabond, having traveled 82 countries so far. He spent his childhood and several adult years in South America. He recalls that one of his "first birds" was a small Amazon woodpecker he bought from Some Campa Indians that would sit on his shoulder and eat food off his tongue. His has been a lifelong passion for birds in general and has now passed the 3,800 mark for a life list. One of his highlights he feels is that of holding the Big Day record for Sudan (since 1992) and says that whoever decides to break his record is even a bigger fool than he was. And that is a whole story in itself! His current quest is to reach 50% for all the lower 48 States (8 down and 40 to go).

Come out and bring a friend for a good evening of camaraderie, birds, and great refreshments. Our meetings ae held September through June on the third Monday of each month. They begin at 7 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 & NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.

#### **Cookie Patrol**

Cookies will be provided by Nadine Varner, Marion Homier & Jim Bates

# **President's Perspective**

By Bill Diffin



Starting this month where we left off in January, let's go directly to the most comprehensive source of avian phylogenetic information available on the internet, the Tree of Life Web Project. Building on the progress already made, let's start on the Muscicapoidea page, <u>http://</u> tolweb.org/Muscicapoidea/67307. The first thing likely to draw one's

attention are the three photos at the top of a White-shouldered Starling, a Bluethroat, and an American Robin. The side-by-side photo lineup representing three out of the four major muscicapoid families makes a point which has so far been neglected concerning the Muscicapoidea. The species tend toward a similar overall appearance -- rounded in body and on the leggy side for a passerine with a bill that is slightly down-curved, pointed, almost narrow but strong-looking. Below the photos is a sideways-tree with a name terminating each branch. All the bird families previously identified as being part of Muscicapoidea are there, Cinclidae (dippers), Turdidae (thrushes), Muscicapidae (Old World flycatchers and chats), Sturnidae (starlings and mynas), and Mimidae (thrashers, mockingbirds and catbirds, aka "mimic-thrushes"). In addition there are some other smaller taxonomic groups. One, the oxpeckers, is traditionally included with the starlings. The three rhabdornises have also recently been determined to be closest to the starlings. The waxwings, silkyflycatchers, palmchat and hypocolius are placed with connections to each other and to the base of the tree, but with some uncertainty indicated by question marks. We shall return to a discussion of these question marks as well as the interpretation of the branching structure. However for the moment notice that below the sidewaystree is a link next to "Containing group:" titled "Passerida". Click on that link and up comes a page with another sideways-tree with four superfamilies, Passeroidea (16), Muscicapoidea (7), Certhioidea (4) and Sylvioidea (22) plus six families, Australian robins, sugarbirds, kinglets, rockjumpers, whipbirds (and associates) and rockfowl plus one genus, Hyliota. The number in parentheses after each superfamily is the number of contained groups indicated on the superfamilys' tree page, obtained by clicking on the superfamily's name (in blue letters indicating a link to another page). Below the sideways-tree on the Passerida page is a link next to "Containing group:" titled "Oscines". Click on that link, and the tree for the Oscines appears with Passerida, the page we just came from, at the top, then Corvoidea (34), and then ten more groups consisting of eight families, one subfamily and one superfamily, Meliphagoidea (5). Below this tree is a link for "Passeriformes". Click on the link and there appears a simple tree with three branches, New Zealand wrens,

Suboscines and Oscines. Since the Passeriformes, known traditionally as the passerine birds or just passerines, are the group we have been trying to get a better handle on with this series of articles, we will take a break from the page turning here and digest what we have seen so far.

The Passeriformes have long been seen as consisting of two groups based on differences in the muscles controlling their vocalizations, the Oscines, also known as songbirds, and the Suboscines. The Tree of Life (let's abbreviate it TOL) Passeriformes page also shows a branch for the New Zealand wrens, just two species now living, which are rather distant in their genetics from the rest of the Passeriformes. The songbirds are by far the largest group within the Passeriformes with around 4,400 species compared to about 1,000 species for the suboscines. Looking at the Oscines TOL page, we see the Passerida and Corvoidea at the top with the ten groups arranged below as already noted. An amazing fact concerning the ten groups is that the birds in them are almost all from Australia and New Guinea, with just a few from nearby Indonesia and some South Pacific islands. There are 329 species in the ten groups with 272 of them in the Meliphagoidea superfamily. Let's give these ten groups a name, Basal Songbird Australasian Grade, and abbreviate it BSAG. The term, grade, is the word phylogeneticists use to describe a branch on the tree of life with the end cut off. In this case the grade is the Oscines branch with the Passerida and Corvoidea cut off. Now let's list out the rest of the superfamilies in the Oscines with the number of species in parentheses, Corvoidea (712), Passeroidea (1548), Muscicapoidea (603), Certhioidea (125) and Sylvioidea (1130). The last four of these are on the Passerida TOL page with seven other groups not addressed so far. Let's call these seven groups Other Passerida. There are 69 species in the Other Passerida, 45 of them in the Petroicidae, the Australian robins. At this point we have the Oscines broken up into seven groups consisting of five superfamilies, BSAG and Other Passerida. We will try to characterize these groups next month.

## Birds of the Oklahoma City 2011 Christmas Bird Count

By John Shackford

We had a great Christmas Bird Count in 2011; 38 people in 15 parties participated. We saw 119 different species, 1 additional race (Red-shafted Flicker), 1 additional race hybrid (Red/Yellow = "Orange-shafted" Flicker), and 2 additional species during Count Week (Snowy Egret and Common Yellowthroat). Anything over 110 species is a great count for us. A species total of 119 is even more remarkable this year because numbers of most small land birds were way down. In the words of longtime counter Ernie Wilson, "The birding was the worst in [the northeast Oklahoma City] area since Dave [Evans] and I started [many years ago]." The low number of land birds was likely due to the drought last summer, which resulted in a decreased amount of seed produced by plants, leaving many seed-eating land birds with little food for the winter. Bucking this trend, however, were Field Sparrows; we found 115, a new high for our count. Also nice to see were 15 American Tree Sparrows (reports coming from 4 parties).

On the other hand, most duck numbers were quite high this year. We had new high numbers for 4 duck species: 511 Northern Pintails, 499 Canvasbacks, 451 Ringnecked Ducks, and 342 Hooded Mergansers. Some of the notable rarities were 2 Western Grebes, 9 Great Egrets, 2 Thayer's Gull, 1 House Wren, and <u>12</u>—yes 12—Eastern Phoebes (reports coming from 4 parties).

Thanks to all who participated on the count and in bringing food to the Count Tally Party. A special thanks to Diane Newell and her friend Sally Coates who hosted the Tally Party at Diane's house. Also I would like to thank Pat Velte for data entry.



# Minutes of the January 23, 2012 Meeting

President Bill Diffin called the meeting to order. Visitors Sharon Garrity, Jane Mathis, Kristi Hendricks and Emily Hiatt were welcomed . Virginia Eichor and Mr. and Mrs. Troy Fullerton were welcomed as new members.

Emily Hiatt, Naturalist at Martin Nature Park, announced a Wildlife Photo Exhibit by Tom Ulrich on March 22 and a Wildlife Photography Workshop on March 23 with Tom Ulrich.

December minutes were approved as published in the January newsletter.

Patti Muzny read the January Treasurer's Report as submitted by Nancy Vicars.

| Cash on Hand 12/19/11 | \$5,582.67 |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Deposits              | +205.63    |
| Disbursements         | - 82.90    |
| Cash on Hand 1/23/12  | \$5,705.40 |

Patti stated the 2012 OKC Audubon Society yearly dues are \$15. Payments can be submitted to Patti. Payments for participating in this year's CBC can be submitted to either Patti or John Shackford.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Jimmy Woodard brought the Crossley Guide for all to view. Jimmy presented the upcoming Field Trips.

#### New Business:

John Shackford reported 119 species were counted on this year's CBC.

Kurt Meisenzahl reported an Acorn Woodpecker at the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. The Acorn Woodpecker was recorded in Oklahoma in 1908, 1960 and 2012. Contact Kurt or Lou Truex for a field trip to view the Acorn Woodpecker.

President Diffin announced Dave Woodson accepted the position of Conservation Chairman.

Jeannine Teasley presented a book on birds of Brazil for all members to view.

Nealand Hill announced the Eagles could be viewed at <u>www.suttoncenter.org</u>

Warren Harden announced our February speakers are Bob and Dana Holbrook. They will be speaking about their trip to the Canary Islands.

Tonight's speaker is June Ketchum presenting her trip to Brazil.

Nancy Reed, Recording Secretary

# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

#### Officers 2012

| President  | Bill Diffin                 | 722-3778     |  |  |  |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Vice President   | John Shackford              | 340-5057     |  |  |  |
| Secretary  | Nancy Reed                  | 799-1116     |  |  |  |
| Treasurer  | Nancy Vicars                | 732-9885     |  |  |  |
| Parliament   | Ted Golden                  | 354-3619     |  |  |  |
| Programs   | Warren Harden               | 364-3491     |  |  |  |
| Recorder   | Esther M. Key               | 381-9170     |  |  |  |
| Conservation   | Dave Woodson                | 601-622-3467 |  |  |  |
| Field Trips  | Jimmy Woodard               | 365-5685     |  |  |  |
| Newsletter Editors:                                    |                             |              |  |  |  |
|  | Pat Velte                   | 751-5263     |  |  |  |
|  | Carla Brueggen              | 495-3259     |  |  |  |
| Publicity  | Doug Eide                   | 495-8192     |  |  |  |
| Historian  | Nealand Hill                | 388-6759     |  |  |  |
| Refreshments   | Dave & Sue Woodson 732-9885 |              |  |  |  |
| Webmaster  | Pat Velte                   | 751-5263     |  |  |  |
| The Oklahoma City Audubon society is neither a chapter |                             |              |  |  |  |

of nor affiliated with National Audubon.

For Oklahoma City Audubon news between newsletters and meetings, be sure to log onto: OKC-Audubon.org

# **Bird of the Month**

By John Shackford



The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is unquestionably a stately bird. It became the National Emblem of the U. S. in 1782. Benjamin Franklin had wanted the Wild Turkey as the national symbol, but this was one debate he did not win. Dr. G. M. Sutton, in his book, "Oklabame

"Oklahoma Birds" (1967), said that the Bald

Eagle "[m]ay have nested formerly in Cimarron County...and along Arkansas River in Osage County, but no recent summer records for either of these areas..." Thus Sutton considered it only as a wintering species in Oklahoma in 1967. Sutton said the Oklahoma specimens at hand were of the southern (smaller) race of the species. The Bald Eagle is a good example of the rule that far northern races of species tend to be larger than southern races; this rule has to do with preservation of heat—a larger

body has a smaller percentage of body surface to body weight and can therefore preserve heat better. Much has changed since Dr. Sutton wrote his book in 1967. The George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center, in Bartlesville, initiated a program in the 1980's to introduce nesting birds into the state. The Sutton Center began by taking eggs early in the nesting season from Bald Eagle nests in Florida; most of the eagle pairs from whom eggs were taken, laid another clutch of eggs, so any damage to the Florida population appeared to be minimal. The gathered eagle eggs were carefully incubated to hatching, the young then fed using eagle hand puppets as surrogate parents; ultimately these young were fledged into the wild in 5 different southern states, I believe it was, including Oklahoma. Now there are at least 80 active Bald Eagle nests in Oklahoma. In 2007 the Bald Eagle was removed from Endangered and Threatened Species List. You can view an active Bald Eagle nest at http://www.suttoncenter.org/pages/live, then click on "Live Bald Eagle Nest Camera, watch now" at the top of the Sutton Page. You will actually see 2 nests! This opportunity is made possible by the Sutton Center.

Bald Eagles usually lay 2 eggs in a huge nest that can be 10 feet tall and 6 feet across. For several years, until a year or 2 ago, there was a Bald Eagle pair nesting at Wes Watkins Reservoir in eastern Oklahoma County and western Pottawatomie County; I have heard that the eagle nest tree there finally blew down, and a rumor that the eagle pair may now be nesting at OG&E's

Horseshoe Lake, near Harrah in eastern Oklahoma County, so keep a look-out when you travel in that area.

The Bald Eagle often feeds on fish, frequently dead ones, so it is something of a scavenger. It also will feed on ducks. For all its regalness, however, it is not as fierce a predator as the Golden Eagle. Dr. Jim Lish, who recently gave a talk to our club about the various plumages of the Red-tailed Hawk, once followed a Bald Eagle all day in eastern Oklahoma. He saw the bird leave its roost in the morning; it flew to a perch at the river (I do not know just how far this was) where it stayed until noon, then it flew to another perch, and at the end of the day flew back to the roost. I do not think Jim followed

up his research on a second day! We were fortunate to find 2 adults on our 2011 Oklahoma City Christmas Bird Count, 1 at Lake Overholser and 1 at Lake Hefner: we have seen at least 1 on our count for the last several years. The best time of year to see the Bald Eagle on our local reservoirs is when the lakes are mostly iced over in winter. Then usually you can find one standing on the ice near any open water on the lakes where the ducks gather, likely waiting for the next duck that weakens due to hunger or freezes up in the ice. Perhaps 1 day we will have a nesting pair near 1 of our large reservoirs.

## **Recorders Report – February 2012**

#### Wonderful Birds and Weather

From the Cleveland County Christmas Bird Count to the beginning of the American Woodcock displays January has provided a multitude of unusual birds and weather. January was the 8<sup>th</sup> warmest on record with temperatures above 40<sup>o</sup>F every day. The month continued dry until the 24<sup>th</sup> when a storm left over 2 inches of rain. Several birds in the rare or accidental category have found their way to Central Oklahoma from the north, west, east and summer.

Mark Howery provided the Cleveland County Christmas Bird Count from January 1<sup>st</sup> and notable birds included **Black Vulture**, **Turkey Vulture**, Bald Eagle, **Prairie Falcon**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown

Thrasher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Towhee, Western Meadowlark, **Brewer's Blackbird**, **Purple Finch** and during count week a **Trumpeter Swan**. Meanwhile, in Marland John Polo, Terry Mitchell, Jimmy Woodard, Valerie





Bradshaw, Pat Seibert, Jo Loyd and a birder from San Antonio found the **Snowy Owl**. Near Binger Tim Ryan started the New Year with **Mountain Bluebirds,** and in Norman near the Canadian River John Raeside and Anais Starr located

a **Townsend Solitaire,** from the western mountain ranges.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jimmy birded Lake Hefner and discovered a **Red-throated Loon**, a winter male adult **Long-tailed Duck** and at Crystal Lake along with roughly 1,500 other gulls the adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. On the 10<sup>th</sup> near the west Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge entrance Matt Jung had a small flock of **Rusty Blackbirds**, one of North America's most rapidly declining species usually found in eastern states.

At Lake Hefner on the 11<sup>th</sup> James Hubbell saw a **Snowy Egret**; on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 12th Jim Bates observed a **Franklin's Gull** in full breeding plumage; and on the 13<sup>th</sup> Matt Jung noticed two **Western Grebes** near Prairie Dog Point. On the way to work around SE 59<sup>th</sup> and Sooner Road Brian Muzny spotted a Merlin.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> the OCAS field trip to the Embassy Suites area in Norman had 16 participants and located about 200 Chestnut-collared, 4-5 Smith's, and one Lapland **Longspurs** along with **LeConte's Sparrows** and two **Sprague's Pipits**. In Norman in their yards, Kim Wiar reports an **Eastern Phoebe**, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Kidney reported a **White-winged Junco**. Matt Jung saw a different gull at Lake Hefner and thinks it **might** have been a **Kittiwake**. We hope someone else can confirm it.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> Chuck Bergeron reported a beautiful **Snowy Owl** approximate 7 miles east of Fairview on Hwy 58. At Lake Hefner Jimmy reports that Bill Carroll spotted a **Glaucous Gull** and a **Neotropic Cormorant** among the Double-crested Cormorants. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Matt found 4 **Thayer's Gulls** at Stars and Stripes Park and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge he located Northern Bobwhites, a Great Horned Owl, and a Tufted Titmouse. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Mark Howery reported receiving two phone calls about a **leucistic American Crow** in the vicinity of Coltrane and Sorghum Mill Roads in Edmond. It has been showing up between 0900 and 1100 with about 50 normal crows since mid-December.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> Eugene Young and Joe Grzybowski reported the **Snowy Owl** was still in Marland. On the 28<sup>th</sup> John Raeside hiked from Cherry Creek Park in Norman to near the Canadian River to discover **two Townsend's Solitaires**, but on the 29<sup>th</sup> Lindell Dillon and his wife only located one of them. Further in northwest Oklahoma on the 29<sup>th</sup> Mark Cromwell found a pair of **Tundra Swans** near Goltry. The farmer said they showed up the second week of January, stayed a week, disappeared, and returned on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> James Hubbell heard the first buzz of an **American Woodcock** in the Woodcock field at the north end of Lake Stanley Draper and witnessed the flyby a few minutes later. Patti's were buzzing and displaying on the 29<sup>th</sup> at her cabin in McClain County. Will an early spring come in February or will winter finally show up?

Thanks to the Cleveland County Christmas Bird Count the 2012 year started with **135** bird species in the Central Oklahoma area. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds by turning in reports and can be contacted by e-mail at <u>emkok@earthlink.net</u>.

## TOP 25: PINK-EARED DUCK (Malacorhynchus

membranaceus) By Mark Delgrosso

**FAMILY:** Anatidae **RANGE:** throughout Australia **HABITA**T: any body of standing freshwater (though drought conditions may drive it to coasts)

STATUS: common

Australians might think I'm balmy to this on my mustsee list. It is found throughout that continent in enough numbers make it hardly worth a journey just to see. But same could be said of our Wood



Duck. And look at the Pink-eared ! An Internet observer put it aptly when he said the duck looked like a "cross between a clown, a zebra, and a mini-piece of earthmoving machinery". It's prodigious, Shoveler-esque bill is highly unusual, too, in that it has 2 downward flaps at the tip that funnel food items toward the gullet as they swim – again fairly uniquely - with their heads halfsubmerged. They are known to perform 'vortex' feeding in which a pair swim rapidly in a tight circle, causing a vortex in the water column which brings up tasty morsels. In this duck species pairs mate for life and are monogamous. And , quite unduck-like, they chirp and trill rather than the familiar 'guack'.

The Pink-eared Duck is a very cool duck so, yes, I *would* journey to Australia to see it – along with the *hundreds* of other fantastical birds and wildlife of that great continent. Oh, and the pink ear of the Pink-eared– don't look for it very hard. Like the red cockade of the Red-cockaded it's a tiny little fleck of pink in the ear region.

# Oklahoma City 2011 Bird Count

| Species Total                 | otal | Species                        | otal | Species Total             |  |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|---------------------------|--|
| American Robin 72             | 18   | Greater Yellowlegs             | 15   | Snow Goose                |  |
| Hermit Thrush                 | 1    | Least Sandpiper                | 212  | Cackling Goose            |  |
| Northern Mockingbird 8        | 20   | Wilson's Snipe                 | 4030 | Canada Goose              |  |
| Brown Thrasher                | 216  | Bonaparte's Gull               | 28   | Wood Duck                 |  |
| European Starling 164         | 7459 | Ring-billed Gull               | 349  | Gadwall                   |  |
| Cedar Waxwing 1               | 128  | Herring Gull                   | 74   | American Wigeon           |  |
| Orange-crowned Warbler        | 1    | Lesser Black-backed Gull       | 965  | Mallard                   |  |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler 10      | 2    | Thayer's Gull                  | 359  | Northern Shoveler         |  |
| Common Yellowthroat c         | 18   | Forster's Tern                 | 511  | Northern Pintail          |  |
| Spotted Towhee 4              | 1913 | Rock Pigeon                    | 89   | Green-winged Teal         |  |
| Eastern Towhee                | 377  | Eurasian Collared-Dove         | 499  | Canvasback                |  |
| American Tree Sparrow 1       | 5    | White-winged Dove              | 74   | Redhead                   |  |
| Field Sparrow 11              | 202  | Mourning Dove                  | 451  | Ring-necked Duck          |  |
| Vesper Sparrow                | 1    | Eastern Screech-Owl            | 6    | Greater Scaup             |  |
| Species                       | 5    | Great Horned Owl               | 144  | Lesser Scaup              |  |
| Savannah Sparrow 7            | 3    | Barred Owl                     | 77   | Bufflehead                |  |
| LeConte's Sparrow             | 12   | Belted Kingfisher              | 82   | Common Goldeneye          |  |
| Fox Sparrow 5                 | 2    | Red-headed Woodpecker          | 342  | Hooded Merganser          |  |
| Song Sparrow 13               | 56   | Red-bellied Woodpecker         | 391  | Common Merganser          |  |
| Lincoln's Sparrow             | 5    | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker       | 207  | Red-breasted Merganser    |  |
| Swamp Sparrow 1               | 44   | Downy Woodpecker               | 110  | Ruddy Duck                |  |
| White-throated Sparrow 1      | 2    | Hairy Woodpecker               | 1    | Northern Bobwhite         |  |
| Harris's Sparrow 16           | 71   | Northern Flicker               | 15   | Common Loon               |  |
| White-crowned Sparrow 4       | 16   | N. Flicker, Yellow-shaft       | 65   | Pied-billed Grebe         |  |
| Dark-eyed Junco 60            | 2    | N. Flicker, Red-shafted        | 77   | Horned Grebe              |  |
| McCown's Longspur             | 1    | N. Flicker, Orange sh., hybrid | 2    | Western Grebe             |  |
| Lapland Longspur 31           | 4    | Pileated Woodpecker            | 127  | American White Pelican    |  |
| Smith's Longspur              | 12   | Eastern Phoebe                 | 285  | Double-crested Cormorant  |  |
| Chestnut-collared Longspur 26 | 205  | Blue Jay                       | 37   | Black-crowned Night-Heron |  |
| Northern Cardinal 25          | 320  | American Crow                  | 101  | Great Blue Heron          |  |
| Red-winged Blackbird 383      | 239  | Horned Lark                    | 9    | Great Egret               |  |
| Blackbird (sp) 1              | 178  | Carolina Chickadee             | CW   | Snowy Egret               |  |
| Eastern Meadowlark 7          | 47   | Tufted Titmouse                | 2    | Bald Eagle, adult         |  |
| Western Meadowlark 2          | 3    | White-breasted Nuthatch        | 13   | Northern Harrier          |  |
| Meadowlark (sp) 34            | 2    | Brown Creeper                  | 4    | Sharp-shinned Hawk        |  |
| Common Grackle 40             | 1    | House Wren                     | 8    | Cooper's Hawk             |  |
| Great-tailed Grackle 60       | 52   | Carolina Wren                  | 1    | Accipter (sp)             |  |
| Brown-headed Cowbird 7        | 9    | Bewick's Wren                  | 8    | Red-shouldered Hawk       |  |
| House Finch 10                | 4    | Winter Wren                    | 69   | Red-tailed Hawk           |  |
| American Goldfinch 27         | 11   | Marsh Wren                     | 1    | Ferruginous Hawk          |  |
| House Sparrow 30              | 1    | Golden-crowned Kinglet         | 22   | American Kestrel          |  |
|                               | 2    | Ruby-crowned Kinglet           | 478  | American Coot             |  |
| Total Species 11              | 54   | Eastern Bluebird               | 45   | Killdeer                  |  |
| Total Birds 3293              |      |                                |      |                           |  |

## Oklahoma City 2011 Bird Count (continued)

0.5 0

| A        | dditional subsp. Or forms | 1     | Total (Party) Owling Hours   |
|----------|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| dditiona | l hybrid:                 |       | Owling Hours (Foot)          |
| C        | Drange-shafted N. Flicker | 1     | Owling Hours (Car)           |
|          | Addit. Species Count Wk   | 2     | Total (Party) Owling Miles   |
|          |                           |       | Owling Miles (Foot)          |
|          | Effort                    |       | Owling Miles (car)           |
|          | Total Party Hours         | 102   | Total (Party) Feeder Hours   |
|          | Party Hours (Foot)        | 64.5  | Total Observers, FEEDER ONLY |
|          | Party Hours (Car)         | 37.5  | Total Parties                |
|          | Total Party Miles         | 421.5 | Total Observers              |
|          | Party Miles (Foot)        | 36.5  |                              |
|          | Party Miles (Car)         | 385   |                              |



### Conservation

By Dave Woodson

Α



I am proud to be your new Conversation chairperson I wish to ask for your help this coming year in pursuing issues that affect

birds and their habitat. When Bill Diffin asked if anyone was interested in becoming the conversation chairperson, my first thought was I'm too new to the club surely someone else will step up. After more thought, I decided to write Bill and ask for a copy of the bylaws; after reading the following I felt this is worth getting involved.

#### "The Conservation Chairperson shall promote better conservation practices in any area in which the SOCIETY is interested. This shall include stimulating interest in legislation which would affect preservation or renewal of our natural resources."

The following are a few activities Bill suggest that would fit the Conservation Committee:

- An investigation into hawk electrocutions on power
- poles. (I have initiated preliminary investigations and will report findings later this year).
- Getting up interest in the next Prairie Chicken fence marking expedition.
- Compile species lists and culture requirements for native garden and landscape plants
- Compile bird feeder designs and stocking recommendations
- Compile hummingbird feeder recommendations

I exchanged e-mails with Sue Selman after I learned about a legislative issue Bill (HB2607) that if passed will affect Endangered Species in Oklahoma. I encourage members of our society to write their Oklahoma State Congressmen to oppose Bill HD2607 by Rep. Gus Blackwell: A. No person may exhibit endangered species in exchange for compensation.
B. No person may guide or assist others in viewing endangered species in exchange for compensation.

C. No person may promote or encourage the listing of a species as endangered if the person would benefit financially from the listing.

D. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year, or by both fine and imprisonment.

I am interested in discussing with you about conservation issues our Society should pursue. I extend an open invitation to anyone interested in the Conservation Committee; I can guarantee the pay will be non-existent but the satisfaction of completed projects will be high.

#### Welcome

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes new members Donna McKnight, Mary Jo Fisher, and Kristie Chung.

### **Dues Notice**

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2012. 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 Carla Brueggen 8010 NW 32 Bethany, OK 73008

#### **Upcoming Field Trips**

**MARCH 3 Sia Comanche Eagle Facility** near Cyril which is under the direction of Bill Voelker and the Comanche Nation. Meet at Lowe's in Mustang at Hwy 4 and 152 at 8;30 a.m. for carpool to Sia in Cyril. Lunch will be provided by Sia; we suggest participants make a donation to Sia as a thank you for the tour and lunch. Contact Jimmy Woodard, 365-5695.

**MARCH 16-18** Tall Grass Prairie Preserve We will spend a weekend at the Nature Conservancy Preserve near Pawhuska. A special focus will be on finding Greater Prairie Chickens. Meet at Deer Creek Shell station on the northwest corner of Hwy74 and NW 178<sup>th (</sup>17905 N Portland at 8 a.m. Leader: Mark Delgrosso(medelgrosso@gmail.com).

**APRIL 5-8** High Island, Texas. This will be a multiday visit to the famous migration hotspot along the Gulf Coast. We may visit other birding spots nearby like Anahuac NWR, Bolivar Flats, and Galveston Island. Meeting place at High Island is the Gulfway Motel. Contact leader:, Jimmy Woodard, 365-5695, for carpooling or other informatin.

**APRIL 26 thru MAY 2** Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival in Woodward This will be the 4th year for this popular bird festival run by TAS and the Oklahoma Audubon Council. Several satellite trips to Hackberry, Wichita Mtns and Black Mesa are run in conjunction with the festival. Contact John Kenningtion at johnkennington@gmail.com or visit the festival website at www.lektreks.org.

**MAY 11-13** OOS Spring Meeting Details are still being worked out but the probable site will be in eastern Oklahoma. Details TBA. Visit www.okbirds.com for more info.

JUNE 2 CLUB PICNIC After last year's successful event, we plan to do it again. Meeting place and time TBA.

----PLEASE RSVP to the trip leaders so we will know you are coming. Bring appropriate items for the weather and conditions. Take snacks and drinks as trips may be out for an extended time with no access to amenities.