



# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

February, 2014

## Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary



Jennifer Randell and Bree Dunham of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary will be presenting our February 17 program about the aviary. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary offers a permanent home to eagles rescued in the wild who have been injured and cannot be released back into the wild. While only a handful of Native American Aviaries exist in the U.S., this facility is the first of its kind to incorporate culturally significant elements into the facility design while focusing on sound husbandry practices. The CPN Aviary not only offers homes to non-releasable eagles but provides a source of naturally molted eagle feathers for tribal members for cultural ceremonial use while providing the opportunity to reconnect tribal members with the living eagle. Jennifer and Bree will be speaking about the facility, why it was important culturally to provide injured eagles with a permanent home and the outreach they do within their community. They will have a short video consisting of a virtual tour of the facility and the eagles

that call it home and will be bringing their education birds.

Our meetings are 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.



### REFRESHMENTS:

Kristi Hendricks, Mary Lane/Steve Davis, and Jim Bates will provide refreshments for the February meeting.

### DUES NOTICE

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2014. 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.

## Welcome!

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes new members:  
Gary Catron, Edmond  
Dianne McGee, OKC  
Jack Hurd, OKC  
Hal Yocum, Edmond  
Jim Solorio, OKC  
Tony Solorio, OKC

# President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



Last month in this space we used acoustic sonograms to understand the difference between pure-sounding whistles and harsh-sounding calls. We also discussed the range of human hearing from 20 Hz to 20 kHz (20 to 20,000 sound waves per second) and the value of high frequency hearing ability above 6,000 Hz (6 kHz) to birders. It was

mentioned that the note known in vocal music as "high-C" has a frequency of about 1 kHz. In this month's article some additional musical background is presented in order to get a little deeper understanding of the relationship between music and bird sounds.

Remember Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do from the movie, *The Sound Of Music*? The eight notes span what is known as an octave. Notice "oct" means eight as in octopus or octagon. The usual way of designating notes is with letters, for example C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C for the notes of the Do-Re-Mi etc. scale. The first C (Do) is known as "middle-C" in vocal music and is located near the middle of a piano keyboard, see <http://goo.gl/iFppNv>. The other seven notes in the octave are played by the seven white keys to the right of middle C. The frequencies of all eight notes in Hz are 261.63, 293.67, 329.63, 349.23, 392, 440, 493.88, 523.25.

The first thing to notice is that the leading C and the ending C have a frequency ratio of  $523.25/261.63 = 2/1$ . The word, octave, has been generalized to describe any frequency band which spans a 2/1 ratio of frequencies. The C at the end of the octave is the start of a higher frequency octave in which the eight notes are designated by the same sequence of letters, but each letter has double the frequency of the same letter in the original octave. This higher frequency octave ends in high-C with a frequency of  $2 \times 523.25 = 1046.5$  Hz.

Another thing to notice is that the spacing of consecutive notes is not equal in terms of the ratios of frequencies. The ratios of D/C, E/D, F/E, G/F, A/G, B/A and C/B are 1.122, 1.122, 1.059, 1.122, 1.122, 1.122, 1.059. Note that  $1.059 \times 1.059 = 1.122$  (almost but not quite due to rounding of the original decimals). Why not add in some notes so that the ratios of consecutive frequencies are always 1.059, or in other words fill in the long gaps? That is what the black keys on a piano keyboard do. The result is 13 white and black keys to complete an octave. The new notes are designated as sharp (half an interval higher) or flat (half an interval lower) relative to the original notes in the set. For example the note added between C and D is called either C-sharp, written C#, or D-flat, written Db. A piano has 52 white keys and 88 keys all together which span about six and a half octaves. The

lowest note is 27.5 Hz and the highest is 4186 Hz. The highest note on a piccolo is about 5000 Hz, which is the highest note used in normal orchestral music.

Combinations of scale frequencies sounded together are called tones (in science). The simplest possible combination is just a single frequency and is called a pure tone (technically a simple sine wave or sinusoid). Two frequencies which have a ratio of 2/1 sound especially pleasant when combined as a tone. An example would be playing the beginning and ending C-frequencies of the Do-Re-Mi scale together. To human ears the combined tone sounds like a C at the lower frequency, i.e. middle-C, but with a different quality than the pure tone. In a musicians words, the combined tone has a **pitch** of middle-C but with a richer **timbre** than the pure tone. The lower frequency in the combined tone is called the fundamental or the first harmonic, and the higher (doubled) frequency is called the second harmonic. If high-C is further added to the combined tone, it constitutes the fourth harmonic, i.e. a double doubling or four times the frequency of the fundamental.

Pure tones almost never occur in nature. Almost all the sounds we hear including the notes sounded by musical instruments are combined tones. A violin or guitar string has a lowest frequency that it will vibrate at, the fundamental. It will also vibrate at integer multiples of the fundamental, i.e. second harmonic, third harmonic, fourth harmonic, etc. The vibrating string causes the air in the body of the instrument to vibrate which vibrates the body and sends sound waves outwards. When comparing the sound of a violin to a guitar or a piano playing a note with the same fundamental, we perceive a difference in quality or timbre because each instrument body produces its own unique mixture of harmonics of different intensities.

The same applies to the vibrating membranes in the vocal apparatus of a bird -- a unique and often variable mix of harmonics is produced. Here is an example with a fundamental at 3k Hz and harmonics at 6k, 9k and 12k, see the [sono] for the XC105394 recording and look at the last note, <http://goo.gl/VVWpGx>. Most brass wind instruments and pitched percussion instruments produce tones that include inharmonic frequencies which are not integer multiples of the fundamental. The result is a harsher sound than woodwind instruments produce but still with definite pitch. Cymbals produce a splash of sound which is rich in inharmonic frequencies and lacks a definite pitch.



## Bird of the Month, part 2

By John Shackford



The Bird of the Month, carried over from last month, is the Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). We have been discussing club history and misidentifications of birds, most particularly one misidentification of mine of a shoveler. I have one correction to add to last month's club history. The

group that originally formed the club was Dr Sam Moore, who served as our first President in 1947, Irene and Ed Martin, and Vic and Alma Vacin, all of whom I did know. We have discussed Dr. Moore and Irene and Ed Martin, but I failed to talk about the Vacins. Vic Vacin was a master at woodcraft. Among his projects, he built a bridge over a ravine at his home, a martin house and a screech-owl box that was used by screech-owls for many years and where we usually got screech-owl on our Christmas Bird Count. His wife Alma was the life of most any party.

As Ed and Irene Martin grew older, John and Dorothy Newell stepped in to take their place in our club. John was a great observer and recorder of birds and an all-around congenial person, and Dorothy was a sweetheart who made so many things work for the club, through diplomacy, good-nature, calling people, tending nature booths, giving slide programs to school-aged children, and so on. We all gravitated toward these wonderful people, as many of you will remember. You understand that my brief history of the club the last two months has been a bare-bones synopsis of a very dynamic club.

Misidentifications are something that happen to even the best of birders. Birding has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, and new birders will tend to make a few more ID errors than old-timers. When misidentifications occur our more knowledgeable members help guide those who err to correct IDs when they can. Digital photos have drastically changed our ability to ferret out bird species that are difficult to

identify for newcomers and old-timers alike. To get ID help for a mystery bird from the larger bird community, I suggest comparing your mystery photos directly with photos available from a number of websites, or appeal to the larger birding community for review at [OKBIRDS@lists.ou.edu](mailto:OKBIRDS@lists.ou.edu).

Now a bit more about the Northern Shoveler. A. C. Bent, in *Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl* (1987 Dover edition) stated that the Northern Shoveler "is one of the best known and the most widely distributed ducks in the world...it is universally common over nearly all of the continents of North America, Europe, and Asia..." Further, he adds, "It is essentially a freshwater duck at all seasons, never resorting to the seacoasts except when forced to by stress of weather..." The shoveler is no longer so widespread over North America as when Bent made his statement about the species covering most of the

continent. Its strongholds in North America now are the northwest part of the continent well into Alaska. The most noticeable feature for quick identification of this species is a bill that looks like a spatula, wide and long for a duck. This exaggerated bill is noticeable not long after the young hatch.



In Oklahoma, according to Sutton (1967, *Oklahoma Birds*) they "breed in small numbers, principally on Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Alfalfa County."

Sutton also stated, "Many midsummer records for nonbreeding birds: about two hundred seen repeatedly at Salt Plains refuge in 1952," reported to Sutton by J. B. Van den Akker. The shoveler, according to Bent, usually lays 10-12 eggs but this can vary from at least as low as 6 or as many as 14. The nest is made of dry grasses, and may be well away from water, but usually not too far from it. The interior of the nest has down for a lining and this appears to be added to as incubation progresses.. But primarily the shoveler is a spring and fall migrant for us in central Oklahoma, some of which layover in the state through the winter. The numbers we find locally in winter seem to be increasing, as are the numbers of several other species normally found to the south of us in winter. We found 316 shovelers on our recent Christmas Bird Count, which is the third highest CBC record for us.

# Minutes of the Meeting

January 27, 2014

President Bill Diffin called the meeting to order. Tonight's guests are Jim and Tony Solorio, and Gary Catron. December 16, 2013 minutes were approved as published.

**Treasurer's report:** Nancy Vicars reports \$5,791 in the account. She reminds us that individual and family memberships are \$15, from January to January each year.

## Committee reports:

Mark Delgrosso, Field trip coordinator, announced upcoming events. Details for trips are on the website.

- February 1: Citizen Potawatamie Nation Eagle Aviary in Shawnee.
- February 8: Sooner Lake and the OG&E grounds led by Jim Bates and Jon Couch.
- February 13: woodcock watch and dinner.
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**Old business:** John Shackford thanked the society for sponsoring food for the CBC December after-party.

## New business:

Dr. Sam Moore died at the age of 100 recently; he was the founder of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society and the OKC Audubon Society.

Channel 4 news interviewed Jimmy Woodard regarding swarms of blackbirds near Penn and Memorial. Bill Diffin was interviewed by the Daily Oklahoman's Bryan Painter about wintertime birding in the area, and the story will be published in this Sunday's paper February 2.

Warren Harden was recently photographed in the Oklahoman at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History. Their exhibit of art by famed scientist/ornithologist George Sutton continues until April 20.

There was discussion about the actual regulations for birding at the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge, as one of our members without an up-to-date hunting/fishing license was recently asked to leave. This will be researched and reported at next meeting.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is scheduled for February 14-17, sponsored by the Audubon Society and Cornell School of Ornithology. Details and instructions can be reached at the GBBC website. Prairie Dog Point litter cleanup will be starting again soon, as the weather allows.

Sharon Henthorn, Secretary

# OKC AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Financial Report for 2013

CASH ON HAND 12/31/2012 \$5,692.10

## INCOME:

Membership dues	1,423.72	
Checking Acct. interest	9.00	
Car stickers	10.38	
Contributions	<u>130.00</u>	
		+1,573.10

## EXPENSES:

Meeting room rent	200.00	
Newsletter (copies & postage)	934.09	
Club Promotion	155.55	
Memb. dues (Garden Council)	15.00	
Summer Social	105.96	
Speaker Honorarium	<u>50.00</u>	
		-1460.60

CASH ON HAND 12/31/2013 \$5,804.60

# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

## Officers 2013

President	Bill Diffin	722-3778
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
Secretary	Sharon Henthorn	521-9958
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	831-1945
Parliament	Ted Golden	354-3619
Programs	Warren Harden	364-3491
Recorder	Esther M. Key	735-1021
Conservation	Dave Woodson	601-622-3467
Field Trips	Mark Delgrosso	445-2300

## Newsletter Editors:

	Pat Velte	751-5263
	Carla Brueggen	495-3259
	Doug Eide	495-8192
Publicity		
Historian	Vacant	
Refreshments	Sue Woodson	601-622-3467
Webmaster	Pat Velte	751-5263

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

*For Oklahoma City Audubon news between newsletters and meetings, be sure to log onto:*

**OKC-Audubon.org**

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## South Texas Christmas, part 2

By Jimmy Woodard

The rainy, cold morning kept the birds down. We did get our first looks at Green Kingfisher and Least Grebe. We also spotted Olive Sparrow and Long-billed Thrasher. After leaving Sabal, we went north to the spot of the recent Amazon Kingfisher sighting near Highways 83 and 100. We searched several resacas before Doug spotted the bird in the distance. Everyone was happy to see this first US record bird. We celebrated with a nice lunch in Los Fresnos.

Next, we went to Laguna Atascosa NWR. The wildlife auto tour loop road is closed indefinitely. We made do with a visit to the shift shop and then birded the nearby interior bay. As we headed west from Laguna toward Harlingen, we were treated to an Aplomado Falcon show. A pair of birds were seen chasing a third interloper falcon off their area.



Sunday morning, we headed upriver. A visit to foggy Anzalduas County Park yielded a good suite of birds. We located such species as Black Phoebe, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Neotropical Cormorant and Pine Warbler.

Our next stop was Bentsen State Park. We walked the interior roads

but didn't see much. We climbed the observation tower for a great overview of the park. A Border Patrol helicopter was flying around which didn't help with viewing birds.

Farther upriver we stopped at Salineno. We did some feeder watching at this well known birding spot. We also watched the river flowing by and several Osprey hanging around. We saw Hooded and Altamira Orioles, doves and sparrows, although we missed the Audubon's Oriole which was seen there earlier in the day.

We arrived at Zapata late in the afternoon. After checking into our hotel, we birded behind the Zapata Library, a well-known spot for White-collared Seedeaters. We didn't see any but enjoyed a walk in the park. It turned out that this day was the only clear, dry, warm day. We finally saw the sun and the temps reached almost 70 degrees. This is normal south Texas winter weather day.

The rain was back on Monday morning and it was a cold 40 degrees. We made a short drive to San Ignacio where the local bird park along the river is another hotspot for things like seedeater. We spent over an hour searching but the wind and rain got the better of us and we didn't

see seedeaters nor much of anything else. We did see a squadron of Neotropical Cormorants flying abreast and stretching across the river just a few feet above the water. It was a regal sight as they swept past.

Sadly, we had to leave the valley so we headed to Laredo then turned north toward San Antonio. We had our first border patrol check but the cold kept the agents bundled up and they only gave us a cursory look, asking our citizenship before waving us through.

Even though the weather was not ideal, we did tally 161 species for the trip during our six days in the Valley. This trip was something of a scouting foray to look into the feasibility of offering a return trip in the winter of 2014/15 under the auspices of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. Stay tuned for more details about this possible trip.



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## Christmas Bird Count

113 species were identified during the Oklahoma City Christmas Bird Count for 2013. We also saw an additional 7 species during count week, for a total of 120 species for the CBC and during count week. A total of 21 parties and 47 people participated on this cold, windy count.

Thanks to all for the extra effort on count day and for the data sheets turned in by each party. Some of the highlights of the count and count week were Tundra Swan (count week), Red-throated Loon (cw), Solitary Sandpiper (cw), Franklin's Gull, Thayer's Gull, California Gull (cw), White-winged Dove, Greater Roadrunner (2), Hairy Woodpecker (3), Eastern Towhee, McCown's Longspur, and Evening Grosbeak (cw). You will find a complete list of the bird species counted on our website, <http://okc-audubon.org/>.

Our thanks again to Diane Newell who hosted the party at her home and her friend Sally Coates who helped Diane arrange for the count party.



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## Recorders Report—January 2014

### A Challenging Month

From Arctic Blast to High Fire Danger the weather toggled back and forth during the month. Swimmers moved from lake to lake as they froze and thawed while other birds scrambled to find food in the changing landscape. Gull watchers were rewarded with a variety of unusual species and several birders ventured out beyond their county lines.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Joe Grzybowski checked Lake Thunderbird's Twin Bridges and relocated the **Little Gull**; while at Lake Hefner Jimmy Woodard, Mary and Lou Truex also spotted another Little Gull, as well as, a **Pacific Loon**, **Red-throated Loon**, and **Eared Grebe**. Kristi Hendricks relocated the Loggerhead Shrikes in Amber, and at Lake Carl Blackwell Torre Hovick had a **Golden-crowned Kinglet**.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dala Grissom reported a **Prairie Falcon** in Seminole County. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Matt Jung walked South Jenkins and noted a Greater Roadrunner catching grasshoppers. T K identified a **Mew Gull** at Lake Hefner; Larry Mays noticed a **Hermit Thrush** at Lake Louis Burtshi in Grady County.; in Stephens County Jimmy Woodard discovered a **Sandhill Crane** and Jeremiah Ables surprised a **Barn Owl**.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> at Lake Hefner Sharon Henthorn located Common Mergansers and Least Sandpipers. In Logan County, Donna Mackiewicz had a Spotted Towhee and Carolina Wren. Torre Hovick spotted **Northern Bobwhite** at Lake Carl Blackwell and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Sierra Lane. Larry Mays watched as thousands upon thousands of blackbirds came in to roost in an area roughly where west 48<sup>th</sup> Street and Lindsay would theoretically intersect the Canadian River between Newcastle and Norman. George Sutton's "Oklahoma Birds" first mentioned this roost when he visited it in 1952-53. On the 6<sup>th</sup> Larry reports Lake Overholser is frozen over and birders only have one lake to check now.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> in Grady County Larry spotted a **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Taylor Lake. In Stillwater Deanne McKinney drove by Boomer Lake and found a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. Meanwhile, at Lake Hefner Jeff Tibbits spotted a **Glaucous Gull**, Doug Wood and a couple of his students located a **California Gull** and Bill Diffin spotted a **Great Black-backed Gull**. On the 8<sup>th</sup> at Boomer Lake Torre Hovick and Scott Loss located **Ross's Goose** and **Trumpeter Swan**, and on the 9<sup>th</sup> Torre also located a first year **Glaucous Gull**. Meanwhile, at Lake Hefner Deanne McKinney noticed a **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, Mark Peterson relocated the **Mew Gull**, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> John Hurd had an **Orange-crowned Warbler**.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> a horde of birders' descended on Lake Hefner but the Great Black-backed Gull was not seen; however, John Kennington reports his group located two

**Long-tailed Ducks**; Joe found another **Kumlien's Iceland Gull** candidate; and Steve Davis and Mary discovered **six Great Egrets** just south of Stars and Stripes Park. At Dolese Sand Pit in Logan County Mary and Lou Truex found Hooded Merganser and Field Sparrow, and at Lake Carl Blackwell a **Spotted Sandpiper**. At the OSU Cross Country Course Tim O'Connell spotted a **Smith's Longspur**.

By the 13<sup>th</sup> the ice had melted on Lake Overholser, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> Ruben Stoll reported a Loggerhead Shrike off of I-40 in Pottawatomie County. On the 16<sup>th</sup> at Lake Hefner 's Prairie Dog Point Joe Grzybowski located 400+ **Herring Gulls**, 3000+ **Ring-billed Gulls**, 50 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 1 **Franklin's Gull**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, 1 **Glaucous Gull**, 1 **swarm-hybrid Thayer's/Kumlien's**, 1 probable adult **"Nelson's" Gull** – hybrid Herring/Glaucous Gull, 12 **Thayer's Gulls** (clearly the most Thayer's he's seen in a day in Oklahoma ) and **two mystery gulls** to ID from photos.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> Mary and Lou Truex located a Fox Sparrow at the Stroud Sewage Lagoon in Lincoln County. On the 17<sup>th</sup> Torre Hovick saw a **Brown Creeper** in Couch Park in Payne County. On the 19<sup>th</sup> at Lake Hefner Ernie Wilson noted the **Long-tailed Duck** was still present. Jimmy Woodard and Larry Mays birded Lincoln County mostly at Chandler and Bell Cow Lakes and found **Rusty Blackbirds**. On the 20<sup>th</sup> Jim and John Bates saw a **Ferruginous Hawk** near NW 63<sup>rd</sup> and Morgan Road. On the 21<sup>st</sup> John Sterling spotted one **Short-eared Owl** northeast of Paul's Valley. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bill Diffin checked Rose Lake and had about 1,000 geese crowded into the west end including 20 **Snow Geese** and 2 **Greater White-fronted Geese**.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> at Taylor Lake Bill Adams confirmed the **Lewis's Woodpecker** was still there, and Phillip Leonard noticed a **Rough-legged Hawk**, and **Wilson's Snipe**. Brian Muzny heard **Horned Larks** at SW 80<sup>th</sup> and Western. Nearby Patti has a **Brown Thrasher** visiting her porch for the crushed pecans she puts out for it, Northern Cardinals and Northern Mockingbird. Talk about spoiling the birds!

In Garvin County Jimmy Woodward birded around Paul's Valley Lake, met up with David Gainey of Sulphur and birded Lake R. C. Longmire where they saw **Black Vulture**, Bald Eagle, Greater Yellowlegs, and Bewick's Wren. At his home in Oklahoma City, John Hurd had a **Purple Finch**. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Torre Hovick discovered a **Pine Warbler** at Lake Carl Blackwell; and on the 27<sup>th</sup> John Sterling in Garvin County reported **73 Northern Cardinals** at his feeder. The Year has started with a variety of interesting reports!!

For January 2014, **144** bird species were reported in the Central Oklahoma area. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds and can be contacted by e-mail at [emkok@earthlink.net](mailto:emkok@earthlink.net). Esther M. Key, Editor.

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# Chirpings

## Late January 2014

By Patti Muzny

Our winter so far has been a potpourri of extremes and each one of these dramatic changes brings about a different challenge for our feathered creatures, as well as for the humans who provide food, water and habit for them. While I know the bitter cold, angry winds and precipitation make life so much more challenging for the birds, I look forward to some of these changes because the dynamics of life for the birds and their feeding habits change as well.

During the summer and even last winter, we rarely saw a White-winged Dove in our back yard. This winter we've had as many as 20-25. They've displaced some of the Collared Doves we usually have. They swoop in famished in the morning and consume large amounts of bird seed. With them are



several Cardinals, a Brown Thrasher, Bewick's and Carolina Wrens, American Goldfinches, Blue Jays, Mockingbirds and dozens of English Sparrows. And I finally saw a House Finch on the thistle feeder, a species that has been conspicuously absent this summer and winter. This menagerie attracts the resident Cooper's Hawk and an occasional Sharp-shinned Hawk. These fierce predators create total havoc around the bird feeders.

The weekend of January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> was one of those beautiful, calm, warm weekends and everything was out foraging.



While gathering pecans along our back fence, we found Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwings, and a Red-shouldered Hawk. Brian also found a pair of Merlins and a Harlan's Hawk near I-240 and

South Western. I keep waiting for one of those Merlins to visit our feeding station. It's only a few blocks away.

On that weekend I noticed Robins were chirping and feeding in the neighborhood. The neighborhood also still has Eastern Bluebirds, although we have not seen them inspecting our bluebird houses yet.

A trip to our Byars cabin on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January was filled with great birding. On our way to the cabin we spotted three Roadrunners and heard one on our property. The Barred Owls were hooting at 1:00 PM. Robins were chattering throughout the woods. Carolina Wrens were extremely happy with the warm day. I also found the first Field Sparrows we've seen in a while on our property. There were small flying insects that had come out to add a little dietary protein for the insect-eaters, including several Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. The Golden-crowns are such friendly little woodland ornaments. They will flutter within about three feet of me, doing their flycatching routine, while I stand there and just absorb their incredible beauty!



Male Eastern Bluebirds were already perching on the rooftops of our bluebird houses along the walking trails. Brilliant flashes of blue rivaled the crisp blue sky overhead. The Turkey Vultures were patrolling the skies for something ripe enough for a snack. Armadillos were rooting through the deep leaves, oblivious to anything else but their mission. Brian noticed Otter tracks along the pond again. There goes what's left of our diminishing catfish population. Oh, well.

As this article is being written, the skies are gloomy, it's cold and windy and we're promised some potentially treacherous winter weather. It's a weekend and we will have the feeders stocked and the heated water bowls filled and will be spending a lot of time looking out the window to see what Ma Nature brings in. Now if Ma Nature would just freeze off the mosquitoes and ticks and leave the birds and animals out of the equation, that would suit me just fine!

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## Check out these great Bird Cams!

[http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/38/FeederWatch\\_Cam](http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/38/FeederWatch_Cam) Feeder cam in Ontario, Canada

<http://www.ustream.tv/okcowlcaml#Teachers> Great Horned Owl nest in OKC

Oklahoma City Audubon Society  
c/o Carla Brueggen  
8010 NW 32  
Bethany, OK 73008

## Field Trip Schedule 2014

Check with Mark Delgrosso or the website/ newsletter for updates and final scheduling

**FEB.13 (RAIN DATE Feb.20): Woodcock Mating Watch:** observe male woodcocks performing their mating 'dance'. Dinner at Lupe's Mexican(1000 S Douglas, Midwest City) around 5 and then on to the woodcock leks. *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard [j.woodard@cox.net]

**APRIL 19: Yukon City Park** : join Jimmy Woodard on a birding tour of his (former) stomping grounds. If interested, meet for breakfast at the IHOP (I-40 and Mustang Rd.) at around 7am - otherwise meet at the Park around 8am. *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard [j.woodard@cox.net; 405 365 5685]

**early MAY: Tulsa birding hotspots:** *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard [j.woodard@cox.net]

**MAY [Memorial Day weekend]: Quivira Nat'l Wildlife Refuge:** on to Kansas and Quivira for possible breeding Black Rails- possible side-trip to Cheyenne Bottoms. *Leader:* Mark Delgrosso (405 445 2300/ markdelg94@gmail.com)

**Spring (APRIL or MAY): McGee Creek WMA/McCurtain County Wilderness:** two productive, birdy areas with many specialties, the most notable of which is OK's sole population of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Also on the menu are Prairie Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and abundant Chuck-wills-widows. Because of the distance from OKC this trip will be planned for a [2 or 3 day] weekend. *Leader:* Mark Delgrosso (405 445 2300 or email at: markdelg94@gmail.com) - *details and dates TBA*

**June: Club Picnic**

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