



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

February 2015

There and Back Again: A Bunting's Tale

The February 16 meeting program speaker will be Dr. Eli Bridge, a professor at the University of Oklahoma. Centering on the Painted Bunting, his presentation is entitled "There and Back Again: A Bunting's Tale."

Every spring and fall, billions of tiny migratory birds fly unseen through the night sky on journeys between regions, countries and even continents. Where they go and how they get there has been largely a mystery until the recent advent of tracking devices small enough to mount on a 15 gram bird. We installed these devices on some 15-gram birds called Painted Buntings in Southwestern Oklahoma. We used the resulting data to help explain some odd stable-isotope ratios we measured in their feathers and to figure out why so many members of this species showed up in Northwestern Mexico in the fall, far from their known wintering locations in and around Central America. We also compared the tracking data with agent-based models to see how well the real birds kept up with seasonal changes in the landscape.

Ultimately, our tracking efforts told us that Painted Buntings carry out a loop migration that takes them along both coasts of Mexico and that their migration tracks a seasonal pattern of productivity that is strongly influenced by the monsoons of the Sonoran Desert.



Dr. Bridge is an Assistant Professor in the Oklahoma Biological Survey at the University of Oklahoma. He is trained as an ornithologist and biologist, and he also builds electronic gadgets to help understand and conserve birds. His interests revolve around the evolution of avian life histories how birds negotiate tradeoffs among demanding activities such as breeding, feather molt, and migration. One of his explorations is how does a 15 gram songbird makes its way from a temperate breeding site to a tropical wintering area thousands of kilometers away while finding the food needed to fuel the journey and dodging predators along the way. Thanks to cell phone technology he can now builds tiny devices known as geolocation dataloggers (geologgers) that determine the approximate migration routes of individual songbirds. He has been involved in tracking species such as Painted Buntings, White Fronted Eleanias, and Northern Wheatears in the Americas and in Asia.

Another of Dr. Bridge's explorations is in parental programming which occurs when adult behavioral phenotypes (personalities) are determined early in life based on how parents behave toward their offspring. For example, he found some evidence that providing supplemental food to breeding Florida Scrub-Jays resulted in measureable effects on the survival, recruitment, reproductive success, and boldness of the birds' offspring. He and his colleagues have developed a sophisticated birdfeeder that uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to identify individual birds and dispense food to specific family members. With this tool they can control food availability for males, females, and helpers at the nest and infer how birds in these different roles affect the development of the next generation.

Come out and bring a friend and take part in a wonderful program on the spectacular Painted Bunting. 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.

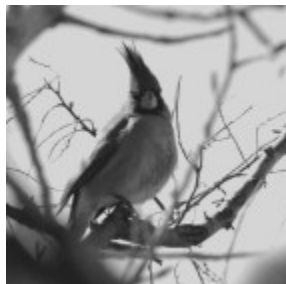
President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



Last month we looked at how well a parrot-like bill indicates membership in the parrot order, Psittaciformes. We found that although all parrots have a characteristic bill shape, there are some other bird groups that have a similar bill, the sylvioid parrotbills, the turacos and the mousebirds. An example closer to home is the Pyrrhuloxia

which with its crest could be mistaken for a relative of the Cockatiel, <http://goo.gl/sDTIsp>. The Pyrrhuloxia and the Cockatiel are an example of convergence, the expression of similar characters in distantly related species due to similar lifestyles. Besides parrots there are other bird groups in which a distinctive bill shape is consistent throughout a large number of related species. Examples are waterfowl, hawks and eagles, herons and egrets, and gulls.



There is another set of bird groups where the bill shape is recognizably similar throughout, but there is more variation than in the groups just listed. Examples are hummingbirds, shorebirds and storks. Then there is a third set of bird groups whose bills are so variable that the close relationship among them was obscure until careful studies were made. Examples are the honeycreepers of Hawaii, see all three pages here <http://goo.gl/6Hz4AB>, and the vangas of Madagascar. The Vangidae are so diverse and poorly studied that the limits of the family are still in the process of being discovered. A gallery of vanga species can be seen here, <http://goo.gl/8VXU0T>. Genetic studies have revealed that there are Malagasy birds which have traditionally been considered warblers, babblers or flycatchers that belong in the vanga family (see Wikipedia article, Vanga). An example is the following vangid which was until recently classified as a warbler, <http://goo.gl/tgr28n>.

It's possible to recognize distinctive recurring themes of bill structure in groups of birds even larger than an order. An example is the second branch of the Neoaves polytomy shown on ToL, the branch that contains Gruiformes and 'Water Birds' here, <http://goo.gl/bqRfUO>. A recurring theme is long-legged birds with long bills, the cranes in Gruiformes, the herons and egrets in Pelecaniformes, and the storks in Ciconiiformes, the latter two being orders within the 'Water Birds'. The only other branch in the Neoaves tree with large, long-legged birds is the small order Phoenicopteriformes, the flamingos, and they have a unique bill structure. Now if

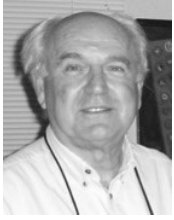
we relax our theme limits to just a long bill, long legs optional, we add to our "recurring theme" group the pelicans, anhingas, sulids (boobies and gannets) and ibises. Looking over what is left outside our group of definitely long-billed birds there is a group that begs to be added if only the bills were just a little longer. These are birds that swim after fish for a living, namely the loons, cormorants and penguins. Presumably due to their reliance on streamlined mobility, these swimmers have a bill that is shorter than the group already selected. A clever question to ask about the 2nd branch as a whole is whether to consider the long-billed group as consisting of a large number of convergent groups or whether to consider the short-billed birds like the turacos, cuckoos and bustards as divergent from the long-billed theme. From the standpoint of a birder trying to place an unknown bird into a group, it doesn't matter much. What matters is that the long bill on a large water bird provides a good clue to where the bird belongs phylogenetically and taxonomically.

Another large group with a recurring theme consists of three orders in the third branch of the ToL 'Land Birds' polytomy, the Bucerotiformes (hornbills and hoopoes), the Piciformes (woodpeckers and relatives), and the Coraciiformes (kingfishers and relatives), <http://goo.gl/ZES1Az>. The theme here is a large bill on a passerine-like, non-passerine bird. The largest bills are found in the hornbills in Bucerotiformes, e.g. Knobbed Hornbill, <http://goo.gl/zpj5pk>, and the toucans in Piciformes, e.g. Green-billed Toucan, <http://goo.gl/NYf9p8>. Within the Coraciiformes, the kookaburras have large bills which are wide for their length, e.g. Blue-winged Kookaburra, <http://goo.gl/5uzqsD>, while other kingfishers have bills both long and wide, e.g. White-throated Kingfisher, <http://goo.gl/XhRY11> and Stork-billed Kingfisher, <http://goo.gl/FHZZkWB>. The resemblance between the puffbirds in order Piciformes and the kookaburras in Coraciiformes is striking, e.g. White-whiskered Puffbird, <http://goo.gl/J6YuLG>. There are also members of these orders with long, thin bills recognizably similar to the bills in the larger billed group, for example the Common Scimitarbill in Bucerotiformes, <http://goo.gl/MbgHxD>, the Rufous-tailed Jacamar in Piciformes, <http://goo.gl/uDGk37> and the European Bee-eater in Coraciiformes, <http://goo.gl/t02P0e>.

To sum up, convergence can suggest relationships which are false as with the parrots and the Pyrrhuloxia, the parrotbills, the turacos and the mousebirds. On the other hand, divergence can obscure true relationships as in the Vangas and Hawaiian Honeycreepers. However if the appropriate amount of knowledge and care are applied, a somewhat generalized bill shape criteria can be useful for characterizing birds in large groups of related species as in the Psittaciformes, the Gruiformes-Pelecaniformes-Ciconiiformes and the Bucerotiformes-Piciformes-Coraciiformes.

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



Recently Bill Diffin relayed to me some interesting information about the Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*). The Ferruginous Hawk has small feet for its size. One of the references was from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum website (desertmuseum.org/visit/rff_ferruginous.php), which stated that small feet “aids them hunting burrowing mammals. They make a ‘fist’ and punch it into the dirt of a burrow, and pull out the animal.” Bill sent several additional references backing up this statement. A related behavior is that Ferruginous Hawks do not mind sitting on the ground for long periods of time, especially in prairie dogtowns, waiting for a mammal to show evidence of itself. They take many pocket gophers, and, although they usually do not see the animal itself, they see the dirt moving along a burrow that indicates a gopher underground. No doubt it is then they leap with balled-up fists to catch prey.

I have mentioned before that in 1986 I studied 5 rare nesting species in Cimarron County. The Ferruginous Hawk was 1 of the species. On 1 occasion I stayed half a day in a blind, built by Bill Voelker (whom many of you know), photographing at the nest of a light-plumaged (normal) male and dark-plumaged female, the first such pairing photographed in Oklahoma.

In one instance I observed the male bring a pocket gopher and drop it to the female at the nest, leave, and in less than 4 minutes return with another pocket gopher. Pretty efficient prey gathering!

The Ferruginous Hawk is the largest Buteo hawk we have, at 23 inches. It is brown on the back and whitish on the breast with some streaks on the flank. The tail may have a suggestion of red, but not as red as a Red-tailed Hawk. The tell-tale mark is legs with brown feathers down to the toes. In flight the brown feathered legs form a V against the light breast. There is also a dark phase; seen in flight, the underwing has whitish on the primaries

and secondaries. And the most important distinguishing feature is a tail that is a little lightish overall when seen from underneath, but does not have a lightish band across the under-tail like the dark phase of the Rough-legged Hawk has.

Two falconers and I once had an interesting conversation with a local rancher in Cimarron County. We were talking about eagles and the resident said that there were 3 kinds of eagles locally. The three of us assured her that there were only 2 kinds of eagles, but she was very insistent there were 3—the Bald Eagle, the Golden Eagle, and the Spanish Eagle—which she said was slightly smaller than the other 2. We let the discussion drop after a while, but she never gave in. Many years later it hit me—the “Spanish Eagle” was the dark form of the Ferruginous Hawk, so everyone was right! I had even seen a “Spanish Eagle” (local name) in the lady’s “neighborhood.”

In winter the Ferruginous Hawk comes across about the western 1/3 of the state, and on rare occasions we get 1 on our Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Patti and Brian Muzny have found 1 for the last 2 years on our CBC, perhaps the same bird I am guessing. Congratulations to them for great work.

In Oklahoma the Ferruginous Hawk nests primarily in Cimarron County and some in Texas County, but in the not too distant past they have even been found nesting as far east as the main body of the state. They build a huge nest reminiscent of a Bald Eagle nest, and usually place it in a low tree or on a windmill tower;

in some areas other than Oklahoma they will nest on the ground. I once found an active nest on a windmill tower that was missing its rotary blades. One day when I was checking up on it, the nest was gone from the tower. I was puzzled until I noticed “sticks” and broken eggs beneath the tower. I picked up several of the sticks, and they turned out to be the dead stalks that once held the blooms of yucca plants. To my surprise these stalks felt lighter than balsam wood. As a result, I have little doubt that on a windy Oklahoma day, the nest made primarily of yucca stalks simply blew off the windmill tower, no match for the Oklahoma wind.



Minutes of the Meeting

January 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Diffin.

Guests: Patti High of Edmond; Delores Smith, OKC; Kevin Johnson, OKC; Alex Rizzo, OKC; Pilar Escobar, Chickasha; Ann Fabian, El Reno; Julie Hoffman, Sulfur; and Linda Perkins, Pauls Valley .

Minutes of December 15, 2014 were approved as published.

Treasurer Nancy Vicars reported 2014 had a one year net gain of \$44.10. Cash on hand 1/26/2015 is \$5,800.08.

Field Trip Committee chairman Mark Delgrosso will lead a field trip this Saturday Feb 7 to leave Stars and Stripes Park at Lake Hefner at 9.00 am.

Bill Diffin will lead trip on February 14th to Canton Lake; meet at 8am at McDonalds NW Expwy/Piedmont Road.

See Warren Harden if interested in visiting the Pottawatomie Nation Eagle Aviary later this month.

Sue Woodson passed the signup sheet for refreshments for the year's meetings.

Dave Woodson, conservation committee chairman announced the Citizen Science Project from Feb 13-16 known as the Great Backyard Bird Count. Enroll online at the website GBBCbirdcount.org.

Upcoming March 2nd is a chance to work with Edmond home schoolers age K-6 at the Martin Park Nature Center.

John Shackford presented the results from the Christmas Bird Count. There were 47 participants and 116 species. Dinner followed at the home of Diane Newell.

Jimmy Woodard, Larry Mays, Doug Wood, and Julie Kauffman attended the bird count at Pontotoc Ridge Preserve, and recommend the area for birders, as there are facilities and bunkhouses.

Recent sightings: Iceland gull and long-tailed ducks have been seen recently at Lake Hefner.

Professor Doug Wood gave a great presentation on his trip to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador.

Next meeting will be third Monday in February, Feb 16 at 7pm.

Many thanks to Marion Homier for taking the minutes for this meeting in my absence.

Sharon Henthorn, secretary



Refreshments

Refreshments for the February meeting will be provided by Nadine Varner, Jim & Tony Solorio, and John Bates

DUES NOTICE

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2015. 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 .

Oklahoma City Audubon Society

Officers 2015

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

OKC-Audubon.org

San Antonio Zoo

By Jimmy Woodard



Nadine, Joyce and I left for San Antonio on Friday morning December 26th. We spent most of the day driving down and arrived in San Antonio late in the afternoon. We stayed in the north side of town to be near the area of the zoo. The weather was warm when we left OKC but it got overcast and cooler the further south we went.

Saturday, we headed to the zoo which opened at 9AM. The weather was cold, windy and rainy. The zoo is located in a large greenbelt area a few miles north of downtown SA. We birded around the entrance before it opened and had a few Black-crested Titmouse and many flyover Black-bellied Whistling Ducks.

In the zoo, we noticed that there were many bird exhibits and several aviaries. There was a large outside pen holding a large number of American Flamingoes. Nadine viewed the birds and the exhibit cage for a long time. She takes care of flamingoes at the OKC zoo so her curiosity was peaked to see how they were cared for at this zoo.

The biggest aviary was the South American Aviary which consisted of a very large outdoor flight pen which was completely covered with netting. Inside was a large pond and several large trees for the birds to perch or roost. There were feeders on poles in the water. Several species of ducks cruised along on the water and on the land around the trees. Several Scarlet Ibis, Yellow-crowned Night Herons and Fulvous Whistling Ducks flew around the enclosure constantly. A passing rainshower forced us to seek shelter in a covered platform in this aviary. It was nice to be dry and have an upclose perch to watch the birds.

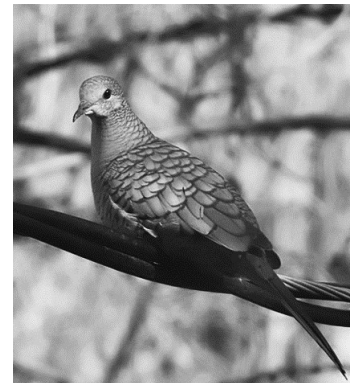


We enjoyed the other exhibits offered at the zoo. There was a new adult Jaguar on display in a large outdoor cage. Part of the cage was glass and people could sit almost within touching distance and watch this beautiful large cat pace up and down just a few feet away. Nearby was another very large open pit enclosed by the elevated walkway and a natural bluff face. This yard held a single Elephant but there could've been others inside a large barn in the display.

Also on exhibit were several other species normally

seen in zoos like lions, tigers, zebras, hippo, cheetah, monkeys, lemurs, and bears. A few of the more unusual denizens of this zoo were Sun Bear, Spectacled Bear, Bateleur Eagle, Bush Dogs, Warthog, Red River Hog, Cassowary, Secretary Bird, King Vulture and Capybara. There was a large outdoor yard under construction which is to house giraffes and is due to be completed sometime in 2015.

This zoo is fairly compact so you don't have to do a lot of walking to see all the displays. My favorite place was the Hixson Bird House which was an indoor aviary. There was a central atrium with plants and an open display of free flying birds. There was a ring of regular glassed in display cases with birds all around the outside. As we sat on benches and walked around the displays, several birds either flew up to us or landed beside us. I had two Cinnamon Finches land within a few feet. A Sunbittern almost walked right up to me.



There was another outdoor covered aviary and also a Lori Landing aviary where you could buy seed and hand feed the lorikeets. Also, almost every outdoor enclosure had wild birds visiting the displays. There were several hundred Black-bellied Whistling Ducks everywhere in the zoo. Several would perch on a railing or wall and wait till we got close before flying away. I suspect they were waiting for handouts as they were almost tame. We also saw several egrets and herons and some Inca Doves hanging out in some of the displays.

All in all, this zoo was a nice place to visit. One could easily cover it in half a day. Since it's near downtown, it's also near the Alamo and other attractions. Some of the signage and cages are a little dated but this place is worth a visit if you plan a trip to San Antonio.

Welcome!

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes
new members

Jeff Roberts, OKC
David Leverett, Norman, OK
Sherman Barr, Edmond, OK

Recorders Report

January 2015

A New Adventure Plan

A new year and new adventures await and what is your birding goal for the year? Goals can vary from backyard bird watchers to Noah Strycker who is traveling the world this year to find 5,000 bird species. Then there are the county explorers such as Mary and Lou Truex who have so far birded 60 Oklahoma counties since 2011. Meanwhile, last year Melinda overcame her fear of eBird and used it to work on her goal to see 100 species each month in her selected area. She didn't make it every month, but it was fun and educational!! So what is your goal this year: to attract more birds in the backyard or to explore far beyond the backyard?



A late report for December 30th from Randy Soto advises of a **Lewis's Woodpecker** at the boat docking area on the North side of Bell Cow Lake in Chandler in Lincoln County. On the 1st Eric Duell birded Kingfisher County and discovered Loggerhead Shrike, **Lapland Longspur**, American Tree Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Meanwhile in Lincoln County along the Turner Turnpike Chad Ellis saw a Great Blue Heron and Cooper's Hawk. In Logan County Zach Poland located Sharp-shinned Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Great Horned Owl and Barred Owl. A **Great Egret** was seen by Joe Grzybowski at Lake Thunderbird and Don Maas at Lake Hefner.

On the 2nd Bob Ellis reported a **Franklin's Gull** at Crystal Lake in Oklahoma County, and Jerry Taylor saw a **Forster's Tern** at Lake Hefner. On the 3rd Zach Poland located the **Lewis's Woodpecker** at



Lake Carl Blackwell. On the 4th Matt Jung scanned Lake Hefner and found Greater Yellowlegs and Northern Pintail. He also checked Lake Overholser but it was mostly frozen over and swept clean of birds. On the 8th Christie Stoops discovered Hairy Woodpecker, Canvasback, and Bald Eagle on Cottonwood Creek in

Logan County. Joe Grzybowski saw a **Ferruginous Hawk** in Grady County, and Larry Mays spotted a **Glaucous Gull** at Lake Hefner. On the 9th Hal

Yocum saw a Winter Wren at Mitch Park.



On the 10th at Boomer Lake Corey Riding saw a **Purple Finch** and at Babcock Park a **Hermit Thrush**.

Jaci Finch forwarded an announcement from Shirley Conaway that Mama Great Horned

Owl just laid her first

egg of the season. You can follow the family on Alessondra's OKC Great Horned Owl-Cam at http://www.ustream.tv/okcowlcam?utm_source=crowd-live-backend&utm_medium=visit-channel&utm_campaign=notifications How much more exciting can backyard birdwatching be?

On the 11th Scott Loss located a 1st cycle **Thayer's Gull** on the ice in the drizzle and drear. Bob Ellis discovered a Belted Kingfisher at Lake El Reno, and Larry Mays noted a **Hermit Thrush** at Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge. On the 12th at the Goldsby Sod Farm in McClain County Paul Cook located **Horned Lark**, Savanna Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow. On the 14th Jeff Tibbits located **Prairie Falcon**, and **Rough-legged Hawk** in western Canadian County. On the 16th Christine Snitkin saw 40 **Snow Geese** on Purcell Lake; and Larry Mays found **Smith's Longspur** in the Norman Embassy Suites Hotel north field.



On the 17th at Lake Thunderbird Charlotte Wainwright and Kyle Horton reported a **Turkey Vulture** while T K added a **Black Vulture**. Brandon Thurston saw the **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Lake Carl Blackwell, and Ethan Maynard had a Greater Roadrunner along I-35 near Guthrie. On the 19th Kevin Groeneweg located Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thayer's Gulls, Greater Scaup, and Common Merganser at Stars and Stripes Park. On the 20th Sara and Scott Loss took advantage of the beautiful weather to walk the Lake Hefner bike loop and noted that it was eerie how calm the lake was; like glass. They found a Wilson's Snipe, American Pipit and flushed a **Short-eared Owl** from a clump of grass along the dam sidewalk.

On the 23rd Donna Mackiewicz located a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at her home in Logan County. Along the Lake Hefner dam Bill Diffin made a search for Common Loons and found 12 and 14 on the 24th. While Cameron Carver from Lubbock, Caleb Frome and Brandon Thlurston found a **light-mantled gull** at Lake Hefner. William Buskirk noticed a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds and a Rough-legged Hawk along I-44 in Grady County.

In Seminole County Larry Mays and Jimmy Woodward observed **Turkey Vulture**, Loggerhead Shrike, Swamp Sparrow, Canvasback; and in Pottawatomie County they located an **Eastern Towhee**, Wood Duck, Hooded



Merganser, and Merlin. At the Little River State Park John Tharp spotted a Lesser Black-backed Gull. On the 25th Rocklin D. Lyons found at least 4 Bald Eagles around Lake Guthrie, and at Taylor Lake John Ault had Ring-necked Duck and

Harris's Sparrows. At Lake Hefner Joe Grzyboswki identified a first winter **Iceland Gull** and an adult **Thayer's Gull** along with as many as 1700 mergansers. While in a subgroup of Common Goldeneye there were two **Long-tailed Ducks**.

On the 27th at Lake Hefner Cameron Carver found a gull that he strongly suspects was a second-cycle California Gull. On the 31st Tamara Srader photographed several birds in Lincoln County including Loggerhead Shrike and Pine Siskins, and Hollis Price was surprised with an **Evening Grosbeak** at her feeders northeast of Jones.

Which 3 species were reported in 11 out of 12 counties? Nope, European

Starlings and Northern Cardinals were reported in 10 counties and House sparrows and Rock Pigeons were reported in 7 which shows we have lots of missing information. For a copy of the bird sightings by county send me an email. Or better yet, go birdwatching, record your sightings in eBird and help fill in the



missing gaps !!! And check <http://www.audubon.org/features/birding-without-borders> for the adventure story of the year. For January 2015, **135** 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. Esther M. Key, Editor.



OKC Audubon Society

Financial Report for 2014

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

INCOME:

Membership dues	1,313.47
Checking Acct. interest	9.24
Car stickers	42.20
Contributions	<u>155.00</u>
	1,519.91

+1,519.91

7,324.51

EXPENSES:

Meeting room rent	320.00
Newsletter (copies & postage)	691.40
Club Promotion	25.82
Memb. dues (Garden Council)	15.00
Summer Social & Xmas count	255.59
Speaker Honorarium	50.00
Contributions	<u>118.00</u>

1,475.81

-1,475.81

CASH ON HAND 12/31/2014
\$5,848.70

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

2015 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Check with Mark Delgrosso at: markdelg94@gmail.com or the website/ newsletter for updates and final scheduling/ cancellations.

FEB 13—16 The 18th annual Great Back-yard Bird Count. Please visit the official website at www.birdcount.org for more information and some free apps at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/birding-apps/>

FEB. 14, Canton Lake Meet at the McDonald's at NW Expressway and Piedmont Rd., 8 am. *Leader:* Bill Diffin (williamdiffin@aol.com)

FEB. 17, (Tuesday) Mitch Park in northwest Edmond along Covell, between Santa Fe & Kelly. Meet at the Old School Bagel Café on Covell, just east of Kelly in the mini-mall at 8:00 AM. *Leader:* Hal Yocum 819-4852 Contact Hal if planning to attend.

FEB. 21, Citizen Potawatomie Aviary: a visit to this Native American facility, where eagles are the star attraction, has been arranged by Warren Harden, whom you should contact for details. Interested members should meet Warren at the facility near Shawnee at 11am. *Leader:* Warren Harden (wharden@odmhsas.org)

MARCH 3, Woodcock mating: *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard (j.woodard@cox.net) Meet at 5PM for dinner at Chequers Restaurant and Pub, 1009 S Air Depot in Midwest City. If participants don't want to do dinner, they can meet us at the lek, Stanley Draper Dr. N just E of intersection with S Midwest Blvd., 6 pm. This event is weather dependent.

SPRING:

- In/around OKC Zoo: *Leader:* Nadine Varner
- Mitch Park: *Leader:* John Shackford (johnsshack@aol.com)

May 2 Backyard birding: Member Nancy Reed has invited interested birders to her property in Norman for spring migration. Her extensive property hosts a diversity of habitats that should make for a productive and exciting morning of birding. *Leader:* Mark Delgrosso (markdelg94@gmail.com)

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)

JUNE: Club Picnic
