

Birding in Cuba

Jay Pruett, a former director for conservation at The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma will be our guest presenter

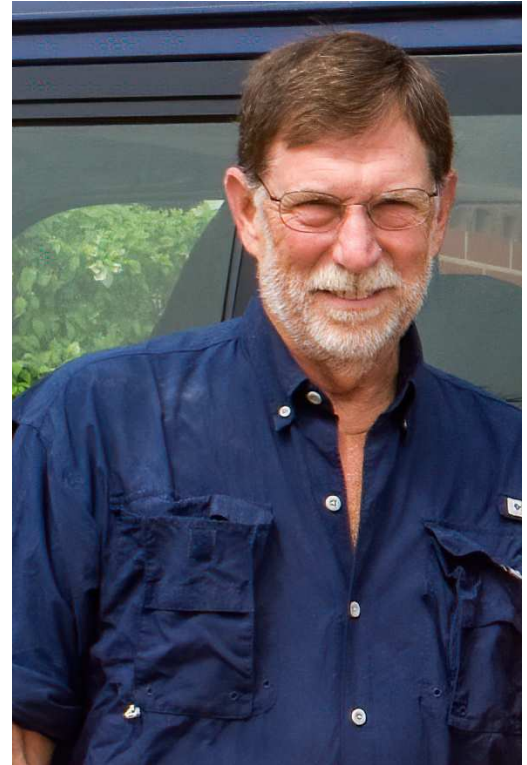
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The Oklahoma City Audubon society is neither a chapter of nor affiliated with National Audubon.

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Jay Pruett was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and grew up in Oklahoma City. He graduated from Rice University in Houston, with a major in Biology. He initially worked in pollution control for a government agency, but then began a long career as head of environmental affairs for an electric utility company. He attended executive schools at LSU, Michigan, Yale and Stanford. He retired from American Electric Power in 2003 and joined The Nature Conservancy as the Director of Conservation for the Oklahoma Chapter until his retirement in 2018. He was responsible for development and implementation of conservation initiatives for the state and oversaw the management of TNC preserves there. He acted as TNC's representative to federal, state and local conservation agencies and organizations. He was also involved with wind energy and electric transmission siting issues with regard to wildlife and its habitats at state, national and international levels.



Jay lives in Tulsa and still serves on a number of boards for conservation organizations, including the Sutton Avian Research Center, Tulsa Audubon Society, Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council, Oklahoma Prescribed Fire Council and Oxley Nature Center. He enjoys international travel, hiking, birding, nature photography, and collecting natural history books, antique natural history lithographs (especially of birds), wildlife art and tribal masks. He also participates as a walker in half marathons.

Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month (with the exception of January, when the meeting is held on the fourth Monday). Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Meeting Location:

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

President's Perspective

FOR THE BIRDS

Hal A. Yocum

I want to give a little background about myself as your newly chosen President. We members of OCAS are definitely all "for the birds." For me it started on our small dairy farm in central PA as a teenager. My father was a pretty good self-taught naturalist and passed on that interest to myself and my three brothers. That interest was "everything nature" - trees, animals, insects, snakes, frogs, lizards, rocks (especially arrowheads), astronomy, flowers, BUT ESPECIALLY BIRDS! Many birds nested in the trees and fields of our farm - robins, vireos, orioles, woodpeckers, owls, cardinals, titmice, sparrows, quail, even turkeys.

My first rare birds were a bald eagle along the river and a visiting snowy owl the winter I was 14-15. Then came the Boy Scouts and all the many nature related merit badges a scout could earn. There was one called BIRD STUDY. After that I was hooked. I checked out all the Golden Nature Books from the library and eventually bought them all. Later came a real bird book: Birds of Eastern North America by Roger Tory Peterson. That book was my "go to bird book" for many, many years. By the way, bird study merit badge had several requirements. The hardest was to identify 40 birds and that took me about 6 months. My #40 was a brown creeper.

Since then, I always look for and study the birds where I have lived, or visited. That has included PA, MD, NJ, WA, CO, NM, HI, and OK for my military years and Medical Practice career. I have visited all but 5 states, as well as Germany, England, France, Egypt, Japan, Australia, Mexico and the Caribbean. So many birds and now that I am older so little time left.

For the next year or two I hope to work with all involved to make our society better and even bigger. We can do that by continuing our wonderful meetings with great speakers, assisting Will Rogers Park with the Bluebird project and public bird walks at Will Rogers and elsewhere in the community.

All of us are interested in a whole menu of Field trips, particularly during the spring and fall migration. Every month of the year there are great places, right here in Oklahoma, that many of us have not visited nor birded. There are also several very good, although small, birding conventions here - the Leks and Treks done by the Tulsa Audubon (in April) and the Red Slough Convention held in Idabel (in early May). Special long distance trips to KS, TX, AR are really worth while. When you are up to it, participate in the CBC.

Membership can grow by inviting a friend. Efforts to bring



bird watching to young people whenever we have an opportunity is really the long term future of birding.

I appreciate getting to know most of you over the last 8-9 years and I appreciate how many, many members "step up and step in" to make our bird club what it is.

2019 OKC Audubon CBC Results

OKC Audubon conducted its annual CBC on Saturday Dec 14 and we had 26 count teams and 50 participants in the field including six new participants! A couple of our perineal teams were not able to participate but we look forward to their contributions next year!

A few participants were ambitious and conducted owling and were treated to temps in the mid-40s with very light south-westerly winds. However, shortly after sunrise a frontal boundary rolled through and winds switched all the around to the northeast sustained at ~10 mph for the rest of the day. The daytime low barely dipped below 40 degrees but the sun finally came out by mid-afternoon where it moderated back up into the mid-40s. Our efforts comprised of 113 party-hours and 289 miles walked/driven resulted in an impressive 115 species and a total of 47,951 birds.

Several species were extra noteworthy based on range and/or season as a Lesser Goldfinch amazingly spotted by the Holbrook/Hacker team tops the list! White-winged Scoter, Red-necked Grebe, American Woodcock and Franklin's Gull (3) round out the top five rarities.

Trends also continue to be monitored which includes almost being shut-out on Common Mergansers if not for the heroics of Matt Jung. However, on the flip side, the Shackford team found an impressive flock of nine Chipping Sparrows and along those lines a total of 15 Eastern Phoebes were tallied from 10 separate count teams. Limited shoreline/mudflats at Hefner and Overholser likely contributed to missing on Least Sandpiper and being down on Killdeer.

Other impressive birds and/or numbers include 819 American White Pelicans, 14 Great Egrets, 13 Marsh Wrens (Kuhnert team found eight on the north side of Overholser). Also noteworthy were five Killdeer found at a pond by the Brueggen/Steward team and Brian Marra added an impressive Count Week bird (Surf Scoter) on Dec 15.

I look forward to our club's monthly meeting on Jan 27 (7 pm) at the Will Rogers Garden Center to give a brief summary and answer questions about the Count. Ed Godfrey of The Oklahoman wrote a really nice story (link below) on this year's Count- <https://oklahoman.com/article/5649931/christmas-comes-early-for-oklahoma-city-birders>

The complete list is below and it will also be made available on the OKC Audubon Society website - <https://okc-audubon.org> in CBC Reports. Thank you for making this a very special Count! —*Nathan Kuhnert, Compiler*

Species	#	Species	#	Species	#
Cackling Goose	74	Merlin	2	Winter Wren	3
Canada Goose	791	American Coot	576	Marsh Wren	13
Wood Duck	4	Killdeer	13	Gold.-cr. Kinglet	3
Gadwall	189	Gr. Yellowlegs	23	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	19
American Wigeon	45	Wilson's Snipe	7	Eastern Bluebird	83
Mallard	805	Am. Woodcock	1	Hermit Thrush	1
Northern Shoveler	428	Bonaparte's Gull	256	Am. Robin	2053
Northern Pintail	1	Franklin's Gull	3	North. Mockingbird	77
Am. Green-winged Teal	19	Ring-billed Gull	10468	Brown Thrasher	63
Canvasback	156	Herring Gull	58	Eur. Starling	18889
Redhead	21	Lesser Black-b Gull	1	Amer. Pipit	1
Ring-necked Duck	208	Forster's Tern	5	Cedar Waxwing	368
Greater Scaup	1	Rock Pigeon	406	Or.-cr. Warbler	1
Lesser Scaup	114	Eur. Collared-Dove	134	Com. Yellowthroat	2
Bufflehead	68	White-wing. Dove	67	Y-rumped Warbler	174
Common Goldeneye	76	Mourning Dove	78	Spotted Towhee	19
Hooded Merganser	88	Gr. Roadrunner	1	Amer. Tree Sp.	1
Common Merganser	1	Gr. Horned Owl	1	Chipping Sp.	10
Red-breasted Merg.	99	Barred Owl	1	Field Sparrow	14
Ruddy Duck	110	Belt. Kingfisher	25	Sav. Sparrow	22
White-winged Scoter	1	Red-headed Wood.	2	Fox Sparrow	12
Surf Scoter (count wk.)	1	Red-bellied Wood.	41	Song Sparrow	171
Common Loon	18	Y-bellied Sapsucker	9	Lincoln Sp.	9
Pied-billed Grebe	201	Downy Wood.	56	Swamp Sparrow	9
Red-necked Grebe	4	Hairy Wood.	4	Wh-throated Sp.	46
Eared Grebe	1	North. Flicker	79	Harris's Sparrow	219
Am. White Pelican	879	Pileated Wood.	2	Wh-crowned Sp.	61
Great Egret	14	East. Phoebe	15	Dark-eyed Junco	460
Black-cr. Night-Heron	7	Blue Jay	214	Longspur sp.	25
Bald Eagle	1	Am. Crow	197	North. Cardinal	217
Northern Harrier	1	Horned Lark	12	Red-w. Blackbird	3512
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Carolina Chickadee	128	E. Meadowlark	45
Cooper's Hawk	6	Tufted Titmouse	25	<i>Meadowlark sp.</i>	6
<i>Accipter sp.</i>	1	Wh-breast. Nut.	1	Com. Grackle	86
Red-shouldered H.	12	Brown Creeper	1	Gr-tailed Grackle	1958
Red-tailed Hawk	86	Carolina Wren	97	B-headed Cowbird	1
American Kestrel	26	Bewick's Wren	5	House Finch	71
Pine Siskin	4	Amer. Goldfinch	230	Lesser Goldfinch	1
House Sparrow	164				

More Big Bend Adventure

August 27, 2019

By Patti Muzny

Big Bend is an immense National Park and I'm still thinking of all the wonderful experiences we had in and around there last August. So, I'm still writing about Big Bend. In previous stories about this fantastic place, I believe I mentioned that it was HOT! Well, even though it is hot in August in the desert, it does rain... and hail...and the wind can blow the rain and hail sideways. And how do we know this? You have to read to the end!

Our day began with another breathtaking sunrise from the front porch of our Airbnb home a few miles west of Terlingua. We had certainly found a jewel of a place to stay. Around our yard we could see Scaled Quail families, Cactus Wren, Black-throated Sparrow, Rock Squirrel, Pyrrhuloxia, Mourning Doves, Roadrunner and a few other desert species. It was hard to get going in the mornings. There was so much to see in our "yard."

The five of us loaded into Steve's and Mary's CRV and had breakfast omelets at our favorite Chili Pepper Café in Terlingua before heading back into the park. We took Old Maverick Road which was a little rough, but easily navigated. We spooked a Great Horned Owl along the road and could stop anywhere we liked because we had the place to ourselves.

Our destination was the beautiful Santa Elena Canyon, where we could get down to the Rio Grande and really get the feel of this area. This was one of the areas where it might be possible to see a Common Black Hawk. As we were walking around in the sand at the edge of the river, we spotted our quarry!! And, we not only got to see it perch, but it flew up over our heads and began to soar above the river with a Turkey Vulture.

And it was HOT! When we trudged through the sand to our car, we were rewarded with a beautiful Townsend's Warbler foraging in the trees. We then made our way to Cottonwood Canyon, where Vermillion Flycatchers were everywhere! We got good looks at Western Wood Pewees, Say's Phoebes, Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Summer Tanager, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Lark Sparrow, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers and a possible Dickcissel. And of course, the ubiquitous Roadrunner.

Next on our agenda was back to the Chili Pepper Café for dinner. We noticed some storm clouds gathering, but we didn't realize Ma Nature might be brewing some remarkable weather. While we were enjoying another late dinner, it began to rain... and rain...and rain...and hail and what moisture was coming down was coming down sideways! We finished our dinner and walked out onto the screen porch at the café, which had a tin roof. Our intent was to jump in the car. The rain was so heavy; it was hard to see the front of the car, which was parked right in front of the café. Steve decided we could make a run for it.

He made a run for it and we hunkered down against the front of the café and wouldn't come out.

He started the car and motioned for us to join him. Not us! As the hail began to hammer his car, he drove away across the street and parked against a building to shield it somewhat from the hail.



Finally, the more ferocious part of the storm moved off into Big Bend and Steve came back for us and we ran to the car and jumped in. Now for the interesting part! To return to our home, there were two areas where water drains from the hills and mud and rocks and other debris can (and did) wash across the paved road. It was very, very dark. It was raining extremely hard and hailing only a little as we drove. When torrential rains hit the desert, flash flooding occurs without warning and can be dangerous. We were fortunate. Steve managed to get us across the two gushing streams of water, mud and rocks that were streaming across the road. We were quite relieved to see our home.

But there was yet another show in the line up from Ma Nature. Our patios faced Big Bend and from our perch on the side of a hill, we got to witness the most amazing lightening show I've seen in a very long time. Everywhere we looked there was lightening of all varieties – cloud to cloud, cloud to ground, ground to cloud and constant flashing behind the thunderheads as far as we could see. And the crashing, booming, echoing thunder! Such a treat!

While we sat on our patio watching the sky, we heard heavy equipment on the road and realized there had been no traffic for quite some time. The mud and rocks had settled on the road and maintenance crews had closed the road and were plowing the mud and rocks from the asphalt, much like a snow plow would do. It was now about 70 degrees, where it had been well over 100 during the past few days. When the show was over we collapsed into bed and were able to sleep with the windows open. The downside was that Nancy's vehicle was hammered with a few thousand dollars of hail damage. The hail was larger and fiercer just up the road than it was at the café. Steve's car escaped any damage.

African Dream (Part two)

By Nancy Vicars & Warren Harden

We departed the Mara on day five, flew back to Nairobi and then drove to Arusha, Tanzania, in the Foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro.

The gardens and trails surrounding our lodge were birder friendly indeed! African Firefinch, White-browed Robin-Chat, Red-faced Crombec, Purple Grenadier, Yellow-vented Bulbul, Red-eyed Dove and Yellow White-Eyes, just to name a few of the more colorful specimens. We enjoyed a small flock of Hadada Ibis that roosted in the trees at dusk. Warren mimicked their raucous calls and they answered right back.



Yellow-vented Bulbul © JJ Harrison

While in Arusha, we visited a Safe Water Ceramics factory and bought ceramic water filters to give to the Maasai villagers. The Maasai are semi-nomadic people with traditional patriarchal society. They rely primarily on cattle as their source of food and are known for their distinctive attire and the semi-permanent villages they construct.

Our next destination was Tarangire National Park where we added Waterbuck, Dik Dik (always seen in pairs), Impala, an Ostrich on a nest, Olive Baboon, Black-faced Monkey (picnic table robbers) and White-tailed, Banded and Dwarf Mongoose. The Mongoose families make good use of the numerous abandoned termite mounds.

We stayed at the Lake Burunge Tented Camp. Perhaps they could be called semi-tents?? That is they had solid wood floors, permanent, thatched roofs but the walls and ceilings were canvas.

The following day included "A Day in the Life of a Maasai village." This included talking to the elders, touring a home, meeting extended family members and learning about their customs and traditions.

The next day was spent traveling to Serengeti National Park, enjoying game-viewing and a picnic lunch en route. The first birds we saw as we entered the park were a pair of Kori Bustards! During our picnic stop we added a pair of Red-billed Hornbills attending their nest cavity, Rock Hyrax, Nubian Woodpecker, Namaqua Dove and Ashy Starling.

The next four days and nights were spent in a tented camp. This camp is located directly in a migration path and after our evening meals, we were escorted to our tents, zipped in and were not allowed to venture outside, for good reason.

Night two, we were visited by a Cape Buffalo. The only thing between us was a canvas wall! Night three, a herd of Zebras was right outside our camp when all of a sudden they began to stampede. We then heard a couple of lions roar and hyenas calling. Later, a mother Zebra ran up and down the path outside the tents, panic stricken and screaming for her lost foal.

We witnessed four Cheetahs chase down a young Gazelle and feast on the carcass right beside our vehicle! After finishing this meal, they sat down face to face and licked each other's faces clean...Mother must have taught them good hygiene.

OCAS Meeting

Minutes

12/16/2019

Secretary, Sharon Henthorn was away. Betz Hacker agreed to take the minutes.

President, Betz Hacker called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November, 18, meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Vicars gave the treasurer's report and reminded members that 2020 dues were due.

Christmas Bird Count Report: Nathan Kuhnert reported on the December 14 CBC (results available on the website) and thanked everyone who participated.

Oklahoma Ornithological Society Report: Jimmy Woodard reported that the spring OOS meeting would be held at the Black Mesa on May 10-13. He also noted that they still needed volunteers for CBCs at Black Mesa and Duncan.

Elections: Marion Homier of the nominating committee announced that Betz Hacker would be stepping down as president and that Hal Yocum had agreed to replace her. OCAS members voted unanimously for Hal to become the next president. Hal will begin his term in January, 2020.

Other News: Patti High will take over as refreshment chair. She will replace Terri Underhill, who will be away much of 2020.

Meeting Adjourn

Out-going president, Betz Hacker thanked everyone for bringing a dish to share and adjourned the business portion of the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Following a short break the Tall Tales portion of the meeting began.

Respectfully submitted, Betz Hacker

Recorder's Report

December 2019

Weather was unusually nice during December and many birders were out searching for the last birds of the year.

There are a lot of birds to be seen in central Oklahoma; for example, during 2019 Payne County totaled 252 species. Otherwise, 57 species were counted in all 12 counties, 19 in 11 counties and 37 in one county. It is great to see birders becoming more active in all of the counties. Christmas Bird Counts were held in several counties with over 100 species seen on one day at each. Thanks to the many birders whose participation makes these continuing records possible.

On the 1st Caleb McKinney spotted Wild Turkey and Horned Grebe at Taylor Lake in Grady County; Braden Farris viewed Prairie Falcon along OK-51 near Hennessey in Kingfisher County and Common Grackle at Purcell Lake in McClain County; Rachel Wrenn found Barred Owl in Norman; Caleb McKinney observed Western Grebe at Lake Hefner Dam Road; and Steve Davis watched Lesser Goldfinch in his yard in OKC. On the 3rd Scott Loss identified Western Grebe at Lake Carl Blackwell. On the 4th Jimmy Woodward document-

ed **Red-necked Grebe** near Prairie Dog Point at Lake Hefner.



On the 5th Steve Davis and Jimmy Woodard counted Hermit Thrush at Meeker Lake in Lincoln County and Common Goldeneye at Paden Sewage Ponds in Okfuskee County; Caleb McKinney with Landon Neumann recognized

Rough-legged Hawk and Merlin near Orlando in Payne County; and Nancy Vicars and Patti Muzny noticed Pine Warbler at Little River SP. On the 6th Braden Farris got American Kestrel in Seminole County; and Brian Stufflebeam had Red-breasted Nuthatch at Arcadia Lake. On the 7th Jacob Crissup located Belted Kingfisher and Pied-billed Grebe at Wes Watkins Lake Campground.

On the 8th D&D Norris added White-throated Sparrow and Yellow-rumped Warbler at Kairworks Garden in Logan County. In Canadian County Chris Butler encountered Short-eared

Owl near Calumet; and Brian Marra with Chase Moxley confirmed Hooded Merganser, Marsh Wren, and Spotted Towhee at Stinchcomb WR. On the 10th Zach DuFran reported Sharp-shinned Hawk and Brown Thrasher at home in Norman. On the 12th Taylor Harting tallied Loggerhead Shrike and Northern Harrier on Fort Reno Road; and John Moyer came across Greater Roadrunner at Lake Thunderbird State Park. On the 13th Chris Butler discovered Bald Eagle and Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Prague Lake City Park in Lincoln County.

On the 14th Zach DuFran saw Carolina Chickadee near Goldsby in McClain County; Jacob Crissup recorded Black-crown Night-Heron plus an abnormally large flock of gulls and blackbirds hanging around a compost facility near NW 63rd & Kilpatrick Turnpike; and Larry Mays verified Marsh Wren and Red-necked Grebe at Prairie Dog Point. On the 15th Brian Marr photographed 1st winter Surf Scoter at Lake



Hefner Stars and Stripes Park. On the 16th Caleb McKinney detected **Red Crossbill** and Fox Sparrow at Couch Park in Stillwater. On the 19th Larry Mays turned up Northern Shoveler and Ring-necked

Duck in Seminole County. On the 20th Christie Stoops found Canvasback and Dark-eyed Junco at Cottonwood Creek in Logan County; and Daniel Martin added Least Sandpiper at Arcadia Lake.

On the 21st Aaron Milligan documented Pileated Woodpecker near Macomb in Pottawatomie County; Angel Carter spotted a flock of Cedar Waxwings near Blanchard in McClain County; Carol Enwall watched Pine Siskin in Norman; and Landon Neumann identified White-winged Scoter at Lake Hefner. In Payne County at Lake Carl Blackwell Mike Yough observed Common Goldeneye and Brewer's Blackbird; and Tim O'Connell recognized Hermit Thrush and Swamp Sparrow. On the 22nd Jason Shaw noticed Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Chickasha. On the 23rd Tom Kennedy located Barn Owl near Geary in Canadian County. On the 24th Mike Hudson viewed Forster's Tern at NW 63rd & Kilpatrick Turnpike. On the 25th Deb Hirt had Northern Pintail and Canvasback at Boomer Lake Park.

On the 26th Linda Jones discovered Harris's Sparrow at the Lazy J in Lincoln County; Rich Glassford reported Greater

Yellowlegs at Stinchcomb WR; Deanne McKinney encountered Great Egret at Saint Francis West Lake in OKC; and Sean Washington came across Black-crowned Night-Heron at OKC Zoo Lake. On the 27th Cindy Crane got Snow Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose and Canadian Goose in a field north of Piedmont. Nathan Moses counted Northern Shoveler at Kitchen Lake in Cleveland County; Matt Radford confirmed LeConte's Sparrow in Stillwater; and Nathan Moses added Horned Grebe and Common Loon at Lake Hefner's Dam Road. On the 28th Andrew Burnett detected Bewick's Wren at Zion Park in Yukon; Beth Brueggen found American White Pelican at Lake Overholser; and Sam S heard Eastern Screech-Owl in OKC.

On the 29th JC Avena recorded Red-tailed Hawk along I-35 in Garvin County. In Cleveland County James Hubbell had White-throated Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow east of Lake Stanley Draper; Joe Grzybowski verified LeConte's Sparrow, Redhead, and Common Goldeneye around Norman east; John Moyer turned up Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at home in Norman; while Patti and Brian Muzny and Nancy Vicars tallied Pileated Woodpecker at Hickory Hill Camp at Lake Thunderbird SP. On the 30th Jared Engelbert saw Greater Roadrunner in Guthrie; and Alex Harman spotted Bald Eagle at Boomer Lake Park in Stillwater. And so, ends 2019; what will 2020 bring?

In the Central Oklahoma area during December 2019, **142** species were reported with **3** new species bringing the total for 2019 to **283**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds. Information is accessed at: ebird.org. 2019 eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org/subnational1/US-OK/region>. (Accessed: December 31, 2019). And occasionally from Facebook and the OKBIRDS List. I can be contacted by e-mail at emkok@earthlink.net. Esther M. Key, Editor.

DUES NOTICE

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2020. 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.

Conservation

By Ann Sherman

BIRDS ARE VANISHING FROM NORTH AMERICA.

The journal *Science* reports the number of birds in the US and Canada has fallen by 29% since 1970. There are 2.9 billion, yes, billion fewer birds taking wing now than there were 50 years ago. Europe is experiencing a similar loss of birds.

Dr. Young of UC Santa Barbara says stopping the decline will require immense effort. Habitats must be defended, chemicals restricted, buildings redesigned, "We are overusing the world, so it's affecting everything."

My normal reaction to overwhelmingly bad news is to bring it down to a local level. I might be able to cope and change things in my own life. It's amazing what a person can get done at the local level. Small things add up. I haven't solved the problems yet but it's churning around in my brain.

My normal visitors to the yard feeders included lots of sparrows, blue jays, cardinals, 3 types of woodpeckers, 3 types of doves, white winged doves making rare visits, starlings, nuthatches, tit mice, wrens nested in my bathroom window, house and gold finches, juncos by the score, an occasional brown thrasher. The usual back yard city visitors.

Recently the death of my mother sent me into a deep depression. My only solace was the birds. My morning chair has a clear view of the feeders. I sat there for a month. Not just in the morning. I fed the birds. Better than I fed myself. I spent most of my days of mourning there.

Not one woodpecker has come to the suet. Not one. Few blue jays visited. Few cardinals. Few juncos. Few house finches, no gold finches. There is a group of about 18 white winged doves that come. I have never seen more than 2 at a time. No mourning doves, few ringed neck doves. I considered them a pest....now I miss them. No nut hatches. No tit mice. A few chickadees slip in in the afternoon. Where are my old friends?

I added some platform feeders to outwit the feral cats. The doves love those. I kept the tube and suet feeders. No one is coming to those.

I can't be the only one who is seeing changes at the back yard level. What have you noticed in your yards? Please send me your findings and I will put them in the next newsletter annsphoto@cox.net. Please include any ideas about how to make life better for our winged friends.

Update from the morning chair: Goldfinches! There are a half dozen or so Goldfinches on the feeders. I saw a couple Juncos this morning. Life is better when old friends come to call.



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

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

Save the Date

The next GBBC is February 14-17, 2020

BirdCount.org

Welcome:

The OKC Audubon Society welcomes

Pete Austin, Bethany, OK

Refreshments:

Patti High and Betz Hacker will bring

Refreshments this month. The sign up sheet for
upcoming months will be passed around during the meeting.