



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

June 2015

The Status of Bobwhites in Oklahoma

Dr. Craig Davis will be the guest speaker at the June 15 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society. His topic is "The Status of Bobwhites in Oklahoma: An Overview of the OSU Quail Project."

Prior to coming to OSU, Dr. Davis was the avian ecologist for the Platte River Whooping Crane Trust in central Nebraska. While at the Trust, Dr. Davis was involved with developing and implementing conservation efforts for the Platte River and associated habitats. He was also involved with several research projects on sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, grassland birds, and wet meadow ecology.

Craig received his B.S. in natural resources with distinction in wildlife management from Ohio State University and his M.S. in wildlife biology from Iowa State University where he studied the ecology of wet meadow invertebrates and sandhill crane foraging ecology. He completed his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University where he studied the ecology and management of shorebirds in the Playa Lakes Region of Texas.



Dr. Davis arrived at OSU in 2001 where he has researched a variety of topics including golden-cheeked warbler responses to mountain biking, shorebird use of wetlands in Oklahoma, bobwhite ecology, grassland bird responses to fire and grazing interactions, and wetland assessment and ecology. Dr. Davis currently holds the Bollenbach Chair in Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at OSU.

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). They begin at 7 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 and NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.



Refreshments

Refreshments for the April meeting will be provided by
Nadine Varner
Terri Underhill
Nancy Reed

Summer Break

Remember the June newsletter and meeting are the last until meetings resume in September. Have a great summer!

President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



April and May of 2015 will always be remembered by me as the spring of the great back yard birds. It started with Hollis Price's Evening Grosbeaks in Jones. Then came the Common Redpoll at Dala Grissom's out toward Shawnee. Then the Lazuli Buntings in the Marion Homier and John Cleal back yard in Choctaw, and finally the Red

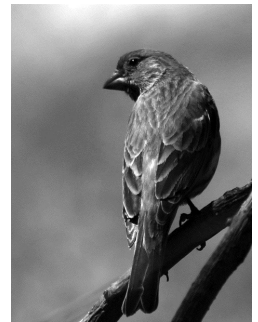
Crossbill's at Nancy and Richard Reed's in Norman. I found time to visit three out of four of these homes and picked up three life birds in the process. Thanks to the hospitality and generosity of these great backyard birders, we had a wonderful time seeing some of the more difficult passerines to list for our state.

Our club picnic is coming up on June 6. If you have never been to this event you should consider coming. If the newsletter goes out on schedule, there should be just enough time to sign up. This is the one time all year when members really have time to sit around and enjoy each other's company, uncomplicated by the distractions and concentrations that are natural to birding field trips. Attendees really outdo themselves with delicious side dishes and desserts. The spacious and beautifully landscaped Muzny back yard gives the affair the feel of a country club garden party. Probably the best part though is watching the lowly President flipping burgers and franks on a hot, smoky grill in some of the first hot weather of the summer.

Last month we began a study of the vocalizations of the birds in the Passeroidea superfamily. The starting point was the song of the Zebra Finch. The song, which you may remember from the linked youtube videos, consisted of hard chips, harsh notes and downslurs. The best look at the "song" on a sonogram is at the following xeno-canto page, <http://goo.gl/SqPehk>. You can get a better look at the first part of the sonogram by clicking on the thumbnail, but it is also possible to see the whole sonogram by clicking on the "Download full-length sonogram" link under the "Actions" section. When the link is clicked the sonogram appears, and contrary to what is implied you don't have to download it as a file to view it. Note on the sonogram the ladder-like portions of stacked harmonics. As we shall review in a moment, these give the notes their harsh timbre. At several points in the first song and then later at the 6 s mark, there is a downslurred note which also has stacked harmonics. These harmonics are probably spaced as far apart in frequency, that is vertically, as the harmonics in the ladder portions, but the angle of the slur is so steep that the spacing has to be close horizontally on the plot.

Now for the explanation of "harsh" sounding notes. As you listen to the following recording of a Eurasian Collared Dove, compare the early call notes to the later song notes on the full length sonogram, accessed as just described, <http://goo.gl/TJh2jO>. The early harsh call notes have the stacked harmonics that were present in the Zebra Finch's call, but the later soothing coos don't have the stacked harmonics. They are essentially pure tones. Another similar comparison can be made with the two Blue Jay recordings which follow, <http://goo.gl/bPbkFT> and <http://goo.gl/BZN3mg>. In instrumental music, the best example of the "harsh" sound I can think of is the violin in a Mexican mariachi band. I understand that the violin is not unusual but that the violinist draws the bow across the strings near the bridge to deliberately produce more overtones.

The House Finch in the following recording is producing the familiar call of the species, a rising, harsh whine, <http://goo.gl/6j0250>. This next House Finch recording starts with some calls and then progresses to songs. Note that most of the songs end with a very harsh sounding downslurred note that has a wide trace on the sonogram. There are harmonics in this ending note, but they are muted compared to the fundamental, <http://goo.gl/8anIXa>. The harshness in this case is mostly produced by a rapid trill or rattle which appears as such closely spaced oscillations on the sonogram that the note appears painted. Let's refer to this type of note as "buzzy" or "burry". In the following recording the first, second and fourth songs have the burry ending note without much overtones, <http://goo.gl/GP1Ubi>. The Pine Siskins in this audio make repeated buzzy calls, <http://goo.gl/awNMYI>, and in this one they make a few long, buzzy, rising calls and some harsh, rising whines, <http://goo.gl/QeFAZn>. The American Goldfinch here makes harsh, rising whines mixed in with quick harsh downslurred notes reminiscent of the Zebra Finch, <http://goo.gl/x9xckM>, and the one here mixes the harsh, rising calls in with its song which contains in many cases some short burry notes, <http://goo.gl/Po8HIH>.



Non-passeroid birds also make harsh vocalizations as already demonstrated by the corvid Blue Jay and the Eurasian Collared Dove. The burry trill notes with very little overtones may be more unique to passeroids. Just to pique your interest for the coverage in future articles, here is the song of the Common Linnett, a finch native to western Eurasia, <http://goo.gl/Ve0eqN>, which contains both harsh whines and burry notes. Although the Zebra Finch doesn't make the burry notes (as far as I know) the Common Waxbill, another estrildid finch, does make them, e.g., <http://goo.gl/5xIYE8>.

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



The Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) is a permanent resident of the southern states and well beyond. In Oklahoma it is found over the entire state, perhaps with the exception of the Black Mesa area of northwest Cimarron County. This butterball of a bird is known by most birders. The male has a white

eye stripe and throat, while these feathers on the female are a light buff. Almost everyone—not just birders—knows the male calls: “bob-white” and “bob-bob-white.” Beginning birders often confuse the bobwhite with the

meadowlark; the meadowlark, however has white in its tail, while the bobwhite does not. Among hunters, the bobwhite is likely the most popular game bird in North America; on rare occasions in the distant past I have eaten cooked bobwhites, fixed in gravy. Properly prepared, they are, I have to admit, delicious.

Bobwhites are gallinaceous birds, an order of birds that in North America includes quail, grouse, pheasant, wild turkey and chachalaca. Domestic gallinaceous birds include the common barnyard chicken, tame turkeys and the Guinea Fowl. Gallinaceous means chicken-like or fowl-like.

To my best recollection, I have seen only 1 nest of the bobwhite; I found it when I was about 14 years old and living in North Carolina. I do not recall the exact number of eggs in the nest, but it definitely had wall-to-wall eggs, probably the most eggs I have ever seen in any one bird nest; my present day guess for that nest would be about 15 eggs. I found the nest by first seeing a female fly into an area of good native grassland that was in a small valley between 2 slightly rolling hills. I walked around for a while in the area where the female had flown and eventually found the nest. I cannot even remember if I flushed the female from the nest or not—it is just the large number of eggs I remember. According to Bent (1963, Life histories of North American gallinaceous birds) “[t]he

bobwhite ordinarily lays from 12 to 20 eggs, 14 to 16 being perhaps the commonest numbers...” Another source says that eggs above 18 and up to 30 in any 1 nest are laid by more than one hen.

The nest is constructed on the ground, starting with making a shallow bowl, then covering this bowl with dead grass material. The top of the nest is built so that it is arched over leaving only 1 exit, to 1 side of the nest. Another quote from Bent is that “[i]n the few cases where nest construction was under observation the work was done entirely by the male under the supervision of his mate.” This may be because the male will at least sometimes continue calling while he is building, whereas the female would probably be silent, and therefore might be overlooked if she contributes to the building.



One of my best recollections for the bobwhite was a recent one, on May 16, on a field trip to Mitch Park in Edmond that Hal Yokum helped lead. To my surprise, our group heard at least 2 males bobwhites calling; I had given up much hope that I would ever hear that “bob-white” again close into town, but apparently, Mitch Park, at 280 acres, is large enough to sustain a small population of them. I was impressed with the grassland found in the park. The large trees often fade into shrubs, and the shrubs faded into grassland. Thus

the vegetation tended to be continuous from treetop to bare ground. Several people with better ears than mine also heard several Bell’s Vireos, a sign of thick shrubs near the ground, where the vireos will nest. And the adjacent grasslands to this shrubby area may provide places for the bobwhites to nest.

Our speaker at the June OCAS meeting will be talking about Northern Bobwhites. As you may be aware, there are a large number of bobwhite studies being done in Oklahoma at the present time, by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and by the Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in Stillwater. It should be interesting to find out what is being learned about the bobwhite: why are populations declining in the state and what might be done to help reverse this population trend. It should be a most interesting program!

Advanced ID Techniques: Deciphering the Dowitchers

Part 1

By Zach Poland

Dowitcher identification is one of the classic challenges in North American birding. Since the dowitchers were split into two species in the mid-20th century, birders have spent hours combing over them in the field and in photographs looking for the subtle differences in structure and plumage that aid in identification. Separating the juveniles of the two species that migrate through Oklahoma in late summer is fairly straight forward due to their difference in plumage, specifically the tertial markings (see Dunn and Alderfer, 2011 National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America. National Geographic Society, Washington. for a good illustration). Short of hearing vocalizations, IDs on adult birds can be maddening. There is even much overlap in the namesake bill size of the two species. This article is a review of techniques to help differentiate adult birds that one may encounter in Oklahoma during migrations and has an emphasis on basic (non-breeding) plumage. Differentiation between Short-billed (SB) subspecies is beyond the scope of this article, and SB subspecies will be treated as one here.

Background

On April 14th, 2015, the author encountered a single dowitcher species foraging in the shallows with some Blue-winged Teal on the east side of Lake Overholser in Oklahoma City. While watching the dowitcher forage for several minutes, the bird stopped to re-adjust its wing, exposing its tail. The author was immediately struck by how pale the tail appeared. The bird appeared to be in the early stages of transitioning from basic to alternate plumage, as black tertials barred with red-orange were apparent. Most of the upper feathers on the bird were gray-brown and well-worn and had the appearance of a typical basic plumaged dowitcher. However, scattered within the upper feathers were a few coverts and scapulars that had clean white edges that appeared to be fresh alternate forms. After about 25 minutes of observing the bird and taking several digiscopes, the bird made a series of vocalizations. These vocalizations would be described as two note calls of tu-tu, similar to those of Lesser Yellowlegs, but softer and delivered quicker (faster paced). No yellowlegs were observed in the vicinity before or after the vocalizations. The individual in the photos presented in this article was positively ID'd as a SB due to the presence of many of the characteristics discussed in this article, along with vocalizations that were heard during the observation. This bird, serves as a case study in dowitcher ID for this article.

Plumage

Claudia Wilds (1990, The Dowitchers, pp. 68-75 in: A field guide to advanced birding, K. Kaufman, ed. Houghton Mifflin, Boston) states that tail feathering of the dowitcher species can be diagnostic. Tails of Long-billeds (LBs) commonly appear dark colored while those of SBs appear paler. Whether an individual's tail is perceived as dark or pale is related to tail pattern. LB tails have alternating black and pale barring with the black bars being wider. SBs have alternating bars of similar thickness, or thicker pale barring, causing them to appear pale. Difference in tail pattern is noted in many field guides; however this mark isn't always reliable, and therefore should only be used along with other marks.

In basic plumage, an individual's chin pattern may provide a clue. Neither of the field guides the author regularly uses (Sibley, 2000 The Sibley Guide to Birds. Knopf, New York and Dunn & Alderfer, 2011) mention this mark in text, nor do they capture it in their plates. Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch (2006 New Advances in the Field Identification of Dowitchers. Retrieved from <http://www.surfbirds.com/ID%20Articles/dowitchers1005/dowitchers.html>) illustrate convincingly the difference in chin pattern. SBs often have a white or pale chin that ends abruptly in the spotting/streaking of the neck and breast (Lee and Birch 2006, Fig. 22). This spotting and streaking of the neck and upper breast appears lighter overall than LBs. LBs in basic plumage have a uniform darker gray wash on their neck that extends lower down on the breast. This gray wash on the neck gradually fades away near the bill base. Below is a digiscope the author took of a SB he observed at Lake Overholser on April 14th, 2015. Note the large, pale chin patch and spotted neck easily viewed from this angle.



Minutes of the Meeting

May 18, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Diffin.

New members were introduced: Cynthia and Chris Perkins from OKC.

Treasurer's report: Nancy Vicars reports \$5980 in the account after expenses.

Mark DelGrosso reports on upcoming field trips. He plans to travel to Kansas on Memorial Day weekend to visit the Quivira Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms in search of black rails.

Old business: The committee on birding ethics has not begun. Nathan Kuhnert will lead the group. April's report had omitted Jimmy Woodard's name from the committee members.

New business: The club picnic will be held on June 6 at Patti Muzny's home in south OKC.

Sharon Henthorn appealed for someone to take over the Breeding Bird Survey for the Choctaw route, as she has been notified that she is not qualified. Nancy Vicars will consider this opportunity.

Many members contributed to sightings of bird activity in the entire metro area. Recent hot spots have included Lake Overholser, South Jenkins in Norman, Joe B. Barnes Park in MWC, Mitch Park in Edmond. Nadine Varner led a group of birders to the OKC zoo area on April 25.

George Shields (native name, Standing Wolf) presented the program on the importance of eagle feathers in Native American ceremony and myth.

Next meeting will be June 15 at 7 pm.

Sharon Henthorn, club secretary

Prairie Dog Point Cleanup

Thank you to Michael Alexander, Cynthia Perkins and Sharon Henthorn for their work May 26 cleaning up Prairie Dog Point area along Lake Hefner.

Welcome!

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes new members

Kim Hiddleston, Nichols Hills, OK
Connie Mace, Edmond, OK
Susan Schmidt, OKC

Wind Turbine Policies Update

By Dave Woodson



In the OCAS June 2012 newsletter, Wind Energy was discussed. Recent actions illustrate that the Departments of Energy and Interior have conflicting opinions/guidelines for larger Wind Turbines. As Birders we should be aware of these issues and the impact these policies have on birds.

"On 23 Mar 2012, the Department of the Interior released guidelines designed to help minimize impacts of land-based wind projects on wildlife and their habitats. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service anticipate these studies will include fatality monitoring as well as studies to evaluate habitat impacts. As Birders, we should learn more about these conservation measures and encourage the wind energy companies in our state to adopt these voluntary guidelines." These guidelines (OMB Control No, 1018-0148) had an Expiration Date: 12/31/2014. If these guidelines were not extended they are no longer in effect!

On 19 May 2015, The Department of Energy has championed the construction of larger and more powerful wind turbines that will extend the hub height of turbines up to 360 feet. "...the wind industry unsurprisingly greeted the news with enthusiasm."

Continued on page 8

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	403-5655
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 up-to-date Oklahoma City Audubon news log onto:
OKC-Audubon.org

Recorders Report

May 2015

Record Breaking Reports

Record breaking rain brought an interesting group of birds to Ten Mile Flats and birders in the various counties saw a possible record breaking number of warblers and flycatchers as well as a super rare bird and another surprise feeder visitor. Meanwhile, when and where does Noah reach his half way count of 2,500 bird species seen this year? And only 3 species are missing before all of the central Oklahoma counties have recorded 100 species to date for the year. Great Job!!

On the 1st Scott Loss heard a **Wood Thrush** at Babcock Park in Stillwater, and Shawn Johnson heard a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at the Oklahoma City Zoo. On the 2nd Richard Hasegawa saw a **Least Tern** at the Oklahoma River along Lincoln Blvd while Jonah Padberg found a **Ring-necked Pheasant** in Logan County west of Guthrie. In Stillwater Corey Riding recognized a Yellow-breasted Chat at OSU and Zach Poland spotted an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** in Babcock Park whereas Scott observed a **Wilson's Warbler** northeast of Cushing at Skull Creek.



On the 3rd Mary and Lou Truex noticed a **Black-necked Stilt** at Lake Overholser's Route 66 Park. In Stillwater John Polo saw a **Blue-headed Vireo**, and



Eric Duell had a **Blackpoll Warbler** at Babcock Park. On the 4th Kevin Groeneweg discovered an Eastern Wood-Pewee in Joe B. Barnes Park in Midwest City. On the 5th Mary and Lou found a **Stilt Sandpiper** at the Dolese Sand Pit in Logan County, and Larry Mays heard a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Pottawatomie County. On the

6th Rick Farrar identified an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, Blackpoll Warbler and Eastern Wood-Pewee north of Lake Thunderbird at Shadow Den, and Larry had an **American Redstart** at Pauls Valley Lake in Garvin County.

On the 7th Kevin Groeneweg recognized a **Northern Waterthrush**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and Wilson's Warbler at Joe B. Barnes Park, and Scott Loss observed a Rose-breasted

Grosbeak in Stillwater. On the 8th Spencer Coffey heard an **Alder Flycatcher** along South Jenkins, while Larry Mays spotted the first **Black Terns** at Wes Watkins Lake in Pottawatomie County. On the 9th Larry located a **Willow Flycatcher** at Joe B. Barnes Park; Scott identified a **Mourning Warbler** and Magnolia Warbler at Babcock Park; Joe Grzybowski noticed a Peregrine Falcon at the Goldsby Sod Farm and Tricia Brown saw an Evening Grosbeak north of Lake Thunderbird.



On the 10th Kyle Horton identified Buff-breasted Sandpipers, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling** and Stilt Sandpiper at Ten Mile Flat's flooded fields in Norman beginning at the corner of 48th Street and Robinson and continuing around the corner on 60th Street aka Western Ave. In Norman Joe Grzybowski spotted an **Ovenbird** and T K discovered an American Redstart and Wilson's Warbler at Lake Thunderbird Little River State Park. Jonathan Coffey noted a Caspian Tern at Lake Hefner and Jimmy Woodard located a Blue-headed Vireo and **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Joe B. Barnes Park. In Kingfisher County Eric Duell had a Wilson's Warbler and Black Terns at Crosley.

On the 11th in Stillwater Scott Loss identified a **Veery** and American Redstart at Couch Park, a Caspian Tern at Boomer Lake Park and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Babcock Park, while James Hubbell had a Northern Waterthrush at Yukon City Park. On the 12th Dr. Chris Butler noticed a **Philadelphia Vireo** at Ten Acre Park in Choctaw, and Jason Shaw recognized a **Bobolink** at the USAO Habitat Area in Grady County. On the 13th T K saw a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at Ten

Mile Flat, and Rachel Wrenn found a Yellow-breasted Chat at Little River State Park. On the 14th Cameron Carver located a **Neotropic Cormorant** at Lake Hefner, and Scott observed a **Prairie Warbler** at Lake Carl Blackwell.



On the 15th Paul Cook reported a Willow Flycatcher along South Jenkins, Cameron Carver observed a Mourning Warbler at Joe B. Barnes Park, and Spencer Coffey located a

Dunlin at Ten Mile Flats. On the 16th Scott Loss noted an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Ghost Hollow near Ripley in Payne County; Heather Shaffrery identified a Mourning Warbler along South Jenkins; and Paul Cook noticed a Bobolink in the Ten Mile Flats western area. In McClain County Paul Cook birded Goldsby Sod Farm and identified Wild Turkey, Summer Tanager, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Meanwhile at 10:00pm near Durango, Mexico Noah and Rene were on a dirt road when a small bird fluttered through the headlights. It was a Common Poorwill, Noah's 2,500 bird of the year, so he is half way towards his goal of recording 5,000 bird species this year.



On the 17th Dala Grissom spotted a **Whimbrel** at Meeker Lake in Lincoln County; Scott Loss found a Least Tern at Meridian Technology Center in Stillwater and Heather Shaffrery observed an Ovenbird at the Oklahoma City Zoo Park. On the 19th Scott discovered a **Blackburnian Warbler** at

Couch Park. However the **Canada Warblers** played no favors between OU and OSU since Scott discovered one at Babcock Park while Rachel Wrenn found one at Riley Park near Noble.

On the 20th in Norman Nancy Reed counted three **Red Crossbills** at her feeder and invited birders to come see them. Rachel Wrenn observed a Black-throated Green Warbler at Riley Park, and Scott Loss heard a Willow Flycatcher at Boomer Lake Park. On the 21st Scott identified a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Babcock Park; and Eric Duell observed an Alder Flycatcher at Lake Carl Blackwell. On the 23rd Heather Shaffrery spotted a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a super rare **Nelson's Sparrow** at Joe B. Barnes Park. On the 24th Joe Grzybowski had a Least Tern at the Little River State Park, and Heather spotted an Olive-sided Flycatcher near Paseo in Oklahoma City. Although the recorders report ended early, it has been an interesting month. So far three counties have over 200 species recorded. How many of the counties will record 150 species this year?

For May 2015, in the Central Oklahoma area **220** bird species were reported with **36** new species bringing the year's total to **279**. 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.

Chirpings

by Patti Muzny

May 2015

Oklahoma manages to offer many challenges in our daily lives, not only to humans, but to our wildlife as well. We have not had many opportunities to enjoy birding or even venture outside for the past few weeks. It's difficult to bird while trotting across the yard into a downpour and diving into our storm shelter! But we've been blessed – no flood, wind or hail damage so far.

The constant rain has interfered with our Purple Martins efforts to set up housekeeping. They come and go, but so far have not managed to build any nests. The ubiquitous House Sparrows just keep on keeping on! In between storms, everything bursts into song. Our Brown Thrasher is extremely happy. This year we have Great-tailed Grackles and I would gladly direct them to another yard. The Cardinals have a nest in the front flower bed, or at least they had one earlier! Hummers are in the yard and can usually be seen darting among the flowering shrubs and plants when the rain quits.



A few recent fly-bys caught our attention: Hunting Mississippi Kites, hunting Cooper's Hawks, Night Herons, Nighthawks, Egrets, Mallards, Canada Geese, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. We heard a Great Horned Owl at the end of May, so I guess that means they survived the storms.

When I drive over the Oklahoma River in the Boathouse District, I've noticed the Cliff Swallows have taken over the bridge this year. Hope they get to stay! Scissortails seem to be everywhere near major intersections on the south side of Oklahoma City. Folks only need to drive around major streets and these graceful aerial insect-snatchers can be found, along with Western Kingbirds.

Back on May 10th, Brian found a female American Redstart in our trees at the front of the house. He also heard a Pewee calling in the area. We've heard and seen a few of the expected migrants in our Oklahoma City yard. Storms and downpours have kept us pretty close to home, so we are not up to date on what's moved into our Byars property. On March 24th, Brian spotted a Prairie Falcon at SE 59th and Bryant.

Looking forward to BBS season, although some of the rural roads BBS participants travel may present a few challenges and this year's counts may present a few challenges. Happy BBS; Happy Summer!

Oklahoma City Audubon Society
c/o Carla Brueggen
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Wind Turbine Policies continued from page 4

See: <http://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-releases-report-evaluates-potential-wind-power-all-50-states>

Following is a summary of Michael Parr, President of Nature Conservancy opinion.

"If wind turbines are taller, more birds will pay the price." By extending the "hub height" of turbines up to 360 feet, the chief executive of the American Wind Energy Association said wind energy could expand to all 50 states.

"Developing renewable energy sources is important. But right now, our policies treat birds and other wildlife as collateral damage in that quest. As the wind industry prepares to take turbines to new heights, the death toll for birds will only intensify."

"Science tells us our current approach to wind development is killing hundreds of thousands of birds each year. The good news is that we also have the tools to do better. "

More than 30,000 turbines are installed in areas critical to the survival of federally protected birds; an additional 50,000 turbines are planned in similar areas. As the number of turbines increase more than a million birds could killed each year by 2030

"But there are steps we can take. Building wind turbines away from heavily traveled bird migration could help lessen these fatal collisions. So would temporary shutdowns of turbines during peak migration periods in the spring and fall."

Article link: (http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/05/opinion_if_wind_turbines_are_taller_more_birds_wil.html)
