



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

March 2012



"Down Under" With Marion and John

Marion Homier and John Cleal will be the guest presenters at the March 19 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society.

Marion Homier and John Cleal spent two weeks in Australia, then four weeks in New Zealand in November and December last year and will share a fraction of the 6,600 photographs they took. Emphasis will be on wildlife, especially birds. They share a common interest in observing all wildlife and in the past ten years have together previously visited New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, Brazil, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Marion is a lifetime Oklahoma resident and retired last year to more ardently pursue their shared interest in the outdoors, photography, travel, and wildlife.

John came to Oklahoma from New Zealand ten years ago and is a retired prison Warden. He is legend for being sartorially challenged and spends an unusual amount of his time feeding birds, taking photos and smudging his camera lenses.

Come out and bring a friend for a good evening of camaraderie and birds and great refreshments. Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month. They begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 and NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.

Field Trip Report: Sia

by Jimmy Woodard

Eighteen participants headed to Cyril on Saturday, March 3, to visit the Sia, the Comanche Nation bird facility. Bill Voelker, the co-director of Sia, met us outside the main building and gave us an introduction to the history of the facility and its mission. He also explained its importance to the Comanches and how he hopes it helps members become more acquainted with the use of birds in their culture and preserve many of those ways before they become lost to future generations.

We entered the building and Bill gave us a traditional welcome in Comanche translating for us the written lines on the wall of the entryway. An adjacent meeting room had a library and several photos including Quanah Parker photographed at Fort Sill around the turn of the 20th century. Two traditional lances were encased in a display on the wall. Bill described how his people used undertail coverts from Golden Eagles which they dyed red atop the lances to bring power and strength. Feathers of corvids were used to ring the lance. Corvids were considered stealthy and smart which would give the lance a powerful magic in battle. *(Continued on page 4)*



President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



Last month we used the Tree of Life Web Project (abbreviated ToL) Oscines page as a guide to break up the oscines, aka songbirds, into five superfamilies plus one large grade, Basal Songbird Australasian Grade (abbreviated BSAG), plus one small collection of groups we called Other Passerida. We can handle the suboscines in the same way starting with the ToL Suboscines page, <http://tolweb.org/Suboscines/26445>. The first group on the tree is Eurylaimides. If we click on the link to see what it contains, we find that there are two true families, the Eurylaimidae (Broadbill family), and the Pittidae (Pitta family). The status of the "Philepittidae (Asity family)" as part of the Broadbill family is explained in the text. Because the Eurylaimides contains two families, we are likely to think of it as a superfamily even though the name doesn't carry the -oidea suffix. In similar fashion the groups Tyranni and Furnarii occupy the level we think of as the superfamily level. In fact the Eurylaimides, Tyranni and Furnarii are usually called infraorders, parvorders or suborders. This completes our subdivision of the Passeriformes into high level groups, eleven in all, the seven oscine groups, the three suboscine groups, and the New Zealand wrens.

By now you may have figured out the basic meaning of the sideways-tree graphic used by ToL. The vertical lines tie together groups on horizontal lines to the right that phylogenetic analysis shows are more closely related to each other than to any other groups. For example on the Suboscines page, the Tyranni and the Furnarii are more closely related to each other than to the Eurylaimides. Where a line coming from the left meets a vertical line on the right, the junction is called a node. The lines extending from the right side of a vertical line are branches from the node. The groups on horizontal lines immediately to the right of a vertical line are called sister groups. For example, the Tyranni and Furnarii are sister groups, and their combination, the Tyrannides, is sister to the Eurylaimides. The collection of groups in the branching structure to the right of a node represents a clade. All four of the named groups just discussed are clades. The branching structure and the associated group names are said to represent the systematics of the clades within the structure. You may be wondering if taxonomy and systematics are the same thing. They are not. Not all clades are accepted taxonomic groups, and not all taxonomic groups are true clades. All the eleven groups we have selected so far are clades except for Other Passerida. Taxonomy could be said to be the art of naming parts of the tree of life in a useful way. The modern practice is to use a cladistic approach in circumscribing taxonomic groups. Within an evolutionary context, the

word clade has a little different meaning than the one given above. To evolutionists, a clade is an ancestor species and all its descendants both living and extinct. Modern phylogenetic studies use the genetic material of living or recently extinct species for which museum samples are available. Technically, this is a subcategory of phylogenetics called "molecular phylogenetics".

We already have a start on the characterizing the Eurylaimides in the first paragraph, so let's begin our characterization of the passerine groups there. On the ToL Eurylaimides page, the bird photos on the left and right of the banner show two broadbill species while the middle bird is one of the pittas. There are 18 or 19 broadbills, all but one of which live in the rain forests of Asia or Africa. The one exception is the Broad-billed Sapayoa from Panama, Colombia and Ecuador. Here is a link to the IBC page for the Sapayoa with two photos and a song recording, <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/broad-billed-sapayoa-sapayoa-aenigma>. Don Roberson's Sapayoa page gives an in-depth systematic, biogeographic and evolutionary treatment including a very nice photo, <http://creagrus.home.montereybay.com/sapayoa.html>. One of the source papers cited in ToL can be read here, http://rspsb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/270/Suppl_2/S238.full.pdf. (continued on pg. 6)

Oklahoma City Audubon Society

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

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

OKC-Audubon.org

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



When I think of **Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*), usually about the first thing that comes to mind is pronunciation. Checking on the internet, I see that it IS pronounced "BU-ick" (as in the car), not "BEE-wick." This brings to mind several other pronunciation challenges that have to do with bird names. For the Pileated Woodpecker pronunciation is correct as either "PIE-lee-ay-tid" or "PILL-ee-ay-tid," which is a relief to me and

likely others who fumble around with this question from time to time. Plover can be PLO-ver or (the more British-sounding) PLUHV-er. Speaking of pronunciation, the Vaux's Swift of the far western U.S. (not an Oklahoma bird) has an interesting story related to it that indicates what a slippery slope pronunciation can be. Many years ago, at an American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) meeting, a young man gave a presentation of his research on the Vaux's Swift (named after William S. Vaux), which the young man pronounced as "VAUXS," rather than VOHS (the French pronunciation of the name), Swift. After he finished his presentation at least 1 big-wig jumped on the guy for not even knowing that the name of the bird he was studying was not "VAUXS," but "VOHS," Swift. Then Dr. George Sutton rose to his feet and said (approximately), "Once, when I was dining at the "VAUXS" home, I asked Dr "VAUX" how he pronounced his name. He said that in France, where he had grown up, it was pronounced as "VOHS," but now that he was an American, he felt his name should be Americanized to "VAUX". Then Dr. Sutton sat down. Of course, not a peep was heard from anyone who had earlier criticized the young man. And I now notice on pronunciation lists the correct pronunciation of the bird's name is given as "VAUXS" Swift, based, apparently, on how the VAUX family wanted its name pronounced in America.

Back to the Bewick's Wren: field marks are a brown back and cap of the head, with a white strip above the eye, much stronger than the barely visible light eye stripe of the House Wren; furthermore, the Bewick's Wren has a white or grayish-white breast, rather than the buffy brown breast that the Carolina Wren has. Bewick's Wrens "cock their long tails up over their backs, often flicking their tails from side to side or fanning them as they skulk through tangles of

branches and leaves searching for insects" (Internet, Cornell Laboratory, All About Birds).

This is a bird that both winters (in small numbers) and summers in central Oklahoma. Many years ago it was good to find even 1 on our Christmas Count, but in recent years it has been found in small, but dependable, numbers. In searching on the internet about this species, I was surprised to find its nesting distribution has shrunk westward from much of the eastern U.S. in recent decades: it has disappeared from a huge area going northeast from Oklahoma. Cornell University's All About Birds says that "Bewick's Wrens are still fairly common in much of western North America, but they have virtually disappeared from the East."

Dr. G.M. Sutton (1930, The nesting wrens of Brooke County, West Virginia, Wilson Bulletin vol. 42, pp. 10-17) said that "The House Wren and the Carolina Wren may inhabit precisely the same region without friction; but the House Wren and Bewick's Wren, or the Bewick's Wren and Carolina Wren, or all three species, evidently do not." Thus, Dr. Sutton, when he was state ornithologist for West Virginia, perhaps foresaw the negative competition that may now account for quite a reduction of range of the Bewick's Wren in the eastern U.S. In Oklahoma Sutton (1967) said that the Bewick's Wren is "less dependent than Carolina Wren on bottom-land woods for nest-sites, food, and shelter, hence often found in towns, about farmhouses..." Thus, at least in Oklahoma the competition for habitat among the three wrens, Bewick's, Carolina, and House, does not seem as fierce as it is in a huge area to the northeast and east of Oklahoma.



The Bewick's Wren nests early in spring; Sutton (Oklahoma Birds, 1967) reported a nest in Cleveland County where "six eggs were laid before the end of February." Sutton also reports that it "nests about sheds and deserted buildings, in natural cavities in trees, occasionally in holes in banks and in birdhouses." According to Ridgway (1889, The ornithology of Illinois, vol. 1, pt. 1) the nest is built of "sticks, straw, coarse feathers, fine chips, etc, matted together with spiders' webs, and lined with tow [rhymes with cow; broken fibre such as flax, hemp, or jute] and soft feathers of barnyard fowls." It usually lays 5 to 7 eggs. On breeding territory, males have one of the more cheery bird songs we hear in spring in central Oklahoma, and it is usually sung from high perches. The Bewick's Wren was named by Audubon after his friend, the great English wood engraver, Thomas Bewick.

Sia Field Trip (cont.)



(left side): Pamela Castor, Nealand Hill, Sharon & Kurt Meisenzahl, Jimmy Woodard, Cory, Keefer and Sophie Jo Hill, Doug Eide, Nadine Varner. (right side) Kristie Hendricks, Gene and Jana Mott, Marion Homier, John Cleal, Sue Woodson. Not pictured: Terri Underhill, Dave Woodson, Pat Velte.

We toured other rooms in the main building including a sealed chamber where birds and feathers were handled. Sia, a sanctioned repository for feathers used by other tribes, microchips the feathers it uses.

An amazing artifact we saw was an 800-year-old garment made from bright green breast feathers from Amazonia Parrots in South America. Another cool item was a 300-year-old spear fragment made of cane and metal brought over by the Spaniards. Bill explained that the spear had recently travelled with him back to Spain for the first time ever. He was there to negotiate an agreement to finance and hopefully captive breed a rare Spanish eagle.

Out in a beautifully landscaped courtyard, there were three live birds tethered on display. Two were Golden Eagles: a two-year-old male and a one-year-old female. The female was almost twice the size of the male. Also displayed was an almost complete albino Red-tailed Hawk. It was incredible to watch Bill handle these birds so delicately and lovingly.

Nearby, a building had three sections with bars open to the outside, which held two pairs of Bald Eagles and one pair of Martial Eagles. Each pair was in its own pen. All three pairs were soon to lay an egg, Bill hoped. We didn't approach the structures to minimize disturbance. We walked along a sculpted, shaded pathway to view several Ornate Hawk-Eagles, Harris' Hawks, albino Red-tailed Hawks, and Black Hawk Eagles.

Our final stop to this fine morning was a large, high ceiling barn where Bill and Sia treated us to a fine lunch of salad, chicken and rice and dessert. The tour and the meal was all for free!

OKC Audubon wants to graciously thank Bill Voelker and Sia and the Comanche Nation for hosting us and showing us such wonderful hospitality on the tour of their incredible facility. Bill is a wonderful storyteller and an amazing ambassador for Sia and the Comanche Nation.

TOP 25: Thick-billed Raven (*Corvus crassirostris*)



By Mark Delgrosso

FAMILY: Corvidae (crows/ravens, jays, magpies)

RANGE: Africa (but only in the mountainous highland regions of Ethiopia and Eritrea)

I like weird. I like animals that have an almost circus side-show look about them. So allow me to introduce the **Thick-billed Raven** – the largest of all corvids (crows) - indeed, the largest of all Passerines. A brawny crow it is but what stands out is, of course, the thick bill. Thick is most definitely an understatement. We are used to the sturdy, not too delicate bills of our crows and ravens. But look at the bill on this bird! There is nothing like it in the raven world (well, there is one other – the White-necked Raven – but even its bill pales beside the Thick-billed). I'm not even sure what to compare it to – a parrot, a puffin, an ani on steroids. It hardly seems a crow at all. And that's what I like about this bird – its unusualness.

And you have to go to a very special place in the world to see it – the Ethiopian highlands. It's worth the journey as this area is home to several outstanding endemics. There is the Blue-winged Goose, the Wattled Ibis, White-tailed Swallow and the Spot-breasted Lapwing. And, if and when one tires of wildlife, Ethiopia's cultural and historical treasures are world-class – the Christian churches of Lalibela – carved directly out of the rock; the ancient town of Aksum and the royal city of Gonder. Ethiopia's history is as old as the Bible and worth a peek into. And see, you've done all this because of one outsized crow with a ridiculous bill!

Panhandle Winter Birding

By Jimmy Woodard

Valerie Bradshaw, Nadine Varner, and myself headed out Friday morning, Feb 17th, to visit the Black Mesa country. We went west on I-40, then veered off the highway at Elk City. We drove west on Hwy 6 thru Sweetwater and into the Texas panhandle. Our route continued on thru Dumas and Dalhart and on to Clayton, NM.

We went to Clayton Lake which is about 15 miles northwest of town. The state park is a scenic, small lake with very nice camping facilities and visitor center. The surprise was a boardwalk at the north end of the dam where you can walk among hundreds of dinosaur tracks. Birds here were few but we had lots of Canada Geese and a few Common Mergansers on the water. One Townsend's Solitaire whistled as we walked back to the car.

We took NM406 and the backroads into Oklahoma, came thru Wheelless and on to Boise City. We saw numerous Ferruginous Hawks on Hwy 325. In town, the sewage ponds held hundreds of geese, mostly Canadas and Snows. We made the requisite stop at the Cimarron River bridge and heard the Western Screech but couldn't get a look at him.

Saturday morning, we found about the same birds at the sewage ponds. We drove to Keyes and toiled the back roads -- killing time. We didn't find much but did have a Prairie Falcon zip past us. Back in town, we rendezvoused at the DQ with Lou and Mary Truex and Dan Robinson. We headed straight to BM State Park in hopes of running into Valerie and John Sterling. The lake held 70 Common Mergansers, 50 Canada Geese, and 3 Wood Ducks. An immature Bald Eagle and a Northern Harrier circled overhead. We also got a nice look at an adult Northern Shrike perched atop the weeds in the lakebed. Sadly, the lake is down a bit since I was there in the fall. On the road out, we found a Curve-billed Thrasher.

Dan, Lou, and Mary headed to Camp Billy Joe while Nade and I hunted for the wayward Val and John. We had no luck in Kenton or the road to Colorado. We headed back to Billy Joe to join the others. Dan and Lou had several Golden Eagles atop the mesa feeding on a cow carcass. We cruised into Kenton and ate a picnic lunch.

After lunch, we finally met up with John and Val. Val regaled us with her tale of the lifer Golden Eagle they had found near Felt that morning. They had also found Mountain



Chickadees along the back road to Boise so the group headed that direction. We were able to relocate two of them, always a nice bird to see in the state. Other finds in the area were several groups of Mountain Bluebirds, Eastern

Bluebirds, Great Horned Owl, Roadrunner, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. Near Black Mesa, we saw a nice group of 12 Bighorn Sheep.

We had a very fine dinner at the Hoot Owl Ranch. As I walked back to the cabin, I had a Western Screech Owl respond and then pop out of the tree and perch on a dead stub and fuss at me. John, Val, Nadine and I stayed up playing cards and telling stories at our cabin.

Sunday morning dawned clear and cool. Nadine and I hiked the mesa above the ranch before breakfast. We didn't see much but as our group convened for a walk, we saw a very strange hawk fly off the rock bluff. It was mostly black below. The belly was all dark. The chest and throat were heavily streaked with black. The tail was white except for a narrow, subterminal band. The bird was mostly chocolate black above also. Unfortunately, no one knew it was there until it flew off only allowing a short look. No one got a picture. After much discussion, our thoughts wavered from a Rough-legged Hawk which would be out of normal habit there to a possible hybrid between a Rough-legged and a Red-tailed.

Bill Carrell joined us after a Saturday of visiting Sandia Crest House near Albuquerque and seeing all three Rosy Finches. We hiked down to the river but didn't see much at all. We parted company with John. Near the Mesa B&B, Lou and Mary found a lone Black-billed Magpie. At Lake Etling, we saw one adult and one immature Bald Eagle and the same suite of waterfowl.

Nadine, Val and I parted with the others. We birded the sewage ponds of Boise City and had a couple of hundred Cackling Geese and the same group of Snows and Canadas. On the way home along Hwy 64 we saw very few hawks. The Hwy 95 barn was empty of any owls. Optima was dry and virtually birdless. We arrived home in Mustang with a paltry species list of 67 birds. The very dry conditions the past year or so have really taken a toll on the birdlife of the mesa country. Still, it's always an enjoyable and peaceful setting with the backdrop of the scenery and visiting with the people. Doing it with good friends along is an added benefit.



CONSERVATION ISSUES

by Dave Woodson

House Bill 2607 update:

It has only taken Oklahoma House of Representatives 30 days to unanimously approve HB 2607. House vote Ayes: 88 Nays: 0. The Bill was referred for engrossment: (It then goes to the Senate). This Bill authored by Representative G. Blackwell and Senator M. Schultz, reduces the Habitat for the Lesser Prairie Chicken in order to protect the Energy Industries in NE Oklahoma. It will change the current more restrictive rules and guidelines - a five-mile conservation easement or setback - to abide by federal guidelines, which provide only for a half mile. If my math is correct this reduces the Wildlife Habitat by 9/10 of what Oklahoma law provides for today.

The good news is that Section 2 was deleted – this dealt with making it a crime for anyone to financially benefit from their actions such as exhibits, guiding, or promoting the listing of Endangered Species.

The bad news is this Bill allows Wildlife Habitat to be further segmented by “human progress.”

To read comments by Representative Gus Blackwell on this Bill go to: http://www.okhouse.gov/okhousemedia/News_Story.aspx?NewsID=4295



President's Perspective (cont.)

Like the other broadbills, the Sapayoa is an ambush predator. It waits quietly for an insect or lizard to wander within range, and then makes a short, quick sally to capture the prey, returning with it to the perch. Broadbills eat some fruit, and the three species in the *Calypptomena* genus are described as primarily frugivorous. Some broadbills flock with their own kind or with other species in mixed foraging flocks. The size range of broadbills is 4.5 to 11.25 in., with the Sapayoa at 6 in. (ref 1). Pittas inhabit rain forests in Asia, Australasia and Africa. They are colorful, long-legged birds with short necks and short tails that forage by scouring the forest floor for invertebrates. The size range is 5.7 to 11.4 in. (ref 1). Here is a link to a video clip, <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/hooded-pitta-pitta-sordida/bird-looking-food-under-dry-leaves>. Some audio clips are available on the same site.

ref 1 - *Complete Birds of the World*, National Geographic publishing, ed. Tim Harris.



Bill Diffin greets visitors at the OCAS Earthfest booth, 2010

Cookie Patrol

Refreshments for the March meeting will be provided by these volunteers:

Sue Woodson

Carla Brueggen

Ted Goulden

Bob Judd



Call for Volunteers:

Mark your calendar for "EARTHFEST" at Martin Park. Setup begins at 9am, Saturday Apr 21 -- the festival runs from 10am to 2pm. We need some great volunteers:

- Take turns at the booth and help answer questions.
- Make posters to advertise OCAS
- Possible make a game for kids/adults to identify birds.

Recorders Report – February 2012

Where is winter?

Even though individual bird numbers are reported down, birdwatching has been great because of the mild and pleasant winter. Although it rained several times during the month, the total was only about 1 inch; therefore, most of central Oklahoma is still in moderate drought conditions with some areas in severe drought. And then on the 11th, winter arrived with the coldest temperatures of the season followed by snow the next evening. However, so far, this winter has only had a trace of snow, which hasn't happened since 1931-32 and 1934-35. Will the delay in winter's arrival, delay spring migration?

On the 1st Josh Engelbert was told of a Snowy Owl spotted by a lady in Glenpool. On the 4th Alex James located a Snowy Owl on State Road 177, and Brady Surber located it on the 8th only to have it disappear. On the 2nd Cody saw 3 **Clay-colored Sparrows**



southwest of the OSU cross-country track. On the 4th Jim Bates birded Rose Lake and observed a flock of geese in the field which included Greater White-fronted Geese and one **Ross's Goose**. On the 6th Michael Bellah from Choctaw spotted a Northern Harrier on his lunch break. On the 7th

Matt Jung walked Stinchcomb east and discovered two Hairy Woodpeckers as well as an active bee colony. On the 8th Brian Davis took a picture of a gull at the Oklahoma Zoo which was later identified as a **California Gull**. On the 9th Charlie Dillard observed an albino American Robin on the campus of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics.

On the 11th Matt located over 100 Chestnut-collared Longspur west of Westheimer Airport and Wilson's Snipe near the river's edge on the Cherry Tree Park Trail in Norman. On the 12th John Polo discovered a Winter Wren in Couch Park in Stillwater. On the 16th an impromptu field trip consisting of Valerie Bradshaw, Mary Lane, Steve Davis, Nadine Varner, and Jimmy Woodard assembled at Lake Stanley Draper for the American Woodcock display. On the 17th Torre Hovick, Dwayne Elmore, and Brady Allred saw a Snowy Owl in

northeastern Oklahoma near the John Dahl WMA. And then on the 22nd a surprised Dan Dvoretz advised Tim O'Connell that a Snowy Owl zoomed past him on the Stillwater OSU campus and perched briefly on top of Drummond Hall Tower. Meanwhile, Jennifer Kidney located a Hermit Thrush on South Jenkins in Norman.

On the 26th Matt found a White-throated Sparrow at Stinchcomb West. On the 27th Mark Cromwell had a single female **Purple Martin** at their house south of Stillwater. On the 28th Kim Wiar was surprised to see a Purple Finch in her Norman backyard, and Dick Gunn observed a single Turkey Vulture battling the wind over South Jenkins. Jo Loyd and Pat Seibert had 2 **Barn Swallows** about 10 miles east of Woodward on Highway 412. During the last two weeks of February Tricia Brown, had an **Ovenbird** visiting her woods in Norman.



In spite of the late arrival of winter, towards the end of the month the sound of migrating Killdeer and blooming hensbit and sandhill plums hint that spring is approaching. On the 29th strangely, the flocks of 100, 200, 500 blackbirds didn't show up in my backyard near Moore for the daily argument as to whether they would eat me out of house and home or be encouraged to wander off to feed elsewhere. And for the first time this year as I stopped to buy gas I had to clean bugs off the car windshield; so will the birds of spring follow?

During February **95** species were reported with **6** new species which increased the year's total to **141** bird species in the Central Oklahoma area. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds by turning in reports and can be contacted by e-mail at emkok@earthlink.net.

Esther M. Key, Editor.

Dues Notice

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2012. OCAS dues are \$15 per household and may be paid at the monthly meetings, online at our website <http://www.okc-audubon.org> or mailed to Nancy Vicars, Treasurer, 820 Arthur Drive, Midwest City, OK 73110

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

Upcoming Field Trips

MARCH 16-18 Tall Grass Prairie Preserve

We will spend a weekend at the Nature Conservancy Preserve near Pawhuska. A special focus will be on finding Greater Prairie Chickens. Meet at 9AM at the McDonald's at I-35 and NE122nd. Leader: Mark Delgrosso (medelgrosso@gmail.com).

APRIL 5-8 High Island, Texas.

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

APRIL 26 thru MAY 2 Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival in Woodward

This will be the 4th year for this popular bird festival run by TAS and the Oklahoma Audubon Council. Several satellite trips to Hackberry, Wichita Mtns and Black Mesa are run in conjunction with the festival. Contact John Kennington at johnkennington@gmail.com or visit the festival website at www.lektreks.org.

MAY 11-13 OOS Spring Meeting

Details are still being worked out but the probable site will be in eastern Oklahoma. Details TBA. Visit www.okbirds.com for more info.

JUNE 2 CLUB PICNIC

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

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