



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

March 2015

Panama Birds - The View from the Canopy Tower

Mary Lane and Steve Davis will be the guest speakers at the March 16 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society.

Mary and Steve are both retired; Mary from the OU Health Sciences Center Department of Surgery, and Steve from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Mary has had pet birds for most of her life and Steve has had a life-long general interest in nature. Their interest in birding began to crystallize when Steve's uncle gave them a Nikon DSLR camera a few years ago. At that time, they began to take pictures of birds on their outings, joined OKC Audubon and began attending a few birding festivals, using photographs to help identify the birds they were seeing and document their trips. Mary created a pBase photo account for them and they use it as a repository for pictorial accounts of their birding adventures. In December 2014, they went on their first international birding trip, to Panama, with a group sponsored by University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. Besides Mary and Steve, the group included Oklahomans Larry Mays, Mia Revels and Jim Deming, and a dozen folks from Arkansas.



Mary Lane and Steve Davis

Their presentation will include images of their Panama birding adventure and details of the groups' experiences.

Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month (with the exception of January). They begin at 7 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 and NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.

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.

REFRESHMENTS

Delores Smith, Ann Zavy, and Diane Newell will provide refreshments for the March meeting.

Welcome!

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society
welcomes:

Pilar Escobar, Chickasha
Keetah Simonds, Oklahoma City

President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



We have recently had a forum meeting, hopefully the first in a regular series of forums to be held approximately midway between our general meetings. Nathan Kuhnert is the originator of the idea for the forums. He originally proposed the forum as a way for people with bird I.D. questions or insights to present them to a group for informal, low pressure, opinion gathering, and to discuss

other topics as well. I have for some time been in search of a way to allow more participation of our membership in meetings. Nathan's idea looked like a great way to provide a higher level of engagement in a more flexibly structured format. The location chosen for the first forum was the Broadway Cafeteria in downtown Oklahoma City. Other possible venues are meeting rooms in the metropolitan library system or member homes, whatever is ideal for handling the theme or themes which are of most concern at a particular time. I hope to see you at one of these forum meetings. They should provide a useful and entertaining counterpoint to our regular meetings.

For the last couple of months in this space we have been examining several cases where a general concept of bill shape could be used to place a bird into a group consisting of one or more orders. These groups were the Psittaciformes (parrots and cockatoos); the Bucerotiformes-Piciformes-Coraciiformes (hornbills, hoopoes, toucans, woodpeckers, kingfishers, bee-eaters); and the Gruiformes-Pelecaniformes-Ciconiiformes (cranes, rails, pelicans, herons, egrets, ibises, storks, darters including the anhinga, boobies, gannets). This last group is somewhat problematic in that it doesn't represent a complete clade. Rather it is a selection of three orders out of the second branch of the ToL Neoaves polytomy shown here, <http://goo.gl/9waKzh>, i.e. the Gruiformes plus two orders out of the 'Water Birds' clade, <http://goo.gl/YQT2On>. Since the time of the construction of the ToL web pages, it has become accepted to include another order name, the Suliformes, in the 'Water Birds' clade. To see where this new order came from, see <http://goo.gl/kmHvEo>. The Pelecaniformes tree as shown is a dichotomy with the upper clade consisting of the Fregatidae-Sulidae-Phalacrocoracidae-Anhingidae and with the lower clade consisting of the Ardeidae-Threskiornithidae-Pelecanidae plus a couple of oddball species, the Shoebill and the



Hamerkop. The upper clade has been split off as the Suliformes while Pelecaniformes is still in use for the lower clade. The Suliformes was approved as a separate order by the American Ornithologist's Union in 2010 along with some re-sorting of the 'Waterbird' families between the Pelecaniformes and Ciconiiformes to bring them into agreement with the Hackett et. al. (2008) study and the Ericson et. al. (2006) study which are the basis of the ToL Aves tree. The Hackett et. al. (2008) study was the subject of the presentation I made to our club in the June 2013 meeting.

In December, 2014 a new major phylogenetic study of the birds, class Aves, was published by Jarvis et. al. in the journal, *Science*, under the title, "Whole-genome analyses resolve early branches in the tree of life of modern birds". The results of this study will change the sequence in which bird families are listed in taxonomies because that sequence follows the tree of life. This in turn will change the order that birds are listed in official bird lists and in new field guides. Here is a link to the tree included as Fig. 1 of the article, <http://goo.gl/ag13l7>. In comparison to the ToL tree, there are some changes which alter the positions of the orders in the "Gruiformes-Pelecaniformes-Ciconiiformes" group. These changes are: (1) the Gruiformes, containing the cranes and rails, is now sister to the Charadriiformes, containing the

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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 visit:

OKC-Audubon.org

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



The **Brown Thrasher** (*Texostoma rufum*) is about 11.5 inches long, is reddish brown on the upper (dorsal) surface, and white on the lower (ventral) surface with strong brown streaking on the breast. Two wing bars, a long bill and a yellow eye further help to identify it. No other thrasher is normally found in central Oklahoma. Other birds we have in central Oklahoma that we might confuse with

the thrasher, such as the Wood Thrush and other thrushes, are less than 8 inches in length.

The Brown Thrasher has an interesting relation to Oklahoma. In winter we have a few scattered very thinly over much of the state, especially thin in the western parts of the state. In the breeding season, however, it is a common nester over virtually the entire state, although it is still somewhat less common in the western part of the state than the eastern. Here in central Oklahoma it is a rare winter bird and a common breeder.

The Brown Thrasher is an early spring arrival, helping us out of the winter birding doldrums; according to Sutton (1967. *Oklahoma Birds*) birds to the south of us begin moving back into the state in the last half of March, about now. Males seem to move in first, 10-14 days before the females. After the females appear the males start singing. The voice of the Brown Thrasher is somewhat reminiscent of the Northern Mockingbird. But unlike the mockingbird—that often repeats a single phrase a number of times, the Brown Thrasher usually repeats a phrase only once; thus its phrases are usually doubled, sometimes tripled. And whereas the mockingbird mimics many other bird calls, the Brown Thrasher does so much less frequently and “generally avoids vulgar plagiarism, but doubtless profits by the musical suggestions of other birds.” [I ran into this somewhat humorous sentence in Bent who was quoting Dr. Charles

W. Townsend (Bent, A.C. 1964, *Life histories of North American nuthatches, wrens, thrashers, and their allies*.)] Other ornithologists give moderate lists of the bird species they have heard the thrasher imitate.

Nesting begins in mid-April (Sutton). The nest is usually built in low brushy areas, from 2 to 15 feet above ground. On rare occasions it is found nesting on the ground. Sutton, quoting M. M. Nice (1931: 140), gives one instance of a single nest found on the ground, out of a total of 87 nests found. I once also saw a nest on the ground. Dr. Jack D. Tyler of Lawton, Oklahoma, and I were in Cimarron County and he accidentally flushed a Brown Thrasher that had built its nest on the ground. The nest was under a fallen tree branch that had a few bare twigs above the nest to give the nest a little protection from grazing cattle, I

suspected. It was a quite unusual nesting occurrence we thought. It therefore surprised me to read that A. C. Bent found that in southeastern Massachusetts half of the thrasher nests he had found were on the ground. At least 1 other ornithologist, nearby in the Boston area, had about 40% of nests on the ground.

As for the nest itself, the outer layer is built with large twigs; as layers are added the twigs tend to become smaller and smaller. The last layer is usually clean rootlets, most often those of grasses. The number of eggs laid is usually 4 or 5, most commonly 4.

The base color of the egg is bluish, bluish-white or white. It has fairly heavy dots and spots of reddish-brown or a duller brown on the ground color; sometimes the eggs have little or no spotting, showing primarily just the ground color. Incubation of the eggs lasts for 11-14 days and nestlings remain in the nest about 9-13 days.

Another point I find interesting about nesting thrashers is that cowbirds, on rare occasions, parasitize their nests. Bent, quoting Dr. Friedmann (1929), who probably remains the world authority on the cowbird many years after his death, stated that the Brown Thrasher “is the largest passerine bird affected by the parasite [cowbird], and is the largest bird definitely known to have hatched and reared a young Cowbird.”



Chirpings

By Patti Muzny

A record-breaking day warm and wonderful day at the end of January allowed me to indulge in some of my favorite undertakings. I came home from work and the temperatures were still in the 70's at 5:00 PM. I was tired, so I dusted off the patio furniture, grabbed a novel I had been trying to read and sprawled on the loveseat.

I love to read, and I guess I did read a few chapters, but unless I am upright, a case of "tired" creeps up and I almost always doze off. At 6:05 PM, my cell phone in my pocket chirped to alert me to an incoming text. At almost the same instant, an extremely



perturbed Carolina Wren hopped up onto a bench about 5 feet from me and I received a thorough scolding! By this time, it was pretty much dark on the east side of our patio. I had enjoyed a delicious 30-minute nap and missed a beautiful sunset.

Throughout the summer one and sometimes two Carolina Wrens used my hanging Boston ferns under our patio as a roosting site. Couldn't manage to entice them into nesting there, but every evening they would sail up under the patio and dive into those plants. Thinking they might need a winter roosting shelter, I left the frost-bitten, straggly-looking specimens hanging there. Most evenings prior to those recent 70-degree plus days, had been much too cold to sit outside. I can nearly always be found curled up in the house near the fireplace. Therefore I had no idea the ferns were still being utilized by the wren.

When the phone and the scolding wren woke me up, I slowly extracted the phone from my pocket and the wren gave me one last squawk and flew away. I then realized that he had probably been roosting in the fern. I thought it would be interesting to play the Carolina Wren scold from the app on my phone to see what would happen.

I played the call and immediately that spunky wren popped back up under the patio and told me in no

uncertain terms what he thought of that irksome commotion! I quickly stopped the call and within seconds, I saw the wren dive back into the shabby fern.

I sort of apologized to the piqued wren, got up and went back into the house with a goofy grin on my face, and left Mr./Ms. Wren to resume his/her evening snooze.

Brian informed me that after a year's absence in our neighborhood, he saw a male Eastern Bluebird in the backyard. If we can hold the English Sparrows at bay, and the male can convince a female to join him, we can hope for a successful nesting again. We've also heard and seen a pair of Great Horned Owls in the large oaks in our front yard. We've searched all over the neighborhood, but have yet to find where they might be nesting. We do know they court in the tree and leave whitewash on the sidewalk. Can't be that far away?

Addendum re the bluebirds. Yes, it's plural! At the end of February I just happened to be looking out toward the front yard and saw a pair of Eastern Bluebirds searching for morsels in the neighbor's yard! Now if we can keep the House Sparrows out of the front yard birdhouse, maybe our bluebirds can nest again.

And at least one feisty Carolina Wren is still diving into the dead Boston fern that's still hanging on the back patio.

Field Trip: Mitch Park

The Mitch Park field trip on February 17 led by Hal Yocum met at a nearby coffee shop and walked from 8:45 to 10:45am. Only two others showed up - Larry Mays and Terri Underhill. Overall we saw 27 species. The better ones included: Copper's Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, a towhee that looked like spotted / eastern hybrid with much fewer back spots and a "white eye" (see the *Sibley Guide* which suggests that white eyed ones are seen in GA and SC), 6 sparrows species, Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Phoebe, Ring-necked Duck, mallard, Canada Goose and Double-crested Cormorant (flyover).



It was a cold morning and some of the walking paths were still ice/ snow covered from an ice storm on the previous day. — Hal Yocum, Edmond

Minutes of February 16, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Bill Diffin at 7:00PM. First time visitors Dr. Jeremy Ross, the new Executive Director of the Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville, OK and his wife Elizabeth, Dr. Eli Bridge and Charlotte Southerland were introduced and welcomed.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as published in the February newsletter.

Treasurer Nancy Vicars reported the current bank balance is \$6,161.78.

Fieldtrip chairman, Mark Delgrosso reported several upcoming birding opportunities:

--Tuesday, Feb. 17, Mitch Park in Edmond, OK

--Saturday, Feb. 21, Citizen Potawatomi Aviary in Shawnee, OK

--Saturday, Feb. 21, Wichita Mtn. Refuge to look for the Red-naped Sapsucker & Lewis' Woodpecker

--Tuesday, March 3, Lake Stanley Draper for woodcock mating rituals

--Mon & Tues, March 16 & 17 Sutton Avian Center presents "All About Birds" at Sam Noble Museum

Jimmy Woodard announced the upcoming OOS meeting May 1-3, 2015 in Fort Smith, AR. More details will be published in the next newsletter.

New Business: A motion was made & passed to purchase a case (36) of Wonder Mugs to serve as a token of appreciation for our program presenters. Warren stated the approximate original quoted case price for the mugs was \$5/mug or \$180 before taxes.

Pres. Diffin inquired if there would be any interest in conducting "ID Forum" meetings. A show of hands indicated a very good interest. Bill will arrange a meeting time and place.

Patti High encouraged all to check out a Great-horned Owl nest in Edmond, OK. The owl has used this nest for several years and three chicks have recently been hatched. The website is okcowlcam and is online 24-7.

Dr. Eli Bridge gave a very interesting and enlightening presentation on Painted Buntings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Nancy Vicars, Acting Recording Secretary

Field Trip: Wichita Mountains

Kurt Meisenzahl led a field trip to the Wichita Mountains on February 21. Birders included Terry Underhill, Pat Velte, Karen Barker, Carla Brueggen, Ken Dorrell, Bill Adams, and Linda Adams.

We started near French Lake but did not find the Red-napped Sapsucker. Terri located the Lewis's Woodpecker and everyone was able to get a good view.

We headed to Meers for lunch but it was packed so we enjoyed excellent burgers at Ann's Country Kitchen.

On the way back to the French Lake area we stopped near the Meers turnoff to look for Smith's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. Dipped on the Smith's but managed to scare up one Chestnut-collared Longspur and two Savannah Sparrows.

Back a French Lake we missed the Sapsucker again but got great looks at two Fox Sparrows.

Terri and Pat skipped lunch and found a small flock of Mountain Bluebirds off the Refuge, just south of the southwest corner of the Refuge



We heard an Eastern Screech Owl and finally figured which hole it was calling from. Ken rubbed the trunk of that tree with a stick. The owl stuck his head and shoulders out of the hole and we got a great look.

Other birds seen include: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wigeon, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Eastern Screech-Owl, Lewis's, Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Carolina Wren, Mountain Bluebirds, Tufted Titmouse, Blue Jays, Spotted Towhees, Savannah, Fox, Song, White-throated and Harris's Sparrows, Juncos, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Cardinal, Meadowlarks and a Goldfinch.

Update: On February 25, Ken Dorrell called to report that he found the Red-napped Sapsucker that morning in the same area that we searched on Saturday.

— *Kurt Meisenzahl, Lawton, OK*

Recorders Report – February 2015

GBBC on Valentine's Day

The International Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) occurred this month starting on the 13th and ending the 16th. Will all of the central Oklahoma counties report? And what a surprise the weather has been for the month with snow storm after snow storm. Will this bring surprise birds to our backyards?

North of Jones, Hollis Price was surprised to find the Evening Grosbeaks returned to her feeder and there was a male and two females. They usually showed up in the morning, and so far have stayed the entire month. She graciously opened her home so quite a few people were able to observe them.

On the 1st Chad Ellis located several duck species in Lincoln County including Northern Pintail, Canvasback, and Redhead. On the 2nd Hal Yocum reported Purple Finches and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the Hollis' yard, and James Hubbell saw a Long-tailed Duck at Lake Hefner's Prairie Dog Point. On the 3rd Danielle Perryman identified a Swamp Sparrow at the Teal Ridge Wetland in Stillwater.



On the 5th Scott Loss stopped at Lake Carl Blackwell to check on the Lewis's Woodpecker and Prairie Flacon. On the 6th Jason Shaw spotted Hooded Merganser at the USAO Habitat Area in Grady County. On the 7th Nolan Craun at Tryon identified a Hairy

Woodpecker in Lincoln County. In Logan County Zach Poland checked Guthrie Lake and noticed Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and American White Pelican. Joe Grzybowski spotted the Dunlin at Lake Thunderbird's Alameda Drive Bridges.

On the 9th Laura Madden spotted Purple Finch, Hermit Thrush and Fox Sparrow in Blanchard in McClain County. Scott Loss discovered Brewer's Blackbird along West Richmond Road in Stillwater. On the 10th Matt Jung spotted a White-breasted Nuthatch at Eldon Lyon Park; and Larry Mays found Snow Goose and Wood Duck in Tuttle. On the 11th Larry Mays birded Bell Cow Lake in Lincoln County and relocated the Lewis's Woodpecker; at Chandler Lake he saw a Spotted Towhee and in Payne County at Lake Carl Blackwell the other Lewis's Woodpecker. Brian Stufflebean observed **Black-**

crowned Night Herons at the Oklahoma City Zoo.

On the 13th at Lake Hefner Cameron Carver found an adult Herring Gull that could be a candidate for Vega; at Lake Thunderbird Lindell Dillon saw Black Vultures; in Pottawatomie County R E Carlberg spotted a Northern Harrier and White-crowned Sparrow; at the western Stinchcomb WMA Valerie Bradshaw identified a Cooper's Hawk; and at Lake Carl Blackwell Nolan Craun located a **Pine Warbler**.

On the 14th at 7:10am in Peru Noah saw his 1,000th bird of the year in his Birding Without Borders trip. At Cottonwood Creek Christie Stoops discovered Redhead and Ring-necked Duck in Logan County; Cameron Carver spotted a Dunlin along the west side of Lake Hefner; at the Claytor Ranch in Lincoln County Marli Claytor spotted a Turkey Vulture; and in western Canadian County Jeff Tibbits saw a Bald Eagle. In the evening at Lake Thunderbird Little River Marina T K spotted **American Woodcock**.

Meanwhile, Jimmy Woodward and Nadine went looking for American Woodcocks at Lake Stanley Draper along Point 6 and were not disappointed. They also saw Wood Ducks and **Sandhill Cranes**. A nice Valentine's Day.



On the 15th in Pottawatomie County Deanne Woodson saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk and Eastern Bluebird. In Logan County Divya Jaroni spotted a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and Brown Thrasher near the Guthrie Country Club Lake. In Garvin County L Dee Oliphant identified a Field Sparrow and 36 Northern Cardinals in his yard. Shelly Ferguson saw a Tufted Titmouse in her yard in Grady County. Rick Farrar picked up an **Eastern Screech-Owl** at Timber Lake Estates north of Lake Thunderbird.

On the 16th with the snow/ice on the ground Steve Davis and Mary got their first Fox Sparrows for the winter. In Seminole County in Pamela Geier's yard she identified White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren and Pine Siskin. Pam J discovered American Tree Sparrows east of Lexington Wildlife Management Area. Christine Snitkin identified Snow Goose at Purcell Lake in McClain County. In Mustang James Carey saw Hairy Woodpecker, and in Piedmont Louise Basham had a House Finch and Northern Mockingbird.

On the 17th Larry May sighted a Hermit Thrush at Liberty Lake and Chipping Sparrows at the Summit View Cemetery in Logan County near Guthrie. On the 18th Larry Mays saw a

Perspective (cont.)

shorebirds, gulls, jaegers, terns, murres and puffins; (2) the clade containing the Gruiformes and Charadriiformes is sister to a clade containing both the 'Waterbirds' and the 'Land Birds'; (3) the branch of ToL Neoaves which contained the Gruiformes and 'Water Birds' also contained some clades incongruent in terms of bill shape and habits, Cuculiformes (cuckoos), Otididae (bustards) and Musophagiformes (turacos and mousebirds), which are now removed to a clade which is sister to the combined sister clades of (2). In short the first branch of the ToL Neoaves polytomy was integrated with the second branch such that the Charadriiformes are placed sister to the Gruiformes, the 'Land Birds' are placed sister to the 'Water Birds', and the Cuculiformes, Otididae and Musophagiformes are moved to a clade in a basal position which also contains an expanded Caprimulgiformes (nightjars, nighthawks, swifts and hummingbirds). Although these changes are quite significant and worth knowing about, they don't have any effect on the conclusion reached last month regarding the utility of bill shape in placing birds into the three groups. However based on the AOU's splitting off of the Suliformes from the Pelecaniformes, we should change the name of our spear-billed waterbird group to the Gruiformes-Pelecaniformes-Suliformes-Ciconiiformes.

In Loving Memory



Long-time OKC Audubon member and friend, **Euelda Noel Sharp**, 82, of Midwest City, passed February 21, 2015 following a lengthy illness. Euelda worked for the State Insurance Fund, where she retired from in 1991. Euelda was an excellent birder, as well as wildflower and butterfly enthusiast. Euelda was preceded in death by

her parents; her husband, former sheriff JD Sharp; her daughter Anne Sharp; and her infant son John D. Sharp. She is survived by daughter Terri L. Strong; son Michael D. Sharp and wife Lisa; and 2 sisters, Sherr and husband Bill of Bethany, and Jackie and husband Jim of Nebraska. She has five grandchildren.

Recorder's Report (cont.)

gorgeous Ferruginous Hawk that is hanging around the fields to the northeast of SW 149th and S Western in Moore. John Marvin noticed Brewer's Blackbirds along I-44 in Grady County.

On the 20th Robert Harding noticed an American Kestrel and Belted Kingfisher at Bell Cow Lake, and in western Canadian County Jeff Tibbits saw an Eastern Phoebe. On the 21st at Boomer Lake in Stillwater Scott Loss was able to pick out a Lesser Black-backed Gull among at least 1,000 gulls. In Purcell Phil Floyd noticed Greater White-fronted Goose and American White Pelican.

On the 22nd Joe Grzybowski was checking a flock of geese at the corner of Western and Indian Hills Road and found mostly Cackling Geese, a few Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese, 10 Ross's Geese and perhaps a Cackling x Ross's Goose hybrid. On the 23rd Laura Madden spotted a Hermit Thrush in Blanchard. On the 25th Bill Diffin checked Lake Hefner and located a Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Mergansers and at Bluff Creek Park he watched American Robins eat soapberries.

Quiz answers: Thanks to a busy bunch of birders to date species reported in all 12 counties include Red-



tailed Hawk, American Crow, Northern Cardinal, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and yes also making it in February are European Starling and House Sparrow. So far there are 10 species reported in 11 counties, two in 10 counties and which three counties have

not yet reported Canada Goose?

For February 2015, in the Central Oklahoma area **135** bird species were reported with **6** new species bringing the year's total to **141**. 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.

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

2015 Field Trip Schedule

MARCH 16,17: Sam Noble Museum/ "All About Birds" program: the Sutton Center's renowned program about and starring birds will be hosted by the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History at OU in Norman. Program times are at 11am and 1:30pm on each day. One must pay the general museum admission fee to attend. Call the museum at: 405 325 4712 for further details.

SPRING:

-In/around OKC Zoo: Leader: Nadine Varner

-Mitch Park: Leader: John Shackford
(johnsshack@aol.com)

MAY 2: Backyard birding: once again 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 23-25 [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



Owl Nest Cam returns

Get a close up look at nesting Great Horned Owls by visiting Alessondra's OKC Great Horned Owl-Cam website which shows live streaming video of the nest activity. The owls have nested at this suburban second-story planter ledge for the third year. Three chicks have hatched and the parents, Mr. & Mrs. Tiger, are busy with the nestlings.

<http://www.ustream.tv/OKCOwlCam>.