



# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

MARCH 2017

## March: A Window into Bird Death Mitigation in Urban Landscapes

Nathan Kuhnert has observed and documented the occurrence of an alarming number of downtown OKC business district bird-window collisions, primarily migrants, for several years. He intends to share findings that include pictures and other aspects of the incidents. Also, an estimate of annual collisions/mortality and other statistics based on survey data will be presented.

Nathan does not intend to point fingers at building owners but instead explain some of the problems and present them as opportunities for stakeholders of downtown OKC to mitigate. Many of the tools and policies such as window films and light reduction are practical and economical as Nathan will argue that more birds can be protected even as new, predominantly glass buildings are constructed.

Nathan will also touch on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act and introduce some of the leaders pursuing research and advocacy including the American Bird Conservancy and National Audubon Society. Ultimately Nathan will try to map out these efforts and resources that can be leveraged in OKC's opportunity to lead.



Nathan was born and raised in southern Illinois. He took Bird Study as a 4-H project in grade school and vividly remembers a major snowstorm-related fallout of cardinals at his childhood home where both contributed to his passion for birds. After migrating to the University of Oklahoma to study meteorology and later environmental science, Nathan became a member of OKC Audubon in 1994 and remains active as a naturalist while engaged in planning, management and policy aspects of water resources in his professional career.

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. Visitors are always welcome.

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## Meeting returns home to Garden Center

The renovations at the Will Rogers Park Garden Center have been completed and we'll be returning to the Garden Center meeting room for our March meeting. The Garden Center is located at the corner of I-44 and NW 36th Street.

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## President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



In 2005 the journal *Waterbirds* published an article by Peter Pyle titled, *Molts and Plumages of Ducks* (Anatinae). Here is a link to the abstract of the article, <https://goo.gl/pYu4Tb>, which is worth reading.

Even if you are somewhat familiar with the "prebasic molt" and "prealternate molt" terminology of the Humphrey-Parkes system, you may find the abstract a little

confusing at first. A couple of well worn plumage concepts are being turned on their heads at the same time. In addition there is discussion of a spring molt of female ducks which you probably didn't know existed.

To try and put it all in perspective, the complete fall molt of male and female ducks, the one that produces the breeding plumage of the male, corresponds to the complete fall molt of most other birds. It is the prebasic molt in Humphrey-Parkes terminology, and the resulting plumage is the basic plumage. The partial pre-breeding molt of female ducks and the partial post-breeding molt of male ducks are extra molts somewhat comparable to the pre-breeding molts of many migratory songbirds. They are prealternate molts in Humphrey-Parkes terminology. Therefore the especially drab camouflage plumage of the nesting female is an alternate plumage. So is the drab post-breeding plumage of the male, the "eclipse" plumage as it is sometimes called. So the molt cycle in ducks is much the same as it is in many other migratory birds, but the appearances produced are opposite, i.e. colorful basic and drab alternate in ducks vs. drab basic and colorful alternate in migrant songbirds.

The unusual cycle of appearances in ducks is tied to their courtship, breeding and feather renewal cycle. Courtship and mate selection occurs in the fall with pairs staying together through the winter and nesting in the spring. Therefore the male acquires colorful plumage for courtship in the fall, and the female acquires cryptic plumage for nesting in the spring. The annual molt of the flight feathers in ducks is synchronous (all the feathers molt at once) which renders the birds flightless for a period in mid-summer. Prior to this flightless period the male acquires a drab eclipse plumage to conceal him while he is earthbound and vulnerable.

Thus informed by the Pyle article, we are in a much better position to understand the appearances of female dabbling ducks during the year, particularly as regards the tertial feathers. This is the topic we introduced in January using the female Gadwall as a starting point. Recall that internet images show the spring female Gadwall has tertial

feathers with dark brown centers, light edges and a variable amount of light internal markings. Some time in June she replaces those tertials with gray tertial feathers more male-like in appearance. Let's look at the female Mallard to see if there is a similar cycle in the appearance



of the tertial feathers. At the following link note the similarity of the female Mallard's tertials to the male's tertials, <https://goo.gl/c0riu4>. This is the usual winter appearance of the female Mallard. The ducks just shown were in Germany. The next link shows a winter female in Quebec, so a little closer to

home, <https://goo.gl/GXpcoZ>. The many female Mallards I observed in the Lake Overholser bypass channel this past winter mostly held to the pattern of having male-like tertials. Some females had tertials that were more extensively dark than typical for males. The next four links show female Mallards with ducklings. The first one shows a female with tertials having a dark brown base color, light edges and several light internal markings, <https://goo.gl/b8TcHr>. This is an example of nesting plumage with especially extensive internal markings. The next link shows a female with the upper (inner) tertial fitting the description of the duck just shown, but the lower (outer) tertials having the male-like appearance, <https://goo.gl/JDkCKc>. It is not possible to tell from the photo whether this female has already started to molt out of nesting plumage, or if she never replaced some of her winter tertials.

The next link shows a female with just one light internal marking, a common pattern, <https://goo.gl/PXurie>, and the next shows a female with no light internal markings, <https://goo.gl/fbL9SZ>. It seems to me that the uniformly dark pattern occurs more often in the U.S. than in Europe and may be due to interbreeding with the American Black Duck, <https://goo.gl/ubylFd>. There are other possible causes including interbreeding with dark domestic mallards or a possible difference in the plumage of first winter females. At Martin Park there are multiple pairs of Mallards on the pond and in the creek on the west side. Most of the females have tertials with a dark brown base color, a light edge and one light internal marking. One female seen several times in the creek has male-like tertials. This is as of March 4th. More on female dabbling ducks next month.



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# Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



**The Great Horned Owl** (*Bubo virginianus*) ranges from most of Alaska and the southern two-thirds of Canada all the way down to the southern tip of South America. In Oklahoma, according to Sutton (1967, *Oklahoma Birds*) it is "[l]argely non-migratory, but some shifting of populations probably takes place in winter." Sutton gives two examples of possible shifting, one of a nestling

banded in Woods County (northwest Oklahoma) in April, 1953, and recovered in McClain County (central Oklahoma) in November 1958, and another banded as a nestling in Woods County in May 1956 and recovered in January 1958 in Barber County, south-central Kansas. The size of winter territories usually has a radius of about one-fourth mile, slightly larger in breeding season according to J.J. Craighead and F.C. Craighead, Jr. (1969. *Hawks, Owls and Wildlife*).

The Great Horned Owl and the Red-tailed Hawk have a broad and quite similar prey base, the owl hunting primarily at night and the Red-tail during the day. But people who have reared Great Horned Owls in captivity have been able to determine that the owl has excellent eyesight during the day, as well as at night. And the owl sometimes will hunt during the day, especially when raising young. The Great Horned and the Red-tailed Hawk sometimes will also nest quite close together without any signs of conflict.

The Great Horned prey base is primarily small mammals, but it will also take some birds, snakes, even frogs and crawfish. Near one nest found in Norman, Oklahoma, there were remains of meadowlark, duck, American Coot, and Greater Yellowleg, as well as a cottontail rabbit. In most areas its favorite prey item is rabbits. This prey item shows up quite frequently when the owls are raising young: often the back halves of rabbits will be at the nest. I suspect it is snacks for the kids! It is also known to prey on skunks, a fact confirmed when the adults and nest smell of skunk scent. It is known to fly at and strike a squirrel's nest to flush squirrels into the open; to catch domestic cats; and

to feed on bats exiting bat caves. It usually has a regular feeding perch, most often not far from its nest.

The Great Horned Owl is one of the earliest of nesters in Oklahoma, Sutton giving the earliest nesting date as 6 February 1955 in Marshall County (south-central Oklahoma). There is a live webcam of a nesting Great Horned in Oklahoma—at <http://www.ustream.tv/okcowlcam>>. This owl nesting site has been livestreamed for the last five years, the site started by a young girl named Alessondra. The nest is in a flower planter located on a second floor balcony of a home in Oklahoma City and this owl cam has had over 7.5 million visits from around the world.

The Great Horned Owl nests in a diversity of places, old eagle, hawk or crow nests, old squirrel nests, infrequently in hollow trees, cliffs, even on the ground. Clutch size varies from one to five, but is most often limited to two eggs.



The Great Horned differs from the Barred Owl in a number of ways. Of course there is a very distinct difference in their calls. The Great Horned has yellow eyes and conspicuous "horns," while the Barred has dark eyes and a round face a round face and head, and the Great Horned has horizontal stripes on the breast, while the Barred has vertical stripes below the upper breast. The Great Horned is larger (23 inches) than the Barred (21 inches).

Once on an Oklahoma City Christmas Bird Count, I was at the Stinchcomb Wildlife Preserve at Lake Overholser. It was early morning and just starting to get light. I had squeaked for owls for maybe

four or five minutes and was resting my squeaker. I had about given up on getting any owl to respond. Just before leaving, however, a large owl flew straight at my head. I threw my arms up to ward off getting hit in the head, or another possibility, my head becoming an owl perch. Fortunately about three feet from my head the owl flared away. My recollection is that I identified it as a Great Horned Owl, rather than a Barred Owl, but I do not recall the exact basis of my identification. Similar episodes have been reported in the literature on occasion: someone wearing a fur hat has been attacked by a Great Horned Owl because the owl thought the hat was a prey item!

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## The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail - Part 2

**Birds, grinning alligators and snowy fields**  
*by Esther Key*

It is ridiculously easy to find places to bird in Florida thanks to The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail, but finding birds every day for the eBird challenge was a bit harder in the not so warm and sunny Florida. So even though the Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park is one of the 510 premier wildlife viewing areas with several eBird Hot Spots, my sisters said it was boring and not worth visiting. Anyway on Sunday I decided to slip over there and explore it with John and my sister Jean. I walked over the sand dunes to a beach with a warning sign on what to do if caught by a rip tide and found the beach was cold, windy and birdless. Moving on to the Youth Camp where the habitat changed to shrubby scrubland and with a little phishing up popped around 100 Yellow-rumped Warblers. Awesome! Later when walking along their beach, I discovered over 20 Brown Pelicans fishing offshore sometimes with a gull companion.

Monday was warmer and less windy so sisters Marcia and Gloria wanted to go with us to the state park. At the Youth Camp we started walking a trail and were soon being scolded by Carolina Wrens while watching a pair of Eastern Towhees scratching in the dirt. Woodpeckers were pounding on the trees when suddenly a large bird was flushed from the bushes and disappeared into the trees. Marcia quickly followed and located it in a tall pine tree. As we took pictures, a Bald Eagle flew overhead and Gloria took off after it down the other trail. Gloria wanted to know what that little gray blob was on the ground: a Gray Catbird.

After we returned to the group, we were walking on the beach past groups of people sitting in chairs and fishing where two different gulls were hanging around. I told them some jokes and one thought they were funny: a Laughing Gull.

Tuesday we woke to find Hooded Mergansers in the pond behind the house. John and I drove down the Big Ben Scenic Byway along the beach. As we crossed a creek pouring into the ocean, John stopped and turned around to check out the Great Egrets, juveniles Little Blue Herons, and Belted Kingfisher. Further on the road John spotted an anorexic lighthouse, and we stopped for photos at the Crooked River Lighthouse.

We detoured to St Marks NWR—Otter Lake Recreation Area where a beautiful blue lake revealed absolutely no swimmers. Instead a Hermit Thrush and a strange sparrow were hanging around. Later a photo revealed it to be a Henslow's Sparrow. At the St. Marks Visitor Center we begin driving down the long trail to the lighthouse.

A spotting scope would have been very helpful for identifying the distance birds. A pier into the water was populated with Brown Pelicans and other birds. Oh wait, no way, wow, Royal Terns are in the mix along with winter plumage Ruddy Turnstones. Around the lighthouse Boat-tailed Grackles gathered.

We arrived at Wakulla Springs and traveled back in time to the 1930s. The next morning we took the amazing boat trip. Birds were all over the place. Pileated Woodpeckers, 100s of Black Vultures, dozens of White Ibis, Hooded Merganser, Anhinga, and Common Gallinule were some of the many birds located there along with several lounging alligators. At the end of the boat ride Manatees were seen in the pool of water where the spring arrives at the surface and begins its journey to the gulf.

After leaving Wakulla Springs, we stopped at Lake Talquin State Park where a flock of small birds added Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Black-and-white Warbler. Driving down I-10 we saw a sign for the Florida Birding Trail at Lake Seminole, but when wandering around town we couldn't find lake access. Heading west towards the motel on US#90, we came across a Birding Sign and decided to visit Sneads Park. It was a birding bonanza with 21 species including Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Another Birding Sign enticed us to the Three Rivers State Park where a flock of birds were feeding on the ground rapidly moving from place to place. A photo identified them as Pine Warblers.

The last morning in Florida started with a brief stop at Blue Pond near Chipley for the final discovery of Blue-headed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Chipping Sparrow, and American Goldfinch. Saturday morning, our last day on the road, at the motel the White-throated Sparrows again greeted us. Shortly after we arrived in Arkansas we exited I-40 and drove along US#70 looking for Snow Geese. We were disappointed because the railroad bed hid the fields between us and I-40 where we saw the Snow Geese earlier. It was foggy and visibility was only for a short distance. Half way down the road out of the fog a flock of geese were found on the other side of the road. Further on was another flock of geese with many hidden in the fog. Far away shots were heard and then from the fog a huge flock of over 5,000 Snow Geese both blue and white swirled overhead before settling down in the field just before us. Photos were taken of the amazing sight and from them 3 Ross's Geese were identified. All too soon the trip was over. In the end 71 species were identified in Florida and the trip total was 80 species. But the best part was visiting with family, as well as, the Florida waterfall, cavern, white squirrel, manatees, alligators and many observed bird antics.

## Minutes of OKC Audubon Society Meeting 02/20/2017

President Bill Diffin called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

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

The Treasurer's report shows a current balance of \$5,499.47.

First time guests were introduced, Grace Thomas, Ginny & Keith Green, Floyd Murdoch, Rosario & Mike Douglas, Brittany Simons, Ashton Roberts and Andi Ford.

Fieldtrips Report: (details in the Feb. newsletter)

—Saturday, 9:00 AM Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, Wichita Wildlife Refuge, leader Kurt Meisenzahl.

—Saturday, 5:30 PM Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, Lake Stanley Draper for Woodcock mating rituals, leader Jimmy Woodard.

—Tuesday, 7:15 AM, March 14<sup>th</sup>, Mitch Park, leader Hal Yocum.

—Tuesday, 7:30 AM, March 21, Lake Hefner, leader Betz Hacker.

Mark Sullivan has fieldtrip spring outing schedules for Nature Conservancy sites around the state.

Upcoming events and festivals include Earthfest, Sat., April 29, 1-5pm, for which we need volunteers, at Stars & Stripes Park. The OOS spring meeting, May 5-7 at Hackberry Flats, and the annual Red Slough festival also May 5-7. More details will be upcoming in next month's newsletter.

Conservation chairman, Dave Woodson announced Martin Park is currently seeking volunteer greeters while the park is undergoing renovation until June 2017, especially on the weekends. If you are willing to help out, call Emily Hiatt (mgr) 297-1429.

Bob Holbrook provided a feather for our monthly quiz. After numerous clues, it was ID'd as from a Monk Parakeet.

Warren Harden announced the Sutton Center has a Bald Eagle nest cam up and running at Sequoyah Wildlife Refuge. Go to [www.suttoncenter.org/live-bald-eagle-nest-camera](http://www.suttoncenter.org/live-bald-eagle-nest-camera)

Recent sightings included some RARE birds: Golden Eagle, I-40 at Seminole exit; Harris Hawk, Rockwell & Memorial Rd.; and a Snow Bunting, I-35 & Hwy.9 intersection.

Nadine Varner, Valerie Bradshaw and Jimmy Woodard went to see the two White-tailed Kites near Gould in Harmon County which have been drawing a steady stream of birders. While there they found a Pyrrhuloxia.

A very informative and enlightening program was given by Brittany Simons on her study of Great-tailed Grackles. This introduced species has become very invasive, especially in urban settings. Her research area, in Stillwater, revealed their preference of Bradford Pear trees, 49 of 50 nest study sites.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.



## Birding Expo At the Keystone Homeschool Coop

On January 17th, Dave Woodson, Terri Underhill and Bill Diffin presented a one-hour birding expo to 25 third, fourth and fifth graders. The students are enrolled in the Keystone Homeschool Cooperative at the Metroplex Church of the Nazarene. Valerie Boudreaux, a biology teacher at the school and a member of The Friends of Martin Park, was the organizer of the event. David used his bird photos to talk about visual identification of birds. Terri gave a lesson on recognition of birds by their vocalizations. Bill's session covered common bird identification, male vs. female vs. juvenile plumages, seasonal plumage changes, male and female roles during breeding and similarities of songbirds within the same family. The students listened attentively and eagerly participated in question and answer. Valerie had obviously done a good job of teaching the fundamentals of birds and birding. Grace Huffman, a senior at the school who sat in at the expo, is number four on the top 100 eBirder list for checklists submitted in the state of Oklahoma. Grace has submitted 2395 checklists as of March 4, 2017. Grace and her father Paul recently became members of OKC Audubon.



# Recorders Report

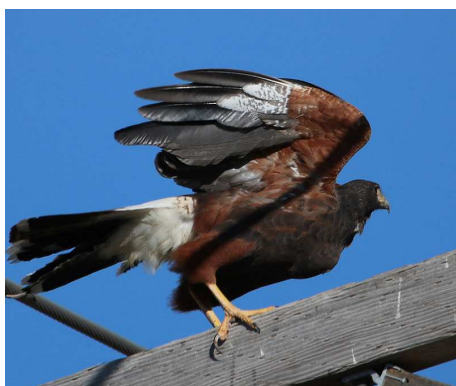
## February 2017

### The Great Backyard Bird Count

What a busy birding month!! This year the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) dates were 17, 18, 19, 20 and Central Oklahoma did well, but were we able to have all central Oklahoma counties participate? The GBBC was quickly followed by the arrival of the first spring migrants, and two surprise visitors arrived during the month but would they stay?

On the 31<sup>st</sup> Robert Martinez spotted Wild Turkey at Sleepy Hollow RV Park in Kingfisher County. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Robert Martinez detected a Loggerhead Shrike and Western Meadowlark at Lake Hefner, and Jerry Taylor reported a Baltimore Oriole in his OKC backyard. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Janet Mills noticed a Pileated Woodpecker in her yard in Logan County, and Zach Poland identified Le Conte's and American Tree Sparrows at Lake Carl Blackwell. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Valerie Bradshaw and others encountered **American Woodcock** at Lake Stanley Draper, and Brian Stufflebeam saw an Eastern Towhee at Mitch Park.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> in McClain County Tyler Miloy discovered Double-crested Cormorant and Northern Harrier at Wiley Post Memorial Lake; and Joe Grzybowski located Western Meadowlark at the Goldsby Sod Farm. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland verified a Lincoln's Sparrow in Logan County; Zach DuFran counted a Purple Finch at Lake Thunderbird Chapel; and Joe Buck got an **Eastern Screech-Owl** in Edmond. On the 9<sup>th</sup> at Lake El Reno Brian Stufflebean added Snow Goose, Ross's Goose and Swamp Sparrow.



On the 10<sup>th</sup> Michael Anderson photographed a **Harris's Hawk** in Oklahoma City which was later seen by numerous birders for the rest of the month. At Wewoka Lake Jimmy Woodward noticed Red-headed Woodpecker and Field Sparrow; and at Wes

Watkins Lake he documented Rusty and Brewer's Blackbirds. On the 11<sup>th</sup> Glenda Duvall recognized **Sandhill Crane** and Red-headed Woodpecker on Redskin Road near the Canadian River; Shane Sherwood tallied a Common Loon on the west side of Lake Overholser; at Lake Carl Blackwell Caitlin Laughlin came across American Woodcock and John Polo had Pine Warbler.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> in Guthrie William Radke checked Common Loon at Liberty Lake and Brown Creeper and Hermit Thrush at Mineral Wells Park, and T K recorded an American Woodcock at Lake Thunderbird Alameda Bridges. On the 13<sup>th</sup> Steve Davis had a Pileated Woodpecker at the Yukon City Park and a Greater Scaup along the west side of Lake Overholser. On the 14<sup>th</sup> Larry Mays turned up a Horned Lark in McClain County. On the 15<sup>th</sup> in Kingfisher County Janice Russell spotted a Red-breasted Nuthatch; and in Grady County at Lake Louis Burttschi Mary & Lou Truex identified a **Vesper Sparrow** and Spotted Towhee. On the 16<sup>th</sup> Amanda Stubbs noticed a Red-breasted Nuthatch near Mustang; John Bates saw a Le Conte's Sparrow at the Purina Field in Edmond; and Zach Poland got a **Barn Owl** at his home in Logan County.



And then the Great Backyard Bird Count started. On the 17<sup>th</sup> at Wynnewood in Garvin County Jessie Hammond reported White-crowned Sparrows and Carolina Wren. In Lincoln County near Wellston Will

Childress located Harris's Sparrow and White-breasted Nuthatch. At Bridge Creek in Grady County Renee Kendall detected a Ring-necked Duck. At Blanchard in McClain County Laura Madden recognized Brown Creeper and Hairy Woodpecker. In Cleveland County at Lake Stanley Draper Brian Marra tallied Horned Grebe and Red-breasted Merganser. In Oklahoma County in Nicoma Park George Ann Tabor documented a Purple Finch and Pine Siskin. In Payne County at the Meridian Technology Center Pond Sarah Harren discovered Least Sandpipers.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> in Seminole County at a roadside pond Esther and John Key added Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs; at Lake Konawa NE boat ramp a White-throated Sparrow; and in Pottawatomie County a Loggerhead Shrike. At Bell Cow Lake in Lincoln County Brian Marra noticed Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Common Goldeneye. At the USAO Habitat Area in Grady County Jason Shaw located American Wigeon, Brewer's Blackbird and White-winged Dove. On the west side of Lake Overholser in Canadian County Brian Stufflebeam counted Common Merganser and Herring Gull; while Valerie Boudreaux recognized American Goldfinch near Yukon. At Mulhall in Logan County Bridger Arrington encountered **Chestnut-collared**

**Longspur.** At Lake Carl Blackwell Alex James identified a Hermit Thrush and CH Hemphill a Brown Thrasher. In Norman Diana Beal found a Great Egret; at Summit Lake Emily Hjalmarson checked a Canvasback; at Lake Thunderbird Little River Marina area T K saw a Spotted Sandpiper and at Ten Mile Flats Joe Grzybowski came across a Northern Harrier. On the 19<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland spotted a Bald Eagle along Hwy #33 in Kingfisher County. In McClain County in Purcell Phil Floyd had a Greater Yellowlegs; east of Byars the Muzny's reported American Woodcock, Hermit Thrush, Purple Finch; and at Wiley Post Memorial Lake Christine Bassett detected a Bald Eagle. In Logan County south of the Lazy Z Arena Will Childress came across a Purple Finch and Red-headed Woodpecker. In Norman Carol Enwall documented a Pine Warbler; Jeff Dosser added a Wild Turkey; and at Cherry Creek Park Jeremy Ross found a Loggerhead Shrike. At the OKC Zoo Zach DuFran discovered a Black-crowned Night-Heron; and at Lake Carl Blackwell Drake Boone recorded a Lincoln's Sparrow. On the 20<sup>th</sup> Brian Stufflebeam counted a Swamp Sparrow at Mineral Wells Park in Guthrie; Cindy Cunningham encountered a Barn Owl at the Purina Fields in Edmond; Joe Grzybowski verified a Ross's Goose at Lake Hefner; and the GBBC was over.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> Deanne McKinney tallied a Green-winged Teal at Rose Lake, and Deb Hirt identified a **Neotropic Cormorant** at Boomer Lake. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Alexis Singleton birded Wes Watkins Lake and located Brewer's Blackbird and Pied-billed Grebe. At Lake Louis Burtzchi in Grady County Caleb McKinney noticed an American Woodcock and Ruddy Duck. In Norman John Tharp saw a **Lark Sparrow**; and along South Jenkins Calebe Frome discovered Common Yellowthroat and Wren Winter. At Lake Hefner Brian Marra picked out a **Franklin's Gull**, and in her OKC yard Deanne McKinney had an Eastern Screech-Owl.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland spotted **Blue-winged Teal** in Logan County; while in Cleveland County Larry Mays also discovered Blue-winged Teal along with **Cinnamon Teal** at the sod farm along SW149<sup>th</sup> Street. Caleb Frome quickly arrived to find them before they disappeared the next day. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Wendy Abel got a Downy Woodpecker east of Shawnee; Bill Diffin encountered a Ruddy Duck along Lake Overholser's west side; and T K recorded an American Pipit at Lake Thunderbird Dave Blue Creek area. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Tim O'Connell noticed a Pine Warbler at OSU Arboretum; and Scott Loss spotted an American Pipit at Whittenberg Park. On the 27<sup>th</sup> Jerry Butler reported a Common Loon, Orange crowned Warbler, **Fish Crow** and **Purple Martin** at Guthrie Lake. Barn Owls were seen by Griffin Sellers at the Lexington WMA and Jason Shaw at the USAO Habitat Area. On the 28<sup>th</sup> Jeremy Ross counted a flock of Sandhill Cranes in Norman.

In the Central Oklahoma area during February 141 species were reported with 14 new species added to the 2017 year making the total to date of **152**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds by making reports at <http://ebird.org> and can also be contacted by e-mail at [em-kok@earthlink.net](mailto:em-kok@earthlink.net). Esther M. Key, Editor.

## OKC AUDUBON SOCIETY Financial Report for 2016

CASH ON HAND 12/31/2015 \$5,620.99

### INCOME:

Membership dues	1,078.72
Checking Acct. interest	8.68
Car stickers	20.77
Contributions	<u>140.00</u>
	1,248.17
	<u>+1,248.17</u>
	6,869.16

### EXPENSES:

Meeting room rent	420.00
Newsletter (copies/postage)	769.61
Club Promotion	19.53
Memb. dues (Garden Co)	15.00
Summer Social & Xmas count	218.27
Speaker Honorarium	<u>200.00</u>
	1,642.41
	<u>-1,642.41</u>

CASH ON HAND 12/31/2016 \$5,226.75

## Welcome!

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes new members:

Grace & John Smith, Edmond, OK  
Saleem Salahuddin, Norman, OK  
Rosario & Mike Douglas, Norman, OK  
Ginny & Keith Green, OKC  
Floyd Murdoch, Altus, OK  
Natalie Hamilton, OKC  
Martha Hordinsky, OKC  
Sandra Krug, OKC (Welcome back)

## DUES NOTICE

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2017. OCAS dues are \$15 per household and may be paid at the monthly meetings, online at our website <http://www.okc-audubon.org> or mailed to Nancy Vicars, Treasurer, 24 SE 57th St., OKC 73129.

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

## Field Trip Schedule: (contact trip leader if you are planning to attend)

### ***Tuesday Morning Birders:***

Tues, March 14: Mitch Park, (1501 Covell Rd. Edmond, OK): 7:15 Meet Hal Yokum: drhal2@cox.net at Old School Bagel Cafe (775 W. Covell Rd)

Tues, March 21: Lake Hefner: 7:30 Meet Betz Hacker: elizabethhacker66@yahoo.com at the inlet canal. Bring a scope if you have one

Tues, March 28: Lake Overholser: 7:30 Meet Bob Holbrook ( incatarn@msn.com ) at the police station parking lot. Bring a scope if you have one.

Tues, April 4: Will Rogers Park: 7:30 Meet Betz Hacker: elizabethhacker66@yahoo.com at the Senior Community Center Parking lot

Tues, April 11 George Edwards property (I-44 & Kelly, OKC): Bob Holbrook & Betz Hacker: elizabethhacker66@yahoo.com. 7:30 Contact Betz for information on where to meet. We'll need a head count for this walk because it's on private property.

### **Refreshments:**

Refreshments for the March meeting will be provided by  
John Bates and Nadine Varner.  
Drinks & Ice: Pilar Escobar

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