



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

May 2012

Louisiana Waterthrush: What the 'feathered trout' can tell us about watershed condition

Tim O'Connell will be our guest speaker at the May 21 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society. Tim is an associate professor in the department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University. Tim is originally from central New York, and he first became interested in birds on the family farm north of Utica. He majored in Natural Resources for his Bachelor's degree from Cornell University, earned a Master's in Biology from the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and earned a PhD from Penn State where he first started working with waterthrushes. Tim left Penn State in 2003 for a faculty position in the Zoology Department at OSU. Tim has authored numerous scientific articles, he has also co-authored several with our own John Shackford, including *First Confirmed Breeding for Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) in Texas County, Oklahoma*, published in the Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society.



Ecologists often rely on indicator species to rapidly convey information about the condition or "health" of an ecosystem. In the eastern U.S., the Louisiana Waterthrush may be unique in its ability to provide information on both broad landscape condition and the very specific condition of the streams where it obtains its food. Dr. O'Connell will deliver a presentation on his involvement in developing a waterthrush-based indicator of watershed condition in the Appalachians, how that indicator is being used by federal agencies today, and whether or not waterthrushes are valid indicators of condition here in the Southern Plains.

Tim is an avid birder when he can take the time to do so, a past-president of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, and current president of the Payne County Audubon Society. He never turns down an invitation to explain that the Louisiana Waterthrush is the *pinnacle of avian evolution*.

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.

New Members

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes new members: Anna & Mark Kuc, Oklahoma City

President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



This is the seventh article in a series which assesses our ability to obtain an understanding of the passerine order worldwide from what we can learn by observing "nearby" passerines. Last month we had begun a survey of the Tyranni "superfamily". We completed an examination of the manakins, the Pipridae family, and had made a start on the cotingas, the

Cotingidae family. At the end of the article were links to IBC video and audio on the Lovely Cotinga and the Rufous Piha, the two nearest cotingas, from southern Mexico.

The Lovely Cotinga, *Cotinga amabilis*, eats fruit and regurgitates the seeds. Because Lovely Cotingas "are quiet and silent, and prefer the higher strata of the forest, little is known about their behavior, social organization and reproductive traits" (ref 1). The wings of the males make a quiet rattling sound in flight which plays a role in courtship. There are seven species in the *Cotinga* genus, known as the blue cotingas. All males are adorned with metallic blue and purple plumage, for example the Spangled Cotinga, <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/spangled-cotinga-cotinga-cayana>. The other nearby cotinga, the Rufous Piha, *Lipaugus unirufus*, is a well-camouflaged, thrush-like, arboreal inhabitant of subtropical and tropical humid forests, more often heard than seen (ref 1). The diet is varied including arthropods, fruits and seeds which it usually eats while hovering. It is one of seven *Lipaugus*, all called pihas. The Cotingidae family contains 24 genera in all. Some genera, like the blue cotingas, are known for the striking appearance of the males such as the cock-of-the-rocks (<http://ibc.lynxeds.com/photo/guianan-cock-rock-rupicola-rupicola/adult-male-group-about-30-birds-season-mating>) and the umbrellabirds, and some genera are known for their loud and distinctive calls like the bellbirds (<http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/three-wattled-bellbird-procnias-tricarunculatus/male-singing-side-female>) and the pihas (<http://ibc.lynxeds.com/video/screaming-piha-lipaugus-vociferans/bird-tree-singing>). The four fruitcrows have both attractive plumage and distinctive calls, for example the Purple-throated Fruitcrow (4th video and 1st sound clip <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/purple-throated-fruitcrow-querula-purpurata>) and the Red-ruffed Fruitcrow (1st sound clip <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/red-ruffed-fruitcrow-pyroderus-scutatus>). Many male cotingas "have striking courtship displays, often grouped together in leks" (ref Wikipedia "Cotinga"). See last month's article for additional information on diet and behavior of cotingas.

The third of four families in the Tyranni is the namesake, the Tyrannidae. It contains all the US birds we know as flycatchers, phoebes, pewees, kingbirds and the Great Kiskadee as well as many residents of Central and South

America. This is the largest passerine family with 97 genera and over 400 species. The most common foraging technique is perch-and-sally but with varying methods of capture such as a single quick strike at foliage, hovering and gleaning or flushing prey out of foliage. Other techniques include gleaning while perched, hop-and-stop on the ground (ground-tyrants) or walking on the ground (antpipits) (ref 2 & 3). The Cliff Flycatcher hawks insects in "spectacular, long aerial sallies, swooping like a swallow" (ref www.iucnredlist.org). Tyrannids can have long tails (Scissor-tailed FC) or short tails (Olive-sided FC), long wings (pewees and kingbirds) or short wings (many non-migrant tropical species), drab colors (many species) or bright colors (Vermilion Flycatcher and Lulu's Tody-tyrant <http://www.arkive.org/lulus-tody-tyrant/poecilotriccus-luluae/image-G40394.html>). Despite all this variability, many tyrannids do have a flycatchery look that includes a short-medium length, wide, flat, triangular bill, short neck, small feet, short legs, and slight crest. Vocalizations are often simple such as the whistles of the phoebes, pewees and empids or the screeches of the Great Crested FC. The vocalizations of the kingbirds and relatives tend to be more chatty and complex, especially their dawn songs, but the individual song variety typical of oscines is lacking. The last of the four Tyranni families is the Tityridae. We will survey them next month.

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



Most every birder has favorite birds, based on a variety of things. When I was maybe 10-12, my favorite bird, for beauty, became the **Scarlet Tanager** (*Piranga olivacea*), the male in his overall scarlet, with black wings and tail, and the female in her understated green. My recollection of when this happened is of being in a deep forest in the Appalachian Mountains of western

North Carolina, and seeing a pair of these tanagers high in the forest canopy. What a place of beauty and what a perfectly beautiful pair of birds, I thought. It remains a beautiful image in my head, although the image may have been "improved" over the years. Nathan Kuhnert wrote the account of the Scarlet Tanager in the Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas (Reinking, D.L., 2004). He begins his account with a particularly beautiful and apt sentence about this bird: "The male Scarlet Tanager's strikingly brilliant scarlet-red and velvet-black plumage is almost unrivaled among North American birds, although it is his characteristic call note that usually identifies his presence high in the tree canopy."

In western North Carolina, the Scarlet Tanager had many challengers for "most beautiful bird"—many of the warblers and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak among them. For me there was an added bonus for the tanager. In fall migration I would often see older males that were pied, with green interspersed in the scarlet, as they changed into green winter plumage, and no 2 pied males seeming to have just the same mixture of scarlet and green. I never found a Scarlet Tanager nest in North Carolina, but after I was living in Oklahoma, Patti Muzny showed me "half" of a Scarlet Tanager's nest. Let me explain.

In 1979 Maxine Kastl, Patti Muzny's mother, found a tanager nest in her yard in Perkins, Payne County, central Oklahoma. Very interestingly, the tanager pair was composed of a male Scarlet Tanager and a female Summer Tanager. The nest and birds were observed from May 28-July 18; 3 young fledged from the nest. One of

the remarkable things about the male was that he often sat relatively close to the ground, about as high as the nest which was maybe 12 feet up—Scarlet Tanagers usually sit high in the canopy. The Summer Tanager usually nests within about 12-20 feet of the ground while the Scarlet Tanager averages nesting considerably higher in the forest canopy; Bent reported that F.W. Rapp found 8 nests, ranging in height from 25-32 feet (A.C., 1965, Life Histories of North American Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers, and Allies). Because Mrs. Kastl's male Scarlet apparently changed his behavior, in staying low to the ground, I guess the female Summer "ruled the roost" on this particular behavioral point for the pair. Because he did stay fairly close to the ground, this male Scarlet Tanager made for a great photo-

graphic opportunity, which at least Wes Isaacs and I took advantage of.



May is the perfect month to talk about migrants. There are several Scarlet Tanager records for western Oklahoma, including 1 of a possible breeder in Cimarron County (Reinking, 2004). In the Sutton Summaries of Species [1982] I find 3 old records for the Oklahoma City area: on April 19 and 26, 1925, seen each date by Saunders; May 25, 1950 by P.S. Griffing; and May 20, 1953 by D. Clark and J. Kull. I find no recent records for the species in

the Oklahoma City area; does anyone know of one—I'd like to hear about it. Keep the outside possibility of seeing a Scarlet Tanager in mind as you enjoy the spring migrants here in Oklahoma City.

The species is known to nest westward in Oklahoma at least to Pontotoc County, according to the Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas. They lay 3-5 eggs, but usually 4. These are greenish-blue and speckled with shades of brown.

I would like to thank my wife Melissa for contributing her editing skills to "Bird of the Month."

Chirpings

March and April 2012
By Patti Muzny

Spring totally sprung upon me this year. One day I used the heater in my vehicle and the next day the air was on.

Our yard suddenly burst into bloom and song. The Eastern Bluebirds that have stayed in our yard for the past three years began to sing and the female started searching for just the right piece of grass to begin her new home. My morning coffee on St. Patrick's Day took me out onto the patio to absorb morning trying to break through the low clouds. As I lounged on the furniture thinking of nothing in particular and sipping my morning brew, something fluttered above my head and landed on a wire plant stand with a sharp "chirp" and a tail-wagging "Phoebe!" Whoopee!

On March 18th at our Byars abode, there were several enjoyable sightings. Brian saw a Little Blue Heron fly-by and I frightened a Woodcock in the woods along the creek. Fox Sparrows were singing and the first Black and White Warblers are singing in the trees near the cabin. A Bewick's Wren was seen scurrying under our truck in search of a choice item of nesting material. I also heard our first Louisiana Waterthrush. .

I know this is mostly a birding story, but along with spring and birding comes the possibility of finding some morels. You know - those tasty wild things that you have to sneak up on very cautiously, snap their necks and stuff them in your sack?



In 2010, I had only the smallest taste of about a half-dozen dried up, pitiful specimens. In 2011 the "big drought" eliminated even the hope of finding a dried up one. Sad!

On March 16, Tim and Sydney found about 20 little bitty ones and they shared with me. On the 18th, I grabbed my binoculars and a sack and headed for my favorite (top secret) morel hunting ground. After almost an hour of tripping over greenbriers, downed timber, grapevines and various and assorted additional unpleasant things, I had one scrawny pocket full. After stopping for a quick lunch, I headed toward another place on the property where I've found 3 or 4 in the past. I found a few in the trail. Since this area had burned last fall, I didn't think



bare, charred soil would be a hotbed of morels. What was I thinking? With Brian's help I gathered a couple of gallons of these much-revered spring treasures.

April 1st found our pasture an even more brilliant green with many of our trees adorned with leaves. The Bewick's Wrens have set up housekeeping in front of our cabin and the ones at our OKC home have built a nest on the north side of the patio.

My route from south OKC to the State Capitol each day takes me over the Oklahoma River and through Regatta Park between the boathouses. On the south side of the bridge a pair of Red-tailed Hawks has built a nest on the east side. Each day one of the pair is on the nest and the other sometimes perches over the street on a street light.

EarthFest a Success

By Dave Woodson



Our team at the Oklahoma City Audubon Society display greeted an estimated 150 to 200 people who stopped and hopefully left with an interest to learn more about birds. I wish to thank Terri Underwood, Nealand Hill, Steve Davis and Bill Diffin who brought exhibit materials, and their special expertise to this outing. We were located in the field adjacent to the parking lot away from the visitor center. To draw more visitors, Terri pruned branches, added signs and encouraged all to take the bird quiz for which she provided "rewards." Steve brought a number of Bird feeders to exhibit and explained their difference designs. Nealand, brought a Downy woodpecker nest to exhibit and donated it to Martin Park. Steve and Bill also visited the Girl Scouts' garden located near the Visitors Center which the OCAS donated \$100 to help with the cost.

High Island in April

By Jimmy Woodard

A contingent of twelve Oklahoma birders descended on High Island, Texas, during the first week in April. My travel group consisted of Lisa Bewley, Kristi Hendricks, Matt Jung, and Lonnie Gamble. We departed OKC early on Thursday, April 5th. Our plan was to arrive in High Island by afternoon but some tire problems on Lisa's Jeep resulted in some delays and we arrived about 6pm. We ran into Steve Davis, Mary Lane, Gene and Jana Mott, and John Sterling and we went the two blocks over to Boy Scout Woods but didn't



find much there. At the Smith Oaks rookery, there were lots of nesting Neotropic Cormorants, Tricolored Herons, Great Egrets, and Roseate Spoonbills.

Friday morning, most of us had an early breakfast at the Gulfway Motel restaurant then we all rendezvoused at the Boy Scout Woods sanctuary run by Houston Audubon Society.

Activity seemed to be slow but we picked up quite a few species as we walked the trails. Such goodies as Merlin, Inca Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, E Pewee, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Blue-winged, Prothonotary, Black-throated Green, Hooded, and Black & White Warblers. Also seen were Fulvous Whistling Duck, Scarlet Tanager, Orchard Oriole, and Swainson's Thrush. I was fortunate to get a brief glimpse of a Cerulean Warbler but no one else of our group saw it.

At noon, we joined the Tropical Birding tour at Rollover Pass on the Bolivar Peninsula. With the ocean just yards away, it was a treasure trove of birds. We saw Black Skimmers, Royal and Sandwich Terns, Black-bellied and Wilson's Plovers, Sanderling, Dunlin, Forster's and Least Terns, American Oystercatcher, Marbled Godwit, Brown Pelicans, Laughing Gull, Common and Caspian Terns, Semipalmated Plover and Willets. Further down the peninsula at Bolivar Flats, we walked along the beach and watched shorebirds working the tideline. There were several Red Knots still in winter plumage, Western Sandpipers, Piping Plover, and Greater Yellowlegs. On some pilings were a few DC Cormorants and riding the waves were Lesser Scaup.

Some from our group ventured inland to Anahuac NWR which has been hit hard by Hurricane Ike a few years ago. The salt water intrusion has killed off most of the reeds and vegetation which has opened up the view in all the holding ponds. The birds still abound and included White Ibis, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Common Gallinule, American and Least Bitterns, and Marsh Wren. The American Bitterns put on quite a show out in the open to

the delight of photographers Matt and Lonnie who clicked away gleefully. To celebrate the day's birding, some of us had a nice seafood dinner at Al T's in Winnie. It was all good. Saturday morning we all were back at Boy Scout Woods. Each day seems to bring new migrants this time of year and this day was no different. New arrivals we enjoyed were Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Chat, Swainson's Hawk, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeak, and Worm-eating Warbler.

After lunch back at the motel, we drove up to Winnie, east to Port Arthur, and down to Sabine Woods which is along the upper TX coast near Sabine Pass. This sanctuary was the birdiest place we visited during our long weekend trip. We racked up good looks at several birds including Palm, Blue-winged and Blackburnian Warblers. We essentially saw everything we had seen previously at High Island but just had much better looks at most of the birds.

We went south to Sea Rim State Park where we walked the boardwalk thru the marsh and heard Sedge Wren, Sora, and Clapper Rails. Most everyone got to see a couple of Marsh Wrens and a lucky few saw one of the Clapper Rails fly.

My Sunday began with a Peregrine Falcon cruising over High Island being harassed by martins, starlings, and swallows. Everyone met again at Boy Scout Woods for our last morning in town. The activity level was way down so about 9:30, Matt, Lonnie, Lisa, Kristi and I parted company with our group to begin the road back home to OKC. We stopped at the Skillern Unit of Anahuac for about an hour. Dodging the fire ant mounds, we hiked down a concrete trail to an observation platform. We saw lots of Common Gallinules, whistling ducks, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, White-faced Ibis, and Black-necked Stilt. We also saw a male Ruby-throated Hummer perched on a twig.



Our two-car convoy hit the interstate about 11am and headed thru Houston. The trip home was relatively uneventful except for the toad-strangling downpour just on the south side of Dallas that slowed down traffic to a crawl and caused an accident. After that, we rolled north into Oklahoma. I got a short look at two Yellow-billed Cuckoos crossing the road in Love County. We made it to my house in Mustang at about 7pm, concluding our 1300 mile, four day trip. Our trip list was a respectful 163 species which isn't bad for only two full days of birding.

I hate to brag on Texas but you can't go wrong, birding-wise, on a visit there. The Gulf Coast is lined with good birding spots and the migration of passerines this time of year can be spectacular. I highly recommend a birding visit to the Gulf Coast in your future.

Minutes of the April 16, 2012 Meeting

President Bill Diffin called the meeting to order. Bill asked for any corrections or additions to the February and March minutes as published in the April newsletter. Minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer Nancy Vicars read the Treasurer's Report

Cash on Hand	
3/19/12	\$6,214.63
Deposits	272.37
Disbursement	-186.35
Cash on Hand	
4/16/12	\$6,300.65

Committee Reports:

Field Trips -

--Chairman Jimmy Woodard reported the High Island field trip resulted in observing 20 species of Warblers with the total number of bird observation at 163.

--Jimmy presented the upcoming Field Trips. Our second annual picnic will be celebrated in June at Draper Lake.

Conservation Committee -

--Chairman Dave Woodson requested six volunteers to assist at Martin Park Earthfest held on April 21.

--On April 28, Wild Care Foundation in Noble is hosting a facility tour from 2:00 - 5:00 pm.

--Dave stated Oklahoma Wildlife Diversity program is asking for volunteers to complete a Hummingbird Survey between April 1 and November 30.

--He reported that House Bill HB2607 is out of the Senate Committee with a Do Pass as amended.

Question of the Month is: What to do if you find an injured bird?

Warren Harden introduced tonight's speakers John Shackford and Jack Tyler. The team gave an outstanding presentation on Prairie Dog Towns.

Cookie Patrol

Refreshments for the May meeting will be provided by Nancy Reed, Nealand Hill and Anna Kuc.

What to do if you find an injured bird?

Report an Injured Bird quickly to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. One of the best known facilities in Oklahoma is the [WildCare Foundation in Noble, OK](#). Phone (405) 872-9338.

Many injuries are time sensitive! The longer an injured bird goes without professional treatment, the less likely it will survive.

Determine if the bird was stunned by a collision or is a fledgling that just fell out of its nest.

Adult Birds: If stunned due to a collision it is suggested to either leave it alone, or place it in a cardboard box at room temperature for about 15-20 minutes. The dark environment of the box will reduce stress, and it is surprising how often stunned birds will recover well enough to fly off after a short recovery period.

Fledglings: Most songbirds leave the nest before they are able to fly. Sometimes storms may be the cause. These fledglings may spend several days to a week on the ground or in low vegetation while their wing feathers and flight muscles develop. Even though the adult birds may not be evident nearby, they could still be feeding the young bird, and it is best to leave it alone. If cats are present, the bird can be placed on a nearby branch to get it off of the ground.

Young nestlings: If the bird is so young that its eyes are still closed and it has down instead of growing feathers, it may be placed back in its nest if the nest can be found. If the nest cannot be found contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Injured Raptors: Caution is important! *Be cautious when handling hawks, owls, herons, or egrets. Sharp talons can cause significant pain, injury or infection, and heron beaks in particular can be dangerous, especially to eyes.*

If you find an injured raptor: Do not try to pick up the bird, unless specifically instructed by a rehabilitator. Raptors are wild animals and can be very dangerous to an untrained individual. Note the specific location of the bird then call WildCare Foundation at (405) 872-9338. It is best if you can stay near the bird until help arrives.

If you find an injured raptor and must contain it due to circumstance: It will resist being caught by attacking with the beak, talons, and wing flapping. Wear gloves. Throw a jacket, towel, or blanket over the bird, covering the head, and gather the bird in the blanket, avoiding the dangerous feet. Place the bird in a carrier or cardboard box with ventilation holes.

If you are holding a raptor until it can reach a wildlife rehabilitator: Raptors do not understand that you are trying to help them; to reduce stress on the bird, keep it in a dark, warm, quiet space away from other animals and loud noises. **Do not feed it**, unless someone at the center has given you instructions. If an emaciated or dehydrated bird is given too much food or water, their systems can shut down.

If you are transporting a raptor: It is best to keep the bird in a plastic dog or cat kennel/carrier or a sturdy cardboard box that has a closing lid, with some towels on the bottom for gripping and comfort. The carrier or box should be a little bit bigger than the bird, and ventilation holes are necessary. Transport to the WildCare Foundation, 7601 84th St., Noble.

Recorders Report – April 2012

An Active Month

As our winter species disappear and summer species arrive, April plants were treated to a frost free month and twice as much rain as average. It was a lively month with plants breaking dormancy early, several tornados, and the arrival of singing migrants and summer residents. Birders were kept busy discovering new arrivals every week.

On the 1st at the Yukon City Park Jimmy Woodward watched 6 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, 2 American Crows, and 2 Cooper's Hawks building nests, saw Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Spotted Towhee, **Chimney Swift**, heard a **White-eyed Vireo**, and at the Coffey Dam on



Lake Overholser he heard at least half a dozen Marsh Wrens and four Fish Crows. At Lake Thunderbird Lindell Dillon and Jane Boren also located a White-eyed Vireo and an **Osprey**. John Sterling discovered Yellow-crowned Night Herons nesting in large trees only a few blocks from the OU campus. On South Jenkins in Norman Joe Grzybowski discovered an **Orange-crowned Warbler**. On the 2nd in Norman Kim Wiar heard a Barred Owl. On the 5th Joe made a very quick pass by Lake Hefner and located about 15 Common Loons, one Red-throated Loon, a Western Grebe, and at the Coffey Dam Jim Bates found a Cinnamon Teal. In Payne County at the Meridian Tech Center Pond, John Polo observed **Semipalmated Sandpiper**.

On the 6th James Hubbell took a short walk along the Coffey Dam at Lake Overholser just before work and enjoyed Black-and-white Warbler, Marsh Wren, Pintail Duck, and Swamp Sparrow. Pat Velte was surprised to see five Western Grebes swimming together at Lake Hefner. In Norman Lindell Dillon observed a **Broad-winged Hawk**, and Joe Grzybowski saw a **Swainson's Hawk**. On the 7th Jason Heinen located a **Northern Parula** near his home in Stillwater.

In Norman on the 8th Joseph Brian Davis discovered a **House Wren**, and on the 9th Diane Landoll saw her first **Western Kingbird** in a tree near the Biological Survey. **Chimney Swift** were located by John Polo near his home in Stillwater, and Dave McNeely had them twittering and fluttering over Edmond. On the 10th in Norman along South Jenkins Louis Truex announced the arrival of a **Prothonotary Warbler**, and Joe found a **White-faced Ibis** at Lake Hefner. On the 11th John Polo photographed

a group of **Pectoral Sandpipers** and saw **Cattle Egrets** at Meridian Tech Center Pond. Esther Key heard an **Upland Sandpiper** flying over the parking lot in The Village during the night.

On the 13th Jim Bates found a **Green Heron** at Crystal Lake, and on the 14th he saw a Loggerhead Shrike in central Oklahoma City. On the 14th Joe Grzybowski took a little time to poke around for birds starting in his Norman yard with **Swainson's Thrush** and House Wren and along a windy South Jenkins he had a **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **Warbling Vireo** and an Upland Sandpiper. Later Jennifer Kidney located a Lark Sparrow. In Stillwater at Boomer Lake John Polo discovered an **Eastern Kingbird**. Joyce Konigsmacher drove to the dairy barn at OSU and saw a group of **Yellow-headed Blackbird** bathing in the shallow puddles and eating seeds from the dandelion heads. At Lake Carl Blackwell Tim O'Connell located a **Kentucky Warbler**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, Pine Warbler, and Northern Parula.

On the 15th Jimmy saw a **Grasshopper Sparrow** along the Mustang Road Ponds, and at Sara Lake a **Peregrine Falcon**, **Snowy Plover**, **Baird's Sandpiper**, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Bald Eagle and Osprey. James Hubbell located a White-faced Ibis and American Golden Plovers at NW 50th and Morgan Road. On the 16th Nancy Reed had a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** come to her feeder in Norman for the first time. On the 17th Doc Garland confirmed a **Mississippi Kite** patrolling his neighborhood in Guthrie. At the Teal Ridge Wetland Kent Andersson located a Solitary Sandpiper.

Along South Jenkins on the 18th Dick Gunn and a bunch of folks saw a **Nashville Warbler**. On the 19th Steve and Mary Davis went by 50th between Morgan and County Line Roads and photographed four **Wilson's phalaropes**, and at Lake Thunderbird's Indian Point T K found a **Wilson's Warbler**. On the 20th Matt Jung reports the flooded field to the southeast of NW50th and Morgan Road had lots of **Long-Billed Dowitchers**, other shorebirds and ducks. On the 21st Jim Magovern heard a **Chuck-will's-Widow** in



Norman, and in Stillwater on South Stallard and Eastern Cheryl Baker discovered **American Avocets**.

On the 22nd Jimmy found a **Baltimore Oriole** at his hummingbird feeder in Mustang. On the 23rd at Lake Purcell Lou and Mary Truex and Kurt M. reported **Semipalmated Plover** and later along South Jenkins Dick Gunn ran into them and they located **Indio Bunting**, **Painted Bunting**, and White-eyed Vireo. On the 24th Jimmy was working outside at work near Mustang and flushed a **Common Poorwill**. In Stillwater at Couch Park Cassandra Cullin found a **Gray Catbird**. (continued page 8)

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

Notice! Date Has Changed

Picnic and Nightjar Watch

Join us **Saturday, June 9** for the annual Oklahoma City Audubon Society Picnic and Nightjar Watch. We have reserved a picnic pavilion at Lake Stanley Draper. The club will provide hotdogs, hamburger meat, buns, and charcoal. Please bring your own drinks and a "picnic-type" food to share with the group. We will have a form on our website so you can sign up for the goodies you plan to bring.

We will meet at 6:30 p.m. which will give everyone enough time to enjoy the picnic before Jimmy Woodard leads the field trip in search of nightjars.

The pavilion is near the marina. The marina is on the west side of the lake near the police station, playground, restrooms and just a short distance to good birding along the lakeshore road to the north.

Lake Draper Pavilion - Recreation Area #1
9040 N. Stanley Draper Drive
Nearby: Playground, additional picnic tables, walking path, lake view

Recorder's Report (cont.)

On the 25th Jim Bates observed a **Summer Tanager** singing high in the top of a tree near his work in Oklahoma City. On the 27th T K located an **Orchard Oriole** at Lake Thunderbird's Indian Point and on the 28th a **Caspian Tern** at North Sentinel Campground. At Sentinel Park James Hubbell discovered a **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

On the 29th along West Stinchcomb, Matt Jung had the first **Dickcissel**, and in Norman Nancy Reed had a beautiful male **Lazuli Bunting** visiting her feeder. At the Lexington WMA Brian Davis noticed a **Common Nighthawk**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Blue Grosbeak**, Eastern Wood-Pee-wee, Gray Catbird, and American Woodcock. On the 30th on his way to work Jim Bates stopped at Crystal Lake and heard a strange Vireo song that turned out to be a **Philadelphia Vireo**. Meanwhile, along the drive into Fort Reno, Nealand Hill & Max Fuller found at least two adult male **Lark Buntings** in breeding plumage.

During April **178** bird species were reported with **58** new species which increased the year's total to **225** species in the Central Oklahoma area. 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.
