



# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

May 2014

## Some things beautiful and some things rare in Oklahoma birds and wildlife

**Jim and Tony Solorio will be the presenters at the May 19 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society. They will talk about their adventures in good old Oklahoma.**

Jim has been lucky enough to have a job that gets he and his son Tony out all over the state. He works as the state of Oklahoma manager for a company that takes care of restaurants and nursing homes. They did their share of hunting and fishing over the years but, about 10 years ago, they got a couple of disposable cameras for Christmas and went to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge where they took a lot of disposable camera pictures. They then moved up to a DSLR camera.

They had just watched an Outdoor America show where Marty Stouffer said that what modern hunters capture is not a dead body, but rather the living form of an animal, as a lasting mental image, a lifeless checkmark, or a photographic negative. This non-consumptive use of wildlife is the fastest growing. Birders and photographers now outnumber hunters 2 to 1.

Tony grew up just loving the outdoors. He does all the photography on their trips — he has the eye of an eagle! He spots the wildlife, when Jim can't find it he points it out. Jim does most of the driving because at 9 months old Tony had spinal meningitis and he barely survived. He has had seizures ever since. Tony has attended OKCCC for three years and has been through two years of computer school. Now he has learned photography, which Jim says "has come a long way from when I used to do some photography. It beats developing negatives and pictures like I used to do while overseas in the Army."

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.



Photo © Tony Solorio

### Welcome!

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society  
welcomes:

Ron LaSpisa, Norman, OK  
Mark Dittman, OKC  
Sheryl McClure, OKC

# President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



Today we resume our survey of the passerine superfamilies. Most recently (February) we investigated the Certhioidea (wrens, gnatcatchers and nuthatches). The next logical group to survey would be the sister group to Certhioidea, the

Muscicapoidea (thrushes, thrashers, starlings, Old World flycatchers), but that was done at the beginning of this series. In the original review we didn't consider calls, but we caught that up last October and November. So let's look at the Tree of Life (ToL) and decide what group we should survey next, <http://goo.gl/aNzvva> (note the latest publication date for the references is 2004).

Having completed Sylvioidea and the two superfamilies already mentioned, the remaining superfamily is



Passeroidea. Click on the link for Passeroidea on the Passerida page. In the Passeroidea tree there are two families we recognize as having local species, the Motacillidae, represented by the American Pipit and Sprague's Pipit, and the Passeridae, represented by the House Sparrow.

Travelers to Arizona may have seen the Olive Warbler, now placed sister to the accentors

(Prunellidae) of Eurasia. For the Passeroidea as a whole, and putting the 'nine-primaried oscines' aside for the moment, the representation in North America is sparse. Of the 65 species in Motacillidae worldwide, there are only three pipits and three wagtails in North America, and the three wagtails barely make it into Alaska from Siberia.

There are seven more pipit species native to tropical America (you can check the SACC checklist here, <http://goo.gl/CML8ul>). The families on the Passeroidea page not yet mentioned, Irenidae, Nectariniidae, Dicaeidae and Ploceidae, have no native representation in the New World. Now let's look at the tree for the 'nine-primaried oscines' by clicking on the link, <http://goo.gl/E1fr4M>. Here at last are the majority of North American songbirds, the wood warblers (Parulidae); blackbirds, meadowlarks and orioles (Icteridae); sparrows, juncos and towhees (Emberizidae); Northern Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Blue

Grosbeak, Dickcissel, buntings in genus Passerina, grosbeaks in genus Pheucticus and tanagers in genus Piranga (Cardinalidae); finches, redpolls, crossbills, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak and Pine Grosbeak (Fringillidae); and longspurs and snow buntings (Calcariidae, a new taxon name not yet in ToL). Note



that the name, bunting, is used for birds in two separate groups, the Old World emberizids, for example the Rustic Bunting (strays to the US), and the New World cardinalidine buntings, for example the Indigo Bunting. I didn't include the tanager family, Thraupidae, in the list of North American representatives of Passeroidea because the approximately 240 species are all tropical American birds. Many were originally thought to be finches and retain a common name reflecting that misconception.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Oklahoma City Audubon Society

### Officers 2014

President	Bill Diffin	722-3778
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
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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**

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## Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



The **Cliff Swallow** (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) is a nesting bird everywhere in Oklahoma, but rarer in the eastern part of the state. Breeding bird surveys show a 9.8% relative abundance increase in populations for central Oklahoma from 2001-2011. This swallow makes wonderful use of the underside of highway bridges for nesting habitat, no doubt now its main nesting habitat in the state. Some of the flocks under

bridges number in the hundreds or more: The largest nesting flock I could find in the G. M. Sutton Species' Summaries [1982] was estimated at 15,000 birds, seen in Mayes County on July 18, 1969, by members of the Tulsa Audubon Society. Stopping to observe one of the large flocks that nest under bridges can be quite a sight to see.

At nesting time these swallow congregate at water puddles and other water spots that have mud along the shore. They fly in, land, and with wings aquiver and held above their heads, they proceed to gather mud with their bills with which to build their jug-like nests. The quivering wings may be a type of breeding behavior as pairs will sometimes mate while at these water holes, but perhaps the birds are just being sure not to cake their wings with mud. Dr. Sutton, in his book *Oklahoma Birds* (1967) pointed out that you do not find this bird nesting where there is no mud nearby for building nests. This, of course is a logical conclusion, but I thought it interesting that "Doc" had taken the time to specifically note this behavior, ruling out that the birds are traveling very far for the mud.

Within the last year I heard about a construction company being charged for destroying Cliff Swallow nests, something over a hundred nests, I believe it was, while they were working on a bridge to make it bigger and safer; the construction company did not dispute the claim. I have not heard how the suit turned out (if it has) but I was rooting for a minimum, or no, penalty in this case. The reason to root for the construction company is that most populations of Cliff Swallow ARE under manmade bridges: if construction companies had not built the bridge in the first place, there would be no problem—and no birds. Such a lawsuit, I believe, is counterproductive, because no doubt

there will be even more Cliff Swallows after the bigger and safer bridge is built. Sometimes, by pursuing conservation to the "nth" degree of the law in marginal cases, I think we as citizens concerned about wildlife do a disservice to our "cause."

Speaking further about laws and birds, sometimes laws are amended for the better in complicated situations and the following, I believe, is a great example of that. Native Americans petitioned to have laws changed so that they could keep in captivity injured, non-releasable birds of prey. In addition Native Americans are allowed to use any feathers molted by these caged birds so that the feathers can be used during Native American religious ceremonies. This is a win-win situation, and a good example of how the law can be amended for the good of all involved, including the birds.



I have an additional example where I think laws could be improved. The average citizen cannot pick up birds that are roadkill or windowkill so that these birds can be turned over to museums or other appropriate scientific entities. Allowing people to salvage accidentally killed birds would help fill legitimate scientific needs of museums, resulting in less need to purposely kill birds for scientific study. Anyway, I point out this example as being an area where we could help preserve birds, if we as a

society are sophisticated enough and persistent enough to make wise choices in complicated situations.

One problem I cannot come up with any prospective positive steps is curtailing Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism: these birds deposit their eggs in other birds' nests, which then disrupts the nesting of the host bird, to the usual detriment of the hosts' young. Quite a number of birds that now, or formerly, nested in central Oklahoma are reduced or no longer considered nesting species in our part of the state, likely due to cowbird parasitism. One example is the Yellow Warbler. In the 1960s, and perhaps later, I would see Yellow Warblers in trees below the Lake Hefner dam that were no doubt nesting. I have seen no Yellow Warblers in the breeding season in central Oklahoma for many years. It would be nice if we who recognize the problem could pull cowbird eggs from hosts' nests, but pulling a cowbird egg every now and then doubtless would do little to solve the overall problem. Personally, however, I believe many of us would feel better about pulling such eggs as small, positive acts of conservation. Now where was I on the Cliff Swallow?

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## Minutes of April 21, 2014

President Bill Diffin called the meeting to order. In attendance were new members Ron and Charlotte LaSpisa.

President Diffin asked if there were any corrections/additions to the minutes as published in the newsletter. Dave Woodson advised there was a correction in the newsletter concerning the date of Crystal Lake Expo. The Expo will be June 7 and June 8. Setup will be June 6. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Nancy Vicars reported April's Cash on Hand in the amount of \$6,387.35.

### COMMITTEE REPORT

Dave Woodson, Conservation Committee Chairman, reported a successful Martin Park Expo. There were 50 visitors.

### FIELD TRIP REPORT

Tulsa trip is scheduled for May 9-12. Jimmy Woodard will lead the tour.

John Shackford reported Mark Delgrosso will lead field trips to McGee Creek WMA/McCurtain County Wilderness May 2-4 and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge May 23-26.

The OKC Audubon Society annual picnic was set for June 14 to be held at the home of Patti and Brian Muzny.

### NEW BUSINESS

Larry Mays reported finding a Snow Bunting on this date at Hefner Lake.

President Diffin stated we need to order new business cards. Committee members Dave Woodson and Bill Diffin will draft a design for the cards.

Business meeting adjourned .

Warren Harden introduced speaker Doug Wood. Doug presented an entertaining and enlightening evening.

*Submitted by Nancy Reed for  
Sharon Henthorn, Secretary*

## Perspective (cont.)

The tanagers of the genus *Piranga*, represented in North America by the Summer, Hepatic, Western, Scarlet and Flame-colored Tanagers, have been found to belong in the



family, Cardinalidae. The molecular phylogenetics of the 'nine-primaried oscines' has been the subject of intensive study since 2004. The latest work published in 2013 by Barker, et. al. suggests that the 'nine-primaried oscines' could be

logically broken up into 16 different families rather than the seven families listed above. The suggestion is discussed in David Ringer's blog here, <http://goo.gl/cPmC4E>. The foregoing page contains a link explaining the reclassification of the *Piranga* genus tanagers. There is also a link to John Boyd's Taxonomy in Flux (TiF) phylogenetic tree and taxonomy. Boyd immediately incorporates new research into his TiF tree and taxonomy rather than waiting for the AOU and IOC classification committees to vet the research and make changes to their checklists. You can get a sense of the high rate of current research by skimming Boyd's "Recent Changes" page here, <http://goo.gl/qASJaP>. The taxonomy of Sibley, Ahlquist and Monroe (the first molecular phylogenetics researchers) put all the nine-primaried oscines in a single expanded Fringillidae family based on their apparent close relationships to one another.

Subsequent research has not changed that perception of closeness, and it is the reason that the true affinities of some species have been so difficult to unravel. Since in the current series we are concerned with finding characters that are important themes throughout the whole Passeroidea superfamily, we get to sidestep the delimitation of the families and genera. However we can gain an appreciation for the molecular phylogenetic approach by comparing the song of the Summer Tanager, <http://goo.gl/WtvICq>, to that of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, <http://goo.gl/O66ub7>, both now members of the Cardinalidae. Next month we will look for the important themes within the Passeroidea. For a start we can review the appearance of the motacillids here, <http://goo.gl/lpWplb>, and see how they move on the ground here, <http://goo.gl/mrjL2A>, and here, <http://goo.gl/KgxzB5>. Does Africa's Yellow-throated Longclaw remind you of an American bird here, <http://goo.gl/l6yr7Q>?



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## Top 25: Andean Condor

FAMILY: Cathartidae

RANGE: South America (along the Andes chain west to coastal areas)

HABITAT: sails over open areas where dead animals easily spotted - not likely in forests

STATUS: the IUCN considers the species to be near threatened despite its extensive distribution

I have always been drawn by the Condor's ugliness. I'm sorry, but the Condors (both of them) from the neck up are not pretty to look at. I don't think too many would disagree. It is one of the necessities of a feeder on bloody, decaying messes that they have naked heads - but these same wrinkly, bare visages are what give these birds their shock value - and their appeal. No one does ugly with quite the style of the Andean Condor! Add to the nakedness of its head a big old cockscomb (in the male) and you've got a poster bird for letting it all hang out - proud to be somewhat hideous.



These are great birds - in every sense of the word. Some of the hugest birds that fly, these formidable para-sailers skim the skies over the high peaks of the Andes. Their 'sails' can stretch near 11 ft. tip to tip - only a handful of living birds exceed this span.

Like all vultures it spends its days floating over hill and dale hoping, hoping to find something dead. Deceased cattle, sheep, and guanacos (cousin of the llama) make up the bulk of its carrion diet. However, Andeans are quite common presences at coastal seabird colonies where snatching eggs, and a few live chicks, are normal behaviors.

And they live to great ages - for a bird. Some have attained 70 years and possibly longer. Maybe the slow-paced life-style of a carrion-seeker contributes to their-longevity (can you imagine a 70-year old hummingbird?). One might think that a bird with such an unappealing appearance and feeding habits would be unpopular. Does anyone really love, say, the Black or Turkey Vultures? Yet the innate nobility of the Andean has lent its image to the coat-of-arms of several South American nations and seems as ubiquitous an avian symbol as, say, our Bald Eagle. Ugly and beautiful, slow and stately, huge and graceful - I myself cannot help but love this bird. Viva el Condor!

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## Conservation Report

by Dave Woodson

### City Care Outdoor Expo 2014

Once again, City Care will host an outdoor expo at Crystal Lake. Last year we had several volunteers and are looking for volunteers again this year. This is an outreach program that

provides an opportunity to promote Birding to Oklahoma City youth and their families... plus visit one of Jim Bates' favorite Birding Hotspots.



#### Location:

Crystal Lake, 6625 SW 15th

#### Date/time:

Saturday June 7th 10am-6pm

Sunday June 8th 12 noon to 6pm

If you're available and wish to volunteer for any part please contact Dave Woodson.

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## Field Trip Schedule:

### **MAY 9-12: Tulsa/ Bartlesville birding hotspots:**

Jimmy W. will lead a 4 day spring migrant hunt in the Tulsa and Bartlesville areas. Join him for an afternoon, a day, or 3 days depending on your schedule. Contact Jimmy for details. *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard [j.woodard@cox.net]

### **MAY 24-26[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](mailto:markdelg94@gmail.com))

## Recorders Report – April 2014

### Busy, Busy, Busy

It is hard to write this report as I sit beside the river in The Great Smoky Mountains with birds singing and flying everywhere. And what a report I should be writing with all the first arrivals for the year, both summer residents and migratory birds leaving or going through Central Oklahoma. It has been a busy, busy, busy month for birds, birders plus one special bonus report.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> along South Jenkins Dick Gunn faced the usual annual battle between the incoming birds and the trees leafing out, but for the fifth year in a row he spotted the arrival of the **Yellow-throated Warbler**, meanwhile Torre Hovick saw a Merlin on Pasture 9 at the OSU research range. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeremy Ross saw a **Swainson's Hawk** at the Biological Survey in Norman, and Zara Howeton photographed Whooping Cranes at Canton Lake.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Larry Mays made a circuit along the Lake Hefner Dam and located Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon and Eared Grebe. Steve Davis took a tour of the eagle nest at 63<sup>rd</sup> and Douglas Blvd, the red-tailed Hawk nest at Covell and Kelly and the Great Horned Owl nest at Britton Road and Hwy 4 while Katrina Huck saw a **Little Blue Heron** at Rose Lake. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Joe Grzybowski had a **Chimney Swift** fly over his house in Norman, and Jack Hurd saw a Forster's Tern at Lake Overholser.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Joe worked some fields in Norman's 10 Mile Flats and finally found some migrating **Sprague's Pipits** as well as **Upland Sandpipers**, American Golden-Plovers, and somewhat late **Chestnut-collared Longspurs**. In Seminole County at Lake Wewoka an anonymous birdwatcher reported Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-and-white Warbler, and Northern Parula. On the 8<sup>th</sup> Hal Yocum had a single **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at his feeder in Edmond. On the 9<sup>th</sup> Josh Haughwout discovered Northern Bobwhite and **Grasshopper Sparrow** at the KAEFS.



On the 10<sup>th</sup> Pat Velte and Terri Underhill located a pair of **Ladder-backed Woodpeckers** in

Candian and Kingfisher Counties. On the 11<sup>th</sup> Hal reports the **Black-chinned Hummingbird** returned to Mitch Park for the 4<sup>th</sup> year. On the 12<sup>th</sup> in Kingfisher County Mary and Lou Trux located a Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, and Western Meadowlark, while along South Jenkins Dick

reported one large and 6 half size **River Otters**.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> Dick Gunn, Brian and Hank (aged 1 ½) Davis located **Prothonotary** and **Nashville Warblers**. Later in the middle of the day, Brian saw an adult American Woodcock ushering a pair of very young chicks (still quite small and downy) across Rock Creek Road in the vicinity of NE 48th, while in Stillwater Scott Loss stepped outside and noted the migration of several species including a **Bank Swallow**.



On the 14<sup>th</sup> John Hurd found a Cinnamon Teal along Lake Overholser's west side. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Jonah Padberg had a Black-chinned Hummingbird at his feeder in Crescent, and Jennifer Kidney saw a **Northern Parula** along South Jenkins. Calvin Reeds had a **Peregrine Falcon** and Osprey sitting on the red dirt beach at Lake Hefner; on the 17<sup>th</sup> Bill Diffin reported the Peregrine Falcon may have nailed one of the American Golden Plovers.



On the 18<sup>th</sup> John Shackford discovered a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest being built in his yard in Edmond. Bill Adams visited Taylor Lake and located the Lewis's Woodpecker and Pied-billed Grebe. In Stillwater Brandy Polo noticed a different hummingbird at their feeder, and she and John identified it as a presumed **Rufous Hummingbird**. Chad Ellis had a **Western Sandpiper** at Lake Hefner. On the 19<sup>th</sup> Matt

Jung checked the mud flats at Lake Overholser and identified **Hudsonian Godwits**, **Marbled Godwits**, and **Willetts**. Jimmy Woodward led an Audubon field trip to the Yukon City Park and noted White-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler and Nashville Warbler. Larry Mays found a Barn Owl in Grady County at Lake Louis Burtschi, and at Lake Thunderbird T K had a **Broad-winged Hawk**, and Diana Beal had an **Orchard Oriole**.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> John Polo was at Boomer Lake and located **Western Kingbird** and **Bell's Vireo**. Along South Jenkins the Raesides, Jennifer Kidney, Carol Enwall and Dick Gunn identified a **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **Gray Catbird**, Spotted Towhee, Black and White Warbler, and later Jennifer had a male **Baltimore Oriole** come to the jelly in her back yard!

Jimmy Woodward birded Meeker Lake in Lincoln County and located **Green Heron**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, **Ovenbird**, Louisiana Waterthrush, and **Dickcissel**. Bill Diffin birded the mudflats along Lake Overholser and

*Continued on page 7*

## Recorder's Report (cont.)

discovered a Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Semipalmated Plover**, **Stilt Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper**.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> Larry May and Chad Ellis photographed a **Snow Bunting** at Prairie Dog Point, but it was gone the next day; Jim Magovern heard a **Chuck-will's-widow** in Norman; Joe had a **Swainson's Thrush** in Norman. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bill Diffin saw a **Piping Plover** at Prairie Dog Point; Torre Hovick had a



**Summer Tanager** at Lake Overholser, and John Polo noticed a **Blue-headed Vireo** at Babcock Park in Stillwater. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Steve and Mary saw **White-faced Ibis** at Prairie Dog Point while Dick Gunn spotted an **Indigo Bunting** along South Jenkins, and on the 24<sup>th</sup> he had a Pine Warbler along South Jenkins.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> Tamara Srader reported her parents' pair of **Painted Buntings** arrived at their Lincoln County home. Dave Woodson found a single **Black-necked Stilt** at Lake Hefner. At Prairie Dog Point, Deanne McKinney had a Loggerhead Shrike pose for photographs. Along South Jenkins Dick Gunn, Joe Grzybowski and Larry Mays saw **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Yellow Warbler**, Warbling Vireo, **Blue Grosbeak** and an Indigo Bunting. In Grady County Larry Mays heard a Chuck-will's-widow.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> Torre Hovick found a **Black-bellied Plover** at Lake Overholser, Joe had a **Mississippi Kite** fly over his yard in Norman, at Lake

Thunderbird Larry Mays found a **Yellow-throated Vireo** and Joe had a **Red-eyed Vireo**. Chad Ellis had a **Kentucky Warbler** in Little Axe, and a Gray Catbird at Dolese Youth Park in OKC. On the 27<sup>th</sup> John Bates reported



8 Wood Ducks and a Merlin at the YWCA complex between Rockwell and MacArthur on NW 58<sup>th</sup> Street, while at Lake Overholser Bill Diffin had a Fish Crow. On the 30<sup>th</sup> along South Jenkins the local birders identified a **Least Flycatcher**. Alas!!! I hear a faucet dripping in the woods and must investigate. May the good birding continue next month.

In the Central Oklahoma area **183** bird species were reported in April with **54** new species which brings the total for the year to **242**. In eBird Oklahoma County is up to 195 species but 7 central Oklahoma counties are still under 100. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds and can be contacted by e-mail at [emkok@earthlink.net](mailto:emkok@earthlink.net). Esther M. Key, Editor.

## AOU Checklist Proposals

*This is an excerpt of an article by Nate Swick, [aba.org](http://aba.org), highlighting two of the 10 proposed changes.*

It's split and lump season already, and the first document containing the proposed taxonomic updates to the AOU North American Check-list, which in turn are incorporated into the ABA Checklist, has been recently released. This first batch contains 10 proposals that have been submitted in 2013, not all of which involve ABA-Area birds as the AOU's North American jurisdiction includes Mexico and Central America to Panama's southern border. It's important to note that these are just proposals and the committee has yet to vote on them formally.

### Transfer *Spinus psaltria*, *S. lawrencei*, and *S. tristis* to (a) *Astragalinus* or (b) *Sporagra*

It wasn't that long ago that our goldfinches and siskins were removed from the long-standing *Carduelis* genus into the everything-old-is-new-again genus *Spinus* (which re-created the wonderful *Spinus pinus* for Pine Siskin). It looks like they may be on the move once again. The South American *Cardueline* finches were recently reorganized into a much larger trans-hemispheric goldfinch/siskin genus called *Sporagra*, and a trio of Middle American siskins looks like they should join them. The North American goldfinches (American, Lesser, Lawrence's) might be thrown in as well, but it may turn out that they are distinct enough to get their own genus, which would be *Astragalinus*.

### Elevate *Rallus longirostris crepitans*, *R. l. obsoletus*, and *Rallus elegans tenuirostris* to species rank

This is the biggie -- a five-way split of two species in the genus *Rallus* (notably reviewed by Paul Hess in the Sept/Oct 2013 issue of *Birding* magazine). In short, Clapper and King Rails exhibit a lot of variation in plumage across each of their ranges, and the proposal contends that populations within described species are as genetically and morphologically distinct as populations we currently recognize as separate species. Messing with the large Rallids is not new territory per se -- it wasn't that long ago that it was suggested that the western subspecies of Clapper Rail should actually be assigned to King Rail -- and to say that our understanding of how those two species are related has been messy would be an understatement.

The authors propose five species, three of which occur in the ABA Area: Ridgway's Rail (consisting of the western ssp of Clapper Rail), in addition to the species we already know as King and Clapper Rails, which would retain the names we're familiar with. Additional proposed species not found in the ABA Area include Aztec Rail (currently a ssp. of King Rail found in central Mexico) and Mangrove Rail (essentially those current Clapper Rails in South America).

Oklahoma City Audubon Society  
c/o Patricia Velte  
1421 NW 102nd Street  
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## Club Picnic

The date for our annual picnic this year is **June 14**, and the location is the back yard of the Muzny residence at 8516 S. Olie Avenue. As usual the club is supplying hamburgers and hot dogs, charcoal, buns, paper plates and cups, napkins, tablecloths, plastic ware, salt and pepper, soda and ice. Participants will make a meal contribution also.

The size of the contribution should approximate the cost of a picnic meal for the attendees in your party. We'll add the online signup form to our website in early June. It will show what others plan to bring and how many people will be attending. The official start time for the picnic is 5 pm. That is when we will start cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs. As usual you may arrive at 4 pm to set up your chairs, lay out your dish, relax, socialize and watch the cooking crew get ready to charcoal the hamburgers.

## Cookie Patrol

The refreshments for the May 19th meeting will be provided by John Shackford, Doug Eide, Mary Lane and Steve Davis.

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