



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

May 2016

The Plight of the Platte River: Cranes, Water, and People

Join us May 16 when Dr. Craig Davis will be the guest speaker at the Oklahoma City Audubon Society.

Dr. Davis' program is titled: "The Plight of the Platte River: Cranes, Water, and People." He will be talking about the historical changes that have occurred on the Platte River and how they have affected the cranes and other species that rely on the Platte. Additionally, he will be discussing the current conservation efforts on Platte.

Dr. Davis currently holds the Bollenbach Chair in Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University. Prior to coming to OSU, Dr. Davis was the avian ecologist for the Platte River Whooping Crane Trust in central Nebraska. While at the Trust, Craig was involved with developing and implementing conservation efforts for the Platte River and associated habitats. He was also involved with several research projects on sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, grassland birds, and wet meadow ecology.



Craig received his B.S. in natural resources with distinction in wildlife management from Ohio State University and his M.S. in wildlife biology from Iowa State University where he studied the ecology of wet meadow invertebrates and sandhill crane foraging ecology. He completed his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University where he studied the ecology and management of shorebirds in the Playa Lakes Region of Texas.

Dr. Davis arrived at OSU in 2001 where he has researched a variety of topics including golden-cheeked warbler responses to mountain biking, shorebird use of wetlands in Oklahoma, bobwhite ecology, grassland bird responses to fire and grazing interactions, and wetland assessment and ecology.

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. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 and NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.

Welcome!

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes new members:

Joe Messenbaugh, Oklahoma City, OK
Grace Kaspar-Kirch, Oklahoma City, OK

Refreshments

Refreshments for the May meeting will be provided by:

Marion Homier and John Shackford
Drinks/Ice - Marilyn Taylor

President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin

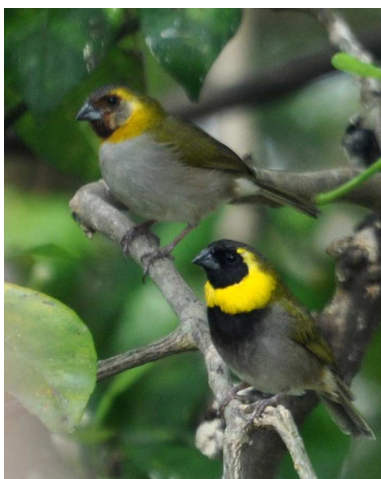


Have you heard about the amazing feat Larry Mays accomplished. He completed a quest to list at least 100 bird species in each Oklahoma county. There is a group of birders throughout the state who have been in pursuit of this goal for a couple of years. Only Mary and Lou Truex had completed it. Jimmy Woodard lacks only five counties which he plans to knock out this month. It is a daunting

assignment when you think about it. There are 77 counties, so 7,700 sightings have to be made at a minimum. And Larry, Jimmy and the Truexes are eBirders, so all the sightings were no doubt entered into the eBird database, a lot of work in itself. But therein is the useful side of the quest, a significant contribution to scientific knowledge. Many of the counties Larry, Jimmy and the Truexes have been birding are very rarely visited by birders, so the population data gathered in them is especially valuable to the eBird database. Knowing what I do of these birders, I'm betting this was a big part of their motivation. Congratulations Larry!. What next?

Steve Davis and Mary Lane also completed a quest recently. They joined a birding tour that visited Cuba in March. If you browse through their photo galleries linked further on in this paragraph, you will see what an amazing array of birds they saw. Some of the most fascinating I think are the so called "tholospizan finches". These birds get their name from the fact that they build a domed nest with a side entrance -- tholo- means dome and -spiza means a finch or finch-like bird. The tholospizan finches are a group of tropical American birds that includes the Darwin's finches of the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador.

A genetic study has shown that Darwin's finches have a closest relative on the South American mainland, the Dull-colored Grassquit, *Tiaris obscura*, which can be seen here, <https://goo.gl/Otu3HV>. It is as dull a brown bird as any, similar to the finches of the Galapagos. Here are links to Steve's photos of three brighter tholospizan finches, the Yellow-faced Grassquit, *Tiaris olivaceus*, <http://goo.gl/6Qkc1F>; the Cuban Grassquit, *Tiaris canorus*, <http://goo.gl/gw9B36>; and the Cuban Bullfinch, *Melopyrrha nira*, <http://goo.gl/2iESpe>. The tholospizan finches are not actually finches. They are tanagers with finch-like bills and eating habits. This seems a little odd until we



remember that tanagers are nine-primaried oscines just like true finches, Old and New World Sparrows, cardinal-grosbeaks, weavers, estrildid finches, blackbirds and warblers. Conical bills and seed-eating habits are common in the group as a whole to say the least. Here is a link to the journal article, On the Origin of Darwin's Finches (2001), Sato et. al., <http://goo.gl/AUEMlw>.

Last month we looked at the newly discovered close relationship between the waxwings, silky flycatchers, Palmchat, Hypocolius and Hylocitrea. This clade, recently named Bombycilloidea, is in turn part of a clade that includes the Muscicapoidea (thrushes, mimids, starlings and Old World flycatchers), Certhioidea (wrens, nuthatches, gnatcatchers and tree creepers) and the Spotted Elachura, just recently added as a monotypic family, Elachuridae, based on genetic evidence. The Spotted Elachura was previously believed to be a sylvioid wren-babbler. Here is a song recording of a Spotted Elachura, still listed under the old name, from xeno-canto, <http://goo.gl/3z4ROI>.



Comparing the sonogram to one of some singing Bohemian Waxwings, <http://goo.gl/wKQUm4>, we can note their similarity once the rattling quality of the waxwings is removed. The notes are steady at a center frequency above 5 khz with a harmonic above 10 khz. An intriguing similarity but perhaps a little selective to be choosing the best comparison out of such a large and diverse group, and probably not something that would register immediately in the field. The Spotted Elachura looks a lot like a wren. Physical and plumage similarities can be deceiving in birds due to convergence, but the barred pattern on the Elachura's wings is particularly wren-like (see last month's article for the photo Pat edited in).

A similarity between the Phainopepla's call/song and that of a waxwing may seem a little more compelling after listening to the following Phainopepla recording, <http://goo.gl/yQUbcE>. The Phainopepla's vocalization is at a lower pitch, and the pitch descends slightly, but the rattling quality and steadiness near one center frequency come through. The following Palmchat vocalizations also exhibit the steady pitch and rattling quality, <http://goo.gl/JZp9vU>. There are louder recordings of a similar type higher up on the Palmchat page, i.e. the A-rated recordings, <http://goo.gl/Mm5FOA>, that also exhibit the rattling quality, but it is almost obscured by the overall harsh tonelessness. The Hypocolius has a waver in its calls that may be homologous to the rattle in the calls of its bombycilloid relatives, <http://goo.gl/6EQWfy>. Believe it or not there are no recordings of the Hylocitrea on xeno-canto or The Internet Bird Collection (IBC). However here is a nice photo of the bird on IBC, <http://goo.gl/rDxTCT>. Note that IBC still has the species in the whistler family Pachycephalidae.

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



Many years ago, about 1979, there was a huge blackbird roost in the cattails at the north end of Lake Overholser that was composed primarily of **European Starlings** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Red-winged Blackbirds. This roost fascinated me enough that I wrote a piece about it that I kept but never used anywhere. The following 4 paragraphs are from that piece, which was called “Oklahoma City’s Awesome Black

Cloud.”

It’s dusk and I am witnessing one of nature’s awesome spectacles. Blackbirds—Redwings, Grackles, Starlings, Cowbirds—by the thousands are coming to roost in cattails at Lake Overholser. By now there must be well over a million.

Every winter these cattails become one of the nation’s largest blackbird roosts. Best estimates of peak numbers over the last several years have ranged between 500,000 and 8,000,000 birds; the present horde is estimated at 2-3 million, but who really knows. There are just too many to count. Starlings, a million or so, are this year’s most populous species.

In 1890 a handful was transplanted from England to Central Park in New York City. Who would have guessed that that handful in Central Park would generate the spectacle before me now in Oklahoma City.

It’s dark now. But birds still fly in, still squawk. Soon an occasional individual may become the victim of a Great-horned Owl or a mink. But for most the night will pass uneventfully. And the morning will see them once again rising from the marshes like a black fog.

In winter I think Starlings still roost at Lake Overholser—in relatively small numbers—in cattails north of NW 39th St., but the huge roost south of NW 39th in no longer there. As mentioned above, the Starling once did not inhabit North America. There were several attempts to introduce the Starling into the United States, but the attempt usually credited as being the first successful introduction was by

Eugene Scheiffelin. On March 6, 1890 he released 80 birds in Central Park in New York City and made a second introduction of 40 birds at the same place on April 25, 1891.

Starlings are now found across virtually all of the contiguous United States, much of Canada, and well into Alaska. For most of this area the species is shown as a permanent resident on field guide maps, although there is some retreating shown along the northern edge of its range. But in winter the species, although it can live far to the north, shows considerable condensation to the south and that is what accounts for our huge blackbird roosts in Oklahoma in winter.

There was one concerted effort to get a reasonably accurate count of Starling roost numbers for one of our Christmas Bird Counts not many years ago. The roost

was in downtown Oklahoma City, under the bridges of the crosstown expressway. Warren Harden noted that birds perched about 1-2 inches apart on beams under the expressway. He then estimated the length of the spans under bridges where the birds were roosting. After multiplying everything out, he came up with approximately 500,000 birds. This number looks pretty silly in light of an older bird book I have (printed in 1917) that said the birds sometimes flocked together in groups of up to 10,000 birds.



Starlings nest in holes in trees and have been a problem bird for several native species. One problem, for example, has been Starlings ousting Red-bellied Woodpeckers from their nests. The Starlings will wait until a Red-belly finishes excavating a nest and then move in to take the newly made hole. I do not remember the exact details, but Dr. George Sutton of Norman once undertook to see how persistent the Starlings were at a Red-belly nest across the street from his home: As each new Starling moved into the nest, he shot it. Something like 24 Starlings were shot and I am not sure that the Red-bellies ever were successful at that nest. Other birds like Northern Flickers and Eastern Bluebirds also can suffer a similar fate.

I have one revelation that I only share with my closest birding friends. My middle name is Starling. John Starling Shackford. This is a revered name in our family because of one of my grandfathers, “Papa” Starling. He was a remarkable businessman in North Carolina. It is mere coincidence that I grew up to be a birdwatcher! Nobody pushed me!

Chirpings

By Patti Muzny

Robin Ramblings

Robins are nearly everywhere, from timberline in the mountains to the beaches of the South. We take them for granted and enjoy their songs and their foraging in our yards. Sometimes we are blessed to be able to intimately get to know our backyard Robins. The Muzny south Oklahoma City backyard has always had Robins visiting off and on. A pair usually nested in a hackberry tree that hangs over our driveway at the side of our home. This year the hackberry must have fallen out of favor with the Robins.



About three weeks ago I was heading out for work and I noticed that a female Robin had begun to attempt to anchor long pieces of dead grass on the highest window



ledge at the north end of our patio. The wind was blowing and the grass wouldn't stay put and I figured her choice of nesting sites was not going to be very good. What did I know? By evening, she had performed some sort of magic and the grass was

mostly staying in place. Next day it rained and she now had adequate mud with which to make her nest more stable. Many trips were made to and from the rapidly forming nest.

I could see her from inside the bedroom and it was quite entertaining to watch her place nesting materials and shimmy to and fro until it felt just right before launching off of the ledge and out into the yard for another bit of construction material. Sometimes she would notice I was in the room and give me one of those "looks" that

clearly stated she didn't appreciate the invasion of her privacy.

After a couple of weeks, I got the ladder so I could see how many eggs she had laid. At this point in the process there were four of the most beautiful "Robin's egg blue" eggs neatly arranged in her nest.

After a couple of weeks, I got the ladder so I could see how many eggs she had laid. At this point in the process there were four of the most beautiful "Robin's egg blue" eggs neatly arranged in her nest.

The Robin saga doesn't end here. On May 1st, I saw another Robin trying to make grass stick to the downspout at the north side of our garage. That really was not one of her better ideas! On May 2nd, I noticed more grass on the south side of our patio, directly above the door that leads from our dining room out onto the patio! Apparently the downspout Robin decided that site was not good, so they moved to the patio. On May 4th, the grass was in place and the mud was securing yet another Robin nest.

These two nests are within 30 feet of each other. The two nests are almost within a direct site line of each other. And things get interesting in the back yard when both birds are foraging. There is squabbling and most definitely an invisible territorial line – one takes the south side of the lawn, the other the more northern side.

While the dining room Robin was trying to make her nest, Sam Muzny thought it might be interesting to put a little shelf out under the carport at the end of our drive. We thought the dining room Robin might prefer to be farther away from the north patio Robin. The next day we saw grass on the concrete under the shelf! A couple of days later more mud was anchoring the third nest! The carport Robins have a nearly-completed nest, making a total of three Robin nests within 100 feet of each other. All three sites are very secure and protected from the elements and hopefully from predators. On May 4th, I observed 5 Robins foraging in the back yard.

It appears that Robins must have had an excellent nesting season in 2015. Never have we had any species make nests under the patio cover. One patio nest surprised me, but two there, then one under the nearby carport seems quite unusual.

"Everyone likes birds. What wild creature is more accessible to our eyes and ears, as close to us and everyone in the world, as universal as a bird?"

—David Attenborough

Congratulations, Larry Mays!

By Jimmy Woodard



I would like to congratulate Larry Mays on completing his task of seeing/hearing 100 plus birds in all 77 counties in Oklahoma. Larry finished Grant County May 1 to finally accomplish this herculean feat.

Larry is the third person I know of to do this. Last year, Lou and Mary Truex became the first people to find 100 or more birds in every county in Oklahoma.

While I can say it's been a friendly game and mildly competitive, county birding is really more about exploring new places in the state and finding new hotspots which can be birded by others in the future. It is fun to get off the beaten path and look for birds and interesting habitat in heavily underbirded parts of the state.

I hope these efforts will encourage others to visit all corners of the state and their own counties and report and share the findings with all birders.

Old World Species Added to ABA Checklist

In recent weeks, members of the ABA Checklist Committee (CLC) have unanimously added three species to the *ABA Checklist*. These species, all vagrants from the Old World, are Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*), and Pallas's Rosefinch (*Carpodacus roseus*).

Common Scoter: one male at Crescent City, California, 25 January–15 February 2015, underwent two rounds of voting by the CLC before being accepted.

Blyth's Reed Warbler: one juvenile at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, 18–21 September 2015, was well-photographed. Specifically, in-flight photographs showing the emarginated primaries helped to rule out similar species.

Pallas's Rosefinch: one, thought to be a first-winter male, at St. Paul Island, Alaska, 20–24 September 2015, was well-photographed and its calls were audio-recorded.

The number of species on the *ABA Checklist* is increased to 990.

EarthFest

OCAS volunteers who proudly supported 2016 Earthfest included Valerie Bradshaw, C.B. Elder, Patti High, Terri Underhill, Nadine Varner, and me. Bill Diffin was unable to attend due to his daughter being in an auto accident. The Martin Park staff setup two tables and four chairs for us on the front porch; light snacks, water and coffee were also available. A total of 24 exhibitors with an estimated 700 attendees participated. Those interested in birds stopped, viewed our displays, enjoyed birding games, ask questions, and gathered information about birds and our organization. This year, the weather was questionable but cleared for this event. We did notice a drop in the number of youth groups that may have been due to other events in the area or groups cancelling due to weather forecasts.

The displays included Bird photos, bird quizzes, bird feeders, bird seeds, and a wreath with a nest and real House Wren eggs. Terri Underhill designed new light weight covered hardboard displays that mounted on Nature Center pillars. Games included a "Wheel of Birds" game on Terri's iPad and a bird memory card game that the Kids enjoyed. I supplied two card-tables that held a computer running a bird calls program, bird books, as well as a bird seed ID display. In addition, our traditional drawings for a stuffed bird (3-stuffed birds this year). Patti High brought a wreath with an abandoned nest containing Wren eggs. C.B. Elder and Patti purchased bird seed they donated it to Martin Park. Bird feeders were displayed on a rope between the pillars with some hung on metal rods. Nadine's telescope was set to focus on bird photos located across the front path and someone had three pairs of binoculars for people to try. Valerie organized handouts organized and took photos to record this event.

I believe this is one of the best outreach programs I've been involved in at Martin Park and the credit goes these dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. Together they greeted people, answered their questions and talked about the joy of Birding.

Dave Woodson,
OCAS Conservation Chairperson

Recorders Report

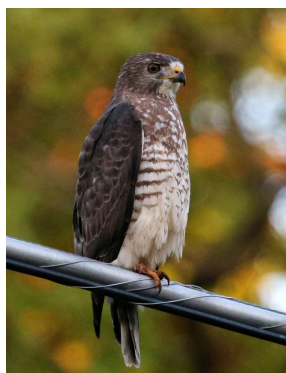
7700 Club

WOW !! What a busy month. Birds were migrating and birders were busy recording their visits to Central Oklahoma. Also at the end of a monumental journey Larry Mays became the third person in Oklahoma to join the 7700 club by seeing 100 bird species in all 77 counties. Congratulations!!! But he didn't stop there. This month he and many others helped Central Oklahoma record over 70 new species for the year.

On the 1st, T K had a Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull at Lake Thunderbird. On the 2nd Christie Stoops spotted a Great Horned Owl at Cottonwood Creek in Logan County. On the 3rd in Blanchard Larry Mays identified an **Upland Sandpiper**, and in Lincoln County at Meeker Lake Dala Grissom located a Dark-eyed Junco. On the 3rd Brian Stufflebeam reported a **Brown Pelican** at Lake Hefner, and on the 4th in McClain County Larry Mays noticed a **Swainson's Hawk**.

On the 6th Melissa Cunningham discovered a **Clay-colored Sparrow** in south Oklahoma City. On the 7th a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived at Zach Poland's home in Logan County, and in McClain County Paul Cook located Vesper Sparrow and Brewer's Blackbird. On the 8th Jenny Clark spotted a lingering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Chandler in Lincoln County. Meanwhile, in Canadian County at the NW 63rd wetland Deanne McKinney encountered an **American Avocet** and at Rose Lake Yellow-headed Blackbirds. T K found a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Lake Thunderbird, while Brian Stufflebeam identified a **Say's Phoebe** at Mitch Park in Edmond.

On the 9th at the NW 63rd wetland Chad Ellis had Pectoral Sandpiper, American Golden-Plover, **Snowy Plover**, **Semipalmated Plover** and Zach Poland saw **Willet** and Semipalmated Sandpiper.



Joe Grzybowski identified a **Broad-winged Hawk** in southeast Norman and an Eared Grebe at Lake Thunderbird. On the 10th Caitlin Laughlin noticed a Long-billed Dowitcher at the Cushing Water Treatment Plant. On the 11th Pamela Graber birded Purcell Lake and found Red-headed Woodpecker and Song Sparrow.

On the 12th Todd Alfes discovered a Northern Rough-winged Swallow at the NW 63rd wetland, and T K noticed a **Swainson's Thrush** at Lake Thunderbird Alameda Bridges. On the 13th Zach DuFran saw a **Northern Parula** along South Jenkins. Todd Alfes spotted a **Caspian Tern** at the Lake Overholser Dam, and on the 14th a **Chimney Swift** at the Yukon City Park, while

Rachel Wrenn verified an Eastern Kingbird and **Red-eyed Vireo** at the Little River State Park. On the 15th at the Little River State Park, Stan Shadick had a **Great Crested Flycatcher**, while at Lake Thunderbird T K got a **Summer Tanager**. On the 16th Desire Spears located Pine Siskin in Shawnee. In Kingfisher County Zach Poland noticed a Swainson's Hawk and Joe Grzybowski saw a flock of Cedar Waxwings. T K turned up the season's last Dark-eyed Junco at Lake Thunderbird, and Scott Loss documented an American Bittern at the Cushing Water Treatment Plant and a **Hooded Warbler** south of Yale.

On the 17th at the USAO Habitat Area, Jason Shaw had Wild Turkey and Barred Owl, and at a ranch in Logan County C H Hemphill identified Le Conte's Sparrow and **Baltimore Oriole**. At the Yukon Wagner Road wetland Joe Grzybowski detected **White-faced Ibis**; at Lake Overholser Elizabeth Pratt spotted an Osprey; and at the Myriad Botanical Gardens in downtown Oklahoma City Todd Alfes noticed a Swainson's Thrush. On the 18th Corey Riding had a Marbled Godwit at the Meridian Technology Center Pond. On the 19th Scott Loss spotted a **Bank Swallow** at Boomer Lake Park. On the 20th Zach Poland came across a **Green Heron** at his home in Logan County, and Chad Ellis counted **Sora Rail** at Rose Lake. On the 21st in Garvin County Daniel Martin noticed a Greater Roadrunner near Lindsay, while at Rose Lake Deanne McKinney got a Common Yellowthroat.



On the 22nd while driving through Pottawatomie County John Key noticed Wild Turkey and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Later in Seminole County at the Maud Wetlands he heard an **American Bittern** and Esther detected a **Warbling Vireo**, along Hwy 9A an **Eastern Kingbird**, at Lake Konawa a **Yellow-throated Vireo**; and at Sportsman Lake an unknown warbler. In Logan County at Zach Poland's home a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** and Swainson's Thrush joined American Wigeon and White-throated Sparrow. Larry Mays spotted a **Cattle Egret** in McClain County; Jim McGovern discovered a **Chuck-will's Widow** in Norman; Rachel Wrenn had an **Orchard Oriole** at the Little River SP; T K saw **Hudsonian Godwit** and **Marbled Godwit** at Ten Mile Flat; and Zack found an **Acadian Flycatcher** and **Kentucky Warbler** around Little Ax.

(continued on page 7)

Recorder's (cont.)

On the 23rd Melissa Cunningham noticed a Cinnamon Teal at the OKC Community College and Chris Butler documented a Chuck-will's widow in Choctaw. In Logan County Zach Poland counted a **Common Nighthawk** and on the 24th a **Dickcissel**. While Ricky Jones recognized a **Black-necked Stilt** around Rose Lake; Nikki Hurst recognized a **Gray Catbird** in her yard in northwest Oklahoma City; and Scott Loss recorded an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Blue Grosbeak** and Eastern Wood-Pewee in Payne County.

On the 25th Jason Shaw spotted Chimney Swift in Chickasha and **Western Kingbird** at the USAO Habitat Area. At a pond in Newcastle Larry Mays noticed a **Little Blue Heron**, and at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area an **Indigo Bunting**. In Norman John Tharp identified a Gray Catbird and at the Little River SP Rachel Wrenn recorded a **Yellow Warbler** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. On the 26th at home; in Logan County Zach Poland tallied a **Mississippi Kite**, and in McClain County Larry Mays recorded a **Painted Bunting**. At the south range station in Payne County Ashley Unger reported a Bell's Vireo. On the 28th Deb Hirt recognized a **Wilson's Warbler** at Boomer Lake Park. On the 29th at Babcock Park Scott Loss saw a **Blue-headed Vireo**, in Newcastle Patricia Langen saw a Mississippi Kite; and at Adkins Hill Sod Farm Joe Grzybowski saw **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and **Wilson's Phalarope**.

On the 30th in Chandler Jenny Clark noticed a Red-headed Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch. At the NW 63rd street wetland Chad Ellis detected a **Whimbrel**; Deanne McKinney came across a **Palm Warbler**; and nearby Ricky Jones discovered Sprague's Pipit. In McClain County Larry Mays identified American Golden Plover, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, and **Long-billed Dowitcher**; near Little Ax he noticed **Least Flycatcher**, **Bell's Vireo** and **Tennessee Warbler** and along east Alameda an **Eastern Wood-Pewee**. In Oklahoma City Jimmy Woodard reported a Summer Tanager at the Cleal residence. In Payne County Stephen Russell found a Yellow-throated Vireo and Medhavi Ambardar a **Lazuli Bunting**; near west Hwy 51 Caitlin Laughlin detected a **Sedge Wren** and **Blackpoll Warbler**; in Stillwater Ashley Unger saw a **Northern Waterthrush**; at Boomer Lake Park Deb Hirt had a **Black-throated Green Warbler** and at Babcock Park Scott Loss recognized a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**.

In the Central Oklahoma area in April **212** species were reported with **71** first of the year reports bringing the year's total to **242**. And now are we ready for the Big Count Day on May 14th? 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.

Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2016

President Bill Diffin called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. First time guests, Joe Messenbaugh and Grace Kaspar-Kirch were introduced and welcomed.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as published in the April newsletter.

Treasurer, Nancy Vicars' report shows a current bank balance to be \$5,874.41.

Announcements:

The fieldtrip to Wewoka Woods scheduled for May 1, unfortunately, has been cancelled.

Earthfest at Martin Nature Park will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 1PM-4PM.

The "Big Sit" at the home of Marion Homier & John Cleal will be on Sat., April 30, 9AM- ??

—Nadine Varner & Bill Diffin reported a good crowd & meeting of the OOS this past weekend.

—Members reported recent sighting of spring migrants. A Vermilion Flycatcher at Martin Park seen & photographed by Joe Messenbaugh. This is a very beautiful and rare bird for the OKC area.

—Terri Underhill had a Broad-winged Hawk in her yard.

—Black-chinned Hummingbirds are back at Mitch Park reported by Hal Yocum. Hal also reported the Black-capped Vireos are present in the Wichita Mtns. State Park.

—Sue & Dave Woodson saw Black Vulture at Osage Hills State Park. John Bates saw a Chukar in Moore.

—Jerry & Marilyn Taylor finally found a long sought after lifer, Pileated Woodpecker (3) on a recent trip to Florida.

—Patty High reported a large number of dead Cedar Waxwings in the Edmond area. Research revealed this can be caused by consuming Nandia berries which are toxic.

No old business.

The meeting was adjourned for a brief refreshment break.

The program given by Ashley Unger on The Science of Auditory Landscape was very interesting and enlightening.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Vicars, Acting Recording Secretary

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

Picnic Scheduled for June 18

Patti Muzny and her family have once again graciously agreed to allow us to stage our annual picnic in the backyard of their park-like estate. **The date for the event is June 18th.** The address of the Muzny residence is 8516 S. Olie Avenue.

As usual the club is supplying hamburgers and hot dogs, charcoal, buns, paper plates and cups, napkins, tablecloths, plasticware, salt and pepper, soda and ice. Participants are invited to make a meal contribution also. The size of the contribution can approximate the cost of a picnic meal for the attendees in your party. Anything suitable to a picnic is acceptable, but here are some suggestions: potato salad, bean salad, cole slaw, veggie platter, chips and dip, deviled eggs, chili, boiled vegetables, baked beans, corn bread, garnishes:



A -- lettuce and sliced tomato, onions and pickles, garnishes

B -- mustard, catsup and relish, or desserts like brownies, watermelon, ice cream, cake.

As in the past you will need to sign up for the party by replying to an email that Pat Velte will send out. We will need to know the number in your party, the number of hot dogs and hamburgers we should cook for the group and the meal contribution you will be bringing. As the meal contributions come in to Pat, she will post them on our web page devoted to the picnic so that you will know what others are already bringing. Detailed directions to the Muzny residence will also be posted there.

You can start arriving at the party at 4 pm to help with the setup, put out your chairs, relax and have a drink and appetizer, socialize, etc. The grilling will start at 5 pm.
