



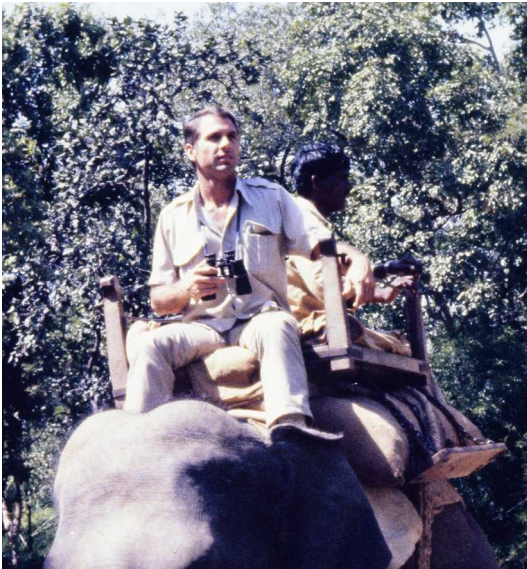
Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

MAY 2018

May: The Excitement of Birds Through Bird Banding

Bird banding will be the topic of the May 21 Oklahoma City Audubon Society meeting presented by club member Warren Harden along with fellow banders John Shackford, Patti Muzny and current bander Ted Goulden.



In the late 1960s through the 1980s Warren Harden and other bird banders carried out netting and trapping operations in their backyards, local parks, around lakes, river bottoms, open grasslands and various other parts of Oklahoma. Other than beauty, an additional education and appreciation for birds was gained by having live birds in the hand to study feathers, anatomy and demeanor. When individuals of multiple species were caught together, comparisons of characters could be observed side by side. Plus, excitement was always in the air over the unexpected species being caught. Many non-banders were attracted to the weekend goings-on at the coffer dam at Lake Overholser. John Shackford advertised one such Saturday banding session on local television and people from the public came and learned about live birds and the society. The May 21 presentation will include photos of the birds banded by local banders and later recovered locally, in other parts of the state, in other states, and in other countries along with banding information about each and the importance of the recovery.

Warren became actively interested in birds upon moving to Norman to teach in the music department at the University of Oklahoma and falling under the mentorship of Dr. George Sutton. Taking over banding from Dr. Sutton and having daily access to Sutton's tutelage along with the University's bird collections led Warren to getting involved with the local bird groups and eventually to travelling around the world leading nature tours.

Professionally, Warren has taught in music departments at two universities after which he performed as a professional musician for a decade. He left the music field to design and lead nature tours during which time he travelled to over 40 countries and 55 oceanic islands. Surviving those experiences, Warren was employed 16 years in the training division for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health. Having served on boards of directors and been the head of music, nature and mental health organizations, he is currently heavily involved as a board member of the Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville.

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). Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Meeting Location:

Our meetings are held at the Will Rogers Garden center, located at the intersection of NW 36th Street and I-44.

President's Perspective

By Betsy Hacker

Spring migration is in full swing. It's the time of year birds continue on their journey to reach their nesting grounds. It's an amazing time to see both common and rare birds. The season only lasts a few weeks so it's the time to get out to look for them. One morning earlier this month, out of the blue, Sharon Henthorn called saying I needed to join her at Northeast Lake Park, PRONTO! Within an hour, we saw an amazing number of birds in a local park.



Many birders attended the OOS spring meeting, others, including myself, attended the Red Slough Bird Festival and OCAS field trips to the Myriad Gardens and Norman, and then there were a crazy few extreme birders (Brian Marra, Jimmy Woodard, and Larry Mays) who traveled across Oklahoma for Cornell Lab's Big Day.

Project Bluebird update. Neil Garrison was so impressed with the bluebird boxes the subcommittee put up



in Will Roger's Park, that he has been monitoring them weekly. So far there has been only paper wasps in them but on May 10, he observed many barn swallows flying around them. The Park management has committed to attracting birds into the park and continues to make changes to the areas they mow and have plans to replanting a 5 acre

area around the houses. It may take a year or two, but hopefully the bluebirds will move in.

Please check out the display in the lobby of Will Roger's

and Visitor Center to see the Project Bluebird display.

A big thanks to all that have contributed to making OCAS a club to attract and welcome local birders. I hesitate to start naming contributing volunteers because inevitably I'll miss one or two. But you know who you are, and a big THANK YOU!

Summer Picnic

Our annual summer picnic will take place **June 9**. The picnic food theme is Italian. Terri Underhill has graciously invited OCAS members to come to her home between 3:00 and 7:00



pm. As those who have been to Terri's home can attest to, her neighborhood is a birding mecca. Please bring sides and drinks to share.

Oklahoma City Audubon Society

Officers 2018

President	Elizabeth Hacker	638-6210
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
Secretary	Sharon Henthorn	521-9958
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	831-1945
Parliament	Ted Golden	354-3619
Programs	Warren Harden	596-2759
Recorder	Esther M. Key	735-1021
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Field Trips	Betz Hacker	638-6210
Newsletter Editor	Pat Velte	751-5263
Publicity	Doug Eide	495-8192
Historian	Vacant	
Refreshments	Sue Woodson	601-622-3467
Webmaster	Pat Velte	751-5263

The Oklahoma City Audubon society is neither a chapter of nor affiliated with National Audubon.

For up-to-date Oklahoma City Audubon news visit:
OKC-Audubon.org

Bird of the Month



By John Shackford

Springtime is the time to see beautiful warblers and one of these beautiful species is the **American Redstart** (*Setophaga ruticilla*). The American Redstart is a spring and fall migrant throughout Oklahoma, and is a nesting species for about the southeastern one-third of the state.

Sutton (1967, *Oklahoma Birds*) says: "height of spring migration from April 20 to mid-May...while fall migration begins in early August and is largely over by September 24.

Interestingly, this species is brilliantly colored in both spring and fall. The male shows orange-red in wing and tail as it flits through the trees. First-year males and females are less colorful, with the orange-red of the adult male, roughly speaking, replaced by yellow; first-year males do show an yellow-orange spot on the sides of the upper breast which in adult males is orange-red. The redstart is usually a rather easy species to identify.



But let me tell you about an occasion when it wasn't. On 7 September 2002, Jack D. Tyler, of Lawton, Oklahoma, and I were birding in the northwest portion of Cimarron County, about a dozen miles east of the Black Mesa. As we walked along a small creek, we came upon a puzzling bird that was giving us a hard time to see well. The first thing we were trying to determine was what type of bird it was. Was it a vireo, a warbler, or some other small species. Complicating identification was the fact the bird had no tail. This brought up the question of a possible young bird, a remote possibility this late in the season, but something we had to consider nonetheless. After chasing the bird for about 20 minutes, we finally lost it (or gave up—I do not recall which for sure). We both went back to some shade near the car and decided to each draw a picture of what we had just observed before consulting bird books: we both had seen a yellow-orange patch on either side of the upper breast (Jack also noted orange-red at the outer edge of this patch), along with one wingbar. We then consulted a field guide and found that it had to be an American Redstart, because this was the only warbler (other than the Painted

Redstart of the southwest U.S.) that has only one wingbar. This identification conundrum illustrates how often we use several visual cues in combination to identify a bird and when we don't have the whole package, it can quickly throw us.

I bring this record up for another reason: Jack Tyler has been a very faithful recorder of his field observations for over 50 years. In addition to his field notes on birds, he has kept notes on everything from flora, insects, fish, amphibians and on through mammals. Unlike Jack, I usually only keep detailed notes on birds I am specifically researching. When I was trying to get information together to give details of this sighting, I had nothing I could lay my hands on so I called Jack. In 2-3 minutes he had chapter and verse of our observation. One of the

things that has spurred Jack on in his note-taking was a comment a teacher of his once made: "a short pencil beats a long memory every time." One final thing about Jack's notes: he is a much better note-taker than I through sheer practice (and probably some extra brain power).

Somewhat in my own defense about note-taking, I have reported in the *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society* (BOOS) a number of bird records I believed were worthy of wider distribution, but for species I was not specifically researching at the time. In the BOOS we all have a great platform to discuss important records and I encourage others to do the same. One of the primary reasons Dr. George Sutton started the BOOS was to draw amateurs and scholars alike into the process of presenting useful data on birds and to help encourage more careful observation of birds. I think you will find working on a BOOS note will be fun as well as interesting and useful to the birding community at large. For further information contact BOOS Editor Eugene Young. His email address is: EUGENE.YOUNG@noc.edu; also I would be glad to offer preliminary help as to how to proceed for anyone seeking it.

One more piece of information on the redstart. Dr. Sutton also relates that the American Ornithological Union checklist for 1957 gave Oklahoma City as falling within the breeding range of the redstart, although no nest has ever been reported in this vicinity. Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data show the species nesting in southeastern Oklahoma and the frequency of nesting slightly positive since the BBS began in 1966.

Chasing a Big Day Record

By Doug Wood

On Saturday, May 5, Jimmy Woodard, Larry Mays, and I took stab at the Oklahoma Big Day Record (182 ABA). We came tantalizingly close to the record (177).

We started after midnight with Greater Prairie-Chicken and Henslow's Sparrows near Pawhuska and then some nocturnal birding at marshes/lakes with only moderate results. We hit Nickel Preserve at daybreak and had very nice run of migrants, although fog slowed us down some. We needed more forest migrants at Nickel than we got, but still a productive site. We headed to Tulsa and had moderate success at Oxley and other sites.

We hustled to Lawton to pick up some goodies like Inca Dove. The Wichita Mountains NWR was slow, hot, too much traffic/humans and we underperformed there. We got the Black-capped Vireo and Burrowing Owl etc, but had trouble with wrens of all things.



We left Wichita Mountains in a pickle with only 139 species. We rallied on the drive to Hackberry Flat with one (1!) Bobolink on a fence post, but we knew it was going to be difficult to get the record. Hackberry received rain a few days prior to our count and this was, ironically, a big problem. Shorebirds were spread out and often in the vegetation, reducing visibility and there were only 2 hours left. We only saw 17 shorebird species, which was 5-6 less than expected. That would have put us over the top (or a few more forest migrants in Eastern Oklahoma).

We quickly saw quite a few species, but missed some shockers like American Bittern (unbelievable!). Ran out of daylight and the clock reels you in unfortunately. A few unlucky breaks and a couple unproductive stops kept us from making the mark, but was a ton of fun. Forest migrants seemed to be a bit sparse compared to our hopes. That's birding though. We benefited from having Lou Truex as a non-observer driver. Thank you Lou! Maybe give it a go next year? Local big days are fun too! Best to all, Doug.

Chirpings

By Patti Muzny
May 2018

Our natural world is such a fascinating phenomenon. It always amazes me what can be experienced when we are aware of our surroundings. Actually, fascinating experiences can happen when we aren't all that aware! As I was walking past our den windows on my way out the door to



head for work, something flew from our side yard fence about window height, and briefly hovered directly in front of the patio. We have an abundance of Eurasian Collared Doves and White-winged Doves and they shuttle back and forth across the yard many times a day.

After a second or two, my morning-fogged brain made the observation that this bird was NOT one of our ubiquitous doves, but a Kestrel!! In the 11 years of living in this house, I don't think a Kestrel has ever made our yard list. We have Mississippi Kites, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks, but never a Kestrel. It had flown from the fence and briefly hovered in the unique manner in which a Kestrel will do, directly above the lawn before continuing across the yard. A few minutes earlier, a little flock of Chipping Sparrows and a Clay-collared Sparrow or two had been feeding. What a great way to begin a morning!

On April 29th, the Muznys were spending the afternoon at our Byars cabin. The feeder still had seed available, so there was a lot of activity. While Painted and Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks nest there, I've never been lucky enough to be there when they were migrating through this area. There were Painted Buntings, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, several Cardinals, White-throated Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrows, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, Chickadees, Titmice, and of course Brown-headed Cowbirds. In the trees we found Summer Tanagers, Black and White Warblers, Gnatcatchers and several vireo species.



Minutes April 16, 2018

For the past month or six weeks, we have seen a hen turkey fly low over the cabin and land at the spillway of our pond, which has been spilling for several weeks. Tim had read somewhere that turkeys don't go in the water. Well, this gal obviously didn't read the book – she likes walk along the edge, more like a heron, and peck at whatever she finds interesting. We have seen her or another with the same genetic predisposition; repeat this crazy behavior three different times. She's probably nesting north of the cabin and has discovered she can cool her weary drumsticks in nice cool water!

It's fun to watch the various egret and heron species fly back and forth near the south banks of the Oklahoma River south of the Boathouse District. On May 9th I also spotted my first Mississippi Kite in the same area. And on May 10th, "our" Kite that hangs out in a dead tree at SW 85th and Walker was seen.

Our Robins that have nested on our patio and downspouts did not choose either of these nesting sites this year, but a Blue Jay is contributing to what I feel is an unusual nesting site. My potting shed on the north side of our house is more of a little pole barn with lattice sides and is open on part of the front. I noticed a large, stick-built nest created on the 2 X 4 support near the roof at about 5.5 feet from the ground. The eggs were large as well, and I'd thought it might be a Blue Jay, but I didn't realize they would utilize a man-made structure. Sure enough, I waited a while and peeked around the corner to see an incubating jay on the nest.

Our yard also has nesting Martins, Brown Thrashers, Cardinals and Collared Doves. Great-tailed Grackles are advertising their availability, but haven't started nests yet. There may be a Mockingbird. Bewick's and Carolina Wren, but I haven't found their nests yet.

Spring is here – all is well! Enjoy!

Oklahoma City Audubon Society Welcomes New Members

John Eagleston, OKC
Becky Grigg, Tulsa
Elaine Phillips, Edmond

REFRESHMENTS

Snacks: Terri Underhill and Marilyn Taylor

Ice & Drinks: Susan Schmidt

Meeting was called to order by President Elizabeth Hacker. Minutes of March meeting were approved without corrections or additions.

Treasurer Nancy Vicars reports \$5818.73 after expenses, including the \$315 for bluebird boxes for Will Rogers Park.

Guest John Eagleston was introduced.

Updates of upcoming field trips and events:

April 21—Unofficial Big Sit at the home of John Cleal and Marion Homier near Choctaw.

April 26-29—Spring OOS meeting at Dwight Mission near Sallisaw.

May 11—Myriad Botanical Gardens at 8am, led by Zach Poland.

May 12—Norman South Jenkins Road, led by Nathan Kuhner. Meet at Rudy's at 8:15.

May 19—Will Rogers Park Garden Festival. This a volunteer event which provides work hours in exchange for room rental. Needed are setup at 7am, chairs, table, literature, and booth volunteers for the whole day. Please contact Elizabeth Hacker to add your name as a volunteer.

May 22—Will Rogers Park field trip at 8 am.

Old Business: Progress on the Will Rogers Park plan for improving birding opportunities. Thanks to volunteers John Cleal and Marion Homier, Hal Yocum, Nadine Varner, Terri Underhill. A plan is developing for revegetating the peninsula in the pond. Items for the display case in the Exhibition Building are ready to be set up.

Bird sightings of interest: Hal regularly sees a Black-chinned Hummingbird near the bridge at Mitch Park, Edmond. Jerry Taylor showed photos of progressive beak abnormality in a Red-bellied Woodpecker that frequents his yard. The bird originally had a broken beak, and despite the deformity, seems to be healthy and thriving. There are recent sightings of both Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits.

Conservation Chairman Dave Woodson suggested getting the free newsletter from High Island, TX with 155 warbler species included.

The meeting was adjourned and short refreshment break followed.

After the break, Warren Harden introduced our speaker Laurie MacIvor Gillum. She is a naturalist and a science teacher for the Kings Gate Christian School in OKC. She has worked with the US Forest Service as a wildlife biologist on the Big Island of Hawaii, among her many pursuits and adventures. She provided a presentation on the whales and other cetaceans of the island's waters, and of the endemic and introduced bird species. The audience members were enthralled, and in attendance were 41 individuals.

Report by Club Secretary Sharon Henthorn

Recorders Report

April 2018

What an Unbelievable month !!! Just when everything thought spring was here, Snow, Freezing Rain, and Sleet arrived nipping some early growth and delaying later plants. Arriving bird migrants were late and winter bird migrants stayed longer. Still the month had an amazing group of newcomers to the area.

On March 30th Brian Marra found **American Avocet** at Stinchcomb WR west in Canadian County; and Scott Loss noticed **Osprey** at Boomer Lake Park. On March 31st Chad Ellis viewed **Forster's Tern** at Lake Overholser Route 66 Park; Emily Hjalmarson recorded **Wilson's Phalarope** and **Peregrine Falcon** near Rose Lake; Mike Yough detected **Sedge Wren** at Cushing Water Treatment Plant; and Corey Riding saw **Broad-winged Hawk** in Stillwater.

On the 2nd Ben Sandstrom located Broad-winged Hawk at Paul's Valley Lake in Garvin County. On the 3rd Rachel Wrenn added **Snowy Egret** at Lake Thunderbird; and Corey Riding tallied **Cattle Egret** at Lake Hefner Stars and Stripes Park. On the 5th Nancy Reed watched a Hummingbird arrive in her Norman yard; and Bill Diffin counted **Swainson's Hawk** at Stinchcomb WR West. On the 6th Jack Hurd reported a **Chimney Swift** at the Morgan Road Playa; Caleb McKinney discovered **Nashville Warbler** at Ninnekah in Grady County; Phil Ables confirmed **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in Garvin County; Bill Diffin encountered **American Golden Plover** along NW 50th; Rachel Wrenn observed **Upland Sandpiper** at Lake Thunderbird; Brian Marra spotted **Black-necked Stilt** east of Rose Lake and at Lake Hefner Prairie Dog Point **Semipalmated Sandpiper** while Stephen Lynch recognized **American Bittern**.



On the 7th Janalin Leach identified Wood Duck, White-eyed Vireo, and Black-and-white Warbler at Wewoka Woods Camp in Seminole County; and Esther Key photographed **Black-chinned Hummingbird** in Moore. On the 8th Dala Grissom had Osprey in Shawnee in Pottawatomie County; and Joe Grzybowski had House Wren in Norman. On the 9th Chad Ellis verified Marbled Godwit at Prairie Dog Point. On the 10th Sharon Henthorn came across **Eastern Kingbird** along South Jenkins in Norman. Calvin Rees spotted Cinnamon Teal at Prairie Dog Point. On the 11th Zach Poland determined **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Myriad

Garden Center in downtown Oklahoma City. On the 12th Caleb Frome-CC heard Chimney Swift at OU; Jimmy Woodward checked **Green Heron** at Lake Stanley Draper; Deb Hirt documented Warbling Vireo at Boomer Lake Park; and Zach Poland turned up **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Myriad Garden Center.

On the 15th Caleb McKinney detected **Swainson's Thrush** in Grady County; Zach Poland found Green Heron, and Black-and-white Warbler at Liberty Lake in Logan County; Deb Hirt saw **Western Kingbird** at Boomer Lake Park; and Caitlin Laughlin noticed **Willet** at the Perkins South Bridge. On the 16th Ben Sandstrom saw **Hudsonian Godwit** at Rose Lake in Canadian County; and Bill Diffin also recorded Hudsonian Godwit and Willet at Lake Hefner. On the 17th Paul Cook viewed Swainson's Hawk, Upland Sandpiper, and



Grasshopper Sparrow at Goldsby Sod Farm in McClain County and **Red-eyed Vireo** along South Jenkins; Calvin Rees added **Solitary Sandpiper** at Rose Lake; Jimmy Lovett counted **Yellow-throated Vireo** at The Botanic Garden at OSU; and Brian Marra confirmed **Black-bellied Plover** at Prairie Dog Point.

On the 18th Zach Poland watched **Wilson's Warbler** at Myriad Garden Center. On the 19th Pat Velte photographed a beautiful Peregrine Falcon at Prairie Dog Point. On the 20th Brian Marra tallied **Marbled Godwit** and **House Wren** at Stinchcomb WR West; Caleb Frome-CC got **Mississippi Kite** at OU; Sharon Henthorn located **Great Crested Flycatcher** along South Jenkins; and Cody Barnes observed **White-faced Ibis** at Boomer Lake Park. On the 21st Ben Sandstrom reported **Warbling Vireo** at Lake Louis Burtzchi in Grady County; Zach Poland recognized Solitary Sandpiper, Great Crested Flycatcher and **Bank Swallow** in Logan County; Joe Grzybowski encountered American Golden-Plover at Goldsby Sod Farm; Zach DuFran spotted Swainson's Thrush along South Jenkins; and Zach Roy documented **Semipalmated Plover** and **Kentucky Warbler** at Boomer Lake Park.

On the 22nd Caleb McKinney came across White-faced Ibis and American Avocet at Alex Marsh in Grady County; Dala Grissom tallied **Yellow Warbler** at Meeker

Lake in Lincoln County; Zach Poland checked Tree and Bank Swallow at Mineral Wells Park in Guthrie; Robert Harding verified Solitary Sandpiper at Lake Thunderbird Little Axe Area; Mike Yough determined Swainson's Thrush, **Tennessee Warbler** and **Summer Tanager** at Couch Park; Corey Riding detected **Sprague's Pipit** at Meridian Technology Center; Brian Stufflebeam had Wilson's Phalarope at Bethany/Warr Acres WT Plant; and Emily Hjalmarson found **Prothonotary Warbler** and **Blue Grosbeak** along South Jenkins. On the 23rd Michel Cavigelli identified Horned Lark at Lake El Reno; and Jim Magovern heard **Chuck-will's-widow** in Norman.

On the 24 Emily Hjalmarson noticed **Indigo Bunting** along South Jenkins. On the 25th Jeff Tibbits saw Yellow-throated Warbler and Broad-winged Hawk in Logan County; Rachel Wrenn recorded Black-necked Stilt, Semipalmated Plover at Ten Mile Flats and **Least Flycatcher** in Norman; Ben Sandstrom viewed **Sanderling** and **Caspian Tern** at Lake Hefner; and at Meridian Technology Center Justin Agan added **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**; Corey Riding documented **Piping Plover**; and Caitlin Laughlin got Hudsonian Godwit and Wilson's Phalarope. On the 26th Jimmy Woodard counted Warbling Vireo, and **Baltimore Oriole** at Lake Overholser plus Great Crested Flycatcher and Swainson's Thrush at Yukon City Park; Rachel Wrenn encountered Summer Tanager at Lake Thunderbird; Heidi Vickers recognized **Dickcissel** at OSU; Chris Butler heard Chuck-will's-Widow in Choctaw; and Robert Harding spotted **Eastern Wood-Pewee** in Oklahoma City.

On the 27th Brian Marra located Willet and Great Crested Flycatcher at the Shawnee Reservoir in Pottawatomie County; Jason Shaw tallied Western Kingbird in Chickasha; and Scott Loss came across **Virginia Rail** at the Teal Ridge Wetland. On the 28th Emily Hjalmarson confirmed Yellow-throated Vireo at Lake Thunderbird Dam; Jimmy Lovett discovered Orchard Oriole at Teal Ridge Wetland; and Caitlin Laughlin observed **Painted Bunting** at Sanborn Lake. On the 29th Rachel Wrenn reported **Lazuli Bunting** in Norman; Scott Loss counted **Sora Rail**, **Bell's Vireo**, **Palm Warbler**, **Bobolink** and American Bittern at the Cushing Water Treatment Plant and **Blue-headed Vireo** at Ghost Hollow; Jimmy Lovett determined **Gray Catbird** at OSU Botanical Garden; and William Radke verified Tennessee Warbler in Edmond. On the 30th Deanne McKinney turned up White-faced Ibis east of Rose Lake; John Hurd identified **American Redstart** and Blue Grosbeak at Lake Overholser; and Colby Neuman watched Bell's Vireo and **Orchard Oriole** along South Jenkins. What new migrants will arrive in May?

During April of 2018 in the Central Oklahoma area **213** species were reported with **68** new species bringing the total for the year to **241**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds by making reports at <http://ebird.org>. I can also be contacted by e-mail at emkok@earthlink.net. Esther M. Key, Editor.

Vireo Delisted

By Paul Baicich, *Birding Community Bulletin*, May 2018

On 13 April, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced the successful recovery of the Black-capped Vireo, thus removing the species from Endangered Species List protection for this once-beleaguered species. Thirty years ago, the population was down to only about 350 individuals. Today, however, there are more than 14,000 birds estimated across the bird's breeding range in Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico. No longer will this species be listed among those species considered Endangered and Threatened.



The vireo was Federally-listed in 1987, primarily due to the impacts of habitat loss and nest

parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds. During this time-period, Texas especially had a large number of goats on the landscape, browsing on shrubs and reducing the cover that Black-capped Vireos needed for nesting. Fortunately a serious effort to eliminate cowbirds, combined with habitat restoration efforts, had beneficial consequences. Part of the vireo's recovery could also be attributed to decreasing goat densities in Texas, especially since the repeal of the National Wool Act in 1993, terminating wool price-supports by the end of 1995 and helping increase vireo numbers across much of the species' breeding range.

Across Texas and Oklahoma, the USFWS worked with the U.S. Army, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy, the Environmental Defense Fund, and other partners to help the Black-capped Vireo recover. Conservation activities included the use of prescribed fire, arranging for conservation easements, and the control of Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Using their scientifically rigorous Species Status Assessment protocol, the USFWS concluded that the primary threats to the Black-capped Vireo have been reduced or adequately managed, and vireo populations are now expected to be viable in the future.

But this does not mean that a "hands-off" approach will be justified. To ensure that Black-capped Vireo populations remain healthy, the USFWS has developed a post-delisting monitoring plan in the states of Texas and Oklahoma, along with Fort Hood (Texas), Fort Sill (Oklahoma), and The Nature Conservancy of Texas. This plan outlines the methods

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

Upcoming Field Trips



MAY

22: Will Rogers Park. Meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot of the Will Roger's Garden Center, NW 36th & I-44. Leader: Betz Hacker.

JUNE

9: Club Picnic. Edmond.
Watch for email with additional information and directions.

Vireo (cont.)

to be used to monitor the status of the vireo and its habitat, in cooperation with partners for a 12-year period, and it also provides an approach for identifying and responding to any future population declines or habitat loss.

"The delisting of the Black-capped Vireo clearly illustrates the value of the Service's partnership-driven approach to conservation," said Amy Lueders, the USFWS's Southwest Regional Director. "By working with our partners including Fort Hood, Fort Sill, the states of Texas and Oklahoma, private landowners and others we were able to conserve a North American songbird that once perched on the brink of extinction for future generations to enjoy."



J.D. Strong, director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, added, "Now our challenge is to redouble efforts to make sure those partnerships continue - along with valuable habitat restoration work and research - so that vireos and Oklahoma's other fish and wildlife populations remain healthy."