



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

November 2013

An Introductory Comparison of Avian Species Australia and the USA

The speaker for the November 18 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society will be OCAS member Gavin Small, a specialist in conservation management.

A native of Australia, Gavin is now a resident of Midwest City. After retiring from the Royal Australian Air Force as a wing commander, he earned a Mast of Wildlife (Habitat) Management degree at Macquarie University, Sydney. He currently manages private land held under conservation covenants with State and Federal authorities where he is involved in all aspects of conservation management including pest control, management of contractors, wildlife survey and reporting.



Gavin will be presenting taxonomic data from each country (Order, Family, Genera and Species) and looking at similarities and significant differences. The presentation will include photos of his favorite Australian species and others of selected species that are common to both nations.

Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month. They begin at 7 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 and NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.

Christmas Bird Count

It's the time of year to gear up again for the Oklahoma City Christmas Bird Count. This year our count will be held on Saturday, 14 December 2013. I do have at least one minor problem: my computer crashed and we have not found any survivors yet, including my CBC files, although I do have some printed material from past years. I hope most of you will repeat counting in the same areas you did last year; call me if you do not recall what that was and maybe we can reconstruct your area from the printed materials I do have.

We plan to have our after-count party at Diane Newell's home again, at 8304 Lakeaire Drive, Northwest Oklahoma City. Diane has been our party "angel" (as one person has called her) for many years, and she always creates a warm inviting setting for everyone at the party. Food provided at the party will be chili, honey ham, and corn cheddar chowder. But we need people to contribute side dishes and especially desserts. The party will begin at 5 pm for early arrivers and we will plan to read the list about 6:30 pm.

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Welcome!

The Oklahoma City Audubon
Society welcomes Donna
Mackiewicz, Edmond

President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



The end of last month's article did not make it into the newsletter. The rest of the muscicapoid call examples are linked below.

Growl/Whine (cont'd)

Sturnidae:European Starling,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/67275>

Sturnidae:Splendid Starling,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/99720>

Whistle

Turdidae:Hermit Thrush,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/53787>

Turdidae:Townsend's Solitaire,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/13953>

Muscicapidae:Northern Wheatear,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/105565> (with chak calls)

Mimidae:Brown Thrasher,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/114592>

Sturnidae:Common Hill Myna,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/126642>

See(high)

Turdidae:American Robin,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/139086>

Mimidae:Northern Mockingbird,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/34577>

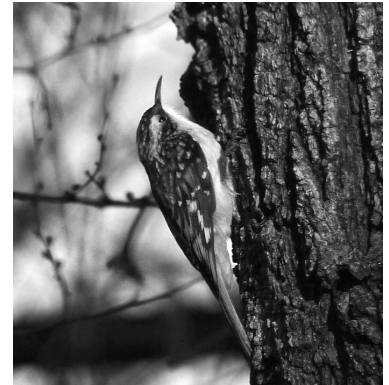
Muscicapidae:European Robin,

<http://www.xeno-canto.org/142884>

Certhioidea is the superfamily closest to the one just examined, the Muscipoidea, <http://tolweb.org/Passerida/29223>, so let's study it next. It contains four families, the nuthatches (Sittidae), the treecreepers (Certhiidae), the wrens (Troglodytidae) and the gnatcatchers (Poliopitilidae), <http://tolweb.org/Certhioidea/67306>. This is one of the smallest groups we have labelled "supergroup".

The nuthatches and the treecreepers are sparsely represented in the New World -- 23 of 27 nuthatches and 10 of 11 certhiids reside in the Old World. On the other hand the 86 troglodytids and the 17 poliopitilids are all New World denizens except for the Eurasian Wren. The nuthatches and the treecreepers have the treecreeping habit, the wrens and gnatcatchers don't. The 9 Certhia treecreepers have a pointed and stiffened tail which they use as a prop to help support them on vertical trunks similar to woodpeckers. The 2 Salpornis creepers do not have a prop tail nor do any of the nuthatches. In North America the only non-certhioid birds that creep on trees are the woodpeckers and the Black-and-white Warbler.

The most southerly American certhioid creeper, the Brown Creeper, ranges south only as far as Nicaragua. In Mexico through South America the main passerine creepers are the suboscine woodcreepers, the 52 species in Dendrocolaptidae.



Also in Central and South America are 14 small woodpeckers in genus Veniliornis, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Veniliornis_maculifrons-2.jpg, and 27 piculets in genus Picumnus, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Picumnus_temminckii2.jpg. The piculets physically resemble nuthatches, but very little is written about their behavior. Most IBC videos show them shuffling and pecking along twigs. Warren Harden has seen them in the small, outer branches of trees, often with other birds, and in scrub. Bob Holbrook describes a woodpecker-like attack on twigs while clinging in every position like a chickadee.

(continued on page 5)

Oklahoma City Audubon Society

Officers 2013

President	Bill Diffin	722-3778
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
Secretary	Sharon Henthorn	521-9958
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	831-1945
Parliament	Ted Goulden	354-3619
Programs	Warren Harden	364-3491
Recorder	Esther M. Key	735-1021
Conservation	Dave Woodson	601-622-3467
Field Trips	Mark Delgrosso	445-2300
Newsletter Editors:		
	Pat Velte	751-5263
	Carla Brueggen	495-3259
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 Oklahoma City Audubon news between newsletters and meetings visit:

OKC-Audubon.org

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



Sometimes, after I have seen a bird a few thousand times, I tend to start taking that bird's beauty and actions for granted; the **Blue Jay** (*Cyanocitta cristata*) is a good example. Dr. George Sutton (*Birds Worth Watching*, 1986) had an interesting perspective on Blue Jay actions: although it is a common bird "never do I see it doing anything without feeling that I must go on watching—without feeling that I must keep

the bird in sight, lest I miss something important." Another opinion may also bring

fresh eyes to the situation that can cause us to pause once again over a bird's beauty and actions. In Bent (1964, *Life histories of North American Jays, Crows and Titmice*) Walter Faxon (an American ornithologist around the turn of the 20th century) spoke of "a distinguished visiting English ornithologist who was eager to see a live blue jay because he considered it the finest bird in the world. He was surprised to find that this beauty, as he called it, is one of our common birds."

We tend to label Blue Jays as having a "rascally" personality; this opinion probably stems partly from their habit of bold actions; loud, raucous calls, particularly when a predator is in the neighborhood; and infrequently raiding the nests of other species. Warren Harden relates an interesting story. An elderly couple from Norman once called Dr. Sutton to report that they were being held hostage in their homes by birds attacking them whenever they stepped out the front door. Dr. Sutton and Warren went to their house to try to figure out just what was going on. They watched for 5 minutes and saw nothing. Warren stayed in the car while Dr. Sutton went to the front door to talk to the people. The lady of the house peeked out from a small crack in the doorway, obviously afraid of opening the door wider because she felt she might be attacked by the birds. Doc returned to the car

after talking to the lady and said he just couldn't figure out what bird was causing the problem. Warren then told Doc that as Doc was approaching the front door a Blue Jay had swooped close behind him from one evergreen tree on one side of the front door to another on the other side of the doorway. The jay apparently had made no call, because Doc had no idea that he had been "attacked." Case of the "attacking" birds dismissed: the Blue Jay likely had a nest or young near the front door and was aggressively trying to protect them.

The Blue Jay has an interesting pattern of migration—it is a daytime migrant, and loose flocks can frequently be seen. Dr. Sutton (1967, *Oklahoma Birds*) said that "High-flying flocks headed southward in fall [are] probably transient birds, but flocks in spring moving in various directions above nesting pairs may be non-breeding local birds wandering about."



The Blue Jay is a great mimic of several other bird calls. One of its best mimic calls is that of the Red-shouldered Hawk. In our neighborhood both the jay and the hawk could be called common, and I am often intrigued, and stumped, as to which bird is making a Red-shouldered Hawk call. "Like other corvids [jays, crows, ravens and the like], they may learn to mimic human speech," according to Wikipedia.

The Blue Jay lays from 3-7 eggs, but usually 4-5. Incubation is usually 17-18 days and the young usually leave the nest from about 17-21 days of age. Bent (1964) quotes Dr. Herbert Friedmann that cowbird

nest parasitism is rare, and "the eggs of the Blue Jay are so much larger than those of the Cowbird that there is little probability of the latter ever hatching if present."

Of the feeding habits of the Blue Jay, Bent (1964) says that "The blue jay eats almost every kind of digestible food; like its relative, the crow, it may be considered omnivorous." It will even eat mice. In one study of stomachs collected in every month of the year, it was found that of food items, vegetable matter comprised about 75% and animal matter about 25%. Non-food items of the birds' total ingestion were, surprisingly, about 14% mineral matter.

In Memory of Mama Marie

by Patti Muzny

In the course of living our lives, many people come and go. Some are just a fleeting memory and some share our



lives for a few years then move on. Others come into our lives and make everything sparkle. Marie (Mama Marie) Shepherd so beautifully fit into that "sparkle" category. Even though she has gone before us to what I know is one of the best seats in heaven, her sparkle still lights our lives.

I met Marie Shepherd somewhere around 30 years ago when she was on a birding trip with her daughter, Nancy Vicars, who soon

became my dearest friend and birding companion. Throughout these years we all traveled in pursuing birds together and chasing birds was one of Marie's favorite things to do. My fond memories of her focus around our birding trips.

We have gone many places, including the Texas Coast, "The Valley," Big Bend, Arkansas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Devil's Den, Arkansas, was always an annual excursion for Nancy and Marie. I usually didn't stay with them in Devil's Den, but with my sister, who lived 25 miles away in Fayetteville, Arkansas. On one of the DD trips, Nancy and Marie drove to Fayetteville to have dinner with us. Not long before they needed to start back to DD, a ferocious lightning, thunder and rain storm blew in with a vengeance. We were all seated on the screen porch when a lightning bolt struck very near our perch. Without missing a beat, Marie catapulted out of the lawn chair and while still bent over, marched purposefully back into the house.

On another trip to Colorado in the fall, we drove through the Creede area and up toward Lake City and Gunnison. Around each curve was another breathtaking view of golden aspens with a fine dusting of snow on the higher elevations. We just kept driving and driving until we finally realized we HAD to turn back east and head home. Marie was fine with wherever the road took us.

In SE Arizona, we were hoping to see the endangered Spotted Owl. We made arrangements with a local guide to hike up a rugged canyon where he guaranteed we would see the owl. Marie was in her eighties at the time and hesitated to attempt the climb. Our guide took her by the elbow and said he'd make sure she got up there. We trekked up quite a distance on a steep, rugged trail and as promised, each saw a Spotted Owl perched at the side of the trail. Marie had no problem with the hike and I think she was in love with the guide from then on.

She was always prepared to go on a birding trip and I think she kept her bag partially packed at all times. And prepared she was! On one trip our entertainment was going through her blue Samsonite overnight case. That precious lady had everything but her binoculars in there. I still smile when I remember how much we laughed as she fished out her treasures from the overnight case. And she always had something yummy to share in her "Braun's Samsonite" sacks.

Marie's heart was full of unconditional love and she shared that love generously with her family and friends. Her God and her family were foremost in her life, but she also made room for her birding friends as well. It was my privilege to be considered a part of her family and I loved her dearly.

As her health declined, I had the privilege of spending several evenings with her and we would watch Jeopardy and Dancing with the Stars. But if a Thunder game was on, she was a totally dedicated fan and could tell me all about the players. She had her Thunder finger on the shelf and she cheered them on from her recliner.

If she was ever asked where she would like to visit, her standard reply was, "Honey, wherever this truck goes, I go!" End of discussion. And she did go and we all had so many great trips.

While we all will miss her easy smile and contagious laugh and the love she shared, we celebrate her life and wish her many blessings as she almost surely will be watching heavenly birds. By the time I get there, she will have all of the best places staked out, of that I have no doubt. Happy trails, my dear friend!

Spotting Scope and Tripod for Sale

Pentax Model PF 80ED spotting scope and Manfrotto tripod. Original price was \$1200; will take \$700 for it. Call Max Fuller at 262-0188.

President (cont.)

Shifting geographic focus to sub-Saharan Africa, the one certhioid is the African Spotted Creeper, http://www.biodiversityexplorer.org/birds/certhiidae/salpornis_spilonotus.htm.



Other occupants of the small treecreeping bird niche are woodpeckers in Campethera, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mombasa_Woodpecker, and Dendropicos, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Male_Cardinal_Woodpecker_\(Dendropicos_fuscescens\).jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Male_Cardinal_Woodpecker_(Dendropicos_fuscescens).jpg).

The eight wood hoopoes, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Green_Woodhoopoe_RWD7.jpg, are long-tailed creepers in the non-passerine Phoeniculidae. Australasia has no certhioids or woodpeckers. The small creepers are the 7 Australasian treecreepers in Climacteridae and the 2 sittellas, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Varied_Sittella_Kobble07.JPG, in Neosittidae. In Eurasia and North Africa the competition for nut-hatches and treecreepers comes from small woodpeckers in Dendrocopos, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dendrocopos_nanus.jpg, Hemicircus, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hemicircus_canente.jpg and Meiglyptes. More on the certhioids next month.

Cool Bird Facts:

A house wren can feed 500 spiders and caterpillars to its nestlings during a single summer afternoon.

A Baltimore oriole can eat as many as 17 hairy caterpillars in a minute.

From *Bird Watchers Digest*. See more at: <http://birdwatchersdigest.com/youngbirders/coolbirdfacts/#/birdfact1>

October 21, 2013 minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Diffin

Committee news:

- Treasurer Nancy Vicars reports \$5940 in the account.
- Field trip coordinator Mark DelGrosso requests suggestions for future dates, excursions. Terri Underhill volunteered to lead a November field trip in search of longspurs.
- Conservation committee chairman Dave Woodson reported that the Crystal Lake children's wildlife expo was well-attended by members and that a letter of thanks has been received from City Kids.
- Litter cleanup leader Sharon Henthorn reported that a letter was sent on behalf of OKC Audubon Society to the Parks Department for better maintenance of roads and trash cans for Prairie Dog Point. A response from Wes Gray, Business Manager of Parks and Recreation acknowledged the requests and has forwarded them to appropriate service providers.
- Refreshment chairman Sue Woodson asked for volunteers for cookie patrol for upcoming meetings.

Old Business: The box containing name tags and bumper stickers for the OKC Audubon Society has been missing since the June meeting. Members are encouraged to search their homes and vehicles to recover them.

Discussion:

1. Taylor Lake Campground near Marlowe, OK is hosting a Lewis's woodpecker this week.
2. OOS meeting in Broken Arrow was just concluded; a comparison was discussed of changes in features of road-killed cliff swallows collected over the past 45 years.
3. The Monterrey Bay Birding Festival was recommended as a well-managed and cost-effective September annual event in California. (MBBF.org)

New Business: A nominating committee is formed to prepare a slate of officers and candidates for annual election next month. Members are Terri Underhill, Warren Harden, Jimmy Woodard.

Speaker: Jay Pruett, Oklahoma Program Director of the Nature Conservancy, informed the group of ongoing studies regarding the direct and indirect effects of wind energy on wildlife habitat, with special emphasis on the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be November 18, 2013

Sharon Henthorn, Secretary

Recorders Report –October 2013

A New Hot Spot

As forests change from their summer green to flaming torches leading the way to winter, the final summer birds leave the area and migrating birds continue to move through while winter residents start arriving. Three unusual birds were noted during the month with one leading to the discovery of a new hot spot and lots of new birding information for that county in eBird.

On the 2nd James Hubbell saw an Indigo Bunting near the Canadian River in West Moore. On the 5th Sharon Henthorn checked out the Police Pond and located Northern Shovelers, Forester's Terns and Franklin Gulls; Grace Huffman had a Wilson's Warbler west of Will Roger's Park; and along South Jenkins in Norman Joe Grzybowski saw Northern Rough-winged Swallow. On the 6th Scott Loss noticed a Gray Catbird at Whittenberg Park in Stillwater.

On the 8th Chad Ellis watched a Peregrine Falcon attack shorebirds on the 11th Street Playa in Yukon. In Logan County John Hurd spotted a Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Nashville Warbler, and Barred Owl at the Dolese Sand Pit in Guthrie. Grace Huffman saw a Chimney Swift near Eldon Lyon Park. On the 9th Dick Clapp and Barbara Tarbuton had the last Ruby-throated Hummingbird at their feeder, and Phillip Lyon saw a Common Nighthawk fly over Martin Park Nature Center. On the 10th Dave and Sue Woodson drove around Prairie Dog Point and located Pied-billed Grebe.

On the 12th Jimmy Woodward had a big sit at their house in Midwest City. He was joined by Mark Delgrosso, Carla Brueggen and Pat Velte and they observed 45 species including Broad-winged Hawk, Osprey, Swainson's Hawk, Fish Crow, and White-throated Sparrow. Meanwhile in Norman Lindell Dillon reported that WildCare picked up a **Golden Eagle**.



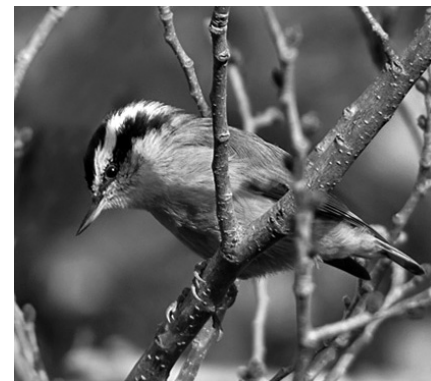
On the 14th Jim Bates walked the wet field with cattails at the Will Rodgers airport after work and located a **Nelson's Sparrow**. At her home in Logan County Donna Mackiewicz noticed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. On the 16th along South Jenkins Dick Gunn picked up an early American Tree Sparrow and a White-crowned

Sparrow. On the 17th Jennifer Kidney walked South Jenkins and spied a Black-throated Green Warbler. Bill Adams and his mother went to Taylor Lake just north of Marlow in Grady County and discovered a **Lewis's Woodpecker**.



On the 18th at Lake Overholser's Coffey Dam Chad Ellis had a Spotted Towhee. On the 19th Deanne McKinney checked Lake Hefner and saw a Ring-necked Duck. John Polo and a couple of others birded Lake Carl Blackwell and located a Bufflehead, Bald Eagle, Pectoral Sandpiper, Blue-headed Vireo, and Pine Warbler. While Chad Ellis saw a House Wren near the String-of-Pearls Park south of Lake Overholser. On the 20th in Pottawatomie County Jack Olson spotted a Cooper's Hawk, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and at Lake Thunderbird's Alameda Bridge T K discovered a Summer Tanager.

On October 21st Chad Ellis found a Marsh Wren at Dolese Youth Park, and John Hurd identified a Lesser Scaup and Eared Grebe on Lake Hefner. On the 22nd in Norman Jennifer Kidney saw not one but two Peregrine Falcons and along South Jenkins a Winter Wren; in Stillwater Torre Hovick spotted the first Red-breasted Nuthatch; and east of Lake Overholser Chad Ellis noticed an Eastern Screech Owl.



On the 23rd John Hurd went to the Police Pond and located a Redhead Duck; in Norman Jennifer had a Bell's Vireo briefly visit her backyard; and Dr. Chris Butler discovered a Red-breasted Nuthatch in Choctaw.

Also on the 23rd At Taylor Lake Terri Underhill and Pat Velte were joined by Kurt Meisenzahl and Lou Truex to observe the Lewis's Woodpecker. They also discovered a Loggerhead Shrike, **Pacific Loon**, Common Loon; Lou and Kurt saw a Bald Eagle.

On the 24th Matt Jung went to South Jenkins and saw a Greater Yellowlegs and Harris's Sparrow, and the next day at Norman's North Base Joe Grzybowski and Jeremy Ross

Continued on page 7

Recorder's (cont.)

discovered a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Merlin, Western Meadowlark and several sparrow species including a Grasshopper Sparrow.

On the 26th Chad Ellis, Emily Hjalmarson and Brett Roberts birded Taylor Lake and observed a Marsh Wren, Cackling Goose, Horned Grebe, and Barred Owl. In Norman along South Jenkins Joe Grzybowski and Dick Gunn located a Swamp Sparrow, and at Lake Thunderbird's Alameda bridge TK spotted a Golden-crowned Kinglet.

On the 27th Jimmy Woodward arrived at Taylor Lake and spotted White-fronted Geese, American Wigeon, Black Vulture, American Pipit, Fox Sparrow and while going home a few Sandhill Cranes, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and on the way back to Hwy 81 Bill Adams identified a Snow Goose. In



Logan County Gailon Brehm noticed a Vesper Sparrow and Franklin Gulls, and in Norman at the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History Joe Grzybowski located 3 **Le Conte's Sparrows**. On the 28th at Jimmy's house in Midwest City a few Lapland Longspurs were circling overhead. On

October 30th Cissy Henig located Prairie Falcon in Oklahoma City, and a review of the species list in eBird shows that a **Marbled Godwit** was spotted by Grace Huffman at Lake Hefner on April 6th.

Meanwhile, on the 28th on the way to Taylor Lake T J noticed Hooded Merganser and several other duck species at the Rush Springs Sewage Lagoons. With all the birders going to see the Lewis' Woodpecker, the species count in eBird for Grady County jumped from 111 to 137. So in November try a new spot in a different county. Maybe you too can discover another hot spot and increase the avian knowledge for that area.

During October **155** bird species were reported with **6** new species which brought the 2013 year's total to **277** 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.

NWRs are Economic Engines for Local Communities

By Nate Swick, (aba.org) on November 7, 2013

It is taken as self-evident among our community that the National Wildlife Refuge system is a remarkably valuable resource. The NWRs found in all 50 states are home to hundreds of species of birds and a myriad of other wild things, and there's scarcely a birder in North America who hasn't taken advantage of them regularly.

That which is unmistakable to us is now backed up by hard numbers, as the US Fish and Wildlife Service recently released the Banking On Nature study finding, among other things, that visitation to NWRs has increased significantly over the last few years. From 2006 through 2011, visitation has increased 30% overall, with economic output increasing 20% during that same period. Investment in NWRs is a sound use of taxpayer dollars returning an average of \$4.75 to local communities and businesses for every dollar invested in running the NWR system. In total, this comes out to a total of nearly \$2.4 billion returned to local economies.

Additionally, the study found that the NWR system:

- Creates 35,000 jobs annually, a 23% increase (from 2006);
- Produces \$792.7 million in job income for local communities;
- Generates \$342.9 million in local, county, state and federal tax revenue;
- Brings tourists from around the nation and world – 77 percent of refuge spending was done by visitors from outside the local area;
- Provides a combined economic benefit to communities nationwide that is almost five times the amount appropriated to run the System.

But perhaps of greatest interest to birders is the finding that "Recreational activities such as birding, hiking and picnicking account for nearly 75 percent of total expenditures at wildlife refuges across the country... while fishing and hunting account for about 28 percent of expenditures."

Birders are having an impact, and the Fish & Wildlife Service knows it. Now more than ever, birders should take responsibility for the NWRs that we use and love, that can include purchasing a Duck Stamp, volunteering at a local refuge, or even letting your elected representative know that the NWRs are a sound and worthwhile investment. Too often the NWR system is on the chopping block when the budget is cut, and it's important to make our voices heard.

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

Field Trip Schedule:

DEC. 7: Pre-CBC Scouting Trip: reconnaissance trip to Lake Overholser the weekend prior to the Christmas Count. *Leader:* John Shackford [Johnsshack@aol.com] *Meet at 8am, west side of Overholser dam*

DEC. 14: Annual Christmas Bird Count: *Organizer:* John Shackford [Johnsshack@aol.com]

FEB. 8: Sooner Lake: plenty of wintering waterfowl and possible eagles on this trip. Meet at 8am at the McDonald's at 15th exit off I-35. Since this trip will take place in a 'limited access' area participants must, on their own, email Cyndie Browning so that they can be put on the official visitation list.

Her email is: vermilion_flycatcher@yahoo.com. *Leader:* Jim Bates [Jim-Bates@ouhsc.edu]

APRIL: Yukon City Park : join Jimmy Woodard on a birding tour of his (former) stomping grounds. *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard [j.woodard@cox.net]

early MAY: Tulsa birding hotspots: *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard [j.woodard@cox.net]

MAY [Memorial Day weekend]: Quivira Nat'l Wildlife Refuge: on to Kansas and Quivira for possible breeding Black Rails. *Leader:* Mark Delgrosso (405 445 2300/markdelg94@gmail.com)

Spring (APRIL or MAY): McGee Creek WMA/McCurtain County Wilderness: two productive, birdy areas with many specialties, the most notable of which is OK's sole population of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Also on the menu are Prairie Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and abundant Chuck-wills-widows. Because of the distance from OKC this trip will be planned for a [2 or 3 day] weekend. *Leader:* Mark Delgrosso (405 445 2300 or email at: markdelg94@gmail.com) - *details and dates TBA*

June: Club Picnic
