



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

November 2014

Lesser Prairie Chickens / The Endangered Species Act



Allan Janus will be the presenter at the November 17 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society. The focus of his presentation will be on the Lesser Prairie Chicken and the Endangered Species Act.

Allan Janus is Research and GIS Supervisor, Upland Game Coordinator at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. He previously worked as a GIS Remote Sensing Analyst with Ducks Unlimited, Bismarck, ND, and a GIS Internet with the U.S. Geological Survey in Sioux Falls, SD. Allan earned degrees in Geographic Information Systems and Wildlife and Fisheries at South Dakota State University.

His work with Lesser Prairie Chickens has been featured in state publications as well as NPR. "In Oklahoma alone, officials estimate there are only 3,000 Lesser Prairie Chickens left. The birds used to

inhabit 22 counties, but are now spotted in only nine. Habitat destruction is one reason for the decline," Janus said in the NPR interview.

State wildlife officials have been working to protect the bird, which, in 1995, was first petitioned to be listed as a federally threatened species. In recent years, Oklahoma and other states have worked to prevent a federal listing.

In response to the rapid and severe decline of the lesser prairie-chicken, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in March 2014 the final listing of the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as well as a final special rule under section 4(d) of the ESA that will limit regulatory impacts on landowners and businesses from this listing. Under the law, a "threatened" listing means the species is likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future; it is a step below "endangered" under the ESA and allows for more flexibility in how the Act's protections are implemented.

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.



Welcome!

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society
welcomes:

Frances Dunlap, Wilburton, OK
C.B. Elder, OKC

President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



For a couple of months in this space we have been noticing the prevalence of deep conical bills in most of the families of the nine-primaried oscine clade (<http://goo.gl/101C75>). However there are some local exceptions to this bill shape in the clade, notably the wood warblers (Parulidae) and the tanagers of genus Piranga in the cardinal-grosbeak family (Cardinalidae). Many of the

blackbird family (Icteridae) have bills with a more elongated shape than is typical of the clade. In seeking a reason for these exceptions, a review of the diets of the species in the groups just listed is informative. One way to perform such a review is to consult the Diet sections of the species pages of CLO's All About Birds internet Bird Guide, the authority for most of the diet information which follows. What one notices from such a review is that the thinnest, narrowest bills are characteristic of the most insectivorous birds, the wood warblers, meadowlarks (in the blackbird family) and Piranga tanagers. The Summer Tanager is an especially interesting case, being largely specialized on a diet of bees and wasps which are caught in sally flights. The Piranga tanagers supplement their insect diet with fruits and berries.

Although the wood warblers are largely insectivorous, some take seeds or fruits when insects are scarce, an advantage for birds which spend the cold months in the US. Examples are Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler. US meadowlarks are insectivorous in summer but take seeds and grain in winter. The orioles eat a lot of insects, but they also rely on berries, nectar and other sugar sources, especially during the energy intensive migration seasons. The North American blackbirds, grackles and cowbirds vary from species to species in the proportion of insects eaten in summer, but all are largely vegetarian in winter, eating seeds, grains, nuts and fruits. One interesting case is the Common Grackle which has a ridge inside its upper mandible it uses to score the shells of acorns in preparation for cracking them open. The Red-winged Blackbird is a consumer of a dietary oddity, cocklebur seeds. Cockleburs are poisonous to most other animals, although they were a major item in the diet of the extinct Carolina Parakeet. CLO also lists ragweed and sunflower seeds as important in the winter diet of the RWBB. All three plants grow along the east side of Prairie Dog Point at Lake Hefner where RWBBs have been observed eating cockleburs in winter. Most of us have seen large winter flocks of blackbirds, grackles and cowbirds foraging in grain fields. The Brown-headed Cowbird's diet is 75% seeds and grains and 25% insects. Brown-headed Cowbirds are brood parasites that don't raise their own chicks, so they don't have as much need as their hosts to catch insects during the nesting season. The cowbirds which inhabit more tropical regions like the

Bronzed Cowbird and Shiny Cowbird may do a better job of living up to the cowbird name, following herds of cattle to eat the insects they stir up. Cowbirds and the Bobolink have the most finch-like bills of the North American icterids. The Bobolink's diet is insects and seeds. It is known for feeding in rice fields during its fall migration through the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast states (ref Wikipedia, Bobolink, Distribution and movements). The Bobolink's specific epithet (second part of the latin scientific name) is oryzivorus which means rice eater.

On the other hand, most of the deep-billed birds in the nine-primaried oscine clade, the finches, sparrows, cardinals, cardinal-grosbeaks, buntings and longspurs, which are likely to be thought of as predominantly seed-eating on account of their bill shape, do in fact consume insects in the warm season and feed them to their chicks. If you have ever seen a brilliant red, male cardinal with a huge, bright green katydid squashed in its bill, you have a vivid mental image to evidence this behavior. However there are a few of these birds we think of as seed eaters which actually do eat almost entirely a diet of seeds. Well known examples are American Goldfinch, House Finch and Red Crossbill. According to CLO the American Goldfinch eats insects only by accident. The closely related Pine Siskin eats more insects and has a more elongated bill.

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Oklahoma City Audubon Society

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

For Oklahoma City Audubon news between newsletters and meetings visit:

OKC-Audubon.org

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



The **Wild Turkey** (*Meleagris gallopavo*) comes to mind around Thanksgiving time. In the last 10-15 years this species usually shows up on our Christmas Bird Count (CBC), most frequently in the northeastern part of the CBC circle; on rare occasions years ago, I would hear reports of turkeys and their tracks being seen infrequently in Stinchcomb Wildlife Preserve. For quite a number of years Ernie Wilson and Dave

Evans used to see them on our CBC in northeastern Oklahoma City. As I understood it Ernie and Dave would go to a certain estate in that part of town, sit down with the home owner who would pour them a cup of coffee and wait for the birds to show up in the owner's yard, which they always did—simple as that.

A number of years ago, before Ernie and Dave started seeing them in northeastern Oklahoma City, I nearly put down this species on my CBC list, but ultimately had to pass on it. I was working near the northwest end of the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge, northwest of Lake Overholser. It was getting late in the evening and I saw a big bird high in a tree and some distance from me.

I started easing my way toward it and as I was approaching I felt pretty sure that it was a turkey. I kept moving very slowly toward the bird, expecting it to fly at any moment, because Wild Turkeys usually are very wary. But for some reason this bird did not fly. Finally I was almost under the tree. I think I even shouted at it and clapped my hands, but it did not fly. It was then I noticed that the bird had some “tame” features about it, features I cannot now recall exactly, but definitely there—I think maybe it looked like a cross between a white turkey and a regular plumaged turkey. Putting everything together, the lack of wariness and certain features on the bird, I realized that this might be a half-breed tame/wild turkey. Then I realized that if I had just identified the bird from a distance, I could have added another species to the CBC list, but no, I had to be too nosy! It did occur to me afterwards that I might try to claim ½ of a species on our CBC list, for the

wild part of the turkey! But I knew that would never have made it past the CBC experts who would review the list later—I just wanted to do it for the fun of tweaking some editors. And also I could not be sure that the “wild” half of the turkey might actually be from a normal colored domestic turkey. Anyway, I was glad I stayed with the bird until the mystery was solved.

The number of domesticated turkeys produced each year in the U.S. is roughly 260 million birds; by comparison the number of Wild Turkeys found in the U.S. is estimated at over 7 million birds. Wild Turkeys are found in every state except Alaska and it is a game bird in all the states where it is found. (The source for this statement did not exclude Hawaii, so I assume they are found, and hunted, there as well.) It nests on the ground and lays from 8 to 16 eggs. Usually adult Wild Turkeys are very wary; but if an intruder gets too close to a female's young, that female will be extremely brave in using distraction displays trying to lead the intruder away from the young.



The history of domestication of the Wild Turkey is interesting. Evidence points to their domestication at least 2000 years ago in central Mexico; they have been highly prized for their tasty meat. Some domesticated turkeys in North America were then transported to Europe in 1519 by the Spanish, where they were also kept as domestic birds.

Then some of these domesticated European birds were transported back to North America, two examples being to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608 and on the Mayflower with the Pilgrims in 1620. Such birds were then allowed to breed with Wild Turkeys in North America, which helped increase the overall turkey population. With so much back and forth breeding between wild and tame birds, counting a “partially tame” bird “back when” does not sound so much like a farfetched idea!

OOS Spring Meeting 2015

The OOS is having a joint meeting with Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) in Fort Smith from May 1-3, 2015. More details will be announced in December and the registration form should be available in March 2015.

Minutes of October 20, 2014

Called to order by President Bill Diffin.
Minutes of September 15 were approved as written.

Guest:

Shirley Moss; new member C.B. Elder of OKC

Committee reports:

Treasurer:

Nancy Vicars reports \$6011 in the treasury.

Field Trips:

committee chairman Mark Delgrosso reports:
-- November 1st visit to Salt Plains led by Bill Diffin, meet at the NW Expressway/Piedmont Rd McDonalds.
-- November 15 Jimmy Woodard will lead trip to Guthrie Sand Pits.
-- December 6th will be a scouting trip prior to the annual Christmas Bird Count.

Upcoming events:

May 1-3, 2015 the Oklahoma and Arkansas Ornithology Societies will have a joint meeting at Fort Smith, AR.

New Business:

Three members volunteered to serve as the nominating committee for upcoming board member elections—Jimmy Woodard, Warren Harden, Nancy Vicars.

A rousing “pat on the back” was given to thank Warren Harden for his tireless efforts in bringing us great speakers and topics.

The night’s program was given by Nadine Varner, who works with the birds at the OKC Zoo. She showed lots of fun stories and pictures, much appreciated by the group. You gotta love those flamingo youngsters being brought to adulthood by the staff and volunteers.

Meeting was adjourned with next meeting to be November 17th.

Sharon Henthorn, Secretary

Cookie Patrol

Refreshments for November 17th meeting will be provided by John Bates, Hal Yocum and Mary Jo Fisher.

Christmas Bird Count

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held on Saturday, 20 December 2014. I am hoping that our usual participants will cover the same general areas as they did last year. Diane Newell has once again agreed to host our after-count party at her home, at 8304 Lakeaire, OKC. As everyone already knows, Diane is a wonderful host and we are most grateful for the warm atmosphere she creates each year. For the party, we encourage people to bring a supper contribution—maybe a side dish, a dessert, etc. (I personally would appreciate a few more side dishes being volunteered—we usually seem to end up a little shy in this department.) But bringing food is not mandatory and you do not need to participate on the CBC to come to the party. We hope the club will once again provide a \$100 budget for the party so that we can buy party utensils and major food items—primarily meats. The party starts any time from 5 pm onward and about 6:30 pm we will go through the bird list.

Our CBC circle, all the area within a 7.5 mile radius from N.W. 63rd and N. Portland, was first selected in the 1950s I believe. You can imagine how much habitat has changed within the count circle since then. Grassland and woodland have given way to urban development which has resulted in markedly reduced habitat types even from just a few years ago.

Because of all the habitat loss in our circle, I think we should reassess what are reasonable expectations for our count species totals. In the past, 120 or more species have been located several times, but with the loss of so much habitat diversity, I believe we should now lower our aim from 120 to 115 species as being an excellent count total to aim for. Our strongest point for species is, of course, the water birds found at our lakes—Hefner and Overholser. And as something of a bittersweet addendum, climate change has apparently brought in some “new” species from the south in the last few years. So let’s readjust our sights a bit with our counting, and remember that the data from this project—nationwide (actually much of the Western Hemisphere now)—is quite valuable in determining individual species population trends and also addressing other management needs for birds.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me through the information given below.

Happy birding—happy counting!
John Shackford, Compiler
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Salt Plains Field Trip

by Bill Diffin

I met Carla Brueggen, Steve Davis, Mary Lane, Deanne McKinney and Jerry and Marilyn Taylor at the McDonald's at NW Expressway and Piedmont Rd at 8 am. We arrived in Jet on the south side of the refuge area at 10:15 am where we were joined by Hollis Price. The conditions were windy with temperatures in the 30's and 40's through early afternoon moderating to a little less windy and the 50's after lunch.



On the trip from Jet to the State Park below the dam we had one large flock of Sandhill Cranes in a field east of the road. Meadowlarks and Starlings were the only small birds we identified, although a few sparrows flushed from along the shoulders. At the river below the dam we saw two Bald Eagles, an adult and a juvenile, as well as American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Green-winged Teal, American Avocet, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpiper, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. The State Park north of the river held no visible birds in the cold wind.

From Sandy Beach to Nescatunga we saw Ruddy Ducks on the water, DC Cormorants in flight and a couple of Northern Flickers. Around the parking area for the Eagle Roost Nature Trail were a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, an Eastern Phoebe and an Eastern Bluebird.

On the walk to the Sand Creek Bay observation platform, the woods were quiet and still. Sand Creek Bay was full of water up to the base of the cattails around the perimeter with no mud flats exposed, just a little muddy shoreline. There were a flock of 300 Franklin's Gulls in the north inlet, a roost of 1,000 Sandhill Cranes along the south shoreline and a broad swath of 730 American Avocets running from the southwest corner of the bay to about the middle of the eastern edge. Walking north from the platform along the nature trail, we flushed a Wood Duck, *ooo-eeeek*, and then found a little pond with Greater Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers.

The Auto Tour was sparse birding except for a flock of Carolina Chickadees, several Dark-eyed Juncos and a Red-tailed Hawk. All the marshes along the Auto Tour were dry which was surprising considering the amount of water in the lake.

We skipped the walk to the Casey Marsh platform. The Big Marsh platform on OK 11 east of the tour exit was a nice spot to observe two of the lightly marked, locally breeding Redtails in flight. The marsh itself was without water, although crowded with vegetation like the other marshes, and devoid of bird life. *(continued pg 7)*

Conservation Report

by Dave Woodson

One way we might help prevent bird mortality:

First, the single most significant threat to bird populations is habitat destruction, in all of its forms and with all of its causes. In simplest terms, habitat destruction reduces the population by reducing the available resources, denying birds the chance to reproduce, and effectively putting a cap on the population size. As individuals, we may not be able to prevent loss of natural habitat over the past decades. But we can focus on how to help prevent local birds from window collisions.



One study estimates 97 to 976 million birds per year are killed due to Window strikes. Birds see the natural habitat mirrored in the glass or mistake houseplants inside the building for outdoor plants and fly directly into the window, causing injury and, in 50% or more of the cases, death.

Simple steps can be taken to reduce the number of birds striking windows. Decals that stick to the glass are not very effective, but strips of tape on the outside of the glass, or strings or feathers hanging outside the window, each no more than 10 inches apart, are fairly effective. Decorative features like stained glass designs or window dividers can achieve the same result. Outside screens are very effective both to reduce the reflection and to cushion the impact. In short, anything that reduces or breaks up the window's reflection will reduce bird strikes.

If there is an interest in learning more about other causes of bird mortality and bird conservation keep watch for future articles.

Recorders Report – October 2014

Migration Continues

October was a pleasant month with several migration surprises. The really big surprise was the report of a Costa or Costa hybrid Hummingbird in Sand Springs thanks to an alert bird watcher who was maintaining her feeding stations. Did it travel through Central Oklahoma going or coming? Even so we have had quite a few interesting migrants.

On the 1st John Tharp had a Common Tern at the Little River State Park, and on the 2nd he had a Lesser Black-backed Gull and Caspian Tern there. Jason Shaw noticed a Barred Owl at the USAO Habitat Area near Chickasha. In Logan County on the 4th Corban Hemphill located Northern Bobwhite at a ranch. At Lake Overholser in Canadian County Joe Grzybowski noted an American Wigeon, Black-bellied Plover, and Larry Mays had an American Golden-Plover. At the Little River State park Rachel Wrenn saw a Least Flycatcher, while at Lake Hefner's Prairie Dog Point T K found a Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

On the 5th Jimmy Woodward had an unofficial "Big Sit" at his yard in Midwest City. Participants were Nancy Reed, Mark Delgrosso, Teri Underhill, Pat Velte, Jack Hurd, Sharon Henthorn and Betsy Gardner. Together they saw 43 species including a kettle of Swainson's Hawks, Chimney Swift, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler and Summer Tanager. Jonah Padberg saw a Nashville Warbler in his yard. At the John Marshall school pond Sharon Henthorn saw her first Ruddy Duck and at Lake Overholser she found Forster's Terns.

On the 6th Dick Gunn birded along South Jenkins and the South Canadian River and saw a couple of Pectoral Sandpipers. Jimmy had his first Dark-eye Junco in his back yard and an Eastern Towhee. In Mitch Park in Edmond Hal Yocum reported quite a few winter sparrows had arrived including White-crowned, Vesper, Lincoln Sparrow, and warblers included Yellow, Wilson's and Black-throated Green.



On Hwy 81 just north of Dover in Kingfisher County on the 7th Deanne McKinney saw several fields where at least 100 Swainson's Hawks were gathered. Brian Muzny also saw around 50 gathered in the fields near Wayne on the 3rd and 4th. On the 8th John Tharp had a Pine Siskin and

Merlin along South Jenkins in Norman. On the 9th Christie Stoops discovered a **Virginia Rail** and Long-billed Dowitcher, near Cottonwood Creek. Mary and Lou Truex had a Peregrine Falcon along the Kilpatrick Turnpike.

On the 10th Dala Grissom found Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron and Great Egret along Belcher Road in Pottawatomie County. On the 9th Paul Cook saw a Northern Harrier and Semipalmated Sandpiper along South Jenkins. On the 11th at Lake Carl Blackwell Dr. Chris Butler had a White-faced ibis, Jimmy Woodard had a White-eyed Vireo, and John Polo had a Pine Warbler. At Lake Hefner Chad Ellis identified a **Western Grebe**.



On the 12th John Hurd and Larry Mays birded the deep weeds around Lake Hefner canal inlet and found tons of LBJ's including Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, Marsh Wrens, a possible Sedge Wren and a Sora Rail as well as a bumper crop of Cockleburs. John Tharp saw a Black Vulture in Norman, and an American Pipit along South Jenkins. At Boomer Lake Park, Tim O'Connell had a Spotted Sandpiper.



On the 14th Jason Shaw found Wild Turkey at the USAO Habitat Area; Spencer Coffey had a Black-throated Green Warbler at Lake Hefner's Canal; Rachel Wrenn had a Gray Catbird at the Little River State Park; and Joe had a Le Conte's Sparrow at the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. On the 15th, Steve D and Mary L had a couple of Dark-eyed Juncos in their Oklahoma City yard. On the 17th Douglas Wood found Redhead Ducks, Horned Grebes, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Kestrel and White-throated Sparrow at the Konawa Lake Boat Ramp in Seminole County bringing the county total to 112.

On the 18th Scott Loss reported lots of birds moving over his yard in Stillwater in the early morning until 0900 including Pine Siskins, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Chipping Sparrows and best of all a Le Conte's Sparrow. A Winter Wren was located by John Polo at Sanborn Lake. Mary and Lou Truex had a Great Horned Owl along I-44, and T K had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Blue-headed Vireo at Lake

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Recorder's Report (cont.)

Thunderbird's Little River Marina. On the 22nd Larry Mays noticed a Belted Kingfisher in McClain County. Hollis Price had a Brown Creeper northeast of Jones, and on the 24th Bonnie and David McNeely watched a Brown Creeper on their Shumard Oak in Edmond. On the 25th Joe Grzybowski had a Horned Lark along South Jenkins; T K had a Golden-crowned Kinglet at the Lake Thunderbird Little River Marina; Stan Paxton photographed a large flock of American White Pelicans on the Cimarron River near Perkins; and Corban Hemphill saw a Common Loon at Boomer Lake Park

After the cold front hit the Stillwater area on the 27th Scott Loss watched the sky for migrants and had a ridiculous movement of Franklin's Gulls with an estimate of 15,000 birds, but likely undercounted by thousands. Other flyovers included Greater White-fronted Geese, American Pipits and about 30 Brewer's Blackbirds and later he discovered a Short-eared Owl in Whittenberg Park. On the 28th Jimmy Woodard spotted the first Harris's Sparrows. And to end the month, on the 31st Chad Ellis' most notable bird along the west side of Lake Overholser was a Brown Pelican.

In the Central Oklahoma area **162** bird species were reported in October with **2** new species which brings the total for the year to **285**. Oklahoma County leads the eBird reports with 248 species reported to date. 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.

Perspective (cont.)

Besides diet and bill shape, there are a few other things we can note that suggest the close relationship among the North American birds in the nine-primaried oscines. The Orchard Oriole is sometimes mistaken for a warbler. The female Red-winged Blackbird is similar in appearance to some grosbeaks, and many a RWBB photo has been submitted for identification in the hope that it shows one. To be fair, many of these photos show the birds from odd angles or in odd positions which make misidentification easy. It is the overall streaky appearance which people are seeing of course. This is a common coloration theme among the nine-primaried oscines and their closest relatives, the pipits and wagtails (Motacillidae). Cryptic, variably brown, gray and black coloration is also common in other bird groups, but in most of these, bars and spots tend to be more dominant than streaks. Examples are owls, nightjars, raptors, wrens, thrushes, shorebirds, woodpeckers and ducks. Streakiness does appear here and there in some other passerine groups like thrashers, larks, sylvioid warblers and babblers, honeycreepers, tyrant flycatchers and the suboscine woodcreepers.

Salt Plains, cont.

Driving along OK 11 to the west we saw a number of Red-tailed Hawks, one Northern Harrier and one Great Blue Heron. We skipped the Sandpiper Trail as there was no water visible on the flats. At the corner of OK 11 and US 64 there was a flock of Great-tailed Grackles around the cattle feeders. We had lunch in Cherokee at the Cancun Mexican Restaurant. After lunch we went back north to the entrance to N2640 Rd off of OK 11 and took the dirt road south along the west side of the refuge. There was no standing water in any of the farm fields which made shorebird or waterfowl sightings unlikely, and we didn't see any.



Birds were scarce except for Meadowlarks, but we did see Mourning Doves, Eurasian Collared Doves, a couple of American Kestrels, Savannah Sparrows and some Red-tailed Hawks. There was a Belted Kingfisher near the bridge over Clay Creek. The car with Steve, Mary and Carla spotted a Loggerhead Shrike south of the bridge. At the Crystal Digging Area we could see a flock of American White Pelicans roosting across the lake on the north end. Using scopes we looked long and hard through the rippling atmosphere at some big white birds moving around the pelican flock in the hopes of identifying Whooping Cranes. We finally had to admit that they looked and behaved more like pelicans.

On the dirt road south, the dilapidated stalls next to the road held a Barn Owl that flushed into flight. Traveling east Steve, Mary and Carla found another Loggerhead Shrike making that the lucky bird for them that day. Where the road turns south, we spotted a male Brown-headed Cowbird and a female Brewer's Blackbird in a tree by the road. Traveling south to US 64 we found the only real flock of Dark-eyed Juncos in some shrubbery. It was getting close to sunset at that point, so we drove straight through Jet and back to Sand Creek Bay to watch the spectacle of the cranes flying in to roost. There were around 4,000 in the roost by dusk. Although it was not the birdiest day at the Salt Plains, it was fun with good company. The breezy, bright conditions were cheery and reasonably comfortable for us humans.

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

2014 - 15 Field Trip Schedule

NOVEMBER 15: Guthrie Sand Pits:

Meet at the Love's at I-35 and Hwy 33 in Guthrie at 8AM. Although the sand pits are signed No Trespassing you can see a good bit of the pits from the gate area. We can bird the pits for an hour or so and then, run over to Guthrie Lakes for a bit and a group lunch. *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard (j.woodard@cox.net)

DECEMBER 6: Pre-CBC Scouting Trip: meet at 8am on W side of Lake Overholser dam near boat launch area (usual meeting spot for this trip). Contact *Leader* John Shackford (405 340 5057 or johnsshack@aol.com) for further details.

DECEMBER 20: Christmas Bird Count: *Leader:* John Shackford_(405 340 5057 or johnsshack@aol.com)

WINTER:

-Overholser/Hefner lakes: *Leader(s):* Bill Diffin (williamdiffin@aol.com) Jimmy Woodard (j.woodard@cox.net)

-Canton Lake: *Leader(s):* Bill Diffin and Jimmy Woodard

FEBRUARY (TBA): Woodcock mating: *Leader:* Jimmy Woodard (j.woodard@cox.net)

SPRING:

-In/around OKC Zoo: *Leader:* Nadine Varner

-Mitch Park: *Leader:* John Shackford (johnsshack@aol.com)

APRIL (TBA): Backyard birding: once again member Nancy Reed has invited interested birders to her property in Norman for spring migration. *Leader:* Mark Delgrosso (markdelg94@gmail.com)

MAY [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)

JUNE (TBA): Club Picnic
