



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

November 2016

November: The ABCs: Antarctica, Birds, and Cetaceans.

Join us November 21 when Doug Wood will be the guest speaker at the Oklahoma City Audubon Society meeting.

Dr. Wood is an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma. He began work at Southeastern in 2001 and teaches courses in ornithology, zoology, wildlife management,



conservation, biology, bioethics, and biology for majors. His research as an avian ecologist focuses on cavity nesting birds including Prothonotary Warblers, Tree Swallows, and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. He has also conducted research on stopover migration, nocturnal bird survey methods, endangered species management, and foraging ecology. Doug has published 33 peer-reviewed journal articles on bird research and is an avid birder who enjoys “working vacations” to birding hotspots in the U.S. and Central America — and now Antarctica!

Come out and bring a friend for a good evening of camaraderie and birds and great refreshments.

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. Visitors are always welcome.

Note: New meeting location

While the Garden Center is undergoing renovations, we will meet at the Will Rogers Senior Activities Center, 3501 Pat Murphy Dr, in Will Rogers Park. We have paid for and are scheduled to meet in the Senior Activities Center through Feb. 2017 at this time.



President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



Which birds are the vireos most closely related to? This is one of the most common of the questions birders pose regarding the interrelationships of birds. An honest attempt to answer the question correctly produces a number of useful insights into the phylogeny and biogeography of birds. Ultimately though, there is not a neat and obvious answer. Does that make the answer unsatisfactory? We shall see.

First of all let's try and define exactly what is meant by "vireo", in other words, what species belong in the vireo bucket. Right here is where the ambiguity starts. The vireos belong to a family, Vireonidae. All North American members of Vireonidae are in the genus, Vireo, and are called vireos. However the situation in tropical America is more complicated. The genus Vireo occurs there both as Neotropical migrants and as permanent residents, but there are also five other resident genera, birds variously known as greenlets, peppershrikes and shrike-vireos. Links to images of three examples follow: Dusky-capped Greenlet, <https://goo.gl/8ujKX4>; Rufous-browed Peppershrike, <https://goo.gl/LHxZK>; Slaty-capped Shrike-vireo, <https://goo.gl/DFY4n0>.

Like the Vireo genus, these other members of Vireonidae are arboreal, insectivorous birds which also eat some fruit. They are all recognizably vireo-like. So one answer that could be given to the question on the closest relatives of the vireos is that they are in the same family as the greenlets, peppershrikes and shrike-vireos of tropical America. However this is hardly any more satisfactory than saying that the closest relatives of the warblers are the waterthrushes, parulas, redstarts and Ovenbird. We already knew they were all in the same family. So at the outset let's agree that the "vireos" broadly construed should include all the members of the vireo family, Vireonidae.

The vireos and warblers look and behave much alike. Are they closely related? This was a common belief before the age of genetic studies of bird relationships. Then Sibley and Ahlquist did their DNA-DNA hybridization studies and discovered among other things that the vireos were more closely related to crows and shrikes than to warblers. Therefore they put vireos in the Corvida branch of the passerine tree. All subsequent vireo phylogenetic studies have confirmed this finding. Vireos are definitely corvidans. And if we have to choose as closest relatives of the vireos either Corvidae, the crow,

jay and magpie family or Laniidae, the shrike family, we are likely to choose Laniidae. Vireos somewhat resemble shrikes in size and form, which resemblance is called out in the common and latin names for one genus in the vireo family, the shrike-vireos, Vireolanius.

However phylogenetics has a better choice than the Laniidae for the closest relatives of the vireos.

Genetic studies show that the vireos have some very close relatives in southern Asia, so close in fact that it is something of a toss up whether they should all be included in one family. These relatives are the White-bellied Erpornis and the nine shrike-babblers comprising the genus Pteruthius. These were originally believed to be sylvioid babblers and therefore members of the Passerida branch of the passerine tree. However genetic studies have shown them to be corvidans and the closest relatives of the New World Vireonidae. Here are some images: Black-eared Shrike-babbler, <https://goo.gl/TTq6uq>; Blyth's Shrike-babbler, <https://goo.gl/stlBUF>; White-bellied Erpornis, <https://goo.gl/HMI518>. The morphology and behavior of the shrike-babblers is vireo-like, but they are more dramatically colored. The Erpornis is crested, but it is otherwise similar to some of the greenlets.

If a birder asks us the vireo relationship question, and our answer is that the Erpornis and the nine shrike-babblers of Asia are the vireos' closest relatives, have we given much help in placing the vireos in a taxonomic context? Note we are referring to a small group of unfamiliar birds that some experts now lump into the Vireonidae family anyway (e.g. Wikipedia). A phylogenetic tree of Corvida might provide a more immediately insightful answer. Scroll down to the TiF Corvida tree (the closest to the top) here, <https://goo.gl/840AMw>. It shows the vireos and shrike-babblers are successively related to the whipbirds & wedgebills, the two painted berrypeckers and the Old World orioles & figbirds, all in the Orioloidea superfamily; and this superfamily is one of the three major divisions of the Corvida, the other two being the Corvoidea and the Malaconotoidea. For reference images see: Eastern Whipbird, <https://goo.gl/rTkIKW>; Crested Berrypecker, <https://goo.gl/jMJOmQ>; Black-naped Oriole, <https://goo.gl/DhQl6z>; Maroon Oriole, <https://goo.gl/F1h4DK>; Green Figbird, <https://goo.gl/DF7Zyc>. The whipbirds and wedgebills mostly forage on or near the ground, but they are not strictly speaking ground birds. The two painted berrypeckers are similar to shrike-babblers but may eat more fruit than insects. The Old World orioles and figbirds are arboreal omnivores, feeding on fruit, nectar and arthropods, not too dissimilar to vireos. So here is an answer that ought to place the vireos in a satisfactory taxonomic context for most birders -- the vireos and their closest allies, the Erpornis, shrike-babblers, whipbirds and painted berrypeckers, are nearest relatives of the Old World orioles.

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



The **Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*) is one of Oklahoma's most beautiful birds. The male's color is similar to, but prettier to me than, sky-blue. They are infrequent visitors to central Oklahoma in winter. Over the years we have had a handful of winter records during the Oklahoma City Christmas Bird Count. It is always a treat to see one. Wintering birds are found from

central Oklahoma to the Black Mesa area of Cimarron County, generally increasing in numbers westward.

David Wiggins, a native of Norman now living in Sweden, was in the Black Mesa area in early October 2016. On the second and third of the month he was in Elkhart, in extreme southwestern Kansas, where he saw no Mountain Bluebirds. He found none in the Kenton area of northwest Cimarron County, Oklahoma, on the fourth and fifth. On the fifth he found perhaps 15-20 in northeastern New Mexico, two of which were only about a mile west of the Oklahoma state line. Thus, it appears that a few Mountain Bluebirds were just then (5 October) starting to arrive in the Black Mesa area, from the north and west.



Jack Tyler, Warren Harden and I visited the Black Mesa country later in the month. Jack and I were there from 18-23 October and Warren joined us for the last four days. Although we encountered a paucity of birds, in general, we did find Mountain Bluebirds more than a little common most days. As Jack and I first arrived late on the afternoon of 18 October we encountered Mountain Bluebirds, usually small groups numbering 8-20 birds, along fence lines. After Warren arrived on 20 October, we continued to enjoy seeing so many bluebird.

On 19 October, Jack and I drove southward from Black Mesa State Park to Wheelless, Oklahoma, a distance of 10 miles or so, through shortgrass prairie rangeland. We estimated seeing conservatively 130 Mountain Bluebirds, comprising about 95% of all birds seen. The birds usually flew up from roadside barbed wire fences.

On the morning of 21 October, the three of us were treated to bluebirds flying back and forth from a one-

seeded juniper tree, where they were feeding, into a dead elm tree that was nearby. Our tents were in between these two trees. The many droppings the birds left on our picnic table had one-seed Juniper seeds in all or most of them. We continued to see an abundance of bluebirds all day on the 21st, most of them on fence lines, where they were likely hawking/catching insects for their food. So birds eating juniper berries and catching insects accounted for two methods of gathering food.

But the next day, 22 October 2016, was a different story. Most all the birds we had been seeing in the Black Mesa Country were gone, and we noticed only about 10% of the birds we had seen in the previous four days.

We speculated that the precipitous decline in Mountain Bluebird numbers might signal that these early flocks were continuing southward, likely to winter in Texas, New Mexico and Mexico. It was fascinating that our original perceptions had been wrong: we had expected the birds

to have already arrived on their wintering grounds in Oklahoma. But apparently we had seen winter birds migrate in, then migrate out, to more southerly locations.

It will be interesting to see if this species shows up further east than usual this year in Oklahoma. American Horse Lake, near Geary in Blaine County, frequently has Mountain Bluebirds in some numbers in winter, the closest regular place they show up for us here in central Oklahoma.

This bluebird also has an interesting nesting history in Oklahoma.

Perhaps 12-15 years ago I photographed birds at a nest just beyond the east end of the Black Mesa; the nest was in a dead branch of a cottonwood tree and the nest appeared to be in an old woodpecker hole. Over the years, several other nests have been found in the Mesa area. But perhaps the weirdest nesting record for Oklahoma was in the central part of the state. "An unfinished nest found April 23, 1951, by H. S. Cooksey and Hazel Cooksey nine feet up in small frame building in Cleveland County held two well-feathered young by June 2; no second brood attempted" (Baumgartner, 1951, Aud. Field Notes, 5:264; Riggs, 1956, Wilson Bull., 68:72; quote and citations from G.M. Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma birds*.) As Warren says, birds do not read the bird books! The Mountain Bluebird lays 4-8 eggs, usually 5-6 that are normally blue, but sometimes white.

My thanks to David, Jack and Warren for their informational and editing input.

Christmas Bird Count 2016

By John Shackford

OK all you sturdy bird counters, it is again time to gear up for the Oklahoma City Christmas Bird Count! This year the count will be held on **Saturday, 17 December 2016**. Some changes in coverage have already been made and I have talked to several people/parties already about these changes. Most of you, I hope, will repeat counting in the same areas you did last year. Call me if you do not recall what that was and we will try to work it out together. For that or other questions you may have, please contact me through my contact info, given at the bottom. Last year we had 38 counters in 19 parties and we recorded 116 species! I really appreciate everyone's hard work. It is amazing what we can accomplish as a group!

As we lose habitat diversity—especially most extensively in the northwest part of our count area—it presents an increasing challenge for us to top last year's total of species. Nonetheless, I appreciate everyone's effort and always look forward to the unusual species we seem to come up with every year. And it should be remembered that although the rarities are the icing on the counting day cake, most of the usefulness of Christmas Bird Counts relates to what is happening with expected species. For example, CBC numbers of duck species help wildlife manager's set bag limits, aimed at protecting waterfowl populations that are declining.

We plan to have our after-count party at the Muzny's home again, at 8516 S. Olie Avenue, Southwest Oklahoma City. Patti, Brian and Patti's husband Sam have most graciously offered to host the After Count Tally Party. They create a warm, inviting atmosphere for dog tired counters at the end of a busy day. Food provided at the party will be chili (Cheryl Allen's always delicious), salad (Bill Diffin's for vegetarians or not) and corn cheddar chowder (Shackfords'). Other main dish foods will be bought with the \$100 we hope will be contributed by the club (need to vote on this). Providing the basics of the food frees up counters from being distracted by having food responsibilities. We do encourage members to bring a dessert—always some great ones—as these are easier to handle for bird counters during count day than main dishes. The party will begin at 5 pm for early arrivers and Nathan Kuhnert will plan to read the list about 6:30 pm. Pat Velte again will be out tally expert!

Again, call with any questions about the count you may have. Happy Counting!

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Oklahoma City Christmas Bird Count

429 E. Oak Cliff Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73034-8626



Hello, little one!

This Northern Saw-whet Owl is one of 11 (as we go to press) banded at the Nickel Family Nature Preserve, Cherokee, Oklahoma. The banding station is administered by Dr. Mia Revels, biology professor at North-eastern State University in Tahlequah. The station is set up specifically to study the presence of Northern Saw-whet Owls in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma City Audubon Society

Officers 2016

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

Minutes OCAS October 17, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Bill Diffin. Guests introduced are Jack Tyler from Lawton and Kent and Cheryl Innis of OKC.

Minutes of September meeting were approved. Treasurer's report: Nancy Vicars reports \$5396 in the account.

Field Trips: Betz Hacker will lead Tuesday morning birding at 8 am the next few weeks. Last week Lake Overholser was visited. Tomorrow, the 18th, Lake Hefner at the Prairie Dog Point Dog Park parking area. Martin Park Nature Center will be the subject of October 25th, and November 1st will be a trip to the Yukon City Park.

Field Trip Chairman Mark Delgrosso reports the Oklahoma Ornithological Society will visit Great Salt Plains on November 20th, a Sunday, led by Professor Doug Wood. The target bird among the many Sandhill Cranes will be Whooping Cranes.

Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday December 17th; contact John Shackford for more information.

Recent events include an unofficial Big Sit at the home of Jimmy Woodard and Nadine Varner in Midwest City on October 15th. The watch was well-attended and thirty-eight species were sighted, including a yellow-bellied sapsucker.

The fall OOS meeting was held at the Jenks High School on October 7-9.

Recent bird sightings include a Magnificent Frigatebird at Lake Yahola in Tulsa, Sabine's Gull at Lake Hefner, a Merlin, and an influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches.

New Business: a variety of nature and bird books donated by Dr. Mark Sullivan are displayed at the meeting, and \$1.00 per book will be donated to the OCAS.

A committee is needed to nominate potential candidates for 2017 club officers. Those who volunteered are Marion Homier, Marilyn Taylor, and Nancy Vicars.

After the business meeting, we were entertained by Steve Davis and Mary Lane with stories and photos of the trip they took to Cuba earlier this year. As participants in a bird survey arranged by out-of-state birders, the group was well-fed, informed, and allowed access to most Cuban sites of interest.

Next month the meeting will again be held at the Senior Activities Center in Will Rogers Park at 7pm November 21st, third Monday of the month.

—*Sharon Henthorn, secretary*

Celebrating Hummingbirds

by Nancy Reed

Ft. Davis, Texas, home of the Ft. Davis Hummingbird Celebration, is nestled high (elevation 5,050) in the Davis Mountains. Ft. Davis' historic western town is only three blocks long and home to a population of 1,000 people. Where are all the birding hot spots in this unique town?

Hot Spot Day 1 the festival started off with excitement and energy that lasted throughout the festival. Birders boarded a local school bus to view a private birding garden located on a mountain outside of town. The abundance of salvia, agave, bougainvillea, along with many feeders, drew migrating hummingbirds, Curve-billed Thrashers, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers and many more birds to the area. After a good viewing, the group shuttled up the mountains to the McDonald Observatory banding site, located on the employees' private grounds. The hummers that were banded during the festival included Lucifer, Calliope, Broad-tailed, Rufous, Ruby-throated, and Black-chinned. While many birds were banded, there were also many that were not banded including Magnificent, Blue-throated and an Anna's/Allen hybrid.

Hot Spot Day 2 started at 5:30 a.m. with birders carrying their flashlights as the western Texas sky is among the darkest skies in all of North America. Our 7-car caravan, drove south to a private desert ranch at Terlingua. In the background there was a rocky mountain rising 5,700 feet. The Lucifer Hummingbird's nest is high in these mountains and Lucifers fly down to feed on the many feeders maintained in an oasis of conservation water ponds. The abundance of Lucifers flashing their magenta gorgets delighted and entertained the birders. Quietly watching from nearby oak trees was a pair of fledgling Elf Owls.

Hot Spot Day 3: Our caravan took a NW direction to the Miller ranch in the Sierra Vieja Mountains. The Miller yard had many fun birds including Scaled and Gabel's Quail, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Wild Turkey, and Common Black Hawk. Our caravan proceeded to a canyon nine miles from the Mexican border, a hot spot for migrating western birds, including Phainopepla, Black-throated Sparrow, Hepatic Tanager, Western Tanager, and Scott's Oriole.

After returning to Ft. Davis, our festival ended with an outdoor Fajita Feast Banquet where we had fellowship and food with new-found birding friends, gracious leaders and hosts of the Davis Mountain's Hummingbird Celebration. For me, this was Hot Spot 4. Next year the scheduled event is August 24 - 26, 2017.

Recorders Report

October 2016

When Out Looking



Sometime bird reports are on the verge of Ripley's Believe it or Not. In October a Magnificent Frigatebird was spotted on Lake Yahola near Tulsa, Northern Sawwhet Owls were captured in Cherokee County and in November in Blaine County just looking up at a flock of Sandhill Crane flying overhead a Whooping Crane was identified. One never knows what one can find unless one is out looking.

On the 1st C H Hemphill saw an Eastern Screech-Owl in northern Stillwater; Roy McGraw spotted an Osprey at Lake Elmer in Kingfisher County; Joe Buck detected Least Flycatcher at Hafer Park in Edmond; T K discovered a Sora Rail at William Morgan Park in Norman; and Joe Grzybowski had a Philadelphia Vireo at Lake Thunderbird State Park. On the 2nd Mike Yough came across a Northern Parula at Couch Park in Payne County. On the 3rd T K located the Common Tern at Lake Thunderbird Alameda Bridges.

On the 6th at Lake Hefner Prairie Dog Point Cameron Carver identified a Sabine's Gull, and John Hurd found a White-faced Ibis. On the 7th Jiff Tibbits discovered Chimney Swift and Red-breasted Nuthatch in Logan County near West Simmons Road. On the 8th Mike Yough got a Blue-headed Vireo at Sanborn Lake and Deb Hirt noticed a Red-eyed Vireo at Boomer Lake Park. On the 10th Jerri Sheets recognized Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Field Sparrow and Song Sparrow in Newcastle in McClain County.

On the 11th Kianna Mitchell saw a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds at OSU Botanical Garden. On the 12th Roy McGraw located the Common Tern at Lake Hefner Prairie Dog Point. On the 13th Scott Loss recorded a

Black-throated Green Warbler at Whittenberg Park in Stillwater and William Diffin tallied a Black-bellied Plover at Lake Hefner Prairie Dog Point. On the 14th John Tharp turned up Baird's Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper at Lake Thunderbird in different locations. On the 17th Chrissy Barton spotted a Black-crowned Night-Heron at Boomer Lake Park.

On the 18th Larry Mays located a Black-necked Stilt at Lake Hefner Prairie Dog Point; at the Meridian Technology Center Pond Corey Riding discovered a Sora Rail and on the 20th a Greater Scaup. On the 19th Deanne McKinney birded Pauls Valley Lake in Garvin County and located Black Vulture, Osprey, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Nashville Warbler. Roy McGraw spotted a Red-headed Woodpecker at Bell Cow Lake in Lincoln County; Scott Loss had a Pine Siskin in Whittenberg Park; Chrissy Barton saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Boomer Lake Park; Lindell Dillon encountered a Bonaparte's Gull at Lake Hefner; and Michael Novak recognized a Field Sparrow at Lake Overholser.

On the 21st Dave Woodson counted a Red-shouldered Hawk along Morgan Road in Canadian County. On the 22nd Corey Riding added a Swamp Sparrow at the Teal Ridge Wetland in Stillwater while an immature **Little Gull**

was discovered by Nathan Kuhnert and William Diffin at Lake Overholser NE mud flats. This immature bird was documented by several birders over the next few days. On the 23rd in Logan County Brian Stufflebeam found an Osprey at Guthrie Lake and American Goldfinch at Mineral Wells Park while Jimmy Woodard located American White Pelican and Black Vulture at the Dolese Sand Pit and at Liberty Lake a Merlin and Bald Eagle. On the 24th Chad Ellis saw Wild Turkey along Hwy 3 in Kingfisher County; and in Logan County along Canyon Road Zachary Hemans spotted a Northern Harrier.



On the 25th Joe Grzybowski discovered a Pine Warbler in Norman; T K recognized a Black-throated Green Warbler at Lake Thunderbird Alameda Bridges; and Steve Davis saw an American Goldfinch at Martin Park Nature Center. On the 26th Zach Poland birded Lake Overholser and identified Common Loon, Canvasback, and Forster's Tern; Rachel Wrenn located a Hermit Thrush at John H. Saxon Park; and Chad Ellis had a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher along West Hefner Road.

(Cont. pg 7)

Recorder's (cont.)

On the 27th in Canadian County Joe Grzybowski noticed a Northern Harrier along Azalea Road, and at Lake El Reno Roy McGraw detected an American White Pelican and White-crowned Sparrow while in Cleveland County Caleb Frome discovered an American Pipit at Lake Stanley Draper. On the 28th Jason Shaw reported Sandhill Crane and Northern Harrier at the USAO Habitat Area in Chickasha in Grady County, and at Lake Overholser an adult **Little Gull** was discovered by Caleb Frome, Zach Poland and Chad Ellis. On the 29th Jeremy Ross saw a White-throated Sparrow at the George M. Sutton Wilderness Park; Caleb Frome verified a Brown Creeper, Gray Catbird and Orange-crowned Warbler along South Jenkins; and Daniel Martin found a Forster's Tern at Lake Hefner's Stars and Stripes Park.



On the 30th in Lincoln County at Meeker Lake Dala Grissom spotted Hooded Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, Franklin's Gull, White-breasted Nuthatch and Dark-eyed Junco while Jimmy Woodard detected Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, House Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and along I-44 near Chandler Richard Hasegawa identified a Short-

eared Owl. Elsewhere in other counties at Little River State Park Daniel Martin had a Pileated Woodpecker; at the Myriad Botanical Gardens in downtown Oklahoma City Nathan Kuhnert located an American Woodcock, Brown Creeper and Grasshopper Sparrow while in Edmond Joe Buck recognized a Red-breasted Nuthatch.

In the Central Oklahoma area during October **164** species were reported with **1** first of the year report bringing the year's total to **281**. 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.



The ABA Adds Hawaii - Now What?

(Excerpt from article by Nate Swick, aba.org)

At the ABA's annual membership meeting at the organization headquarters in Delaware City, Delaware, in late October, the ABA membership officially voted to include Hawaii in the ABA Area by a significant margin. About 80% of the ballots received were in support of this change. The ABA recognizes that this issue is felt strongly by many in their membership, and skeptically by others, but they feel that their mission – to inspire people to enjoy and protect wild birds – is better served with Hawaiian birds and birders in the fold, and they are excited to welcome both.

So Can I Count Hawaiian Birds Immediately?

No. Officially the ABA Checklist Committee (CLC), with input from the Hawaiian Bird Records Committee, will address which birds will be included on the ABA Checklist. The ABA expects this process to take a few months, and hopefully no longer than a year. The ABA estimates that Hawaii will add something on the order of 100-115 species to the ABA Checklist. All native birds, for instance, are shoe-ins.

What About the Exotics?

Incorporation of Hawaii also means incorporating the established populations of introduced exotics on the islands. In fact, upwards of 30% of the new species added to the ABA Checklist will be introduced, and it's figuring out which ones will count and which ones won't that will be the biggest challenge. In 2014, the ABA's Recording Standards and Ethics Committee (RSEC) clarified that an exotic species on the ABA list can be counted if it meets the CLC's standard for "established".

What this means for Hawaii is that there are a number of species that are well-established on the islands but not established, even if present, on the mainland. Determining how to handle those species will be the work of both the RSEC and the CLC in the coming months.

What about Midway?

Technically a US unincorporated territory, Midway Atoll lies between the main Hawaiian Islands and Kure Atoll, which is politically part of the State of Hawaii. This makes Midway an enclave, as are the District of Columbia, St. Pierre et Michelon, and the Canadian Territories, all of which the ABA considers part of the ABA Area. The ABA will likely follow the lead of the Hawaiian birding community, which includes Midway as part of the state for listing purposes. This allows the ABA to be consistent in saying that the ABA Area includes all US states and Canadian provinces, plus territorial enclaves.

Oklahoma City Audubon Society
c/o Patricia Velte
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Field Trip Schedule:

NOV.20: Whooping Cranes at Great Salt Plains: look for both species of crane, with an emphasis on finding Whoopers, at this traditional stop-over spot on their migration route. Meet at 8a.m. at the Salt Plains Wildlife Refuge Headquarters/Visitor Center. If interested or curious, contact Leader Doug Wood (dwood@se.edu). Doug would like to have some idea as to numbers of attendees.

DEC. 17: Christmas Bird Count: contact CBC coordinator John Shackford at: johnshackford@gmail.com for details regarding this annual event.

JAN. 30: Pontotoc Ridge Winter Count: this event is done through the Nature Conservancy. Contact their representative Jona Tucker for details and further information (jtucker@tnc.org)

FEB.4: Oklahoma Yanahli Winter Count: this event is done through the Nature Conservancy. Contact their representative Jona Tucker for details and further information (jtucker@tnc.org).

FEB 18 or 25: Woodcock Mating:

APRIL 22: Joe Barnes Park: Leader: Jimmy Woodard (j.woodard@cox.net)

The refreshments for the November meeting will be provided by: Nadine Varner and John Shackford

Ice & Drinks: Terri Underhill
