



# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

October 2016

## October: The Birds, the Stones and Cuba in 2016

**Join us October 17 when Mary Lane & Steve Davis will be the guest speakers at the Oklahoma City Audubon Society meeting.**

Mary and Steve are happily retired; Mary from research at the OU Health Sciences Center Department of Surgery, and Steve from evaluation at the OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Since retiring they've been able to enjoy their interest in nature, and birds in particular, through the OKC Audubon Society, birding trips in Oklahoma and other states and, more recently, on visits to Panama, Cuba and Trinidad-Tobago. In March of 2016, after accepting an invitation from a group sponsored by the Caribbean Conservation Trust, they traveled with 10 others to see the birds of Cuba. They visited six areas of the country with several guides over 12 days. On Monday night, they will share images of birds and habitat they saw on their journey, and discuss the people and culture of Cuba as well.

Steve and Mary were also in Cuba when the Rolling Stones came and gave their historic free outdoor concert.

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.



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### 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.



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## President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



Hi, Members. Hope you are seeing some great birds this fall. Did you know that there has been a Sabine's Gull at Lake Hefner? This species is a rare visitor to the Oklahoma City area. It breeds on ponds in the Arctic tundra, but otherwise it spends most of its life on the ocean. However a few Sabine's Gulls do cross directly over the Lower 48 during fall migration. As of October 6, the Sabine's was still at Lake Hefner. All the reported sightings so far have been along the shoreline of the canal inlet bay. Check eBird for the most recent sightings.

At the October meeting, I will ask for three or more volunteers to form an Election Committee. This committee is reconstituted every October and charged with the task of nominating a slate of candidates for the elected officer positions in the club. The elected officers are Parliamentarian, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. The Election Committee will ask the existing officers about their willingness to serve another year and will also consider any volunteers to replace the existing officers. The Election Committee will also ask the committee chairpersons about their willingness to continue in their positions. The Election Committee will announce its slate of officer candidates in the November meeting, and the election will be held in the December meeting. If you have been thinking about serving in an elected office, please talk to me, to John Shackford, or to a member of the Election Committee. Otherwise please consider serving on the Election Committee. Being a member of the Election Committee is a way to support the club with very important service of a short duration.

In last month's Perspective article I wrote about the possible threat that Oklahoma's burgeoning wind power industry poses to bird and bat populations. The members of OKC Audubon and like-minded Oklahomans with a concern for nature may provide a unique voice in the dialog over the future of wind power in our state. The opinions of OKC Audubon members are less conflicted than the opinions of people in the USFWS, the National Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy and the Sierra Club. These other organizations are variously influenced by global and national political and economic agendas, global warming forecasts, the pressure to site large-scale renewable energy generation away from major population centers on the coasts, and perceptions that there is a desirable offset to lost habitat and wildlife populations in Oklahoma in the form of mitigation of ecological losses elsewhere. The

ODWC, being a state agency, has to be responsive to the pressure to replace the declining state tax revenue and economic activity from oil and gas with some other source. If the birds and bats of Oklahoma are to have a base of strong advocates, where will it come from? It seems to me that we are positioned to be the purest voice in that regard.

For a good review of the status of wind power in the United States, see the following one-page article from the EIA, <http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/update/archive/september2016/>. Note that wind power has increased to 4.7% of total power generation in a short period. Also note on the wind resource map (click on the thumbnail in the foregoing article to expand it) the region where the best wind resource is located. National Audubon has called for a goal of 25% renewable energy as a share of total power generation. So far wind energy is the only significant renewable energy source although there are high hopes for solar, unrealized so far. If the 25% goal was to be obtained primarily with wind energy, the result would be approximately a five-fold increase in the land area covered by wind farms. Isn't it important that we consider what kind of an impact that would have on the Central Flyway and Oklahoma wildlife? National Audubon states that "In combination, global warming and the ongoing overuse of grasslands by humans will doom grassland birds to continued population declines if we fail to take corrective actions." (see Section "LANDBIRDS" subsection "Grassland birds" on page 8 of Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report, [http://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/birds\\_and\\_climate\\_report.pdf](http://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/birds_and_climate_report.pdf)). Can 25% wind power possibly be compatible with a reasonable effort to take "corrective actions" to reduce overuse of grasslands? Note that wind power development has so far occurred disproportionately in Oklahoma and a few other states. If this disproportionate development continued, Oklahoma would realize an even greater than five-fold increase in wind farms.

National and state governments and agencies like USFWS and ODWC are responsible to the people they serve. In the case of wind power, the authority vested in regulators and the way they use it will be the product of political forces exerted by advocates both for and against the unlimited, unregulated expansion of the wind industry. At the present time there is no Federal authority granted to USFWS to regulate wind development, nor does the state of Oklahoma grant such authority to ODWC. If these agencies are ever to have any statutory authority over the wind industry, the concerns of people who support the protection of wildlife have to be heard.

# Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



The **Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*) is an interesting Oklahoma bird. *Calidris* was a name Aristotle (no less!) gave to speckled waterbirds and *alpina* is a “reference to this bird breeding in alpine or cool areas” (Holloway, J.E. *Dictionary of birds of the United States*, 2003, Timber Press, Inc., Portland Oregon).

Some migratory birds, in their distribution, have a way of making the world a little smaller place. To me, the Dunlin is one such bird species—it “shrinks” the northern hemisphere considerably. It has a circumpolar nesting range, including northern areas of North America and northern areas of Europe and Asia. It migrates southward in winter to the southern oceanic coasts on both the North American and Eurasian coasts southward to northern Africa.

Many years ago I wrote an article entitled “The Dunlin in Oklahoma” for the Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society (1977, vol.X, no. 1). The article was illustrated with two black-and-white photos that I had taken, developed and printed; they are the photos you see reproduced here, illustrating the difference between breeding and nonbreeding plumage.

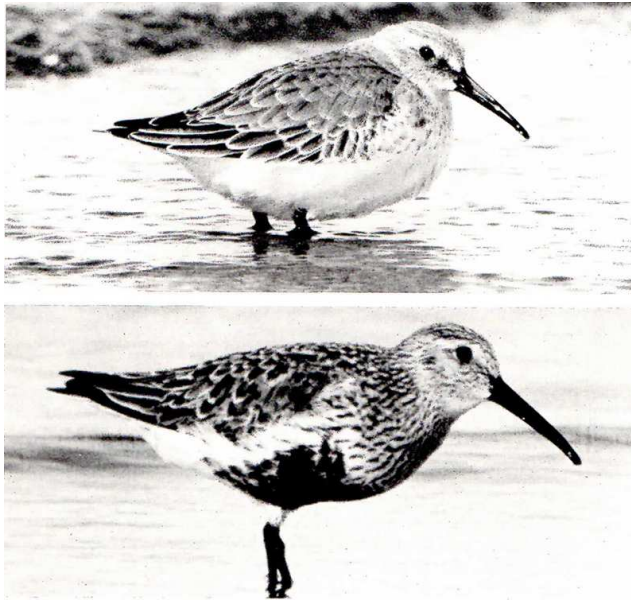
Breeding plumage of the Dunlin is very distinctive, the only North American sandpiper with a black breast; it is thus very easy to identify in the spring. Most bird species are darker above and lighter below, but the Dunlin in breeding plumage is an exception.

But Dunlin identification in winter plumage is something different, at least for me. I remember many years ago struggling over the identification of a Dunlin that I was hoping would stay around until our Christmas Bird Count (CBC). It was on the pond behind what is now John Marshall School. It was a lone bird on a broad shoreline with very little to compare its size to. The best clues, as I recall, were the somewhat decurved bill and the slightly larger size than that of a Least Sandpiper. I finally got the

bird identified sufficiently that I was comfortable with the identification, but the bird left a few days before that year’s Christmas Bird Count. Nonetheless, the Dunlin is very hearty, as attested to by how far north it breeds, and also by the fact that it winters well north of most other sandpipers, even up to Oklahoma on rare occasions.

In migrating spring and fall, it is a relatively rare migrant through Oklahoma. Nice (1931:94) called it a “rare transient.” Additionally it is an “occasional transient visitor,” Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge (Sutton, 1967, *Oklahoma Birds*); Sutton gives the dates of occurrence in Oklahoma as “September 3 to December 9, and from May 8 to 31”. The *Date Guide to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma* (Grzybowski, 2009) gives the dates from October 9 to May 31 in all parts of Oklahoma except the Panhandle, where it normally does not occur.

In an effort to try to understand the species little better I went to Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data. But there I found, apparently, that the Dunlin breeds so far north that they are north of most, if not all, BBS routes, as none showed up in the data. The bird may have a good defense against losing nesting habitat to human intrusion—nest well north of most humans!



I then checked the Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data to try to define the species relationship to Oklahoma a little better. According to rangewide data on U. S. CBCs since 1967, the number of birds seen per party hour has remained fairly stable, a suggestion, I believe, that the population itself is fairly stable. This steadiness likely reflects mostly trends along the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, where the species is much more common, but I do not believe that it sheds much light on smaller populations that migrate through Oklahoma. So to me there is something of a mystery as to how

prevalent the species now is in the state and what its population trend over time has been for Oklahoma. So try to watch for this species this fall, as migration progresses. I would be most interested in hearing any reports of the species in our area this fall and winter.

As mentioned above the species nests far to the north in North America. It usually lays 4 eggs, typical for shorebirds, but sometimes 3 or 5 eggs, in a nest usually formed in a tussock of grass, the lining of the nest being grass stems and the like.

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## A Tale of Two Hummers

By Patti Muzny

My hubby had told me on a recent Friday evening that two hummingbirds had flown into his auto repair shop and he could not get them to exit via either overhead door. They kept bouncing off of the skylights. My advice was to just close up the shop and perhaps they would fly out on Saturday morning. He expressed concern that they would starve. Not to worry – I told him they would just sleep at night, rather than eat.

Sam went back to his shop early on Saturday morning and raised both of the overhead doors. Two bouncing hummers were still bouncing. After several futile attempts at urging them to fly out, he called me to see if both of us might have better luck. Several options were discussed and finally I remembered that Brian had a dip net in his trout fishing supplies that might work if it was secured onto a long pole.

I made a detour from my grocery shopping destination and brought the dip net to the shop. We secured the net to the end of a pole and Sam proceeded to run back and forth numerous times with the net, but the two minuscule visitors would perch as high as they could get and fly up to the skylights every time he tried to get them into the net.

It's no easy feat to try to dip net a frightened hummingbird over 10 feet high without smacking the little thing! He's trotting up and down and swinging the net and I'm screeching, "Be careful! Don't smash the bird!!" Soon both of us were dizzy from running with our necks in a kink. Still bouncing off of the skylights! The business across the street had a good view of two senior citizens trotting back and forth with a net on a stick!

Finally one of them became exhausted enough and zigged when it should have zagged and we had it. I extracted it from the net and released it back away from the shop doors and it flew very high and took off to the south.

Now we had to get the second one. After about another 15 minutes of more of the same, this little one became too exhausted to dodge the net and we caught it. When I plucked it out of the net it was whimpering tiny little plaintive chirps. I held it a few seconds, made sure it wasn't injured, and after a quick kiss on its head, I wished it well and let it go. It flew off to the north and not quite as high.

We will never know if this dynamic duo made it to their winter home, but we can always be optimistic! Anyway, it's always a thrill to hold one of these awesome little creatures.

## An Irruption Year?

There's no surer, and more anticipated, sign of the changing seasons than Ron Pittaway's annual Winter Finch Forecast.

The focus of the annual report is always on Ontario, but Pittaway's insights can be extrapolated to much of the rest of the eastern half of the continent and some of the west, too. And with nearly 20 years of accurate predictions under his belt, the predictions are looked on as near-on a sure thing.

**PINE SISKIN:** Some will irrupt south because cone crops in the Northeast are generally poor. Some eastern siskins have likely relocated to abundant spruce crops in western Canada. Siskins prefer nyger seeds in silo feeders

**PURPLE FINCH:** Eastern Purple Finches were moving in early September. The poor seed crops on most coniferous and deciduous trees indicate that Purple Finches will leave northern breeding areas.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** An early southward movement began in early summer and continues as this forecast is posted. This widespread movement is evidence of poor cone crops in the Northeast. It indicates that Purple Finches, White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins are on the move too.

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**The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes new member Mike Mather, Chickasha, OK**

## Oklahoma City Audubon Society

### Officers 2016

President	Bill Diffin	722-3778
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
Secretary	Sharon Henthorn	521-9958
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	831-1945
Parliament	Ted Golden	354-3619
Programs	Warren Harden	364-3491
Recorder	Esther M. Key	735-1021
Conservation	Dave Woodson	601-622-3467
Field Trips	Mark Delgrosso	403-5655
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 log onto:*  
**OKC-Audubon.org**

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## Minutes OCAS Sept. 19, 2016

New meeting place: Will Rogers Park Senior Activities Center, 7:00 pm third Monday of most months unless announced otherwise.

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Diffin. Guests and new members were welcomed: Michael Kane of OKC. Mike Mather of Chickasha. Lisa Spencer and Geronimo Gallegos of Arcadia.

**Treasurer's report:** Nancy Vicars reports the account now has \$5,454.01 after expenses for the summer.

**Field Trip Chairman:** Mark Delgrosso announced some of our local birders will be leading excursions this fall.

—Hal Yocum will lead a field trip in Mitch Park, Edmond on Covell between Santa Fe and Kelley tomorrow morning, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Old School Bagel Café at 7:45am.

—Betz Hacker will lead Tuesday morning birding in October at 8:00am. October 11 will be a visit to Lake Overholser, and October 18 will be to Lake Hefner. October 25 trip at Martin Park Nature Center will meet at 9:00am.

—Jimmy Woodard will sponsor a "Big Sit" at his home in Midwest City October 15<sup>th</sup>. The event will be all day and birders are encouraged to drop in and stay awhile; snacks are always welcome.

—The Oklahoma Ornithological Society (OOS) fall meeting will be October 7-9 at the Jenks High School and Planetarium. More info can be found at [www.okbirds.org](http://www.okbirds.org).

—Professor Doug Wood will lead a trip to the Great Salt Plains on Sunday November 20.

—The Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held this year on December 17. More info will follow.

**Conservation committee:** Doug Woodson referenced a website for studying the legislation proposed for reducing nicotinoid pesticides which can harm American pollinators such as insects and birds. (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1284/allinfo>).

Susan Schmidt encouraged studying carefully the language of Oklahoma's SQ 777, which has proponents and detractors from many industries, and will affect the regulation of Oklahoma farming.

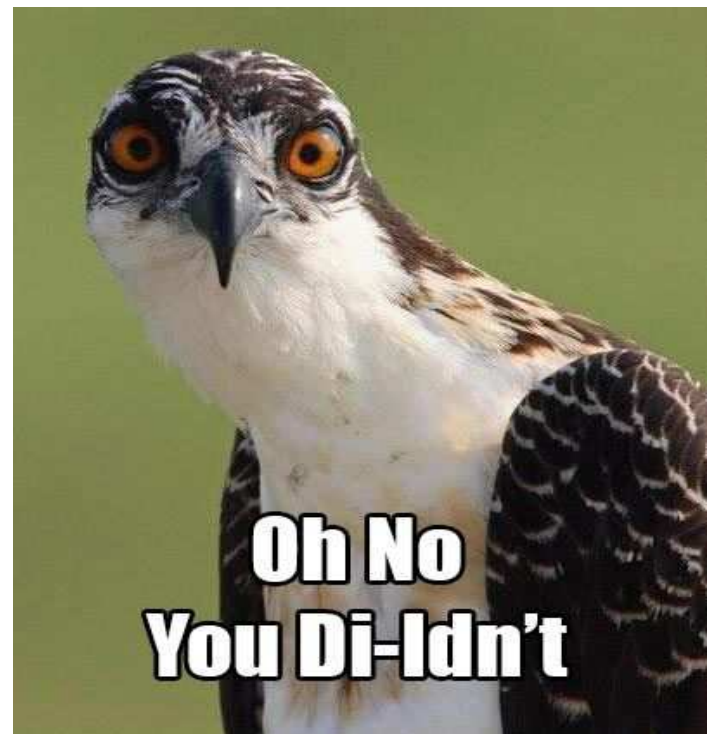
Recently Nancy Reed attended the August hummingbird festival in Fort Davis, TX and recommends it for future birders as well.

**Recent sightings:** mountain plovers near Boise City, OK. There is a peregrine falcon in downtown OKC which can be observed from some of the taller buildings.

Tonight's speaker was Kelsey Deal, a graduate student in OSU's Department of Integrative Biology. She reported her research on the prevalence of parasitism in monarch butterflies during migration. Urban gardeners in Stillwater provided milkweed plants for attracting the butterflies for the study. A large crowd was assembled for this first fall meeting and Kelsey was bombarded with questions about her topic.

The next meeting of the OCAS will be 7:00pm on October 17<sup>th</sup>, third Monday of the month. Location will again will be at the Senior Activities Center at Will Rogers Park during renovation of the park's garden exhibition center.

*Sharon Henthorn, OCAS Secretary*



# Recorders Report September 2016

## Migration Surprises

Several rare and hard to identify species were reported during the month beginning with the **Common Tern** first reported on July 29 by Cameron Carver at the John



Marshall School Pond. During September one was repeatedly reported at the Lake Hefner canal and then T K found one at Lake Thunderbird. Other interesting shorebirds were found passing through in September while the Neotropical Migratory Birds are leaving. And then the month ended with more rare and difficult bird to identify. Finding

new birds for the year is getting really hard for some Central Oklahoma counties but birders are rising to the challenge while the need still remains for more birding in other counties.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of August at Whittenberg Park Scott Loss identified a Black-headed Grosbeak and added one more species to the Payne County year list. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Joe Grzybowski discovered a Solitary Sandpiper on Highway 3 west of Kingfisher, and Deanne McKinney spotted a Hairy Woodpecker and Yellow Warbler on the Canadian side of Lake Overholser. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Elmore City Esther Key added a Common Nighthawk to the Garvin County year list. Ten species were added to the Cleveland County year list starting with an Olive-sided Flycatcher by T K at Lake Thunderbird's Little River Marina.

Seven species were added to the Oklahoma County list starting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with Daniel Martin spotting a **Sanderling** at the Oklahoma River Transition in downtown Oklahoma City.



Meanwhile near Coyle in Logan County Esther Key noticed a group of American White Pelicans on the Cimarron River, and Corey Riding had an Eastern Wood-Pewee at Babcock Park. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Brian Stufflebean located a Marbled Godwit at Lake Hefner Canal area. On

the 5<sup>th</sup> at their homes Zach Poland detected a Summer Tanager in Logan County, and in McClain County Larry Mays found a Painted Bunting.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> Jason Shaw encountered a Barred Owl at the USAO Habitat Area in Grady County. On the 7<sup>th</sup> at the Dolese Sand Pit in Guthrie John Hurd added Black Vulture, White-eyed Vireo and Bank Swallow to the Logan County year list. On the 8<sup>th</sup> William Diffin discovered a **Long-billed Curlew** and **Short-billed**



**Dowitcher** at the Lake Hefner Canal, and Christie Stoops had a Fish Crow at Cottonwood Creek in Logan County. On the 9<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland birded Lake Elmer in Kingfisher County and found Northern Bobwhite, Upland Sandpiper, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Blue Grosbeak. At Lake Thunderbird's State Park North Sentinel Campground John Tharp added Stilt Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland had a Wilson's Warbler at his home; Deanne McKinney saw a Yellow-headed Blackbird on North Morgan Road in Yukon; along South Jenkins Joe Grzybowski added White-faced Ibis; at the Lake Hefner Stars and Stripes Park Trina Paddock found an Olive-sided Flycatcher; and Tim O'Connell discovered a Northern Parula at Ghost Hollow in Payne County. On the 11<sup>th</sup> Sora Rail were discovered by Larry Mays at NW 164<sup>th</sup> near Rose Lake and Nathan Kuhnert at the Myriad Botanical Gardens. At Lake Thunderbird N Sentinel Campground John Tharp added a Sanderling; and at Riley Park in Noble Rachel Wrenn noticed an Olive-sided Flycatcher. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Heather Shaffery came across a Northern Harrier and Mississippi Kite near El Reno.



On the 13<sup>th</sup> Lindell Dillon discovered a Yellow-throated Warbler at Lake Thunderbird; and Mike Yough documented an Orchard Oriole at the Teal Ridge Wetland. On the 14<sup>th</sup> Gwen O'Leary spotted a Tufted Titmouse at Wes Watkins Lake campground in Pottawatomie County, and Chrissy Barton (Cont. pg 7)

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## Recorder's (cont.)

encountered a group of Black Terns at the Meridian Technology Center Pond. On the 15<sup>th</sup> in Tecumseh Dala Grissom added Pied-billed Grebe, Great Egret and Pectoral Sandpiper to the Pottawatomie County year list. On the 16<sup>th</sup> Brian Stuffelbeam turned up a Snowy Egret along North Overholser Drive.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> at Buck Lake Joe Buck added Tree Swallow and Yellow Warbler to the Lincoln County year. Nathan Kuhnert discovered a Tennessee Warbler and American Redstart at the Myriad Botanical Gardens. On the 18<sup>th</sup> Cody Barnes identified a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at the OSU Arboretum, and Caitlin Laughlin located a White-eyed Vireo at the Perkins South Bridge. On the 20<sup>th</sup> T K documented a Common Tern at Lake Thunderbird N Sentinel Campground and last reported it on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 21<sup>st</sup> Douglas Klein spotted a Swainson's Hawk at Lake El Reno and a Chimney Swift at Montana Mike's in El Reno. William Diffin last reported the Common Turn at Lake Hefner's Canal area.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> T K found a Black-throated Green Warbler at Lake Thunderbird Little River Marina, and Roy McGraw discovered a **Ruddy Turnstone** at Lake Hefner's Prairie Dog Point. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Zach Poland saw Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift and American Kestrel in Kingfisher. Joe Grzybowski reported Swainson's Hawk, Cattle Egret and American Kestrel at the Goldsby Sod Farm and a Loggerhead Shrike along Ladd Road. T K recognized a Long-billed Dowitcher at Lake Thunderbird N Sentinel Campground. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Jason Shaw identified a Northern Harrier at the USAO habitat Area in Grady County. Deb Hirt had a Spotted Sandpiper at Boomer Lake Park, and T K



reported a **Red-necked Phalarope** at Lake Thunderbird N Sentinel Campground. On the 29<sup>th</sup> William Diffin, Zach Poland and others spotted a **Sabine's Gull** at Lake Hefner canal. What wonderful finds in different places!

In the Central Oklahoma area during September **161** species were reported with **7** first of the year reports bringing the year's total to **280**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds and can be contacted by e-mail at [emkok@earthlink.net](mailto:emkok@earthlink.net). Esther M. Key, Editor.

## Inquiring Minds Want to Know

by Terri Underhill

People who submit questions to OCAS through our website Contact form receive answers from me. We also have bumper stickers on our website for sale and have sold 26. We even get out of state birders who order them.

We have had the Contact OKC Audubon Question Form on our website since 2009 with 489 questions / comments submitted since that time.

So far in 2016, we've had 68 submissions; 24% from OKC, 8% from Norman, 6% from Edmond, 3% from Ardmore and 3% from Tulsa.

The majority of the questions are from people who need help identifying birds they've seen. I always welcome photos and find them helpful most of the time. When it is obvious they enjoy photographing birds I encourage them to join the OOS Facebook group so they can share and learn about the bird sightings throughout the state.

One notable question that came in earlier this year was from Comanche Nation College planning their annual summer camp and needing someone to do a hummingbird presentation. Kurt Meisenzahl from Lawton graciously accepted that challenge.

Another was a request from a lady in Norman who wanted to surprise her 83-year-old mother with a birding trip with an experienced birder. Larry Mays took the mother and daughter birding which made for a wonderful birthday celebration.

Emails with questions I don't feel I can answer are passed along to someone more knowledgeable in that field.

The busiest time for questions and comments is April through September when out of state birders are coming to town. I always offer to take them birding and never charge or even let them buy my gas. I just ask that they pay this kindness forward to someone in need.

My favorite place to take visiting birders is the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Earlier this year a birder from Scotland contact us through the Audubon web site wanting to do some birding while he was here visiting his daughter. I took him birding for three days while he was here and he got 16 lifers! He was thrilled and tried to pay me but I asked him to Pay it Forward. He's a missionary and to my surprise he paid for me to feed three orphans in Uganda for a year! His kind gesture brought me to tears. I am humbled by his kindness and feel honored to have met him.

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

## Field Trip Schedule:

OCT. 15: Big Sit: once again Jimmy Woodard will host a Big Sit at his home. The event will run from 9am to 6pm with participants coming/going as they like. Light snacks will be served but please feel free to bring edibles to share. For directions/details contact Jimmy Woodard. Leader: Jimmy Woodard (j.woodard@cox.net).

OCT.18: Lake Hefner: Meet at 8a.m. at the west side parking lot just before the dam off Britton. Bring a scope if you have one. Leader: Betz Hacker (elizabethhacker66@yahoo.com)

OCT.25: Martin Nature Park: meet at 9a.m. in the main parking lot off Memorial. Leader: Betz Hacker (elizabethhacker66@yahoo.com)

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)

***The refreshments for the October meeting will be provided by: Rita Miller, Larry Erickson and Myra Allright. Ice & Drinks: Grace Kasper Kirch***

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