



# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

SEPTEMBER 2019

## Birding the Pan-American Highway

**Speaking at the September 16 OKC Audubon Society meeting will be Dr. Jeff Cox of Tulsa on his birding trip to the southern end of the northern section of the PanAmerican Highway in southeastern Panama.**

Canopy Tower and Canopy Camp are famous birding areas with uniquely designed ecolodges located in some of Panama's most biodiverse areas. Canopy Tower is a former radar installation near the Panama Canal; Canopy Camp is a deluxe camp, located in the Darien region of far eastern Panama. This tropical forest which extends into neighboring Colombia holds, indeed, one of the greatest ornithological diversities in the world. Jeff visited both lodges in 2017 for birding and general nature study. Come learn about the fascinating birds and other wildlife of Panama.

Jeff has been watching birds since he was 11 years old. He earned a PhD in Zoology from the University of Florida in 1984, but spent the next 30+ years working as a software analyst. After retiring 2 years ago, he has been travelling and spending more time with the birds.

Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month (with the exception of January, when the meeting is held on the fourth Monday). Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

### **Meeting Location:**

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





## President's Perspective

By Betz Hacker

### Greetings

Welcome back! It was a great summer to see birds and now that fall migration is underway and the weather is cooling off, it should be even better.

### Field Trips

September 21: 8:00-9:30 am Will Roger's Gardens.

This walk is open to the public and was announced in the OKC Utility mailing.

Last year, several members led citizens new to birding around the gardens. The leaders showed them how to use binoculars, where to look for birds, and how to identify them. Volunteers will be needed again this year. Your volunteer hours contribute to our meeting room rental and the more volunteers, the more hours!

Over the next few months, there will be a number of field trips that will be announced on our website: [oc-audubon.org](http://oc-audubon.org), so check it often.

### Why we need conservation

According to US Fish and Wildlife, "many of the 1,027 species of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are experiencing population declines due to increased threats across the landscape. Of those 1,027 species, 92 bird species are listed as either threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. An additional 274 species are listed as Birds of Conservation Concern, in one or more geographic scales (e.g., local, regional, or national). For more information about bird declines in the U.S., visit the [State of the Birds webpage](#).

Both natural and human-caused sources of bird mortality contribute cumulative or combined effects to declining bird populations. Millions of acres of bird habitat are lost or degraded every year due to development, agriculture, and forestry practices. These rapidly accelerating impacts can

be mitigated only through habitat restoration and protection. In addition, millions of birds are directly killed by human-caused sources such as collisions with man-made structures. Death from natural causes is also common sources of mortality.

Natural and human-caused mortality impacts are exacerbated by the landscape alterations resulting from a changing climate. Birds in every habitat will be affected by natural and human-caused sources, so conserving migratory bird populations requires a multi-faceted, coordinated approach by governments, conservation organizations, industry, and the general public."

### Volunteers

OCAS relies on members volunteering. A big thanks to all who have contributed to making OCAS a club that attracts and welcomes birders. THANK YOU!



## Oklahoma City Audubon Society

### Officers 2019

President	Elizabeth Hacker	638-6210
Vice President	Grace Huffman	388-7369
Secretary	Sharon Henthorn	521-9958
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	831-1945
Parliament	Valerie Bradshaw	664-6956
Programs	Warren Harden	596-2759
Recorder	Esther M. Key	735-1021
Conservation	Dave Woodson	601-622-3467
Field Trips	Nancy Vicars	831-1945
	Jimmy Woodard	365-5685
	Hal Yokum	819-4852
	Bob Holbrook	496-1731
Newsletter Editor	Patricia Velte	751-5263
Publicity	Doug Eide	495-8192
Historian	Vacant	
Refreshments	Terri Underhill	844-1244
Webmaster	Patricia Velte	751-5263

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

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

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## Waterfowl Hunting Comes to WMNWR

People can now hunt for turkey and waterfowl at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. This comes after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed an updated hunting plan and got the public's input it.

The 2019 Hunt Plan opens all refuge waters (e.g., lakes, pond, creeks), except Quanah Parker Lake, in the Public Use Area to waterfowl hunting during the state designated season (November through January). This includes Lake Elmer Thomas at the base of Mount Scott, Crater Lake near the Visitor Center, and French Lake and Lost Lake near the Dog Run Hollow Trail System among other refuge waters. Youth turkey and spring turkey hunts would be opened through controlled hunts in various areas, including the public use area. The plan will also allow for the incidental take of feral hogs and coyotes for hunters permitted to hunt the controlled elk, deer, and turkey hunts in their designated hunt unit.

As for turkey hunting, that's going to happen during a controlled hunt multiple times a year like the Elk and Deer hunts. Lynn Cartmell, the Visitor Services Manager for the refuge, said during all of the controlled hunts, people can also harvest feral hogs and coyotes.

"It was mixed positive and negative," Cartmell said. "But we really took to heart what people told us and tried to modify and implement what we could to make it fair for everybody involved."

Hunters cannot shoot from across the road, parking lots, or designated hiking trails.

Before they go hunting, they will have to sign a permit and keep it on them. Those permits will be at the visitors center and different places around the refuge.

People could start hunting as soon as Saturday (September 7) which marks the beginning of teal season. *Sources: KSWO, US Fish & Wildlife Service*

## Refreshments

Refreshments for our September 16 meeting will be provided by:

Snacks: Holly Bjorkstrom and Hal Yokum

Drinks: Mary Lane and Steve Davis

## Would you Count It If...

By [Ted Floyd](#), on July 24, 2019, ABA Blog, aba.org (excerpt)

A week ago, Jason Ward and I were on a boat trip out of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. Birds were our objective, needless to say, but we were well pleased with our haul of cetaceans—including a particularly photogenic humpback whale. In reviewing his images of the whale, Jason came across this photo:



Along with the whale, there's a bird in that photo. It's a Manx Shearwater, a species none of us on that boat consciously noted during our time on the ocean. Question: Would you count the bird if it were your first ever? Would this after-the-fact detection qualify as your lifer Manx?

My sense is that many birders would say yes. Even though you were focused, literally, on the whale, the bird was in view while you were taking the picture. Some photons of light from that Manx Shearwater passed through your camera lens and entered your eye, whereupon photoreceptors in your optic nerve transmitted an electrical impulse to the visual cortex in your brain.

***Would you count it?***





## Bird of the Month

By Grace Huffman

**Downy Woodpeckers** are small birds, only a little bigger than House Sparrows, common in wooded areas and backyards with trees. Males are easily identified by a

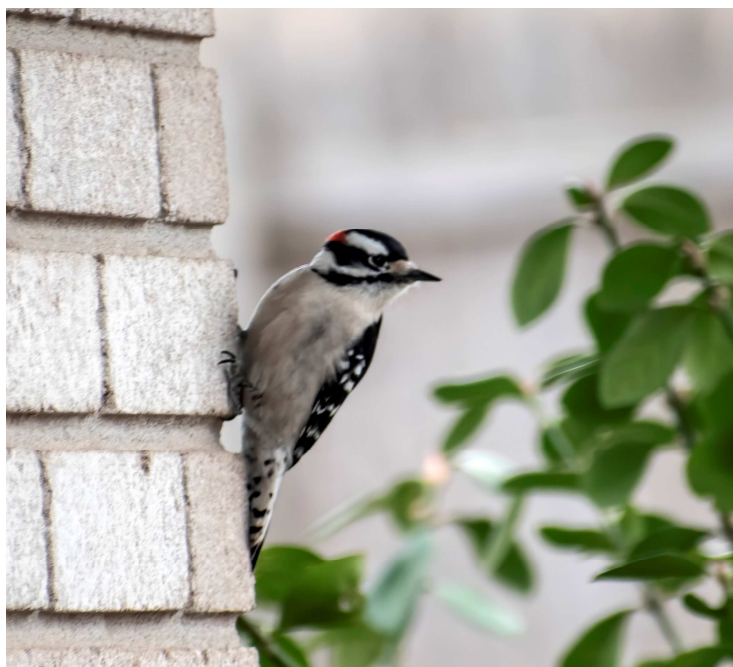
bright red spot on the back of their head, while females don't have any red at all. They are nearly identical to the Hairy Woodpecker, but Hairies are bigger with a longer bill. Downies also have some black barring on their white tail feathers, while Hairy Woodpeckers do not.

Another way to tell them apart is by their sound. I often hear Downy Woodpeckers before I see them, so listen for their sharp whinny that descends at the end. You might also hear their "keek" calls. Hairy Woodpeckers also whinny, but theirs does not descend, and their "peek" calls are lower than that of the Downy. I also have noticed that Hairies seem to be much shyer and less common, as I've only ever seen them locally at Martin Nature Park, whereas I see Downies just about every time I go out.

If you want to attract them to your yard, a good place to start is by offering suet and black oil sunflower seeds. And if buying just black oil sunflower seeds is too expensive, buy a bag of mixed seed to add in and stretch the sunflower seeds out. I offer seeds more than suet as the squirrels love the suet as much as the woodpeckers, and my seed feeders are either

squirrel proof or hard for the squirrels to get too. Surprisingly, the Downies don't seem to mind, dashing in to grab a seed and then taking it to a tree where they can wedge the seed into the bark to smash it open. According to [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org), they enjoy peanuts, peanut butter, and millet in addition to suet tank sunflower seeds. They have also been known to drink out of hummingbird and oriole feeders!

If it's safe to do so, leave up dead trees and branches to provide them with food (insects are drawn to the rotting wood) and places to create their nest holes, where they'll lay their 3-8 eggs in the spring. The eggs will be incubated by both parents for about 12 days, and then they will feed the babies for about 3 weeks until they fledge.



While replacing wooden fence poles with metal ones has taken away some nesting options for Downy Woodpeckers, they are still thriving, as clearing away trees has created younger forests for the Downies to live in. And because of that they are often one of the first woodpeckers a new birder sees, and I certainly find them one of the most fun to watch.

(Information drawn mainly from [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org))

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## Coming Next Month:

**October 21, 2019:** Taylor Muller will speak on Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Burying Beetles, Grouse and Sea Turtles.

## OKC Audubon Society minutes of June 17, 2019

Meeting was opened by President Betz Hacker. Minutes of the May meeting were approved and seconded without changes.

Treasurer's report from Nancy Vicars shows \$6363 in the club's bank account.

A roster of members' contact information was made available to those who wish a copy, including phone, mailing address, and e-mail address.

### Old Business:

Project Bluebird at Will Rogers Park is ongoing and regularly maintained by Neil Garrison. The new boxes have generated interest by the park's bird population, and bluebirds are using the boxes for nesting.

Nathan Kuhner's studies of bird fatalities in downtown OKC has brought attention to the city's high-rise buildings that have glass walls as a threat to migrating birds in the spring and autumn. Efforts are making headway to publicize the request to turn off unnecessary lights after dark, so that the birds are not attracted to them.

June 15 was the annual club picnic, held at the home of Terri and Keith Underhill. A large group was in attendance, and the outdoor affair and foods were a hit with the crowd.

### New Business:

Dave Woodson has asked to step down from his capacity as conservation chairman, and volunteers are requested to consider taking over his duties.

Sue Woodson has asked to step down from her duties as refreshments chairman, and Terri Underhill has volunteered to take her place.

This fall the OOS meeting will be held in Norman, OK in October, and further information will follow.

The meeting was adjourned and was followed by a brief snack break. After the break, we heard a presentation from Professor Mike Mather about his friends the "Creepy Crawly Things". His training as a herpetologist has prepared him for tonight's fascinating discussion of the world of insects, spiders, snakes and other animals that create distress among their acquaintances in the human realm.

Meetings will resume the third Monday of September, which this year falls on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

*Sharon Henthorn, Club Secretary*



## Duck Stamps released

Hunters, birders and stamp collectors celebrated as the 2019-2020 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp – commonly known as the Duck Stamp – went on sale this summer. The new Federal Duck Stamp (above) and its younger sibling, the Junior Duck Stamp, debuted at a special U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service event in Springfield, Missouri.

Painted by artist Scot Storm of Freeport, Minnesota, the new Duck Stamp will raise millions of dollars for habitat conservation to benefit wildlife and the American people.

The 2019-2020 Junior Duck Stamp, (below) raises funds to support youth conservation education and this year features a harlequin duck painted by Nicole Jeon, 16, of Scarsdale, New York.

The Federal Duck Stamp plays a critically important role in wildlife conservation. Since 1934, sales of this stamp have raised more than \$1 billion to protect 6 million acres of wetlands habitat on national wildlife refuges around the nation.





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## Recorders Report Summer 2019

Birds and birders were busy this summer with activity in all Central Oklahoma counties. While most counties reported additional new bird species for the year, Central Oklahoma only had four new species. So much activity occurred this summer that only a small part can be reported.

**SEMINOLE COUNTY** added 7 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 81.

While traveling from Wewoka to the Wewoka Woods Camp entrance on July 8<sup>th</sup> Hans Holbrook added Blue Grosbeak, and Mississippi Kite, while on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Bob's house Yellow-throated Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and House Finch. On August 23 while traveling Braden Farris reported Common Grackle and Brown Thrasher.

**GARVIN COUNTY** added 14 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 93.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> in Foster Esther Key counted Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Mississippi Kite, Western Kingbird, Barn Swallow, and Painted Bunting. On June 14 Jack Olson located Lark Sparrow; and on July 31 Zach DuFran saw Green Heron. On August 8<sup>th</sup> east of Hennepin Sam S found Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Grosbeak, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. On August 25<sup>th</sup> near Paoli Aaron Milligan identified Chimney Swift, Great Blue Heron and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.



**POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY** – added 12 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 116.

On June 7<sup>th</sup> in various locations Joe Grzybowski documented Painted Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Mississippi Kite, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. On June 29<sup>th</sup> Chad Ellis noticed White-winged Dove; and on June 30<sup>th</sup> Emma Carter came across Purple Martin.

**GRADY COUNTY** added no new bird species this summer so their year-to-date total remains at 116; but busy birders did find interesting species.

On June 14 at Shannon Springs Park Jennifer Atwell got Blue-winged Teal and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. In Chickasha on July 21<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth and Tim Pratt observed Mississippi Kite and on July 22<sup>nd</sup> Meg Rousher had Cooper's Hawk. On July 23 near Minco Brad Porter detected Dickcissel and on the 24<sup>th</sup> near Marlow Northern Bobwhite and Red-bellied Woodpecker. On the 27<sup>th</sup> Zach DuFran recorded Chimney Swift and Cliff Swallow while traveling.

**McCLAIN COUNTY** added 5 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 135.



On July 10 at home Larry Mays confirmed Blue Grosbeak. On July 21<sup>st</sup> Meg Rousher recognized Cooper's Hawk near Blanchard. On July 27<sup>th</sup> Zach DuFran spotted Little Blue Heron near Newcastle. At McClain County Sod Farm Joe Grzybowski encountered on August 8<sup>th</sup> Upland Sandpiper and on August 25<sup>th</sup> Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

**LINCOLN COUNTY** added no new bird species this summer so their year-to-date total remains at 136; but busy birders did find interesting species.

Near Stroud on June 14<sup>th</sup> Kayley Thurber spotted Turkey Vulture. On June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Chandler Regional Airport Chad Ellis discovered Northern Bobwhite, Dickcissel and Red-shouldered Hawk. Shane Clark counted near Kendrick on June 26<sup>th</sup> Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Great Egret; near Chandler on June 25<sup>th</sup> Painted Bunting and on July 4<sup>th</sup> a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Green Heron.



**KINGFISHER COUNTY** added 3 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 142.

On June 16<sup>th</sup> in Kingfisher Zach Poland found Chimney Swift and Green Heron. On July 14<sup>th</sup> while traveling Jack Olson discovered Snowy Egret.

**LOGAN COUNTY** added 3 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 159.

In Guthrie on June 1<sup>st</sup> Dustin Lynch confirmed Baltimore Oriole; and on June 4<sup>th</sup> Seth Kastner added Blue Grosbeak. While traveling on August 22<sup>nd</sup> Bridger Arrington had Black-and-white Warbler.

**CANADIAN COUNTY** added 5 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 202.

At Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge Grace Huffman observed on May 19<sup>th</sup> Summer Tanager and on May 26<sup>th</sup>



Olive-sided Flycatcher. On July 4<sup>th</sup> in Yukon Rugger Collier detected Common Nighthawk. On August 10<sup>th</sup> northwest of Yukon at the Foreman & North Cimarron Road Sod Farm Brian Marra documented Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Western Kingbird.

**CLEVELAND COUNTY** added 4 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 210.

On June 7<sup>th</sup> John Tharp and Joe Grzybowski heard Acadian Flycatchers singing their “pizza” call on both sides of Little Jim Road in Little Axe. On June 25<sup>th</sup> along Alameda Drive at Lake Thunderbird John Moyer encountered Northern Bobwhite. On July 15<sup>th</sup> at South Lakes Park Michael Kane got Black-crowned Night-Heron. On July 20<sup>th</sup> at Lexington WMA one of our Anonymous eBirders identified Kentucky Warbler.

**OKLAHOMA COUNTY** added 4 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 233.



On July 17<sup>th</sup> near Mitch Park Chris Butler photographed **Inca Dove**. On July 24<sup>th</sup> near Harrah Keith Edwards saw **Rufous Hummingbird** at his feeder.

On August 14<sup>th</sup> in Bethany Frank Walker recognized **Calliope Hummingbird** with his Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. On August 17<sup>th</sup> near Deer Creek Braden Farris located Wilson’s Phalarope.

**PAYNE COUNTY** added 3 new bird species this summer to bring their year-to-date total to 243.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> the Payne County Audubon Society field trip led by Dwayne and Leslie Elmore, Tim O’Connell heard **Acadian Flycatcher** give four diagnostic “peetSA” songs. Also reported but not new were Yellow-breasted Chat, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler and Summer Tanager. On August 18<sup>th</sup> at Boomer Lake Park Landon Neumann came across Semipalmated Plover; and on August 24<sup>th</sup> in Stillwater Scott Loss noticed Olive-sided Flycatcher. What a great summer. What will fall migration bring?

In the Central Oklahoma area during the summer of 2019, **145** species were reported with **4** new species bringing the total for the year to **269**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds. Information is accessed at: [ebird](http://www.ebird.org). 2019 eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org/subnational1/US-OK/region>. (Accessed: August 26, 2019). And occasionally from Facebook and the OKBIRDS List. I can be contacted by e-mail at [emkok@earthlink.net](mailto:emkok@earthlink.net). Esther M. Key, Editor.

## Welcome

Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes

Allen Coddington, Edmond, OK  
Geoffrey Mwangi, Moore, OK  
Arden Gatlin, Edmond, OK  
Deanna & Garry Atkinson, Edmond, OK  
Robert Mallett, Arcadia, OK  
Clara Edwards, Yukon, OK  
Luke Gronemeyer, OKC

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

## **FIELDTRIPS**

We will plan to conduct weekly outings as soon as fall migrants begin to show up. The place and time will be announced by the leaders via e-mail notices and on our website.

### **Will Rogers Gardens**

September 21: 8:00-9:30 am, NW 36th and I-44, OKC.

This walk is open to the public and was announced in the OKC Utility mailing.

### **Big Sit - Midwest City**

Jimmy Woodard will host a Big Sit again this fall. Tentative date is Wednesday, October 9 with a backup date of Thursday, October 10. Directions and additional information will be provided in a Field Trip email.

### **OOS Fall Meeting**

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society Fall 2019 Meeting will be held October 25-27 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Registration is available on the [OOS webpage](#), and mail-in registration materials will also be included in the fall OOS newsletter.

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