



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

September 2013

Galloping Through The Galapagos

John Cleal and Marion Homier will present "Wildlife Photographs from the Galapagos Islands" at the September 16, 2013 meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society.

Marion and John took a month to visit the Galapagos Islands and Amazon Basin in 2007. They photographed the wildlife they encountered. They are amateur photographers only and do not have expensive equipment. However wildlife, particularly in the Galapagos, is usually quite tame so some interesting pictures resulted regardless. Marion and John share an interest in all aspects of the natural world.

Marion is a Federal retiree and has adapted well to retirement over the past two years. In addition to travel, wildlife watching and photography with John, thanks to him she has also discovered a latent addiction to golf. She is continually distracted by bird calls and flyovers during her backswing and her preferred courses are those that are "birdiest." Their golf equipment includes birding binoculars!

John is also retired, being allergic to work in any form. Besides nature watching, he is dedicated to the pursuit of sloth and lethargy, and losing at golf, chess and the battle with weeds.

Please join us on Monday, September 16 for an enjoyable evening of bird photos and birders! Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month. They begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 and NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.



Conservation Report: Crystal Lake Expo

By Dave Woodson, Conservation Chairperson

Members from our Society will participate in City Care Family Outdoor Expo at Crystal Lake, on 27-28 Sep 2013.

The goals of the Expo are to peak interest in birding and create a fun filled learning experience for the attendees and participants. Volunteers include Bill Diffin, Nathan Kuhnert, Nadine Varner, and me. You are invited to join us. At least two members are needed each day, but the more the merrier. For our display, we have mounted bird photos on poster boards, a Bird ID game, a number of different field guides, and we'll show attendees how to use spotting scopes and binoculars. If someone is available and could provide a few bird houses, feeders, etc. please contact me.

Location: Crystal Lake, 6625 SW 15th, OKC
Friday/Saturday
27-28 Sep 2013

Friday: 9am-3pm.
Saturday: 9am-4pm Family day

Participants: Check-in/setup on Thursday 26 Sep between 12pm to 6pm. Tear-down on Saturday after Expo closes 4pm to 7pm

Let me know if and when you are available.



President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin



In the April, May and June articles we listened to songs of sylvioid birds from both the Old World and the New. Below is a sampling of calls from these same species. Sibley's guide often describes two or three calls for a species with names indicating their functions like alarm call, flight call, chase call, contact call, etc. At least some species have many calls. For example the great variety of chickadee calls was

demonstrated in one of the sources linked in the April article.

Because bird songs are louder, more extended and more complex than calls, they often seem more important to us. In fact though calls must be just as important as songs to the lives of birds. Mated pairs undoubtedly communicate about predators, territorial threats from rival pairs, the brooding female's need for food, who will mind the youngsters at any given time, etc. We really don't know how detailed the communication is between pairs. Scientific investigation in this area doesn't seem to have progressed very far. However consider that the song of a male in breeding condition may be more than just evidence of his health and strength.

It may be testimony to his fitness as a communicator, his vocabulary, his range of expression from urgent panic to bold aggression. Among the collection of calls below, certain themes stand out as particularly frequent. One is a jay-like "jeer" or "jay". Another is a sharp "chip" or "chup" which may be repeated frequently enough to be considered a chatter. See if you recognize in the non-U.S. birds some calls very similar to the ones you hear locally.

Tufted Titmouse, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/145941>
Carolina Chickadee, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/111140>
Horned Lark, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/70544>
Barn Swallow <http://www.xeno-canto.org/144982>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow,
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/123367>
Purple Martin, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/59093>
American Bushtit, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/109191>
Wrentit, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/109854>
Verdin -1, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/121399>
Verdin -2, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/135943>
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/118058>
Skylark, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/138228>
Striated Grassbird -1, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/39490>
Striated Grassbird -2, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/68685>
Common Grasshopper Warbler,
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/105831>
Marsh Warbler, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/90518>

Black-capped Donacobius,
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/131419>
Red-whiskered Bulbul, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/97419>
Grey-cheeked Bulbul, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/35825>
Cetti's Warbler, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/142083>
Chestnut-headed Tesia,
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/114886>
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler,
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/28817>
Common Chiffchaff, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/146689>
Singing Cisticola, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/99668>
Whistling Cisticola -1, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/127081>
Whistling Cisticola -2, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/127082>
Whistling Cisticola -3, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/127080>
Trilling Cisticola, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/48433>
Rattling Cisticola, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/116030>
Chestnut-throated Apalis,
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/71443>
Eurasian Blackcap, <http://www.xeno-canto.org/144602>
Striated Laughingthrush -1,
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/115742>
Striated Laughingthrush -2,
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/115743>
Striated Laughingthrush -3,
<http://www.xeno-canto.org/115745>

Oklahoma City Audubon Society

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	Carla Brueggen	495-3259
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Refreshments	Sue Woodson	601-622-3467
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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 **South Polar Skua** (*Stercorarius maccormicki*) that showed up at least from August 7 - August 10, 2013 at Lake Overholser was more like the Oklahoma bird of the decade or century than bird of the month. Tony Solorio and his father Jim photographed the bird on August 7, thinking it was a jaeger. On August 8, Mikey Lutmerding, (apparently a northeastern U.S birder), was the first to suggest

that this bird was a South Polar Skua. Clarity on the bird's identification soon began to take shape thanks to Chad Ellis' posting to eBird. A group of experienced ornithologists with Cornell Lab of Ornithology, including Marshall Iliff and eBird contributors, collaborated and identified the bird. Then the fun began!

I thought this would be an easy bird of the month to write about—but I was wrong. The reason it has not been easy is that hard information on skuas seems to me to be, at the current time, somewhat mushy. To quote a line from Seabird Osteology, "The five species of skuas are more or less of the same size and appearance." To complicate the situation further the 3 species of jaegers are smaller versions of the larger skuas, and all of both the skuas and jaegers have dark forms, which are understandably easy to confuse with one another. Furthermore, skuas and jaegers tend to nest somewhere near both ends of the earth, areas where research is not easily undertaken. Perhaps you are beginning to see the problem of identification of this group of birds. It aint easy!

Many people from around this part of the nation—Kansas City, Wichita, Dallas, Arkansas—came to see the bird. Several people photographed the bird at reasonably close range, so the experts do have a considerable amount of material from which to draw their conclusions. Trusting the experts, let's accept that this bird is

that skua. (As you can tell, I am a chicken when it comes to calling tricky bird IDs, especially of those birds I have never seen. Where was I when the skua was here? I had been accidentally dropped from OKBirds and I missed the whole thing because of that.)

South Polar Skuas are about 21 inches long, with wingspans of about 52 inches, so they have a wider wingspan than the widest jaeger, the Pomarine, at 48 inches. This skua harasses other birds to make them drop or throw up food, or predares other birds directly as meals. The bird at Lake Overholser, from the photos I have seen, knocked down at least 2 Cattle Egrets and 1 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. From the photographs it was evident that these birds were completely at the mercy of the skua. Other birds seen to be pursued and caught also were a probable Little Blue Heron and some species of tern. The skua appeared to be getting plenty of opportunities for food by knocking other birds out of the sky.



Photo © Terri Underhill. Used with permission

The nesting range of the South Polar Skua is only in Antarctica and it nests on the ground, since there are no trees in Antarctica. They lay 1-3 eggs but usually 2. When the bird is not nesting it is an oceanic bird almost exclusively. During the Antarctic winter, which is our summer, this skua migrates northward to warmer climes and is infrequently seen as far north in latitude as Oklahoma in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

What a treat for so many people to have the unusual opportunity to see one of these truly oceanic birds inland—in Oklahoma, no less.

In Loving Memory

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marie Shepherd, long time Oklahoma City Audubon member and mother of Nancy Vicars. Marie passed away at her home on September 10. The October newsletter will feature an in depth remembrance by Patti Muzny.

South Polar Skua Makes Its Presence Known In Oklahoma City

By Nathan Kuhnert

Adding to an already impressive list of rare sea-birds to visit an Oklahoma City area lake is the South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*).

Maybe the rarest yet ([ABA code 3](#)), several hundred birders including many from surrounding states and as far away as Nebraska

came to see the bird. The Oklahoman even published a [story](#) on Aug 14th. In addition, blogs and pictures were posted to several prominent Internet birding sites including [aba blog](#) and [Surfbirds](#).

Tony Solorio of Oklahoma City discovered the skua around 4:30 PM on August 6th. The preliminary but guarded consensus from the birders that viewed the initial photographs and observed the bird on the lake on August 7th was a Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). The Cornell Lab responded after Chad Ellis' eBird posting with news that it was a skua. Soon after that posting the frenzy commenced. The skua cooperated for several days for many who came to see it. On Saturday, August 10, perhaps stressed by the sudden increase of recreational craft on the lake, quickly gained altitude and abruptly exited on the north side at approximately 11:30 AM.

Natural History

The South Polar Skua, named after the naval surgeon Robert McCormick, who collected the first specimen, belongs to a small group of parasitic birds of the gull family that includes three species of jaegers and five species of skuas. Unlike the jaegers that have two distinct color morphs, the skuas are mostly dark brown birds, with a pale morph in only one species. All skuas belong to the single genus *Stercorarius* but sometimes they have been placed in the genus *Catharacta*.

The taxonomy and the evolutionary relationships

between the two different groups of skuas and jaegers is complex. For instance, the Pomarine Jaeger shares some genetic and behavioral characteristics with the skuas but is more like the jaegers in plumage.

Remarkable findings of the diversity of the South Polar Skua's migration from the same breeding population on King George Island in the South Shetland Islands of Antarctica can be found in http://www.int-res.com/articles/meps_oa/m435p263.pdf. The skuas that were trans-equatorial migrants exhibited "figure-of-eight" routes from their breeding grounds to both the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans.

Only five to six records of South Polar Skua exist in the interior of the continent as most are associated with tropical storms. Those records include two from the interior of North Carolina in 1984 and 1986, North Dakota (1989), Tennessee (2005) and Georgia (2007). Another record exists for Nevada in the

1980s as a recovered banded skua's leg was later identified. ([Christopher Wood, Oklahoma listserv](#)).

Identification

Separating the South Polar Skua from other skuas requires advanced birding skills. Probably the strongest characteristic supporting the argument for the Oklahoma City bird's identification is that South Polar Skua is the default skua off the Lower 48 when seen during our summer months. Fortunately excellent and relatively close-up photographs were taken by several of our local birders.

Prominent diagnostic characteristics of this dark plumaged skua included bold white flashes on the primaries and a nuchal collar (lighter colored feathering across the nape). It also had a thick neck and bill and a short rounded tail. Several birders commented that it had a Herring Gull (*Larus smithsonianus*) jizz.

Understanding the skua's molt patterns is important in aging the bird and ultimately identifying it. The following article is a primary feathers molt score used to age and separate South Polar Skua from two other skua species: http://www.magikbirds.com/image.asp?title_id=382. Our bird had very worn primaries and appeared to be molting three of its inner-most primaries simultaneously. Certainly its molting sequence is consistent with a juvenile South Polar Skua according to the molt score.

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Photo © Deanne McKinney. Used with permission.

Skua (cont.)

The fact that the feathers are so worn would at first seem to be an indicator against a bird of the year (juvenile) as a bird fledged in early 2013 surely wouldn't be so ragged. However, per Dennis Paulson, the longer flight over the ocean (UV radiation wears them as much as or more than actual abrasion) must be considered. Also, Paulson has seen pale-based bills of South Polar Skuas in the same stage of wing molt in August off Oregon and Washington and they both seem to have quite worn and faded primary tips. The lack of a blue base to our bird would also seem to indicate that it's not a bird of the year (juvenile). However, do we know for sure how fast the bill changes to entirely black or if all juveniles have blue-based bills? In summary, it might take a while for a consensus to be reached on the age of our bird.



Photo © Terry Mitchell. Used with permission

Meanwhile, the [Oklahoma Birds Records Committee](#) (OBRC) that maintains the official bird list for Oklahoma will be reviewing many of the observations and photographs. They should have the ability to collaborate internally and also seek external help from subject matter experts more experienced with the skua complex. Once the members finish their review and decide, the chairman will prepare a report and file an official documentation. An early indication from the chairman is that there likely will not be a surprise story to the presumptive identification of South Polar Skua, and therefore a new state bird for Oklahoma.

Feeding Behavior

It didn't appear that [kleptoparasitism](#), which is a notorious feeding behavior in all Stercorarius, especially outside the breeding season, was the skua's preferred feeding habit. Instead it basically "had its cake and ate it too" by downing and eating several of the lake's common inhabitants out on the open water. Also, a failed attempt at either kleptoparasitism or simply predation of an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) occurred early in the evening on August 8th which was posted to the following link - <http://www.tulsaaudubon.org/membersgallery/okc-skua.htm>.

Closing Remarks

A lot has changed since John Newell's Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) discovery at Lake Hefner back in September 1970. It includes the rapid ascent of information exchange on the Internet, the continued evolution of advanced birding largely fueled by the Internet, and wide-use of highly advanced digital cameras coupled with great photographers. In addition to the excitement the skua provided for many of us, our identification skills, knowledge of the skua's natural history and geography awareness were advanced.

June 17, 2013 minutes

The May minutes were approved with the following correction: the spring OOS meeting was not held in Tishomingo, but was held in Broken Bow.

Treasurer's report: May and June reports show no unusual expenses with total of \$6034.32 in the account.

Refreshment signup list was distributed by Sue Woodson for next year's meetings beginning in September.

Conservation report by Dave Woodson included discussion of the Mini-Wildlife Expo on September 28th at Crystal Lake. Volunteers and ideas are welcome.

Field Trip Committee: none reported.

Guests included Chad Ellis, Jody Kerr, and Jake Moffatt.

OKC Audubon Society president Bill Diffin informed the group about the topic of Avian Phylogeny. Alternative methods of determining relationships among birds are being developed by scientists to supplement our knowledge in this area.

There was no old business or new business. The next meeting will be in September at the usual third Monday of the month.

Sharon Henthorn, Secretary

Cookie Patrol

The refreshments volunteers for the September 16th meeting are Terri Underhill Mary Lane, Steve Davis and Nancy Vicars.

New Members

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes new members: Royce Sandoval, Edmond, OK & Penny George, Oklahoma City

Recorders Report – Summer 2013

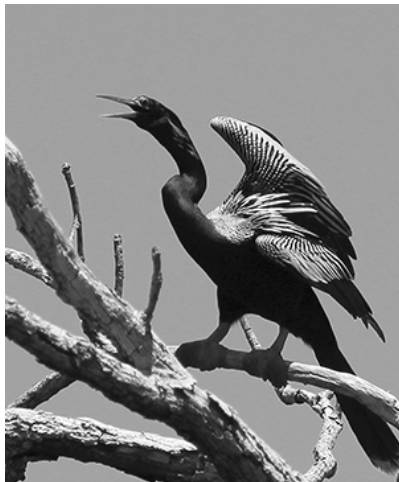
This summer was full of surprises from the weather to visiting bird species. Cool weather with lots of rain made it a pleasant summer with lively plant growth and insects available to feed the birds. BBS routes were run and other wanderings revealed a multitude of neotropical and resident nesting birds. Then an odd bird showed up and a once in a life-time sighting was possible for a multitude of birders.

JUNE

On the 1st Jim Bates checked the cofferdam at Lake Overholser and among the group of American White Pelicans, a juvenile **Brown Pelican** flew up. Later he located a Tricolored Heron. On the 3rd Mary and Lou Trux spotted a **Glossy Ibis**, Black Terns and Black-necked Stilts east of Morgan Road near 50th Street.

On the 7th Bill Diffin reported a Prothonotary Warbler singing in the woods north of Lake Overholser's Coffey Dam and at Rose Lake there were White-faced Ibis. On the 8th Sharon

Henthorn noticed Pied-billed Grebes in the Rose Lake area. In Grady County at Alex Marsh Joe Grzybowski discovered a Black Tern and Little Blue Heron. On the 9th Terri Underhill joined Allen Mueller from Conway, Arkansas and birded all day. At Lake Hefner they found a lingering Common Loon. While checking out the rookery on Council and 10th, Allen saw an **Anhinga** and Terri photographed it. On June 14th east of Dover Esther Key photographed an Upland Sandpiper.



In McClain County on the 13th Jeff Tibbits located a Red-bellied Woodpecker at the Kessler Atmospheric and Ecological Field Station; while near his home Larry Mays had a Chuck-will's Widow; and on the 28th Steven Hernandez heard a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. On June 15 the Deep Fork Audubon Society did a bird walk at M&M Iris in Seminole County, and saw Green Heron, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Painted Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Summer Tanager and Brown-headed Cowbird. In Garvin County on the 25th Nina Rubio found a Pileated Woodpecker, Greater Roadrunner, and American Kestrel. On the 26th west of Rose Lake Larry Mays and Chad Ellis discovered **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**.

JULY

In Kingfisher County on the 1st Mary and Lou Truex birded west of Dover and located Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Field Sparrows, Lark Sparrow, American Kestrel, and Bell's Vireo. On the 2nd, Chad Ellis had American Avocets across the road from the Yukon Water Treatment Plant. On the 6th Mary and Lou Truex had Black Terns at Wes Watkins Lake



Campground. On the 7th T K spotted a **Neotropic Cormorant** at Rose Lake. On the 9th Vicki Cortez had a Painted Bunting at her bird feeder near Arcadia, and T K had an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** along South Jenkins.

In Pottawatomie County along Macomb Road 1 on the 14th Joe Grzybowski identified a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo,

Summer Tanager and Blue Grosbeak. In Edmond on the 18th five Broad-winged Hawks flew through Bonnie and Dave McNeely's yard. On the 19th and 20th Matt Jung explored from Lake Overholser to Rose Lake and located Wood Ducks, Greater Yellowlegs, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpecker, and Least Flycatcher.

On the 28th along South Jenkins Jennifer Kidney, John and Anais Starr-Raeside saw a little family of Yellow-throated Warblers catching and eating bugs, and on the 31st Matt Jung heard a Louisiana Waterthrush, Belted Kingfisher, Blue Grosbeak, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Juliette Hulen reports the Purple Martin fall roosts are located in several trees next to the Chesapeake Arena - on Robinson between Reno & SW 2nd between 8:10 and 8:35 pm. It is a dramatic view with the Devon tower behind them.

AUGUST

On the 7th David Arbour advised the Oklahoma Bird List that Tony Solonio and his dad had sent him some pictures of an unusual, large, dark, gull-like bird with distinctive white wing patches found on Lake Overholser. The bird was identified later as a **South Polar Skua**.

Back to normal on the 9th Jimmy Woodard had a Rock Wren briefly land within 15 feet of him on south Council Road. On the 18th John Hurd observed a Black-bellied Whistling Duck at Fort Reno on a pond near the entrance. Meanwhile, since the OKC lakes are filled to the brim, birders are searching the playa lakes around Rose Lake for shorebirds. Jim Bates observed a single juvenile **White Ibis** near 50th and Morgan, and Bill Diffin located it the next morning. On the 20th John Hurd discovered a Least Tern at the OKC Water Treatment Lagoons. On the 22nd an adult female Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited Evan Tanner's yard in Stillwater; and on South Jenkins Dick Gunn saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher.

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Field Trip Schedule 2013-14

As of this writing many of the trips/ dates are tentative for 2013-'14; any trip w/o a date assigned is in this category. Check with Mark Delgrosso at: markdelg94@gmail.com or the website/ newsletter for updates and final scheduling/ cancellations.

SEPTEMBER 21: Backyard Birding

Bird the pond and watercourse in Mark Delgrosso's NW OKC neighborhood and then on to nearby Martin Nature Park. The former usually has loads of waterfowl and several species of wading birds, while the shore vegetation holds passerines and an occasional raptor. Leader: Mark Delgrosso [405 445 2300/markdelg94@gmail.com]. Meet at the Vondel Smith mortuary on MacArthur between Memorial and 122nd at 9 am.

OCTOBER 5: Backyard Birding

Audubon member Nancy Reed has graciously opened her property to interested members for a field trip. We're hoping for some migrants as well as some of the interesting regulars that call her property home. Leader: Mark Delgrosso [405 445 2300/ markdelg94@gmail.com]. Meet at 9 am at Nancy's: 6700 Glenn Circle, Norman.

OCTOBER 12: 'Big Sit' at Jimmy and Nadine's

The ultimate backyard birding experience – spending the day in one backyard (in this case Jimmy Woodard's and Nadine Varner's in Midwest City) logging as many species as possible. This is a come anytime, spend as much time, and go as you like event, but starting time is around 8 am. Address: 7845 NE 18th St., Midwest City
Leader: Jimmy Woodard [j.woodard@cox.net]

OCTOBER 18-20: OOS Fall meeting

[Broken Arrow]

DECEMBER 7: Pre-CBC Scouting Trip

Reconnaissance trip to Lake Overholser prior to the Christmas Bird Count. Leader: John Shackford [Johnsshack@aol.com] Meet at 8 am, west side of Overholser dam

DECEMBER 14: Annual Christmas Bird Count

Organizer: John Shackford [Johnsshack@aol.com]

FEBRUARY.8: TENTATIVE: Sooner Lake

Leader: Jim Bates [Jim-Bates@ouhsc.edu]

APRIL: Yukon City Park

Join Jimmy Woodard on a birding tour of his (former) stomping grounds. Leader: Jimmy Woodard [j.woodard@cox.net]

EARLY MAY: Tulsa birding hotspots

Leader: Jimmy Woodard [j.woodard@cox.net]

MAY [Memorial Day weekend]: Quivira Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

On to Kansas and Quivira for possible breeding Black Rails. Leader: Mark Delgrosso (405 445 2300/ markdelg94@gmail.com)

EARLY JUNE: McGee Creek WMA/McCurtain County Wilderness

Two productive, birdy areas with many specialties, the most notable of which is OK's sole population of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Also on the menu are Prairie Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and abundant Chuck-wills-widows. Because of the distance from OKC this trip will be planned for a [2 or 3 day] weekend. Leader: Mark Delgrosso – details and dates TBA.

JUNE: Club Picnic

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

Recorder's Report (continued)

On the 23rd in Logan County John Hurd located a Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Wood-Pewee and American Goldfinch at the North end of North Pine Street in Guthrie. On the 24th Jimmy had an **Acadian Flycatcher** in his backyard in Midwest City. On the 25th in Lincoln County Jimmy explored Meeker Lake and found Fish Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, White-eyed Vireo and Baltimore Oriole; and at Prague Lake City Park five Forster's Terns, a Red-shouldered Hawk, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. In Norman Dick Gunn had a Willow Flycatcher along South Jenkins and Emily Hjalmarson discovered a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Cherry Creek Park – River Trail.

On the 28th Steve Davis and Mary located Black-necked Stilts at Rose Lake which have been reported various times during the summer and is very, very rare. On the 29th John Hurd spotted an Osprey at Lake Hefner; on the 30th Chad Ellis located Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Yukon's 11th Street and NW 50th Street; and on the 31st Sharon Henthorn discovered a **Sanderling** at SW 149th Street and MacArthur. What a busy and interesting summer !!!

During the summer **152** bird species were reported with **11** new species which brought the 2013 year's total to **266** species in the Central Oklahoma area.

White Ibis sighting

I saw a single juvenile White Ibis on August 18, 2013 in a wet field with tall vegetation and some wet muddy areas near the corner of 50th St. and Morgan Rd., Canadian County, Oklahoma. This bird had a light brown breast and white belly with dark brown upperparts and two white feathers on the dark brown left wing that I could see. This bird was also observed the next morning by Bill Diffin who noted dark upper wings and a white back in flight with a light underside except for the flight feathers and that on the ground the bird was all brown with wings darker than the body and neck with a white covert feather on the left side. The bird was not seen a few days later probably because the small muddy area was rapidly drying up. Previous records for White Ibis in central Oklahoma are: an almost adult plumage individual (Mays, May 2, 1970) near the Canadian River, Tuttle, OK, two juveniles (Brooks and Thula Parkhill, July 8-21, 1978) at Rose Lake, Canadian County, sighting (John Newell, July 24-25, 1984) and a single juvenile (Brian Davis, July 25, 2012) at Lake Overholser.

—Jim Bates, Oklahoma City Audubon Society