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

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society Welcomes:

Northern Coastal Peru

The speaker for our April 17 meeting will be our association's president Bob Holbrook.

Peru is arguably the Number One country in the world for birding. Yes, it's true that some other countries are more birder-oriented like Costa Rica; Ecuador has more species per square mile (but it's a lot smaller); Brazil might actually have more species but it's huge (almost the size of the US). Peru, Brazil and Colombia have the 3 top bird lists in the world and their specific position varies almost yearly as there continues to be research discovering new species.

Peru continues to be either in the number one or number two spot regardless and has such a wide diversity of habitats that one can never be bored. Habitats run from pelagic, coastal desert, riverine woodlands, dry mountains, high plateau, cloud forests, rain soaked mountains, rivers and lakes at various altitudes, and deep jungle. The Andes for three massive ridges running north and south with deep cut valleys in between—each ridge with its own endemics, each valley containing its own endemics.

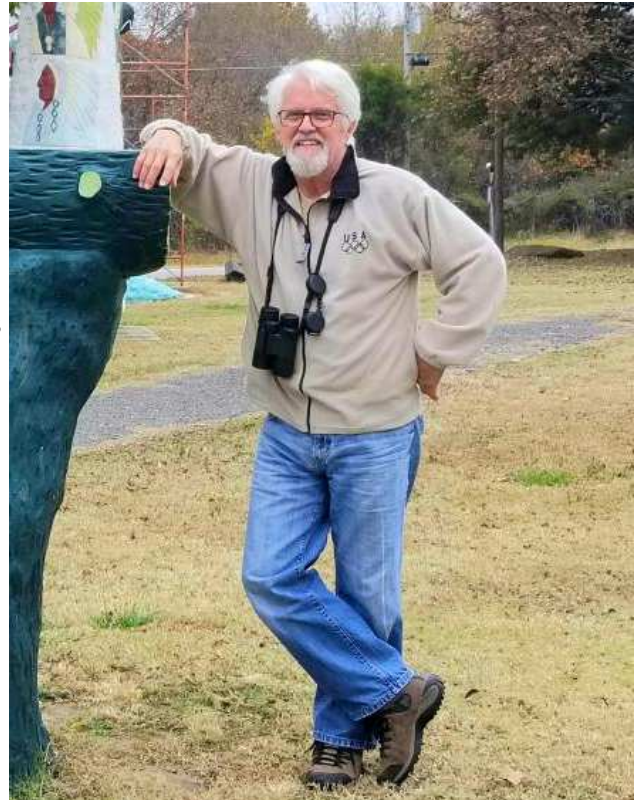
A month of intensive birding really does not do the country justice and there are so many nooks and crannies to investigate that all but the most hardened, serious birders will soon get exhausted and need a break. Ten-day trips tuned into specific areas work the best. This month's presentation will briefly open up one of those areas—North Coastal Peru.

Bob Holbrook lived in Peru a major portion of his life including much of his childhood and considers himself more Peruvian than anything else. It will be difficult for him to keep within the usual timeframe of our meetings.

Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month. 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

Since our last meeting, Spring has arrived! Swallows are checking out the underpasses, hummingbirds are wondering where their feeders are, Northern Parulas are "zipping" in the tops of cottonwoods and sycamores, wrens are nesting, and all the rest are well on their way.

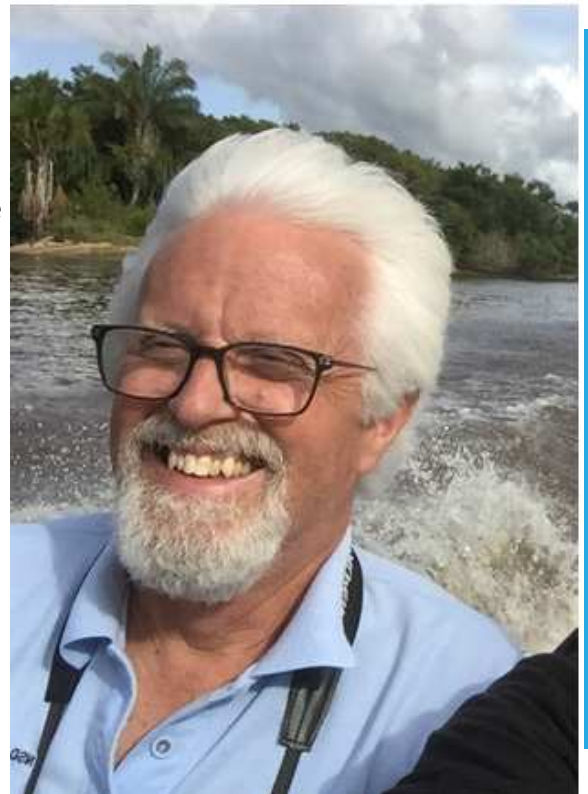
Everyone is wearing their fresh Spring feathers, everyone sings! Identification is easier, weather is actually enjoyable. Certainly, it's the best time of year for birding. Anywhere becomes a good spot for seeing birds. Back yards, a walk around the block, fresh air at the nearest community park--all are great places and you never know what will suddenly appear.

Migrations always find some bird that got a tad bit mixed up in directions and suddenly finds itself the star attraction drawing birders from all over to some non-descript normally boring spot--that spot you found and almost didn't check out because "I never see anything there anyway..."

Such was the case with a little European bird called a Blue Tit, that showed up in a lady's backyard once up in Massachusetts, a Painted Bunting at a feeder across the street from a church in Delaware. I suspect the pastor that Sunday might have hit a panic button when he arrived to preach and saw how full the parking lot was. Then there was that pair of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks that chose to nest below the lake at our camp in Seminole County (Wewoka Woods) one summer. I didn't even know they were there until a friend came in one day and asked about a strange looking duck or goose down at the lake--"a long neck, too long for a duck, dark underneath, and it didn't quack!" I grabbed my binoculars rather quickly, I'd say... You just never know...great time of year.

Birding in exotic places around the world is certainly fun--and we'll catch a glimpse at our meeting this Monday night--but birding local and expecting the unexpected is just as much fun and a whale of a lot less expensive.

Bob Holbrook, Pres.



Bob Holbrook on the Essequibo River, Guyana





Bird of the Month: Rough-legged Hawk

By Grace Huffman

The trees are blossoming, the birds are singing, and everything is turning green again. Spring is here and birds are beginning to move back north. One species that lingers a while though is a truly majestic sight to behold: the Rough-legged Hawk.

Rough-legged Hawks are large hawks with two color morphs. Dark birds look almost entirely black when perched, with large white patches in the wings and tail while

in flight. Light morph birds are patch brown all over, with paler heads. Females and immature have a very dark belly band, much darker and more solid than any Red-tailed Hawk. Light morphs also have dark “wrist patches” on the wings in flight, a good field mark for ID. They also will hover-hunt, but beware of Red-tailed Hawks also hovering on windy days.

Rough-legged Hawks breed in Alaska and Canada, where they typically nest on exposed cliffs. Even though they breed inside the arctic circle, where it’s constant daylight during the summer, they do still make a point to have some downtime during typical nighttime hours. Nests may have as many as 7 eggs!

When they migrate south for the winter, they can be found in grasslands over much of the US, but they are less common the farther south you go. Even here in Oklahoma they are much easier to find the farther north you go. I photographed the one here at Tallgrass Prairie a few months ago.



Look for these beautiful hawks in open areas like prairies and open fields here in the winter. They are currently listed as least concern with a stable population, so keep an eye out if you’re driving through open country!

References: allaboutbirds.org



OOS Date Guide

Be informed about the migratory patterns of Oklahoma birds! This 40-page pamphlet describes the temporal as well as geographic distribution of bird species in Oklahoma. Dividing the state into 7 geographic regions, it shows which species are expected and which are rare in each region, along with the dates during which each may be found there. Color photos on front and back covers. Seventh Edition, published in 2019. Purchase from the Oklahoma Ornithological Society at: <https://www.okbirds.org/m>

Recorder's Report

March 2023

When recording sightings from the various bird listing services for Oklahoma it is easy to go down a rabbit hole! Two birds that caught my attention for March are the Black Vulture and the Crested Caracara.



Guyla Mayo

Black Vultures were reported in 10 of the 12 counties of Central Oklahoma in March. Turkey Vultures were reported in 11 of the 12. The Black Vulture range seems to be expanding northward and causing livestock producers to look for solutions to their predation on newborn calves. Turkey Vultures are not known to kill their food but Black Vultures do at times.

The Crested Caracara may also be expanding its range northward. Joe Grzybowski wrote an article in 1997 investigating reported sightings beginning in 1944 of the Crested Caracara in Oklahoma. It was decided that not enough evidence existed to confirm their presence in Oklahoma at the time. This year eBird confirmed a Crested Caracara sighting in Coal County. Several people have spotted the bird and the location is listed on eBird. On February 9th one was confirmed in Fulton, Illinois!

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are returning and were reported in six counties! Ory S listed one in Edmond on the 10th in Edmond.



Both a Rock Wren and Winter Wren were included in sightings by Pat M and Hal Y on a trip to the Wichitas on 3/10.

Dave Arbour is reporting warblers and summer breeders returning to the Red Slough. It might be a good time for a field trip to southeast Oklahoma!

Mary and Lou T birded Hackberry Flats on the 27th. They spotted shorebirds, sparrows, and 250 Brewer's Blackbirds, among others.

Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported in the Lawton area on the 30th, so be on the lookout in Central Oklahoma.

Red-tailed Hawks are the most reported Bird of Prey on eBird with all 12 counties reporting sightings.

Some interesting listings:

Franklin's Gull

3/2 - Devin B – Lake Hefner

Baird's Sandpiper

3/3 - Steve S – Lake Hefner

Barn Swallow

3/7 – Trina A – OCCC

Eared Grebe

3/9 – Steve D – Lake Overholser

Black-crowned Night Heron

3/11– Steve D – Zoo Lake

White-winged Scoter

3/11 – Landon N – Sooner Lake

Yellow-headed Blackbird

3/12 – Jody B – North of Yukon

Snowy Egret

3/24 – Steve S, Grace H, Steve D – Lake Hefner

California Gull

3/25 – Joe G – Lake Hefner

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

3/23 – Zach D – Norman

Ferruginous Hawk

3/24 – Joe G – McClain County

Clay-colored Sparrow

3/29 – Rosario D – Norman

Neotropic Cormorant

3/28 – Steve S – Lake Hefner

Neotropic Cormorant

3/29 – Cody D – Lake Thunderbird

Long-billed Curlew

3/31 – Kyle W and Marissa B – Lake Hefner reported but not confirmed on eBird)

The information for this report was collected from eBird, ABA Bird News, and the Oklahoma List Serve on March 29, 30, 31. Any errors are solely mine. Please feel free to contact me with questions, suggestions, or complaints at guyla1mae@gmail.com. I make every effort to give proper credit for the 1st sighting of any bird but it is difficult at times. Thanks for your patience.

The Mighty Quinn is back with his family

By Terri Underhill



On April 8th around 7:30PM Jessie Pline from WildCare returned the Mighty Quinn to his Great Horned Owl family in my Edmond yard. I am so thankful WildCare was able to get Quinn healthy enough to return home after caring for him for 23 days. Quinn's sister Owlsha was quite startled to see her brother dropped back into the barrel after being gone for so long. He is noticeably smaller than Owlsha now. At WildCare, Quinn was only fed mice and Owlsha has been dining on rabbit since Quinn's absence.

Quinn was very skittish his first night home. And Owlsha was apprehensive to share her barrel again with her brother and she certainly wasn't used to sharing prey. After a few days they became snuggle buddies once again.

Both parents, Jack and Carol, were very surprised to see to see two owlets in the barrel after Quinn's

return. Quinn will learn to be more aggressive about getting his share of prey.

Quinn and Owlsha are just over 5 weeks old but it won't be long before they will be branching out. Owlsha has already been balancing on the barrel edge and exercising her wings. It makes me a nervous wreck to watch her.

The owlets will have fledged by our May meeting. Jack and Carol will continue feeding them through the summer and by the end of September they will need to find their own territory.

I look forward to Jack and Carol returning again next nesting season. And I wish all the best to Quinn and Owlsha. I still have my wildlife cams at www.okiebirdcam.com if you wish to watch.



Eating chocolate is now better for birds, humans, and the planet.

The Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI) has expanded its Smithsonian Bird Friendly certification program to include standards for cocoa farming. This is the only certification that guarantees 100 percent of the cocoa produced comes from farms that conserve birds and other wildlife by protecting forests and native shade trees.

Globally, most cocoa is grown in monocultures that destroy forests and remove native trees. While this potentially increases the amount of cocoa produced, it destroys vital habitat and often requires environmentally harmful pesticides and fertilizers. Instead of clearing rainforests to plant cocoa trees, Bird Friendly-certified cocoa trees are grown under and alongside the shade of native trees that provide food and shelter to migratory birds and tropical wildlife.



Minutes of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society Meeting

March 20, 2023

By Patti Muzny, Secretary

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM at the Will Rogers Garden Center by President Bob Holbrook. Nancy Vicars presented a treasurer's report and distributed copies. Cash on hand as of March 20, 2023, was \$8,549.88. The minutes of the February 20, 2023, meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

The next meeting will be held at the Will Rogers Garden Center on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Visitors and new members were welcomed.

President Bob Holbrook presented a variety of ideas for items to consider presenting to future speakers, including a tag for the front of vehicles with a Scissortail logo, a tote bag, tumblers and mugs and possibly a years' membership to OCAS. A vote was taken to continue researching this project and to use OCAS funds when a decision is reached.

Larry Mays shared a few comments on the March 6th Field Trip to the Wichita Mountains. Molly Spencer Farms is holding another birding event for the public in late April and would like for OCAS to lead bird walks. Grace Huffman is planning to lead a field trip to the Crystal Lake area in the near future.

Some of the recent spring sightings in our area are Fish Crows, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Screech Owl and Cinnamon Teal.

The group enjoyed another very informative program on the subject of research that's on-going with Saw-whet Owls by Laura Hulbert, currently a graduate student at Northeastern University in Tahlequah.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Muzny
Secretary



Saturday, April 29, 2023

8:00am to 10:00am

This field trip to Mollie Spencer Farm in Yukon, led by Nancy Vicars, will be a public outing.

Location: 1001 Garth Brooks Blvd. (NE corner of Garth Brooks and Vandament St. in Yukon). **Parking is located at the school parking lot on the north side. Do NOT park in the meadow inside the farm.**

Details: 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Leader: Nancy Vicars, nancy.vicars@sbcglobal.net

The farm is not open to the general public outside of regularly-scheduled events hosted at the farm.

Refreshments

Refreshment Volunteers for Apr 17, 2023:

Snacks: Mary Lane and Steve Davis, Jeanne Mather, Lonnie Holbrook and Susan Schmidt.

Ice and drinks: Cheryl Allen