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

## Balancing Renewable Energy Growth... Wildlife Conservation

**Our April 21 OKC Audubon meeting speaker will be Stevee Kennard with a program "Balancing Renewable Energy Growth with Environmental Stewardship: Navigating Permitting and Wildlife Conservation."**

Stevee is the Director of Environmental Permitting at National Renewable Solutions with much experience in environmental compliance for utility-scale wind, solar, and battery energy storage projects across the United States. She holds a Master of Science from Florida Atlantic University, where her research focused on wetland restoration in the Kissimmee River Basin in central Florida—an experience that shaped her commitment to balancing conservation with renewable energy growth.

She has worked extensively with federal and state wildlife agencies, as well as environmental non-profits, to assess and mitigate project impacts on wildlife. Her expertise lies in developing strategies to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental impacts when avoidance isn't feasible, ensuring responsible and sustainable renewable energy development. Research data will primarily focus on wind energy impacts for birds and bats.

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



## Dues are Overdue

Pay online or at the meeting or you will be removed from the Membership List! [CLICK HERE](#)

# President's Perspective

Most of the over-wintering birds have flown north and are either gone or less common a month now into spring. Now is the time to resume our training and practice in identifying bird sounds, as viewing is much more difficult with foliage covering the trees. Today at Zoo Lake I used my Merline ID to assist me, but saw very few of the identified birds. I don't count them unless I independently see or hear the bird. Nevertheless dozens of birds that I was unaware of were flying among the trees. I also was reminded how many common birds I was missing whose song and calls were unfamiliar to me.

That leads me to a website that help improve our birding ID accuracy and enjoyment: <https://www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica/> that includes recording info of birds globally and can be customized for the individual birder as needed.

Optimizing this skill will definitely improve results in bird surveys and when traveling in unfamiliar areas.



Last month I mentioned in our meeting that I find OKBirds to be a good email communication list for sharing information. Go to <https://www.suttoncenter.org/education/oklahoma-birds-directory/> for subscription directions.

Sharon Henthorn

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## *An antiviral chewing gum to reduce H1N1 transmission*

Source: University of Pennsylvania

Low vaccination rates for influenza viruses and the lack of an HSV vaccine underscore the need for a new approach to reduce viral transmission. Researchers have now used a clinical-grade antiviral chewing gum to substantially reduce viral loads. Building on their previous work -- now in clinical trial -- showing that a similar approach was able to reduce SARS-CoV-2 in COVID-19 patient saliva or swab samples by more than 95%, Henry Daniell, W.D. Miller Professor in Penn's School of Dental Medicine, and collaborators tested the ability of a chewing gum made from lablab beans, *Lablab purpureus* -- that naturally contain an antiviral trap protein (FRIL) -- to neutralize two herpes simplex viruses (HSV-1 and HSV-2) and two influenza A strains (H1N1 and H3N2). The chewing gum formulation allowed for effective and consistent release of FRIL at sites of viral infection. f two herpes simplex viruses and two influenza A strains in experimental models.

Previously, bean powder was shown by others to effectively neutralize H5N1 and H7N9 -- two strains of influenza A known to cause bird flu in humans as well as in birds. Daniell and colleagues are currently looking to test its use in bird feed to help control bird flu in birds.





## Bird of the Month: Scaled Quail

*By Grace Huffman*

In more rural parts of the state (and in some pockets of the big city) you'll hear the calling of Northern Bobwhites. But if you're out in the Oklahoma panhandle, you might hear a different sound: the calling of Scaled Quail.

Scaled Quail are a game bird that lives in the arid regions of the southwest United States, ranging from Colorado, down into Mexico. Here in Oklahoma they can be found primarily in the panhandle, but occasionally in the far western part of the main body of the state.

A little bit bigger than their more widespread counterparts, Scaled Quail are an overall grayish brown, with a white tuft on the top of the head and a scaled pattern on the feathers from the chest to the belly. This time of year males are calling to attract a mate, so look for them in fence posts and or other open spots. Single males may call throughout the summer. Once they are a pair, the male and female work together to create a shallow nest on the ground. The female may lay over a dozen eggs in one clutch! Once the babies hatch, they are able to walk around and follow their parents. It is quite something to see a pair of adults with several tiny babies trailing behind. You can also look for coveys running beside the road, or between cactus or other shrubs. It can be quite a commotion when they flush!

Overall, Scaled Quail populations can fluctuate year to year, as unexpectedly cold weather or drought can affect food supplies. They are listed as Least Concern, but considered to be in decline. One of their greatest long term risks is overgrazing, which affects the availability of both shelter and food.

Next time you're out in the panhandle I hope you get to see some of these beautiful birds!

Reference: [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)



Scaled Quail © Grace Huffman



# "STATE OF THE BIRDS" – 2025

The release of the 2025 *U.S. State of the Birds* report was announced in mid-March at the 90th annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The report, produced by a coalition of leading science and conservation organizations, revealed continued widespread declines in bird populations, with 229 species requiring some level of urgent conservation action.

The new report shows that over a third of U.S. bird species are of high or moderate conservation concern, including 112 "Tipping Point" species that have lost more than 50% of their populations in the last 50 years. That includes 42 "Red-Alert" species facing perilously low populations such as the [Allen's Hummingbird](#), [Tricolored Blackbird](#), and [Saltmarsh Sparrow](#) — which are species that are at risk without immediate intervention. Perhaps most notably, waterfowl populations, which have been a bright spot in previous *State of the Birds* reports, have trended downward in recent years.

The report also describes key efforts - from coastal restoration and conservation ranching to forest renewal and seabird translocations — to illustrate how proactive, concerted efforts and strategic investments can help to recover



some bird populations. Private land conservation programs and associated partnerships on working lands offer some good opportunities for initiating turnarounds for birds.

Efforts to reverse bird declines can carry added benefits such as robust working lands, cleaner water, and resilient landscapes (e.g., able to withstand fires, floods, and drought) as well as a healthy public appreciation, that can connect people in many ways to birds and nature.

You can find a good summary of the report from the American Bird Conservancy here:

<https://abcbirds.org/news/2025-state-of-the-birds/>

And you can access the full report here:

<https://www.stateofthebirds.org/2025/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/state-of-the-birds-sotb-2025-spreads.pdf>







The Mississippi River was just named America's Most Endangered River on [American Rivers'](#) annual list. In light of this designation, Audubon is taking a moment to recognize and reflect on the importance of the Mississippi River to human, bird, and wildlife communities, and what we must do to protect it for future generations.

## THREAT: INCREASED FLOODING, INADEQUATE DISASTER PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The Mississippi is “America’s River,” flowing through the nation’s heartland, providing drinking water for 20 million people and supporting vital agriculture, industry, and recreation. But frequent and severe floods are threatening lives and businesses, while the river’s health declines. Communities along the river need significant support for disaster prevention and response, as well as river restoration – but the fate of the lead federal agency, FEMA, hangs in the balance. The Trump administration should modernize FEMA to improve river health and maximize the safety, security, and prosperity of Mississippi River communities.

The Mississippi is the world’s fourth largest river system—its basin includes all or part of 32 states and two Canadian provinces. Glacial movement shaped the Upper Mississippi River Basin, leaving fertile soils, rolling hills, and lakes in their wake. Meltwater from the glaciers carved the landscape, including the path of the Mississippi River. Flowing south, the river transformed into a historic [30 to 125 mile-wide](#) river valley that regularly experienced flooding and river meandering, with permanent and temporary wetlands widespread across the landscape. The Mississippi River and its wetlands provide critical habitat for birds and wildlife to thrive throughout the region. The river’s history helps us understand not only the past, but the present: how it interacts with the land, how people interact with it, and how we might envision its future.

**The Mississippi River is the centerpiece of the Mississippi Flyway. Some 60 percent of North American migratory bird species use the Mississippi Flyway for their migratory journeys. The river provides crucial stopover habitat and nesting and foraging grounds.** Other fish and wildlife, such as the endangered Pallid Sturgeon and the historically threatened Louisiana Black Bear, rely on riverine and wetland habitats as well.

While the river has adapted to changes throughout its history, it now faces unprecedented human-caused and natural threats. Protecting the river and its habitat from extreme weather events and impacts from urban and agricultural development is more important than ever.

# Minutes of the OKC Audubon Society Meeting March 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Sharon Henthorn.

Attendance: 34 members, no guests or new members

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Vicars presented the report, which was approved as read. Cash on hand: \$9,446.35.

February Minutes: Read and approved.

Field Trips:

Saturday, March 22 @ 8AM - Mitch Park in Edmond - Hal will lead a walk, meet near the skate park.

OOS Spring Meeting will be April 11-13 at Lake Murray State Park. Visit OKBirds.org for more info.

Jimmy and Nadine are moving to Tulsa, so we will need someone to take over as refreshment chair.

Colton Herzog, PHD candidate from Oklahoma State University, gave a fantastic talk about spiders!

Next meeting will be Monday, April 21, 2025, where Steve Kennard, Director of Environmental Permitting at National Renewable Solutions, will give a presentation titled "Balancing Renewable Energy Growth with Environmental Stewardship: Navigating Permitting and Wildlife Conservation."

—Cole Penning, Secretary



## Citizen Science Report

by Sharon Henthorn

**There are lots of upcoming opportunities to participate in projects of birding data collection.**

Birdlam 2025. Payne County Big Day is April 26  
Details: <https://paynecountyaudubonsociety.com/>

2025 Cornell Lab Global Big Day is May 10  
Details: <https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-10-may-2025>

USGS Breeding Bird Survey May to July  
Details: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/>

This is a yearly survey of breeding birds in the US and Canada as identified on specific routes of 25 miles each. As many as 23 routes are available yet in Oklahoma. The most important requirement is being able to confidently identify specific birds by sound and sight. Tips and instructions are included for improving results. It's a great way to become more familiar with birds in a designated area year after year while putting your skills to good use for avian research

