

## Officers

President	Bob Holbrook
Vice President	Grace Huffman
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Treasurer	Nancy Vicars
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Programs	Warren Harden
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Conservation	Ann Sherman
Field Trips	Nancy Vicars Jimmy Woodard Hal Yocum Bob Holbrook
Newsletter	Patricia Velte
Publicity	Doug Eide
Historian	Vacant
Refreshments	Patti High
Webmaster	Patricia Velte
Public Relations	Terri Underhill

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

## New Member:

Brooke Joski, OKC

# Tall Bird Tales

Tall Bird Tales will again highlight our annual December meeting on **December 18**, accompanied by holiday culinary delights and camaraderie.

Bring yourselves and your anecdotes and yarns to regale fellow members with your wonderful, beautiful, harrowing or death defying birding experiences.

Great birds have shown up in Oklahoma some truly great birders have had truly great times with those and many other birds.

Come out for the fun and friendship and sharing. A good time will be had by all. We gather in the round to relate a birding story or other personal event of interest and/or humor for the entire group. So, get your story straight, true or otherwise, and regale us on **Monday night, December 18**.



Northern Saw-whet Owl © Terri Underhill

Refreshments: Everyone is encouraged to bring something to share.

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.

**NOTICE:** Due to scheduling conflicts at the Will Rogers Garden Center, the **January meeting**, will now be held on the **third TUESDAY (January 16) in 2024**.

# President's Perspective

Monday night will be our annual Tall Tales—all members (and visitors) are invited to share a memorable “experience”. Whether it’s true or not, stretched or condensed, funny or sad is not the issue.

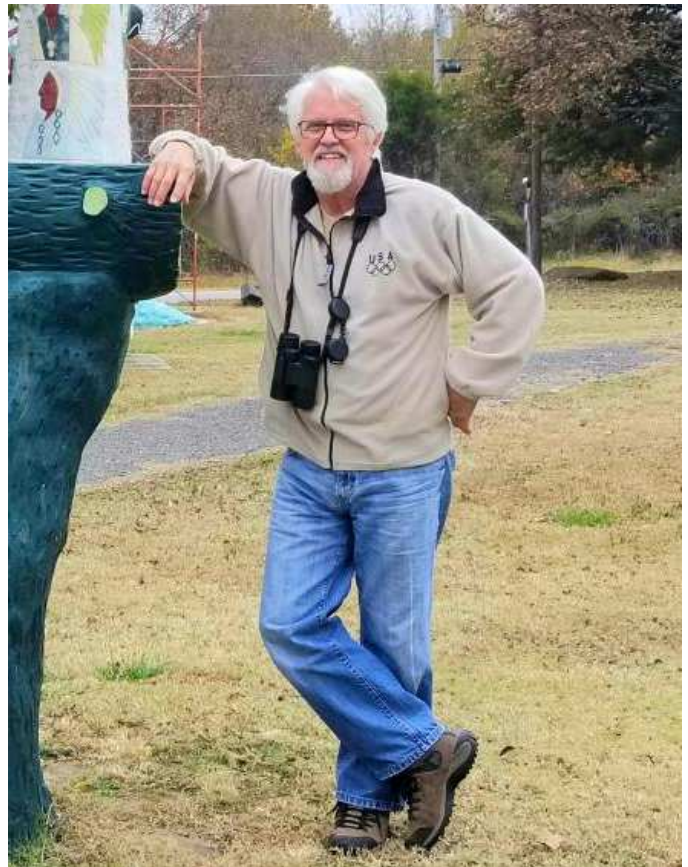
Since only a fraction of our 150 members will likely be in attendance, I thought I’d take the opportunity to share one of my experiences via this, our newsletter.

It happened back on May 21, 1975. (At least that’s what my checklist says.) We were living on our mission airbase along the horseshoe lake known as Yarinacocha near Pucallpa, Peru. By that time I had seen all of South America’s kingfishers except the Green-and-Rufous. That morning before hopping onto my Honda dirt bike to ride onto town and the office I read again De Schauensee’s description. “5. Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda*. 9”. Above dark oily green, wings and tail spotted with buffy white. Throat buff, deepening to ferruginous on belly. Similar but with green and white breast band.”

The range included “e Peru” with a habitat of “forested rivers, mangroves.” I knew we had both range and habitat right for it but somehow it had eluded me for a couple years. By the way, the Pygmy Kingfisher description reads “Miniature replica of 5 but center of belly white.” I tried to visualize—I had seen the Pygmy the year before along the Huallaga River—that is for a whole other story!



Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, female



I strapped my briefcase on the back of the bike with my usual change of clothes in it. (When the road is dry it’s terribly dusty, when it’s wet, it’s terribly muddy). I then proceeded to head down the road into town about 15 miles away. As I crossed the first of several log “bridges” that crossed the streams flowing into our lake, I glanced to my left and there quietly sitting on a small branch overlooking the water just a few feet away sat THE KINGFISHER! facing me as though to show off its nice rich rufous belly. The rest of the trip in passed very quickly and I suppose I had a few bugs in my teeth from the big grin on my face.

The return trip that evening though was a different story...to be continued at our meeting Monday night.

*Bob Holbrook  
President*



## Bird of the Month: Red-shouldered Hawk

*By Grace Huffman*

Adult Red-shouldered Hawks are gorgeous birds. Smaller than Red-tailed Hawks, you'll often see them in open woodlands near water. Orangey over-all in the head, chest, and shoulders with black & white primaries and a boldly banded tail. In flight, look for pale crescents towards the ends of the wings. Their young can be a bit tricky to identify though. Juveniles aren't very orange at all, so they can look very similar to red-tailed hawks. Look for Red-tailed Hawk juveniles to have more of a belly band (vs even streaking across the chest), and a lot of white in the scapulars (vs a more even dark back for Red-shouldered). Juvenile Red-shouldered Hawks also have the pale crescents visi-

ble in flight.

They are very vocal, so listen for several repeated "see-ya, see-ya" in succession. But be wary, Blue Jays love to repeat their call! I have found that often Blue Jays will not repeat the "see-ya" as many times as a Red-shouldered, and sometimes don't sound quite as good as a real hawk.

These birds are primarily eastern birds, becoming more rare the farther west you go in the state. Most of their range is Oklahoma, Texas, and east, with one lone subspecies out on the west coast. Here around the metro area, I often get them at Lakes Hefner and Overholser, where I've seen them with snakes as a meal. They will eat lizards, snakes, and rodents in their diet.

Red-shouldered Hawks will reuse the same nest year after year, sprucing it up before the female lays her eggs. Very early on, the young learn to aim their poo away from the nest, so a lot of whitewash on the ground likely indicates an active nest. Once they leave the nest, they will stay in juvenile plumage for a year before molting into a gorgeous adult.

They are listed as least concern and increasing, so hopefully on your next birding venture you will spot one! I took this photo of a young bird on Sunday.

References: [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org) and Sibley's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*.



Red-shouldered Hawk, juvenile © Grace Huffman

# Recorder's Report

## November 2023

Some of the most reported birds for November in the 12 counties of central Oklahoma include Red-tailed Hawks in all 12 counties, Bald Eagles reported in 8, and American Kestrels also in 8 counties. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported in 9 counties and Golden-crowned Kinglets in 4. Dark-eyed Juncos and Harris's Sparrows were both in 10 counties. November saw 168 species reported on e-bird.



Guyla Mayo

## November Sightings

### Oklahoma County

Ruby-throated Hummingbird 2<sup>nd</sup>  
OKC Marion H

Black Scoters (10) 11<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Hefner Devin B, Jerry V (2), Grace H

Black Scoter 15<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Arcadia Hal Y

Surf Scoter 12<sup>th</sup>  
Crystal Lake Grace H, Brian M

Spotted Sandpiper 13<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Overholser Trina A

White-faced Ibis 17<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Hefner Trina A

Snowy Egret 20<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Overholser Steve D

Northern Parula 21<sup>st</sup>  
Lake Hefner Zachary A

Pacific Loon 26<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Hefner Jerry V,  
Trina A, Grace H, Steve D



### Payne County

Common Nighthawk 5<sup>th</sup>  
Tantara Rd Scott L

White-tailed Kite 10<sup>th</sup>  
Glencoe Mike Y

Clay-colored Sparrow 11<sup>th</sup>  
Glencoe Steve S

Red Crossbill 15<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Carl Blackwell  
Scott L, Lucas B

American Avocet 17<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Carl Blackwell  
Scott L

Rough-legged Hawk 19<sup>th</sup>  
Perkins Mike Y

Rough-legged Hawk 19<sup>th</sup>  
Perkins Mike Y

Pectoral Sandpiper 19<sup>th</sup>  
Cushing WTP Mike Y

Solitary Sandpiper 19<sup>th</sup>  
Cushing WTP Mike Y

Surf Scoter 20<sup>th</sup>  
Boomer Lake Scott L, George Z, Mike Y, Alex H, Sara L,  
Julia H

Snowy Egret 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Boomer Lake Jesse P

Little Gull 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Lake Carl Blackwell Scott L

Spotted Sandpiper 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Lake Carl Blackwell Scott L

American Tree Sparrow 24<sup>th</sup>  
Orlando Mike Y

Tree Swallow 26<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Carl Blackwell Alex H, Scott L

Black-legged Kittiwake 28<sup>th</sup>  
Sooner Lake Landon N, Jesse P (maybe Noble County)



### Cleveland County

Purple Finch 11<sup>th</sup>  
Norman Joseph S

Red Crossbill 13<sup>th</sup>  
Norman Cody D

Pectoral Sandpiper 21<sup>st</sup>  
Lake Thunderbird Joe G  
Eastern Screech Owl 23<sup>rd</sup>  
WildCare Ok Jesse P

## McClain

Ferruginous Hawk 21<sup>st</sup>  
Cole Sarah B

## Logan County



Prairie Falcon 15<sup>th</sup>  
Mulhall Aaron S

*Information for this report was gathered from eBird, ABA Birding News, Facebook and Oklahoma List Serve. Any questions, comments or corrections should be referred to me at [guyla1mae@gmail.com](mailto:guyla1mae@gmail.com).*



## For anyone interested in creating more habitat

The Oklahoma Department of Forestry sells bare root seedlings of native species for a dollar apiece. Order now for pickup in the spring. They do sell out. The wildlife bundle includes 25 Red Mulberry, 25 Shumard Oak, 25 Smooth Sumac and 25 Hackberry.

Bare-root seedlings are seedlings with uncovered roots, which require extra care to keep the roots moist. Containerized seedlings are grown in small tubes. All seedlings are one or two years old, and are grown to allow for quick planting. OFS offers seedlings from January to late March. They can not be resold but can be given away. Pick ups will be scheduled on Fridays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. mid-January through March at the Forest Regeneration Center (FRC) in Goldsby.

The minimum order is 100 seedlings. **A staff member will call you when your order is ready.** Seedlings will be available as harvesting and weather allow.

If anyone is interested in splitting a bundle, let Jim Landis know [j.Landis@Yahoo.com](mailto:j.Landis@Yahoo.com), and he'll try to work something out.

**For more information, please call FRC at 405-288-2385 ext 101.**

## Christmas Bird Count

This year's CBC will be held on **Saturday, December 16, 2023!** A count party will be at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler at 2652 W Britton Road, OKC. A front room is reserved from 5:30 to 8:00 where we'll read the list starting around 6:30.

Please see the newsletter article from last year's [count](#) where we logged 113 species and over,22,300 birds!

I can only add birds that are compiled on these [checklists \(download\)](#) and for parties with multiple territories, I respectfully ask that the party leader also compiles a master list.

We always encourage new counters and if you contact me , I'll do my best to assign you to a team or a territory if one is available. Lastly, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Nathan  
405.496.2077  
[nrkuhnert@hotmail.com](mailto:nrkuhnert@hotmail.com)



# Minutes of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society Meeting

November 20, 2023

By Patti Muzny, Secretary

President Bob Holbrook opened the meeting at 7:00 PM at the Will Rogers Garden Center. The treasurer's report was presented by Nancy Vicars. Cash on hand as of November 19, 2023 was \$8,163.24. The minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting were approved as published.

Since the October meeting, three new members were welcomed.

The Nominating Committee chair, Steve Davis, presented the following candidates for 2024 officers: President: Bob Holbrook, Vice-President, Cathy Chernausk and John Eagleston, Treasurer, Nancy Vicars, and Secretary, Cole Penning. Nominations were unanimously accepted.

Steve Davis offered an amendment "after the fact" regarding the Vice-Presidency: "Cathy Chernausk and John Eagleston will serve as co-Vice-presidents. Should the President be unavailable to preside at a meeting, either of the co-VPs will fulfill that role individually. If the President is unavailable to fulfill other functions, e.g., holding committee meetings or preparing a newsletter article, the co-VPs may choose to share those responsibilities."

Patti High made the snack sign-up sheet available and reminded members that our December meeting will be our annual "Tall Tales" and everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite snack and bird story to share. The snack sign-up sheet is still lacking members to provide snacks.

Nancy Vicars mentioned that our next meeting will be held on TUESDAY January 16th.

Terri Underhill and Hal Yocum shared their experiences with participating in the banding of Saw-whet Owls in NE Oklahoma. Hal also saw a Merlin in his yard.

Larry Mays brought a "mystery feather" which was identified as a Helmeted Guinea at the end of the meeting. Larry also mentioned a good, but sad book – *Paradise Found*. Jerry Vanbebber also mentioned "Life on This Planet," currently available on Netflix, where Episode 6 covers facts on birds.

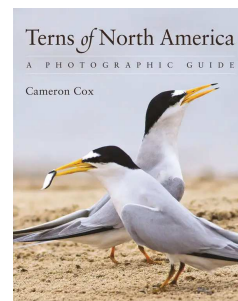
Bob told the group that he saw the last two wild California Condors near Bakersfield. He also said the Peregrine Foundation is releasing more captive raised Condors. Warren mentioned that several years ago, the Sutton Center turned down being a release center for Condors.

Dr. Joe Grzybowski, enlightened and entertained members with timely tips for identifying winter sparrows.

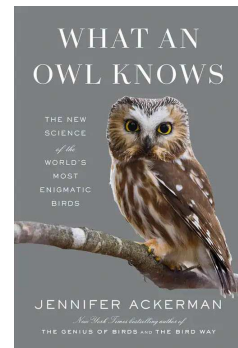
## Best Birding Books of 2023

A compilation of recommendations from reviewers at ABA.org, and 10,000Birds.com

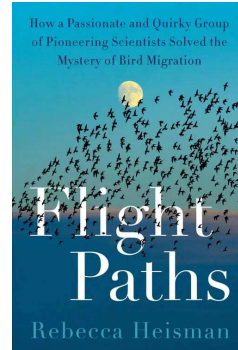
[\*Terns of North America: A Photographic Guide\*](#) –  
Cameron Cox



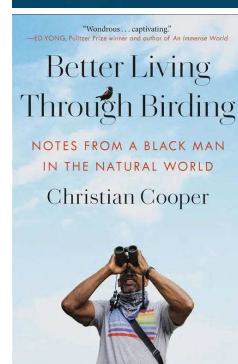
[\*What an Owl Knows\*](#) –  
Jennifer Ackerman



[\*Flight Paths\*](#) –  
Rebecca Heisman



[\*Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World\*](#) – Christian Cooper



[\*End of Eden: Wild Nature in the Age of Climate Breakdown\*](#) –  
Adam Welz

