

The Will Rogers Garden Center will be closed Mon. June 19 in honor of the Juneteenth holiday. Our meeting will be held on Tues. June 20.

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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:*

Candaca Marshall, OKC

Mamie Robinette, OKC

## Bolivia Birding Bonanza

The speaker for our **Tuesday, June 20** meeting will be Doug Wood

Dr. Doug Wood will provide an audio-visual presentation over his 2022 birding trip to Bolivia. Bolivia has the 6th highest amount of avian biodiversity in the world, yet is often overlooked by birders. This presentation will cover birds and habitats ranging from Amazonian lowlands to the High Andes. Dr. Wood will exhibit photos of various bird species and videos of some interesting behaviors observed along the way, including his 5000th world species (Clements). Come learn about the amazing Bolivian avifauna and this fascinating country.



Dr. Doug Wood is a Professor of Biological Sciences at South-eastern Oklahoma State University and has taught there since 2001. He originally hails from Lawrence, Kansas, but earned his BA in Biology from Boston University, MS in Zoology from Eastern Illinois University, and Ph.D. in Forestry and Wildlife Ecology from Mississippi State University. Currently, Dr. Wood teaches a wide variety of classes including Ornithology, Field Ornithology, Zoology, Mammalogy, Wildlife Management, Conservation of Natural Resources, and Bioethics. Dr. Wood is an ornithologist and has published >50 research papers on a wide variety of topics including brood parasitism, migrant stopover ecology, and the ecology of cavity nesting species ranging from Red-cockaded Woodpeckers to Prothonotary Warblers to Tree Swallows. Dr. Wood is an avid birder and amateur photographer. He has birded in >30 countries and recently crossed over the 5000 global bird species observed benchmark. He sits on the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee and is President of the new Texoma Audubon Society.

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:

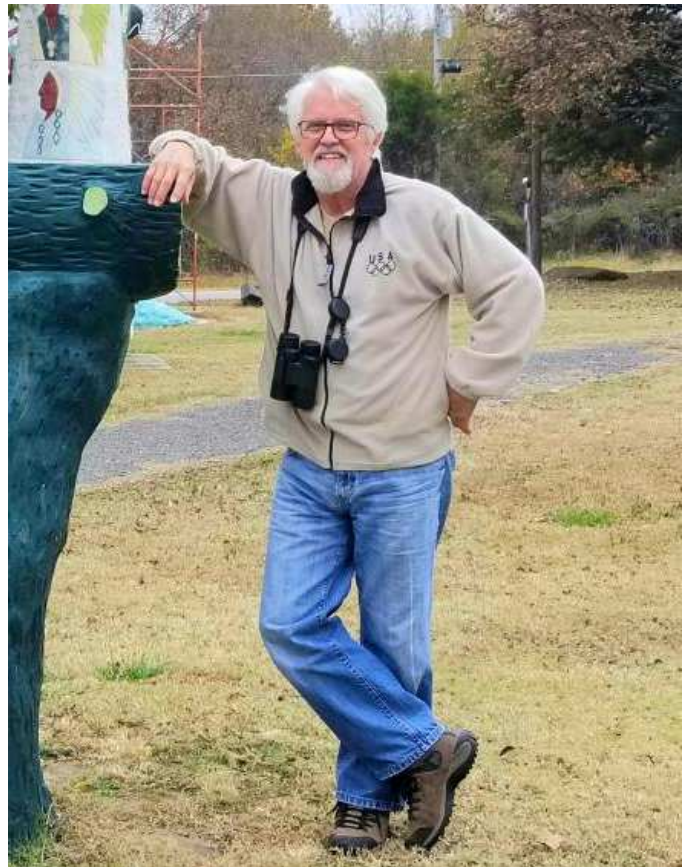
Our meetings are held at the Will Rogers Garden center, located at the intersection of NW 36th Street and I-44.

# President's Perspective

Summer is in full swing. For me that means Summer Camps here at Wewoka Woods are going full speed ahead. As I write this we have 90 juniors attending enjoying horseback riding, swimming, lake activities, crafts and (my part) nature. Keeps me busy and I like to think young (but my body tends to disagree).

Summer for me has also meant a bit of a lull in birding for the simple reason that once I've seen all the nesters in the area, that's it—or so I've kind of always thought. Then this month's Birding came along with an article on "Summer migrants" ....??? Really? Have I been missing stuff out there just because I thought these months were the Summer doldrums?

Some time ago, I was made aware of the fact that shorebirds tend to be the first/early Fall migrants. By August, many or even most are heading south but I was not aware that there was a dispersal and southward movement of songbirds that starts as early as July! I simply never thought of it, never expected it, so never looked. Now I'm curious. By mid July I'll be done here at camp so—I'll have to grab my binocs (bins for



some, binoculars for others, yes, I know but for me they've always been binocs.) I and head for some of my favorite spots. And, I'm looking forward to our September meeting and see if y'all have seen anything interesting, early, unexpected. Take notes and enlighten us. Enjoy your Summer of adventures not doldrums.

Oh, and by the way. See a new idea—I got mine a few days ago as both a sample and an excuse to get the setup costs out of the way. If you like it, let me know. They'll run about \$30.00 each.

Bob Holbrook  
President



*OKC Audubon Society is on vacation until September 18, 2023.*





## Bird of the Month: Kentucky Warbler

*By Grace Huffman*

Summer is settling in and the migrants have pretty much all moved north. Now all that remains is our summer birds, here to raise their babies. For me, this time of year feels very stagnant, but it doesn't mean there aren't exciting birds around.

One of my favorite summer birds is the Kentucky Warbler. They can be found across eastern Oklahoma in forests with dense undergrowth, especially if it's a wet area. I always hear them first, singing a loud "purdy-purdy-purdy" that sounds a lot like a Carolina Wren, but it only has 2 syllables and usually sounds burry compared to the wren. When I do see one, it's usually close to eye level or lower, since they feed on insects lower to the ground. They're bright lemon-yellow below, olive above, with a snazzy mask-spectacle combo on their face. Males have a darker crown than females,

but they look similar otherwise.

They breed as far north as Wisconsin and as far south as the Florida panhandle. They nest close to the ground well concealed by the plants around it. It's a cup shaped nest, built with grass and leaves and lined with finer plant materials. The female will build a dome shape over it. Once the eggs hatch it takes them less than 2 weeks to fledge, and the parents may raise a second brood after the first.

When they go south for the winter they will spend the cooler months in Mexico, Central America, and some go into South America. They will defend territories on their wintering grounds as well.

They are listed as Least Concern, but are a declining species. Biggest concerns are habitat loss, window collisions, and likely predation by feral cats.

Here in Oklahoma I've seen & heard them all over the eastern third of the state, they are much easier the farther east you go. However here in central Oklahoma I've had the best luck at Lake Stanley Draper and on my way down & around Lake Thunderbird. Hopefully next time you're out and about you get to see one!



Kentucky Warbler © Grace Huffman

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

# Recorder's Report

## May 2023

Total species count was down only slightly from April, 230 in May compared to April's 233. David Arbour's Red Slough Bird Survey, first report for May, listed 110 species and his last, dated May 23, included 72 species.



Guyla Mayo

Migration is winding down. ABA Birding Magazine has an interesting article titled "Late Summer Warblers, Birding the Underappreciated Post-breeding Period". While the author, Jacob L. Wessels, is primarily focused on migrating forest birds of the eastern United States, I found it informative and thought provoking in thinking about birding in general. Birdcast (<https://birdcast.info>) ends migration predictions on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Oklahoma County

Eastern Towhee -  
Myriad Gardens - Grace H - May 1  
Short-billed Dowitcher -  
Lake Hefner Prairie Dog Point - Calvin R - May 1  
Piping Plover -  
Lake Hefner - Steve S and Calvin R - May 1  
Lark Bunting -  
Stars & Stripes - Chad E - May 4  
Long-tailed Duck -  
Lake Arcadia - Devin B - May 5  
Cerulean Warbler -  
Ten Acre Park Choctaw - Melanie E - May 10  
Marbled Godwit -  
Lake Hefner - Logan C - May 13  
Snowy Plover -  
Lake Hefner - Calvin R - May 14  
Peregrine Falcon -  
Prairie Dog Point - Brent B - May 14  
American Golden Plover -  
Lake Hefner - Sherry F - May 15  
Hooded Warbler -  
Myriad Gardens - Jimmy W May 17  
Western Sandpiper and Blue-headed Vireo -  
Crystal Lake - Calvin R - May 18  
Bobolink (6) -  
OKC Douglas Blvd - Trina A May 20

Ruddy Turnstone -  
Prairie Dog Point - Cole P May 21  
Black-headed Grosbeak -  
Myriad Gardens - Grace H - May 23  
Blackburnian Warbler -  
Myriad Gardens - Grace H - May 26  
Baird's Sandpiper -  
Lake Hefner - Steve G, Greg C - May 27  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher -  
Meadow Lakes Park - Thomas C - May 27  
Willow Flycatcher -  
Arcadia Lake - Brian M - May 28  
Alder Flycatcher -  
Meadow Lakes Park - Thomas C - May 28  
Whimbrel -  
Prairie Dog Point - Steve S - May 29  
White-throated Sparrow -  
Myriad Gardens - Braden F, Steve S, Chad E - May 29  
Ovenbird -  
Myriad Gardens - Braden F, Jimmy W, Brad G May 29  
Grasshopper Sparrow -  
Tinker AFB - Brian M - May 30

### Cleveland County

Northern Water Thrush -  
So Jenkins Ave - Mary and Lou T - May 1  
Prairie Falcon (3) - Norman, So. Jenkins Ave -  
Nancy V, Larry Mays, Cole P - May 1  
Sandhill Crane -  
Lake Thunderbird - Stephen O May 2  
Ovenbird -  
Lake Thunderbird - Cody D - May 5  
Olive-sided Flycatcher -  
Ten Mile Flats - Robert H - May 8  
Eastern Bluebird -  
Purcell City Lake - Bryan R - May 8  
Bell's Vireo -  
Lexington WMA - Bryan R - May 9  
Limpkin -  
Lake Thunderbird - Joe G - May 10  
Laughing Gull -  
Lake Thunderbird - Joe G - May 10  
Buff-breasted, Upland, Stilt, Least, White-rumped, Pectoral and Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Wilson's Phalarope, and others -  
Ten Mile Flats Joe G - May 14

### Canadian County

Barred Owl -  
Stinchcomb - Candaca M - May 13  
Willow Flycatcher -  
Lake Overholser - Jake G - May 24



Ovenbird -

Stinchcomb - Steve G - May 27

Black-bellied Whistling Duck -

Calumet - Cole P - May 23

White-rumped, Stilt, Semi-palmated, Spotted Sandpipers,

Broad-winged Hawk, Warbling Vireo +

27 other species -

Lake Overholser - May 29

Horned Lark -

Calumet - Joseph S - May 30

### McClain County

Yellow-headed Blackbird (250), White-faced Ibis (30), + multiple shorebirds -

Goldsby Sod Farm Jimmy W - May 1

Yellow Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow -

Private Home - Larry M May 3

Mute Swan -

Purcell Lake - Jimmy J - Continuing - May 28

### Payne County

Ring-necked Duck -

Boomer Lake - Scott L - May 1

Song Sparrow -

Teal Ridge Wetland - Scott L - May 2

Swamp Sparrow -

Teal Ridge Wetland - Scott L - May 2

Black-chinned Hummingbird -

Loss Yard - Scott L - May 10

Yellow-throated Vireo -

Boomer Lake - Riley L - May 12

Chestnut Sided Warbler -

Boomer Lake - Michael R - May 12

Tropical Kingbird/possibly Couch's -

Orlando, OK, not Confirmed by eBird Scott, Sara, L  
Jesse P - May 17

Neotropic Cormorant -

Lake Carl Blackwell - Landon N - May 18

Red Crossbill -

Lake Carl Blackwell - Grace H - May 20

Willow Flycatcher -

Boomer Lake - Lucas B - May 20

Ovenbird -

Sanborn Lake - Jesse P - May 21

Hooded Merganser -

Lake Carl Blackwell - Mike Y - May 24

Alder Flycatcher -

Boomer Lake - Riley L - May 25

Horned Lark -

OSU - Anna N - May 26

Black-bellied Whistling Duck -

Theta Pond - Michael R May 29

### Logan County

White-throated Sparrow -

Kairworks Garden - D&D - May 5

Black Vulture -

Guthrie Lake - Daniel H - May 9

Yellow-throated Vireo -

Kairworks Garden - D&D - May 14

### Lincoln County

Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush -

Chandler - Laurel R - May 14

### Kingfisher County

Yellow Warbler, Summer Tanager, Painted Bunting and at least 22 other species -

Dover Daniel H - May 9

Cliff Swallow (25) + 15 other species -

Calumet - Cole P - May 26

### Grady County

White-faced Ibis -

Lake Louis Burtschi - Jeff P May 1

Swainson's Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Blue Grosbeak + others -

Larry M - May 7

The information for this report was collected from eBird, ABA Bird News, and the Oklahoma List Serve on May 29-31. Any errors are solely mine. Please feel free to contact me with questions, suggestions, or complaints at [guyla1mae@gmail.com](mailto:guyla1mae@gmail.com).

## Refreshments

Refreshment Volunteers for June 20, 2023:

Snacks: Marilyn Taylor, Pilar Escobar,  
Steve Davis and Mary Lane

Ice & Drinks: Randy Henthorn and Terri Underhill

# Minutes of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society Meeting

May 15, 2023

By Patti Muzny, Secretary

In the absence of President Bob Holbrook, the meeting was opened at 7:00 PM at the Will Rogers Garden Center by Treasurer Nancy Vicars. Nancy Vicars presented a treasurer's report and distributed copies. Cash on hand as of May 15, 2023, was \$8,657.09. The minutes of the April 17, 2023, meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

The next meeting will be held at the Will Rogers Garden Center on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Visitors and new members were welcomed.

Jimmy Woodard reported that a Canada Warbler was located during the OOS spring meeting at Bartlesville. The Fall OOS meeting will be held in Late October at Lake Arcadia. Details to come.

Nancy Vicars reported that the field trip to the South Jenkins area south of Norman found several "good birds." She also reported that the field trip to the Wichita Mountains located a Zone-tailed Hawk flyby with a Mountain Boomer lizard in its talons. A bunting/grosbeak bonanza was tallied with Lazuli and Painted, plus Rose-breasted, Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks.

Hal Yocum, Brian Mara and Grace Huffman took a field trip to Sequoyah and Deep Fork and found 120 different species, which produced 17 warblers, including a Blue-winged Warbler.

There has been a Limpkin spotted in McCurtain County and Joe Grzybowski found a Limpkin at Lake Thunderbird.

A Mourning Warbler and an Ovenbird were found at the Myriad Gardens.

The annual OKCAS picnic will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Underhill's home in north Edmond. Details and RSVP information will be sent out in the near future.

Patti High once again made the snack signup sheet available for upcoming meetings.

Our program was presented by Dr. Joe Grzybowski on the subject of the very remarkable History of Ornithology in Oklahoma.

The speaker for our May 15 meeting will be Doug Wood. Dr. Wood will provide an audio-visual presentation over his 2022 birding trip to Bolivia.

## BOOK REVIEW

*By Rebecca, the Book Whisperer*

When Joe Harkness suffered a breakdown in 2013, he tried all the things his doctor recommended: medication helped, counseling was enlightening, and mindfulness grounded him. But nothing came close to nature, particularly birds. How had he never noticed such beauty before? Soon, every avian encounter took him one step closer to accepting who he is.

The positive change in Joe's well-being was so profound that he started a blog to record his experience. Three years later he has become a spokesperson for the benefits of birdwatching, spreading the word everywhere from Radio 4 to Downing Street.

In this groundbreaking book filled with practical advice, Joe explains the impact that birdwatching had on his life, and invites the reader to discover these extraordinary effects for themselves.

*Bird Therapy* has a forward by Chris Packham, who also shares some of his story (which I was unaware of) and this sets up the book for what is to come. This book resonated with me in so many places and the fact that it is written in an engaging way that reassures is very comforting. He talks to us about birds, how to watch and listen, but more importantly the impact they have on developing mindfulness (sounds, behaviours, mannerisms, relationships) – it forces you to slow down, to block everything else out, to become calm.

In *Bird Therapy*, Joe Harkness shares his personal story of living with OCD, anxiety, and depression, and how he manages it through nature and birdwatching. Of course, he talks about his illness but this is ultimately an uplifting book with practical advice at the end of each chapter. Also in each chapter, which always starts with a lovely drawing of a bird and a quote, he shares a different glimpse of his birdwatching journey, from setting up his first bird feeders to his experiences of rare bird sightings.

Reading this book was a reminder of how much we still need to push the topic of mental health further up the agenda, and also how far we have come in just the last few years which is certainly very encouraging.

