

Navigating Our Rapidly Changing Climate

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

Welcome

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society welcomes:

Joshua Hartley, Cashion

Taylor Unruh

Jeff Barry, OKC

The speaker for our **Tuesday, June 17**, meeting of the OKC Audubon Society will be **Emma Kuster, University Assistant Director and Adult Education Specialist for the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center in Norman, speaking on Understanding and Navigating Our Rapidly Changing Climate.**

Our climate is rapidly changing. In Oklahoma, we are already seeing more variable and extreme rainfall, intensifying drought conditions, and warming temperatures throughout the year. We will begin by covering the basics of why our climate is changing and highlighting some new research on climate change and birds in the region. Following, we will have an open discussion around the impacts of climate change that we have personally experienced. For this session, I encourage you to bring photos or other materials that help you tell the story of change over time. As we talk through those stories of change, we will consider our future and brainstorm tangible ways we can make a difference. To conclude, we will talk about the importance of maintaining a sense of hope despite our challenges.



Emma's interest in weather and climate began early in life as she watched seasonal thunderstorms approach her home in Arkansas. She moved to Oklahoma University in 2009 to study meteorology. In 2013 with her bachelor's degree she transitioned to the geography department for her master's degree to expand her knowledge about the impacts of climate change. Last year, she completed a second master's degree in Adult and Higher Education to help her strengthen her climate education efforts. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Geography and Environmental Sustainability at OU focused on local knowledge and climate-informed decisions. At the CASC, she serves as a liaison between resource managers and researchers, leads climate training and education programs, and conducts research to enhance climate adaptation and education efforts. Outside of work, she serves as a color guard instructor for the Norman High School band and enjoys taking photos of beautiful landscapes and wildlife.

Join our camaraderie and learn about our changing climate. And bring a friend. 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.

President's Perspective

Hello, Birders!

We've had lots of rain and storms this past month. Difficult for birding with mud, rain and wet grass seemingly everywhere and all the time. And summer heat is coming which limits our outdoor opportunities.

However, since possibilities for learning never change, now is a good time for birding in new ways.

One less common but rewarding way is to bring out your inner artist. Practice your photography skills by studying your backyard birds in their natural poses and behavior.

A robin is a good study as it sits on fences, hops across the lawn or pulls earthworms from the ground after a rain.

I personally like to watch those birdbaths for sippers and splashers and for the constant change in individuals and the variety of visitors.

Sketchbooks are a great way to learn the fieldmarks and subtle distinctions among species even when you're stuck indoors. You can note the bill shape, facial markings, postures, flight views and so many other clues through a window or from a book.

Learning bird sounds is always tricky so studying recording and spectrograms can get you ready for your next outing.

Have fun out there! —*Sharon Henthorn*



IMPORTANT!

Please note that the June meeting will be held on
TUESDAY, June 17.

There will be no meetings in July and August



Bird of the Month: Chestnut-sided Warbler

By Grace Huffman

Spring migration is a massive wave of birds as they head north to their breeding grounds. While a lot of them arrive here and stay all summer, some birds, like the **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, push on and breed farther north and east, including up into Canada.

In the spring when these birds migrate through eastern Oklahoma, they are in their breeding plumage. Males are striking, with a yellow crown, bold black and white face, and a white belly with the namesake chestnut streaks running down the flanks. Females are similar, but not as vibrant. In the fall, they are yellowish-green above, with the males retaining smaller chestnut patches.

Despite being a rather unique looking warbler, their song is very similar to Yellow Warbler, but with a little extra in it. However, some yellows can add some extra notes into their song, so identify by song with caution!

While you'll often find them feeding high in trees, they breed relatively low to the ground. Nests are smaller than 3 inches in diameter, and lined with fine materials like spider silk. While on their breeding territory, even the females will chase others that get too close. They are also territorial on their wintering grounds from Mexico to northern South America.

These gorgeous songsters are classified as Least Concern, but they are slowly declining in population. Factors include habitat loss, and window strikes while migrating. Keep an eye out for these birds during the spring!



Chestnut-sided Warbler © Grace Huffman

Reference: allaboutbirds.org

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Minutes of the OKC Audubon Society Meeting May 19, 2025

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

Attendance: 24, including 2 new members Joshua and Taylor

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Vicars presented the report, which was approved as read. Cash on hand: \$10,050.46.

April Minutes were read and approved.

No upcoming field trips.

Saturday, May 24 is the OKC Yards Tour, where Steve Davis' and Mary Lane's house will be featured.

Hal brought books and hearing aid batteries to give out.

The speaker was Mark Howrey, who gave a wonderful talk on the ODWC's role in land management and protecting Oklahoma's birds and other animals.

Next meeting will be **Tuesday, June 17, 2025**, where Emma Kuster, University Assistant Director and Adult Education Specialist for the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center in Norman, will give a presentation titled "Understanding and Navigating Our Rapidly Changing Climate."

—Cole Penning, Secretary



An extinct bird was digitally recreated — and its voice was heard for the first time in 700 years

At the edge of a Chilean museum archive, paleontologists have brought an extinct bird back to life — not with flesh and feathers, but with sound. Using advanced CT scans, they digitally reconstructed the vocal tract of the long-lost *Dusicyon avium* and synthesized its call.

This bird went extinct over 700 years ago, and until now, no one knew what it sounded like. But researchers found a preserved syrinx — the avian equivalent of a voice box — and scanned it in 3D. Then, using airflow modeling and machine learning, they simulated how its calls would've echoed through the forests.

The result is eerie: a low-pitched, melodic whistle, somewhere between a dove and a falcon. It's the closest humans have ever come to hearing the voice of a species lost long ago.

The team is now applying this to other extinct animals — mammoths, early whales, even prehistoric frogs. The goal isn't just curiosity. It's education. When students hear what extinction sounds like, it hits differently.

Sound leaves no fossils. But now, it leaves echoes.— in [New York, NY](#).

Forest Hunts / Neil DeGrasse Tyson via Facebook