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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:
Yuhong Tang, Norman

Welcome back:
Guyla Mayo, Oklahoma City

Monarchs and Much More!

The speaker for our March 21 meeting will be Stephanie Jordan of Oklahoma City presenting a program about attracting pollinators, including hummingbirds.

Stephanie Jordan is the Pollinator Outreach Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma, and she does education and outreach for Okies for Monarchs.

Stephanie studied construction in college and worked for years as a construction estimator. In 2007, she became the Conservation Committee chair of my local Sierra Club group. She went from not knowing how to grow anything, to moving to a farm two years later and raising pastured pigs and chickens and growing a bit of produce.



Fast forward a few years and she was learning to grow organic plant starts with John in the nearly 3,000 sq ft automated greenhouse he shares with his mother. In 2014, they both took up beekeeping. Through the beekeeping community, she met a very passionate monarch enthusiast and recruited her for Sierra Club. Over the next couple of years, they've transitioned to 90% of our plants being nectarring plants and host plants, mostly for butterflies, as there was a huge, unmet demand for them.

Stephanie soon also found that when you grow milkweed starts, you get monarch caterpillars. She turned my advocacy experience and passion toward a mission to help reverse this trajectory any way she could. Four years later, when the Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma was looking for its first Pollinator Outreach Coordinator, she finally found a job that brought together all of the things she had been focused on for the last 15 years.

Stephanie lives in an urban farming community near Paseo in Oklahoma City.

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. The Oklahoma City Audubon Society is neither a chapter of, nor affiliated with, the National Audubon Society.

President's Perspective

Lists. To list or not to list, that is the question. Some prefer not to make bird lists while others seem to want to do nothing but make lists. Some lists are quite simple, some are quite complicated. There are day lists, month lists, year lists. There are yard lists, county lists, State lists, country lists, regional lists. There are trip lists, Big Day lists, Big Year lists, Christmas lists, holiday lists, life lists. We can add photo lists, heard only lists, seen only lists, dreams lists, want lists, on stamps lists, on currency lists, in movies lists...did I miss any others?

I keep lists. Birding got me started on keeping lists, I even have a lists list. But no, I don't keep all of the above mentioned lists, just a few: a yard list, State lists, country lists, major regions lists, and a life list...along with a mammals list, reptiles list, butterflies and moths list, dragonflies list, tiger beetles list...if there's a field guide to something I have a list for it...and it's all Birding's fault. (I do even hold an ABA record Big Day List for a country I suppose no one will ever break--Sudan. Anyone who would want to try would be as much a fool as I was that day by risking getting shot or locked up in prison... Just having their cancellation in my passport caused me trouble for years until that passport expired.)



Bob Holbrook on the Essequibo River, Guyana

The American Birding Association has a list of rules to determine what may be counted on a list and I suppose if one is disposed to be competitive in listing then some rules are a must with strict honesty being first and foremost. There has been some question in the past about some Big Year listers especially when so many thousands of dollars go into these competitions and with the rich rewards from sponsorships, speeches, etc. as a direct result from winning. The movie *The Big Year* is a fun comedy to watch and has a lot of truth as well. However, I believe that our lists are our personal record of what we know we've seen (or heard) and whether we've followed the ABA Rules or not is quite irrelevant. There is, for most of us, no big trophy along the way, no monetary prize, no fame, just the satisfaction of what we saw and the enjoyable times we spent getting to see what we saw or heard.

I've seen how some people keep lists. Someone in the group calls out a bird and the person immediately **v**'s even before trying to see it. Then, "Oops, oh well, I did see its tail as it flew away." Others must record every detail on a cassette strapped around their neck including the exact coordinates, detailed weather notations such as temperature, cloud conditions and then transfer everything onto a 3x5 card file with exact date and time of day...

After watching both extremes I can understand why some folk just simply don't make lists at all. But for me, I really enjoy opening my books, seeing the notations attached to a bird's identification and recalling the terrible weather that day or the long exhausting hike to get there, or the crazy foods we had to eat or questionable beds we slept in. Then there's that bird I missed that the others got or they missed but I got only because of the luck of the instant--a needed potty break, looking in the wrong direction for 2 seconds too many, was walking 3 paces ahead, arrived a minute too late...

So... do you list? If so, what do your lists tell you?

—Bob Holbrook, *alias Inca Tern*



Bird of the Month: Black-crested Titmouse

By Grace Huffman

Chances are while out walking in the woods or even at your backyard feeders you've seen a Tufted Titmouse. These cute little birds dart in and out grabbing sunflower seeds and dashing off to eat them or cache them under tree bark to eat at a later date. But did you know we have other species of titmice? Altogether Oklahoma has 3 species: Tufted Titmouse, Juniper Titmouse, and Black-crested Titmouse.

Juniper Titmouse is very hard to find in the tip of the Oklahoma panhandle. Black-crested Titmouse is not quite as hard to find, but you won't see one at your backyard feeders here in central Oklahoma. Their range is almost entirely confined to Texas and Mexico, with a teeny portion of their range extending into southwest Oklahoma.

Black-crested Titmice are very similar in appearance to Tufted Titmice, and you can find them both in the same areas, where they are known to hybridize. They were even previously considered the same species. However, as their name suggests, Black-crested Titmice have a black crest with a pale forehead, whereas Tufted Titmice have a light gray crest with a black forehead. Hybrids have a dark gray crest and brownish forehead. They also sound a bit different, with Black-crested sounding more like "peer peer peer" and Tufted sounding more like "peter peter peter," but this takes some practice learning to tell the difference!



Black-crested Titmouse. © Grace Huffman

Black-crested Titmice love the woods, and aren't picky about elevation. They can be found across their range from nearly sea level to 8,000 feet! They do prefer when there are lots of oaks mixed in. They nest in old woodpecker cavities or nest boxes, and will line the inside with softer materials. Like their cousins, they will come to bird feeders for sunflower seeds as well as foraging for insects and other seeds. Their population is considered stable or slightly declining, with the biggest factor being habitat degradation.

Here in Oklahoma, your best chance to see a Black-crested Titmouse is around the Eldorado area. However, on my most recent trip with a couple of birders to southwest Oklahoma back in February, I had the unique experience of finding one a bit north of its usual range, along with a hybrid! While I wasn't able to get any photos of the hybrid, I photographed this bird at Quartz Mountain State Park, near the Foggy Bottom restaurant back in February.

Reference: allaboutbirds.org

Good News

by Ann Sherman

I suspect everyone could use some good news. So here goes.

Wind turbines and AI combine to save birds.

IdentiFlight produced a camera and AI-based tech that can recognize raptors as they approach in enough time to pause turbines in their flight path. Using high precision sensors the system calculates a birds speed and flight trajectory and if on a collision path with a turbine a signal is sent to shut that turbine down.

Installed in Australia in 2018 at a Tasmanian facility it was found to cut eagle deaths by more than four fifths. Each day signals have shut down their movements an average of 400 times across 48 turbines for 2 to 3 minutes each time. <https://www.identiflight.com/> Check it out. Wouldn't you love to see that everywhere?

American Flamingos return to Florida



Once there were so few flamingos in Florida that they lost their status as a native species. Currently they are making their homes again in the Everglades. Estimates are that there are up to 1,000 individuals in Florida. It is unknown where they came from. Caribbean. Yucatan? Maybe farther south. The University of Florida is trying to ascertain their lineage and conducting genetic research to solve the riddle. They have Flamingo Alerts on their Facebook page to help local birders and raise awareness for the birds return.



The Search for Lost Birds.

American Bird Conservation, BirdLife International and the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology and their Bird app with more than 700,000 users are launching a Top 10 list of lost birds. A few years ago they launched a list of the 25 Most Wanted. They found 6 of the 25 within 3 years. Building on that success they are launching Top 10 lists for each animal group. They have compiled lists of animals considered lost that has grown to more than 2,000.

The top 10 most-wanted lost birds are currently:

- Dusky tetraka, last documented in 1999 in Madagascar
- South Island kōkako, last seen in 2007 in New Zealand
- Jerdon's courser, last seen in 2009 in India
- Cuban kite, last seen in 2010 in Cuba
- Negros fruit-dove, last seen in 1953 in the Philippines
- Santa Marta sabrewing, last seen in 2010 in Colombia
- Vilcabamba brush-finch, last seen in 1968 in Peru
- Himalayan quail, last seen 1877 in India
- Siau scops-owl, last seen in 1866 in Indonesia
- Itwombe nightjar (or Prigogine's nightjar), last seen in 1955 in Democratic Republic of Congo

Expeditions are being mounted. If you see any of these birds please report them. :-)

Magpies set themselves free from scientific trackers.



Australian magpies live in social groups of up to 12 individuals. They defend their territory and share child raising duties. Scientists who want to study the birds and how far they travel fitted a number of a group with GPS trackers on a unique harness. Within 10 minutes of installation the removal had begun. Within hours most of the trackers had been removed. By day 3 even the dominate male of the group had his tracker removed. This is "rescuing" and is rarely seen in the bird world. Magpies regularly display tool-use, tool crafting, joking around, social cooperation, and the concept of zero (how they know this was not explained) add rescuing to the list of Magpie talents.

Recorder's Report: February 2022

The Great Backyard Bird Count was reported in 11 of the 12 central Oklahoma counties with three new species for the year documented during that time period.

On the 1st Rhett Rabbley came across **Northern Bobwhite** and **Spotted Towhee** at Mulhall in Logan County; and Scott Loss found **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Richmond Road in Stillwater. On the 2nd Chad Ellis described **White-winged Scoter** at Lake Overholser. On the 3rd Tim O'Connell verified **Rusty Blackbird** in Stillwater; Scott Loss detected **Lapland Longspur** in north Logan County; and **American Woodcock** at Whittenberg Park in Stillwater. Terri Underhill announced her resident **Great Horned Owls** laid their first egg of the season in her barrel nest box. On the 4th Alex Harman spotted **Horned Lark** and **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Meridian Technology Center Pond in Stillwater.



Glaucous Gull

On the 5th Trina Arnold added **Bald Eagle** at Konawa in Seminole County; Steve Stone photographed **Field Sparrow** at Lindsay in Garvin County; Grace Huffman tallied **Glaucous Gull** at Lake Overholser; Alex Harman had **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Lake Carl Blackwell; and Joe Grzybowski recognized **Wilson's Snipe** and

Winter Wren along South Jenkins in Norman. On the 6th Grace Huffman documented **Eastern Towhee** at Mitch Park; Alex Harman identified **Pine Warbler** and **Merlin** at Couch Park in Stillwater; and Joe Grzybowski noted the **Rock Wren** was still present at the Lake Thunderbird dam. On the 7th Steve Davis recorded **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Lake Elmer in Kingfisher County.

On the 8th Scott Loss counted **Bufflehead** at Bell Cow Lake, **White-breasted Nuthatch** at Chandler and **Western Meadowlark** in Lincoln County; and **Brewer's Blackbird** along Richmond Road in Stillwater; Jerry Vanbebber described **Surf Scoter** at Lake Overholser Dam; and Jimmy Woodard observed **Forster's Tern** at Lake Hefner-Prairie Dog Point. On the 9th Grace Huffman located **Marsh Wren** at Lake Overholser police station walkway; and Deanne McKinney



Hairy Woodpecker

On the 12th Curtis Stewart viewed **Ferruginous Hawk** at Hwy 51 in Kingfisher County; Brian Marra had **Lapland Longspur** and **American Pipit** at Stinchcomb WR; Clay Billman documented **California Gull** at Lake Hefner; while a group of birders led by Jimmy Woodward heard **American Woodcock** at the Equestrian field on the NW side of Lake Stanley Draper in Midwest City. On the 13th Curtis Stewart got **Eastern Screech-Owl** in Hennessey; Mike Yough discovered **Brown Thrasher** and **Swamp Sparrow** at Cushing WT Plant in Payne County; and Curtis Stewart flushed an **Eastern Screech-Owl** near Hennessey. On the 15th Braden Farris encountered **Northern Bobwhite** at Arcadia Conservation Education Area.



California Gull © Clay Billman

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 18 -21, 2022

On the 18th Michelle Spacek came across **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Pink in Pottawatomie County; Steve Stone spotted **Northern Harrier** along Turner Turnpike in Lincoln County; Wendy Navarro got **Wild Turkey** at Guthrie in Logan County; Zach DuFran viewed **Belted Kingfisher** at Kevin Gottshall Memorial Park in Norman; and Landon Neumann confirmed **American Tree Sparrow** at OSU-Cross Country Course in Payne County.

On the 19th Hope McGaha saw **Northern Flicker** at Macomb and RE Carlberg heard **Barred Owl** north of Shawnee in Pottawatomie County; Jason Shaw detected **Song Sparrow** at USAO Habitat Area in Grady County;

an **Eastern Screech-Owl** in Oklahoma City. On the 10th Scott Loss saw **Hairy Woodpecker** at The Botanic Garden at OSU; at Lake Overholser Melinda Droege described **White-winged Scoter** and **Eared Grebe** while Brian Marra photographed **Long-tailed Duck**.

Natasha Sodowsky found Sharp-shinned Hawk at Cashion in Kingfisher County; Braden Farris tallied Eastern Bluebird at Prairie Prime Ranch in Lincoln County; in McClain County Larry Mays described Merlin in Newcastle and Laura Madden noted Red-breasted Nuthatch at Blanchard; while at Lake Hefner Megan Migues documented **Great Black-backed Gull**.



Great Black-backed Gull © Megan Migues

On the 20th Jason Shaw had Snow Goose at Shannon Springs Park in Grady County; William Baker counted American Goldfinch at Yukon in Canadian County; in Logan County Melinda West recognized Brown Creeper at Guthrie; and William Radke identified Pied-billed Grebe at Guthrie Lake; while in Cleveland County Robert Karges documented **Tundra Swan** at Triple Heart West Ranch. On the 21 Edward Standefer added Tufted Titmouse at Wynnewood in Garvin County; Brian Marra verified Pileated Woodpecker Stinchcomb WR; Megan Migues photographed Blue-winged Teal at Sanborn Lake in Stillwater; and Jimmy Woodward heard **Fish Crow** at his Midwest City home in Oklahoma County. What an excellent ending to the GBBC.



Sandhill Cranes

On the 22nd Joe Grzybowski described California Gull at McClain County Sod Farm. On the 25th Steve Stone photographed **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Lake Hefner Prairie Dog Point. On the 26th Rebekah Ratcliffe recorded **Sandhill Crane** in McClain County. On the 26th Amanda Boyle located Harris's Sparrow and Red-bellied Woodpecker in Seminole; and Kevin Wilson observed Common Merganser at Lake Carl Blackwell.

Thanks to the many reports from the GBBC, 8 species have been reported in all 12 counties, 11 species in 11 counties and 15 species in 10 counties. Not all species from last month's 11 and 10 county counts moved up to all 12 coun-

ties. In February the birds first seen this year in all 12 counties are Canada Goose, Red-tailed Hawk, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, Harris's Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal.

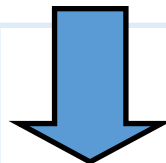
In the Central Oklahoma area during February **144** species were reported with **9** new species which brings the year's total at **149**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds. Information is accessed at: [ebird](http://ebird.org). 2022 eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <https://ebird.org/region/US-OK?yr=all>. (Accessed February 27 & 28, 2022); and occasionally from Facebook, and the OKBIRDS List. I can be contacted at emkok@earthlink.net. Esther M. Key, Editor.



SUTTON CENTER EAGLE NEST CAM

As we publish, the Bald Eagles in Bartlesville are sitting on three eggs. They are expected to hatch nest week.

<https://suttoncenter.org/live-bald-eagle-nest-camera/>



DUES NOTICE

It's time once again to renew your annual membership. OCAS dues are \$15 per household and may be paid at the monthly meetings, online at our website <http://www.okc-audubon.org> or mailed to Nancy Vicars, Treasurer, 24 SE 57th St., OKC 73129.

Minutes of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society Meeting

February 21, 2022

By Patti Muzny, Secretary

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM at the Will Rogers Garden Center by President, Bob Holbrook. Treasurer Nancy Vicars presented a treasurer's report and distributed copies. Cash on hand as of February 21, 2022, was \$8,626.18. The minutes of the January 18, 2022, meeting were approved as published in the February newsletter.

The next meeting will be held at the Will Rogers Garden Center on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

New Members and visitors were introduced.

Ann Sherman's article about the senseless killing of Whooping Cranes in Oklahoma was mentioned. Seven new members joined OKCAS this past month. Hal Yocum reported 30 species were located on a field trip to Mitch Park, including an Eastern Towhee. Jimmy Woodard reported the presence of two Woodcocks at Lake Draper. Hal Yocum also reported a Long-tailed Duck at Lake Overholser.

Nancy Vicars and Warren Harden reported that 5,000+ white geese, Cacklers, Snows and Ross's were seen at Fort Cobb on February 19. Also found were two Bald Eagles and a flock of Sandhill Cranes. If there is enough interest, another possible field trip to Fort Cobb Lake is possible on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

Steve Davis spoke regarding the need for a new computer system to replace the much out-dated system the club currently has for program presenters. Since the club is financially able to pay for a new system, he made a motion that this be purchased. The motion carried and a new system will be purchased.

Patti High thanked members for volunteering to bring refreshments and drinks for future meetings.

In continuing with the tradition of outstanding programs, attendees were privileged to travel electronically to Northern India through the eyes and ears of Jay Pruett.

The program for March will feature pollinators and will be presented by Stephanie Jordan.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Muzny
Secretary

Upcoming Field Trips



The Oklahoma City Audubon Society has arranged for two special field trips and a public event hosted by OCAS at Mollie Spencer Farm in Yukon.

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 to Molly Spencer Farm, Yukon, OK 7:30AM - 9:30AM (OCAS members only)

Saturday, April 9, 2022 to Molly Spencer Farm, Yukon, OK 8:00AM - 10:00 AM (This is a public outing guided by OCAS members)

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 to Molly Spencer Farm, Yukon, OK 7:30AM - 9:30AM (OCAS members only)

Molly Spencer Farm, 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.

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

For more info contact: Nancy Vicars,
nancy.vicars@sbcglobal.net

REFRESHMENTS

The following folks will be providing refreshments for the Mon, March 21st OCAS meeting:

SNACKS: Mary Lane & Steve Davis, Patti Muzny, Terri Underhill, and Patti High

ICE/DRINKS: Randy & Sharon Henthorn