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

For up-to-date Oklahoma City Audubon news visit: OKC-Audubon.org

May 17, 2021: In-person meetings resume!

Would you like to tag along on a safari with Nancy Vicars and Warren Harden to Africa?

Come to the Oklahoma City Audubon Society meeting at **7:00 pm, Monday, May 17**, at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

They will share their dream destination to that continent before they both or the big animals disappear!

After months of careful planning, selecting a travel agency, choosing from the numerous packages offered, updating passports, obtaining Visas and numerous vaccinations, they departed Oklahoma City on October 9, 2019. This date was chosen for being at the end of a dry



season and the beginning of the annual massive migration through the legendary Serengeti plains that contain one of the densest concentrations of wildlife on Earth.

Their first stop was the Masai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya with lodging at a 45,000 acre private camp providing views of the distant Great Rift Valley escarpment. Another stop was Arusha, Tanzania, located in the foothills of Kilimanjaro where herds begin venturing through the Serengeti on their great migration. Plus interesting birds, lions, giraffes, a hyrax and many more.

Come out to our first meeting in more than a year and see each other again.

Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month (with the exception of January, when the meeting is held on the fourth Monday). 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

The Warblers Are Here

Last month I wrote about my fascination with seeing the warblers every spring . My finishing line was : OFF TO IDA-BEL NEXT WEEK.

Well, myself and 3 others did a 4-day trip down there May 1-4. The place is amazing the first week of May. We chased warblers in the Red Slough, Little River and McCurtain County Wilderness Area.

Our sighting included 22 different species. The only major miss was the Blackburnian Warbler. We were really lucky and spotted a Bay- breasted Warbler.

We saw 148 bird species for the trip. Oh yes - stopped on the way there near Tupelo and saw the Crested Caracara (finally)!

Good birding. Hal A. Yocum



by Ann Sherman

What a long strange trip this has been! The only thing that has saved my sanity is that I love to read. I'm not stuck in the house! I'm doing archaeology from space! Archaeology From Space. How the future

shapes our past. Sarah Parcak. All those spy missions we have flown all over the world for nearly a hundred years? Now we have images taken from satellites. Yes... archaeologists can use them to find cities in the South American jungles. They can locate tombs in the middle east. Pretty fun read.

I usually have about 3 books I'm reading so I also have one that suits my mood. Currently I have the new Malcom Gladwell book The Bomber Mafia that I am turning to. How air power came to shape modern war. The eth-

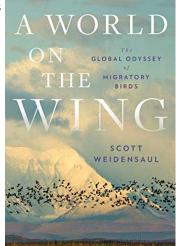


ics behind precision bombing or bomb them back to the stone age. It's a great read.

But the real subject of this review is two new books about birds. *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds* by Scott Weidensaul. He is an excellent writer who was a Pulitzer Prize finalist 21 years ago for *Living on the Wind*. His specialty is birds and bird migration. A lot

has happened in 21 years to our feathered friends. It was time for an update.

This involves reading about and understanding Quantum mechanics and Quantum entanglement. He is such a good writer than even the art major here can understand it. Did you know that birds flying for days on end are not sleep deprived? They can shut down one hemisphere of the brain (along with that side's eye)



for a second or two at a time, switching back and forth as they fly on through the night: during the day, they take thousands of little micro naps lasting just a few seconds. (continued on page 6)

Recorder's Report: April

Beautiful songs; beautiful birds are arriving almost daily. Beginning with shorebirds and ending with warblers, during April birds travelled through Oklahoma: some to settle down, others to continue on. As storms moved through the state during the month, several fallout episodes occurred. Also, 10 more species have now been reported in all 12 counties bringing the total reported in all 12 counties to 45.



Who are the new ones?

On the 31st Pat Velte photographed a sleeping Rednecked Grebe off the Lake Hefner dam; and Mike Yough had Little Blue Heron at Teal Ridge Wetland in Payne County. On

the 1st Sean Cowden saw Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Wewoka in Seminole County. On the 3rd Abigail Hobbs noticed Blue Jay at Tecumseh in Pottawatomie County; Tim O'Connell observed **Upland Sandpiper** in Stillwater; and Curtis Stewart and Braden Farris counted **Semipalmated Plover** and **American Avocet** at NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike in Canadian County. On the 4th Braden Farris identified **Broadwinged Hawk** at Prairie Prime Ranch in Lincoln County; Mike Yough added **Chimney Swift** at Teal Ridge Wetland; and in Cleveland County Jerry Vanbebber recorded American Avocet at Lake Thunderbird SP; while Someone detected **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Lexington WMA.

On the 5th Steve Stone tallied American Avocet at Hefner Water Treatment Plant; Dick Gunn encountered Northern Parula, Vesper Sparrow and Yellow-throated Warbler along South Jenkins in Norman; and a birding friend's son found



Common Poorwill at Will Rogers Airport. On the 6th Jimmy Woodard confirmed Broadwinged Hawk at Lake Stanley Draper; Brian McLaughlin located Chimney Swift at Martin Park Nature Center; while at Lake Hefner-Kids Lake Park Braden Farris watched a Little Blue Heron get attacked and brought to the ground by an American Crow. After a short struggle, it was able to get back in the air and continue south. On the 7th Braden Farris reported **Marbled**

Godwit and Bill Diffin verified White-faced Ibis at NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike; Thomas Kuder discovered Black-chinned Hummingbird in Norman; Nu Perera recognized Prothonotary Warbler at Lake Thunderbird SP-East Sentinel Campground; Scott Loss documented Bank Swallow at Boomer Lake Park in Stillwater; and Frank Walker had **Ruby-throated Humming**bird in Bethany.



On the 8th in Seminole County Eugene Prewitt came across Bald Eagle at Wewoka Woods Camp while Jerry Vanbebber got White-eyed Vireo at Maud Wetlands and in Pottawatomie County at Tecumseh Lake Yellow-throated Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush. Larry Mays spotted Upland Sandpiper at Newcastle Park in McClain County; Bill Diffin described American Golden-Plover at North Yukon Parkway; Brian Marra viewed **Peregrine Falcon** at NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike; Randolph King had Marbled Godwit and White-faced Ibis at Lake Thunderbird SP-East Sentinel and Green Heron were seen by Michael Reichert at Teal Ridge Wetland and Braden Farris at Lake Hefner-Stars and Stripes Park. On the 9th Aidan Rominger added Broad-winged Hawk at Teal Ridge Wetland; John Tharp turned up American Golden-Plover at Lake Thunderbird SP-East Sentinel and a Peregrine Falcon flew over his yard in Norman; while Braden Farris had one at Lake Hefner-Kids Lake Park.

On the 10th Randolph King identified **House Wren** in Westmoor; at Lake Thunderbird SP-East Sentinel John Tharp discovered Semipalmated Plover, **Hudsonian Godwit**, and **Nashville Warbler** and Cody Delano spotted **Semipalmated Sandpiper**; while at Cushing Water Treatment Plant Mike Yough **also** confirmed



Hudsonian Godwit, Semipalmated Sandpiper plus **Wilson's Phalarope**. On the 11th OU Ornithology Class observed **Red-eyed Vireo** at Lake Thunderbird SP-East Sentinel; and Frank Walker had House Wren in Bethany. On the 13th House Wrens were found by Grace Huffman at Stinchcomb WR west; and Mike Yough at Hoyt Grove Park in Stillwater; while Cody Delano photographed **Willet** at Ten Mile Flats in Nor-

man; and Brian Marra recorded **Western Sandpiper** at Stinchcomb WR west. On the 14th Zach DuFran located **Western Kingbird** along South Jenkins; John Tharp noticed Eastern Kingbird while Rachel Wrenn reported Bank Swallow at Lake Thunderbird SP-East Sentinel; and Hal Yocum counted Black-chinned Hummingbird at Mitch Park in Edmond. On the 15th Randolph King found Chimney Swift at Lake Thunderbird SP-East Sentinel; Calvin Rees got American Golden-Plover at Midwest Blvd Sod Farm; and Rod Lusey recognized Hudsonian Godwit at Arcadia Lake-Edmond Park. On the 16th Nadine Varner detected Lazuli Bunting in Midwest City; Nu Perera turned up Swainson's Thrush and Wilson's Warbler in Norman; in Payne County Scott Loss tallied American Golden-Plover at Meridian Technology Center Pond in Stillwater and Warbling Vireo at Lake Carl Blackwell. The 10 additional species reported in all 12 counties are: Blue-winged Teal, Wild Turkey, Rock Pigeon, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Hairy Woodpecker, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Barn Swallow, and Field Sparrow.

On the 17th Cody Delano came across Wilson's Phalarope at Ten Mile Flats; Ryan Minton found Semipalmated Plover and **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Cushing Water Treatment Plant; Calvin Rees observed Eastern Kingbird at Lake Hefner; and Brian Marra located Red-eyed Vireo, and Bank Swallow at Arcadia Lake. On the 18th Grace Huffman saw Broad-winged Hawk at

NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike; The OU **Ornithology Class** detected Bell's Vireo, Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak along South Jenkins; Stephen Ofsthun noticed Summer Tanager at Lake Thunderbird SP-Boathouse Area; Jason McKirahan discovered Willet at Arcadia Lake-Edmond Park; Jimmy Woodard verified Lesser Gold-



finch at their feeder in Midwest City; Calvin Rees had Whitefaced Ibis at Lake Overholser; and Brian Marra encountered **Sora** and Warbling Vireo at Lake Overholser-Coffer Dam. On the 19th Abdul Dominguez added Green Heron at Pebblebrook Park in Norman; Landon Neumann spotted Red-eyed Vireo at Couch Park in Stillwater; and **Baltimore Orioles** were identified by Deb Hirt in Stillwater and Paul Cook at Lake Hefner.

On the 20tha Blue Grosbeak visited Hollis Price at her home in Jones; Jennifer Kidney viewed male Baltimore Oriole at her jelly feeder in Norman; Esther Key tallied American Avocet at Purcell Lake in McClain County; Rosario Douglas counted Ruby -throated Hummingbird in Norman; Rod Lusey got Semipalmated Plover at Arcadia Lake-Edmond Park; Bill Diffin reported

Upland Sandpiper at Lake Overholser -Coffer Dam; Steve Stone photographed Longbilled Curlew at Lake Hefner Prairie Dog Point; and **Branden Farris** encountered Black -necked Stilt at NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike. A fallout of Piping Plovers was documented by Braden Farris



© Steve Stone

at NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike; Landon Neumann at Meridian Technology Center Pond; and Calvin Rees at Lake Hefner. On the 21st Jimmy Woodward confirmed **Orchard Oriole**, Hudsonian Godwit and **Stilt Sandpiper** at NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike; Chad Ellis turned up Warbling Vireo along West Overholser Road; Deb Hirt recorded Summer Tanager at Boomer Lake Park; and Randolph King recognized **Snowy Plover** at Lake Hefner-OKC Docks.

On the 22nd John Tharp came across **Caspian Tern** and Warbling Vireo at Lake Thunderbird SP-East Sentinel; Hal Yocum and others located Northern Bobwhite at Mitch Park; Nancy Vicars detected Chimney Swift in OKC; Braden Farris saw Clay-colored Sparrow at Lake Hefner-Stars and Stripes Park; Landon Neumann heard a male Red Crossbill flying over Couch Park in Stillwater; and Scott Loss had Orchard Oriole at Lake Carl Blackwell. On the 23rd Johnny Carter observed

Chuck-will's-widow at Coyle in Logan County; Mike Yough noticed Western Kingbird at OSU, Braden Farris identified Summer Tanager at Arcadia Conservation Education Area; Bill Diffin found **White-rumped Sandpiper** at NW 63rd/ Kilpatrick Turnpike; and Orchard Oriole



was discovered by Randolph King at Little River SP in Cleveland County.

On the 24th Matt Jung added Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Green Heron at Lake Hefner and Wilson's Phalaropes at NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike; Jason Shaw counted Chimney Swift at Chickasha in Grady County; Braden Farris turned up Upland Sandpiper and Summer Tanager at Prairie Prime Ranch; and Rhianna Cameron confirmed Indigo Bunting in Spencer. Randolph King encountered Sora Rail at Lake Overholser–Route 66 Park; Steve Davis reported Willet and Chad Ellis verified **Glossy Ibis** along East Wagner Road in Yukon. In Norman Tricia Brown heard Chuck-will's-widow; Alex Franzen watched **Mississippi Kite** at John H. Saxon Park; and Jennifer Kidney recognized Gray Catbird at her jelly feeder. Alex Harman recorded Ruby-throated Hummingbird at The Botanic Garden at OSU; Mike Yough got Stilt Sandpiper at Cushing Water Treatment Plant and Sora Rail at Teal Ridge Wetland and Michael Reichert tallied Little Blue Heron at Teal Ridge Wetland. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were spotted by Brian Marra at Lake Thunderbird SP -Hickory Hill Camp; and Jake Henning in Stillwater.

On the 25th Mike Yough came across Warbling Vireo, House Wren, Northern Parula, and **Dickcissel** at Dover in Kingfisher County; Kevin Wilson detected Indigo Bunting in Stillwater; Ivan de la Hera identified Eastern Kingbird at Boomer Lake Park; and Grace Huffman saw Caspian Tern NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike. Swainson's Thrush were viewed by Alex Harman at OSU and Brian Marra at Crystal Lake in OKC. On the 26th Michael Reichert heard Chuck-will's-widow at McPherson



Preserve in Payne County; Ivan de la Hera observed Nashville Warbler and **Yellow Warbler** at Boomer Lake Park; Scott Loss located Blue Grosbeak at Teal Ridge Wetland; and Landon Neu-

mann heard Dickcissel at Couch Park. In OKC Brian McLaughlin had Mississippi Kite; Jacob Kirkland discovered Least Flycatcher at Bluff Creek Trails; in Midwest City Jimmy Woodard counted Dickcissel; in Kingfisher County Patti Muzny and Nancy Vicars encountered Say's Phoebe; and in Norman Someone noticed Painted Bunting.

On the 27th Randolph



King added a Chimney Swift near Wynnewood in Garvin County and Black-necked Stilt at Ten Mile Flats. Jason Shaw confirmed Eastern Kingbird and Dickcissel at USAO Habitat Area in Grady County; Matthew Adams recorded Painted Bunting at Guthrie; Larry Mays tallied Clay-colored Sparrow in Newcastle. Jamie Runyan had Chuck-will's-widow east of Oklahoma City; Braden Farris counted Great Crested Flycatcher at Arcadia Conservation Education Area; and Jacob Kirkland recognized American Redstart and Yellow Warbler at Joe B. Barnes Park in Midwest City. In Stillwater Anthony Tillilan reported Painted Bunting; Eric LoPresti spotted Kentucky Warbler at McPherson Preserve; and at Boomer Lake Park Mike Yough saw Prothonotary Warbler, and Scott Loss heard Blackpoll Warbler.

On the 28th in Logan County D&D Norris verified Rubythroated Hummingbird at Kairworks Garden; Michael King iden-

tified Great Crested Flycatcher at Guthrie; Megan Migues observed Claycolored Sparrow,



Blue Grosbeak and Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Stroud; Deanne McKinney spotted Green Heron at Rose Lake; Brent Barnes located Blue-headed Vireo along South Jenkins; Jimmy Woodard discovered Prothonotary Warbler, Painted Bunting and Tennessee Warbler at Arcadia Conservation Education Area; and Matt Jung found Bell's Vireo at NW 63rd/Kilpatrick Turnpike. On the 29th Brian Marra encountered Blue-headed Vireo at Poore Park in Midwest City; Mike Yough noticed Chuck-will'swidow at Dover; Zac Hemans detected Mississippi Kite at Liberty Lake in Logan County; and Nu Perera viewed Chestnut-sided Warbler in Norman. On the 30th Scott Loss spotted **Palm Warbler** and American Bittern at Teal Ridge Wetland; Jeanette Bider discovered Goldenwinged Warbler in Norman; and Hal Yocum reported Warbling Vireo, Chimney Swifts, and Yellow-billed Cuck**oo** in Mitch Park. The serenade continues. Who will you hear and/or see?

In the Central Oklahoma area during April, **220** species were reported with **63** new species which brings the year's total to **259**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds. Information is accessed at: <u>ebird</u>. 2021 eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <u>https://ebird.org/region/US-OK?yr=all</u>. (Accessed: April 28, 29 & 30, 2021); occasionally from Facebook, and the OKBIRDS List. I can be contacted at <u>em-</u> <u>kok@earthlink.net</u>. Esther M. Key, Editor.

Close Encounter of the Feathered Kind

May 9, 2021

By Patti Muzny

As a former licensed bird bander, I've had the privilege of holding a plethora of beautiful birds in my hands. It's just such a thrill, except of course when I netted a Cardinal and he/she was not very happy about being in my hand! The first Cardinal I ever caught in my mist nets at our home left a lasting impression and a shocking "gift" for me. I



was carefully working his feet and feathers out of the net and had nearly had him free when he sensed his impending freedom and started to fly away. If a person is about to drop something, their first reaction is to grab, but all I managed to seize in my hand was his tail. He flew off without it! I was devastated, but this story ended well. Throughout the coming weeks, I watched him forage at our feeders and his tail grew back in with no apparent issues. His first landing on a branch might have been slightly awkward, but all was well and I was very careful after that to make sure I didn't grab for a tail again. '

The Cardinal incident was many years ago and it's been a long time since I've held a live bird in my hands. May 8th, I was able to marvel up close at the size and the beauty of one of my favorite little songsters. I opened the kitchen door that leads to our patio and a tiny little brown bit of fluff and feathers, a House Wren, was flying straight at my face. At the last second, it turned and thumped into the den window and bounced onto the patio, where it sat there and pondered the circumstances which led to its current dazed condition. It didn't hit very hard, so I was pretty sure it would recover. I picked it up and held it for about 15 minutes.

At first it was very still and had its mouth open and eyes half closed. Its tiny heart was certainly beating and it was breathing and holding up its head. Then the beak closed and the blinks became a stare and soon it moved its head side to side and looked up at me. I had forgotten how very tiny they are – not much bigger than a hummingbird. Soon it realized my hand was open and it flew out of my hand...straight into the opposite door! This time it just barely bounced and managed to fly off into the coral honeysuckle tangles at the edge of the patio.

One pair of Mallards continues to come onto the patio and peck at the kitchen door until I come out and feed them. Usually they waddle along beside me, quackquacking all the way to the picnic table where I store their food. Some days they sleep beside the garage or under the patio furniture for most of the day.

The Mississippi Kites have returned to our yard and I'm enjoying their calls as they dive and soar over the back yard. I'm hoping they choose one of our trees again for their nest. Last week was fantastic in our yard for new species. I had a Painted Bunting at the feeder and a Lark Sparrow in the garden. This is NOT the countryside – we're just south of I-240 between Western and Walker! Then another new species for our yard appeared.

On Thursday I had two male Orchard Orioles and three first year male Orchard Orioles foraging in the coral honeysuckle. As of today, we still had Clay-colored and Chipping Sparrows enjoying the weeds in the yard. Our Ruby-throated Hummingbirds come to the feeder and also forage in the coral honeysuckle and pink and red sages. Chickadees have fledged one brood in one nest and the second nest box still has babies.

Books of Interest (cont.)

Arctic terns? The least ambitious migrate at least 37,000 miles a year. Some travel 57,000 miles a year. I find that staggering.

For a more personal look try A Most Remarkable Creature: The Hidden Life and Epic Journey of the World's Smartest Birds of Prey by Jonathan Meiburg.

This book starts in Antarctica. The Falklands. They are called Johnny Rooks. We have Charles Darwin aboard the Beagle. They had to post lookouts on the ship to stop the Caracaras from stealing whatever appeals to them A black glazed hat was carried a mile. A pair of heavy balls used in catching cattle was snatched. A red leather Morocco case was never recovered. One sailor woke to find a bird trying to remove his shoe. These birds are interesting and interested in you. You watch them. They watch you back. One chapter is titled "The Most Intelligent Bird in the World."

I'll knock off *The Bomber Mafia* in a couple days. *A World on the Wing* and *A Most Remarkable Creature* are books to be savored.

Field Trip Report: Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

Mother Nature sure provided an absolutely perfect day on May 5

for this fieldtrip. Sunshine, no wind and pleasent temps were enjoyed by all **twentythree** participates.

The Red-eyed, Whiteeyed and especially Black-capped Vireos were a big hit, life birds for many. Rufouscrowned Sparrow was

another life bird for several.





Common Yellowthroat, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Summer Tanagers, Painted & Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeak were some of the most colorful birds of the day.

Great-crested and Scissortailed Flycatchers, Eastern Phoebe (feeding young) and Western Kingbird, Barn and Cliff Swallows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were arrivals from the south. Also recent

spring migrants included, Spotted Sandpiper, Dickcissel, Osprey, Mississippi Kite and Black-chinned Hummingbird and Lark Sparrows.

Warren found a very cooperative Eastern Screech-Owl quietly calling in mid-afternoon and the two of them carried on quite a nice conversation. In this same area we located Spotted Towhees, Lincoln Sparrow and Red-headed Woodpeckers.

The only disappoint for the day was **not** finding one Canyon or Rock Wren. Kurt said he had not seen either species this whole year!! They are sorely missed....

A huge Thank You to Kurt Meisenzahl for organizing and leading this fabulous outing.

Field Trip Report: South Jenkins in Norman

Twelve enthusiastic, so happy to be out **together** for more than a year, met Mr. Richard Gunn, the birding guru of S Jenkins, on April 28 for a long awaited tour of one of the premier birding destinations in Oklahoma. Expectations were high and we were not disappointed.



Any time you can see and hear Yellow-throated and Northern Parula Warblers, Red-eyed, White -eyed and Warbling Vireos, Indigo and Painted Buntings plus a Blue Grosbeak has to make such a wonderful and very colorful start to your day!

Flycatcher species included Scissor-tailed, Great Crested, Western and Eastern Kingbirds.

Swainson's Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, Snowy Egret, Chimney Swift, Fish Crow, Blue-gray Gnatcather, Brown Thrasher, Clay-colored Sparrow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Barn & Roughwinged Swallows totaled 23 spring migrants!!

Then by adding in the resident birds such as three species of Woodpeckers, Loggerhead Shrike and Eastern Bluebirds just to name a few, our checklist totaled 50 species...

Nancy Vicars

Nancy Vicars