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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:

Patrick Servello, OKC
James Thul, Flemington, N.J.

Two Best Birding Buddies

The speakers for our November 21 OKC Audubon meeting will be Patti Muzny and Nancy Vicars. Their topic: Nearly Everything You Need to Know About Bird Counts and How to Participate

For over 40 years, Patti and Nancy have participated in Breeding Bird Surveys, primarily in Roger Mills and Beckham Counties and are currently still counting birds! They also participated in George M. Sutton Avian Research Center's first Atlas project, 20 years ago, and are currently conducting the second Atlas project as well as monitoring Bald Eagle nests from Enid to the Eufaula area.

Patti Muzny

Patti Muzny's first experience at birding as a teenager in rural Payne County near Stillwater, OK, did not end well. One hot and humid typical summer day, Patti went out into the countryside with her mom to monitor a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Of course, they sat down in the weeds to



watch. But the next day Patti awakened with itching in every nook and cranny of her body! Until her son, Brian Muzny, was around 10 years-old, she was so over this birding thing! At 10, Brian memorized the bird book and the tapes of their songs and a life-long adventure of "stalking" birds.

Nancy Vicars

Nancy Vicars' first birding experience happened in the fall of 1986. A long-life light bulb salesman and a member of the OKC Audubon Society made a sales call to the medical clinic where

she worked. During his visit a large flock of Cedar Waxwings descended onto the crabapple tree outside my office window, feasted on the fruit, then gathered on the bird bath for drinks. What a spectacular sight. Her official first "Lifer!!" Beside many trips around the U.S., her other travels to see birds include Mexico, Costa Rica, Churchill, Manitoba, and most recently East Africa.



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

That Broad-billed Hummingbird that showed up at Marcia Palmer's home, well out of its fall migration route--a third record for Oklahoma (2002,2017) got me to thinking about that whole family of hummers--328 species at least according to one taxonomist along with many dozens of subspecies that other taxonomists count as full species. They are strictly New World birds with the lion's share found in the South American tropics. I've had the awesome privilege of seeing 223 which includes some of the subspecies since some have been split and others are likely to split in the future. There seems to be no habitat they don't get into no matter the elevation. I've seen them way, way above tree line in the Andes, in the driest desert in the world--the Atacama, and everywhere in between.

I saw my first Broad-billed Hummer in Ramsey Canyon, Arizona back in '91. As y'all might well be aware of, they are not all called "Hummingbirds" since some of our US field guides include Violet-ears, Emeralds, Starthroat and Woodstar. However, it gets pretty obvious that folk who assign "common names" to members of this family must have gotten a bit exasperated with descriptive names. There are also Hermits, Lancebills, Sabrewings, Thorntails, Piedtails, Coquettes, Sapphires, Woodnymphs, Shining Sunbeams, Trainbearers, Avocetbills, Hillstars, Jacobins, Incas, Sicklebills....just to name a few from the first pages of hummers in a South American country field guide.

The smallest hummer--and therefore the smallest bird is the Bee Hummingbird of Cuba at about 2 .25 inches and the largest is the Giant Hummingbird at just over 7 inches (thrush size). By the way, that Facebook post that keeps going around about the Topaz Hummingbird being the smallest is a fake Photoshop. It needs to get deleted and the originator castigat-ed!! The Fiery Topaz, while being truly a spectacular bird is just a tiny bit smaller than the Giant Hummer.

I think 2 of my favorite hummers--actually favorite of all birds--are Costa Rica's Fiery-throated Hummingbird and the Sword-billed Hummingbird from the high Andes. I could watch the Fiery-throated at a feeder at our hotel up just off the Pan-American Highway in Costa Rica for hours (yes, we saw the Quetzal there as well, but the hummer...!!) Then on a trip up to the high levels of Podocarpus National Park, Ecuador, I strayed from the trail a ways, sat down to catch my breath and enjoy the scenery when a female Swordbill showed up. I watched it spellbound. It's a bird with a body about 5 inches long, but the bill is an additional slightly-upturned 4 inches! It flew around a bit, maybe it had noticed me, but soon flew to a small round blob high on a dead branch, which I had thought was a clump of small bromeliads--it was a nest with young. The mother somehow maneuvered it super-long bill while hovering over the young and they each fed in turn without getting jabbed. I saw lots of other great birds--"lifers"--that day but those minutes watching those incredible birds was not just the highlight of the day but of the entire 10-day trip and 400+ species seen.



Sword-billed Hummingbird



Bob Holbrook on the Essequibo River, Guyana

One added note--and change of subject-- my friend Floyd is looking at a Spring trip to the Mid-Atlantic States as an OCAS event. No dates yet but keep this in mind if you'd like to participate.

—Bob Holbrook, *alias Inca Tern*



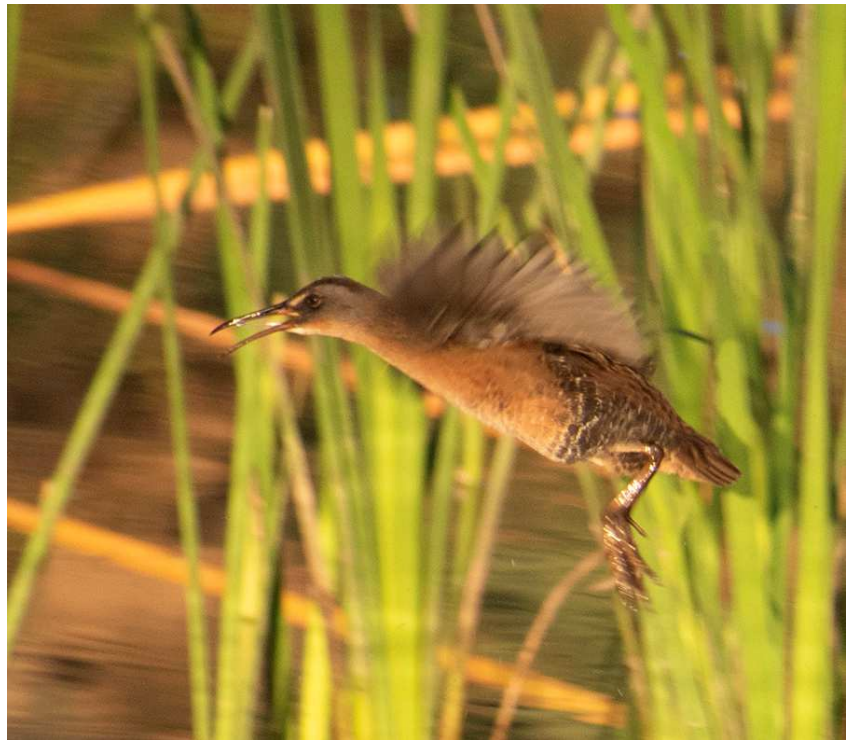
Bird of the Month: Virginia Rail

By Grace Huffman

Inspiration from Tabatha Olsen's wonderful presentation last month and a rare opportunity to photograph these difficult birds, and you get the perfect storm for this month's bird: **Virginia Rail!**

These small, hard to see birds can be found throughout certain times of the year all over 48 states across the lower 48 states and up as far as southern Canada in the summertime. They live in both freshwater and saltwater marshes, skulking around the reeds near the water's edge. Where they breed, they weave the vegetation into a loose basket, and will even weave a canopy over the nest. They also build several dummy nests in addition to the real one. The female can lay a very large clutch of eggs, sometimes as many as 13! Young are covered in black down, and can fly within a month.

Here in Oklahoma, you can find them during migration and winter. I have heard them many more times than I have seen them, and they are even harder to photograph! Usually I hear grunts and squeaks calling from the reeds. If you are someplace where there are a lot of reeds near the water's edge, look closely for a small, long-legged bird with a bright orange bill walking in and out of view! And keep an ear out for those strange rail noises. You'll have the best luck at dawn and dusk, but I have occasionally gotten them in the afternoon as well. The drought this year has made it a bit tricky, but Oklahoma City's Lakes Hefner and Overholser usually have them each winter. (I shot this photo at Overholser last month.)



Virginia Rail © Grace Huffman

Due to their secretive nature, it's hard to monitor the population of rails. However, Virginia Rails are considered to be of Least Concern and are thought to have a stable population. Threats to these birds, like many others, include the loss of their preferred wetland habitat. Hopefully at some point this winter you are able to find one of these awesome little rails!

Reference: allaboutbirds.org

Recorder's Report

October 2022

Fall is here and the winter birds have started to arrive. The sparrows are back in town. A variety of shorebird and other species are being found at the sandbar at Lake Hefner's Prairie Dog Point. A first time ever in OKC bird was spotted and has stayed around for many to see. What a neat situation. Birders have found a great variety during the nice weather in October before the winter weather arrives.

On October 1st Jason Shaw discovered Spotted Towhee at Taylor Lake in Grady County; Someone tallied Black-throated Green Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Yellow-rumped Warbler at Lake Thunderbird SP in Cleveland County; and Michael Reichert reported Pine Warbler at Lake Carl Blackwell in Payne County. Steve Stone came across Virginia Rail at Lake Overholser – Coffey Dam; while Brian Marra and Grace Huffman encountered Common Yellowthroat, Nashville Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler at Crystal Lake in OKC. On the 2nd Grace Huffman saw American Bittern and Sora Rail at Lake Overholser; Lucas Bobay detected Black-throated Green Warbler at Arcadia Lake; while at Lake Hefner, Dan Cimbaro noticed Stilt Sandpiper and Lucas Bobay observed Semipalmated Sandpiper.



Black-throated Green Warbler

On the 3rd Kimberly Harper identified Bewick's Wren at Newcastle in McClain County; Rod Lusey viewed Spotted Sandpiper at Arcadia Lake; and Scott Loss photographed Grasshopper Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak at Sanborn Lake in Stillwater. On the 4th Rod Lusey got Lesser Black-backed Gull at Arcadia Lake; Jeremy Wrenn confirmed Cedar Waxwing at Bricktown River Walk Park; and Scott Loss added Black-



Lesser Black-backed Gull

and-white Warbler at San Born Lake in Stillwater. On the 5th Curtis Stewart counted Common Nighthawk at



Reddish Egret

Okarche in Kingfisher County; Zach DuFran located House Wren in Norman; Megan Miguez documented **Reddish Egret** at Lake Hefner; and Lucas

Bobay recognized Black-throated Green Warbler at Lake Carl Blackwell. On the 6th Someone had Lincoln's Sparrow in Norman; and Lucas Bobay recorded Barred Owl at The Botanic Garden at OSU.

On the 7th Joe Grzybowski verified Greater Roadrunner along I-35 northwest of Purcell in McClain County; Braden Farris discovered Vesper Sparrow at Prairie Prime Ranch in Lincoln County; D&D Norris tallied Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Kairworks Garden in Logan County; Someone reported Common Yellowthroat in Norman and Lucas Bobay came across Eastern Wood-pewee at The Botanic Garden at OSU. Hal Yocum had



Red Phalarope © Steve Davis

Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Mitch Park in Edmond; Eric Moore encountered White-throated Sparrow at Arcadia Lake; Steve Davis photographed Vesper Sparrow in OKC; and Tabitha Olsen detected Song Sparrow at UCO. At Lake Hefner

Braden Farris saw Savannah Sparrow; and Devin Bosler discovered **Red Phalarope**.

On the 8th Chad Ellis spotted House Wren at Kingfisher City Park; and Megan Miguez photographed Nashville Warbler and Dickcissel at Stroud in Lincoln County. Kate Burger tallied White-crowned Sparrow in Norman; Someone reported Peregrine Falcon at Lake Thunderbird SP – West Sentinel and heard White-throated Sparrow in Reaves Park in Norman. Scott Loss

detected Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Fox Sparrow in Stillwater; and David Londe described Tennessee Warbler at The Botanic Garden at OSU. Meanwhile, Joe Grzybowski noticed Black-bellied Plover at Lake Hefner and Branden Farris documented about 80 Broad-winged Hawks and 750 Swainson's Hawks migrating over Lake Hefner. Grace Huffman and Brian Marra also had a massive kettle of about 500 Swainson's Hawks soaring overhead at northeast Stinchcomb WR in Canadian County. The next day on the 9th Elizabeth Pratt viewed large amounts of migrating Swainson's Hawks between Chickasha and Lindsay. Some were sitting in the fields while others were kettling with vultures overhead. Were all these sightings the same flock?

On the 10th Brian Marra documented Northern Parula at Crystal Lake; and Aaron Mechem observed American Avocets and Long-billed Dowitchers at Lake Hefner.

On the 12th Aaron Short identified Red-shouldered Hawk at Crescent in Kingfisher County; and Renee Schuette viewed Pine Siskin at OSU. On the 13th Tabitha Olsen documented Common



Common Tern © Sean Verkamp

Tern at Lake Hefner – Hobie Point. On the 14th Lucas Bobay got Horned Grebe at Lake Carl Blackwell; and Michael Reichert confirmed LeConte's Sparrow at Teal Ridge Wetland. On the 15th Rodney East added White-throated Sparrow, Wilson's Snipe and Greater Yellowlegs at Wewoka Woods in Seminole County; Lucas Bobay counted American Golden-Plover at Lake Hefner; Scott Loss located Eared Grebe at Lake Carl Blackwell; Michelle Spacek recognized Savannah Sparrow at Wes Watkins Lake in Pottawatomie County; and at Lake Thunderbird Jesse Pine had American Golden-Plover and Brown Creeper; while Someone recorded Swamp Sparrow.

On the 16th Don Pearson verified Long-billed Dowitcher and Pied-billed Grebe at a lake north of Hennepin in Garvin County; Grace Huffman spotted Sprague's Pipit at Crystal Lake in OKC; Steve Stone discovered Hermit Thrush at Martin Park Nature Center; while in Norman Diana Beal tallied Chipping Sparrow; and Michael Reichert reported Spotted Towhee at Hall Park. On the 17th Sydney Austin came across Song Sparrow at John H. Saxon Park in Norman; and Joe Grzybowski had California Gull at Lake Hefner. On the 18th Steve Stone encountered Summer Tanager at Martin Park Nature Center and Semipalmated Plover at Lake

Hefner; and Lucas Bobay saw Sprague's Pipit at OSU Research Range.

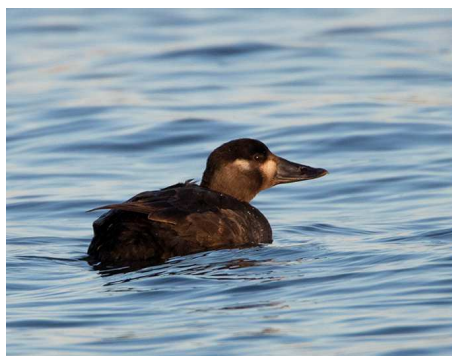
On the 19th Samuel Cox detected Bald Eagle at Stratford in Garvin County; and Scott Loss noticed Common Loon at Lake Carl Blackwell. On the 22nd Michael Reichert observed **Western Grebe** at Lake Hefner – Prairie Dog Point; and Jennifer Kidney had Dark-eyed Junco in Norman. On the 23rd Jake Hennig identified Eastern Towhee at Mulhall in Logan County. On the 26th Jake Gerlt



Western Grebe

viewed Sandhill Crane at Yukon in Canadian County. On the 27th Michelle Spacek added Red-headed Woodpecker and Red-breasted Nuthatch at Pink in Pottawatomie County; and Someone photographed Glossy Ibis at Lake Thunderbird SP – North Sentinel Campground.

On the 28th Rosario Douglas had Field Sparrow in Norman; Brian Marra counted Dunlin at Lake Hefner; and Ory Schultheis located Harris's Sparrow in Edmond. On the 29th Scott Loss heard Purple Finch in Stillwater; Esther Key recorded



Surf Scoter

Harris's Sparrow in Moore; and Cameron Lang located Savannah Sparrow in the field behind the museum in Norman. At Lake Hefner Deanne McKinney recognized American Avocet while Carrie Pratt and Alex Harman docu-

mented Surf Scoter. As the weather gets colder in November, what other interesting winter birds will arrive?

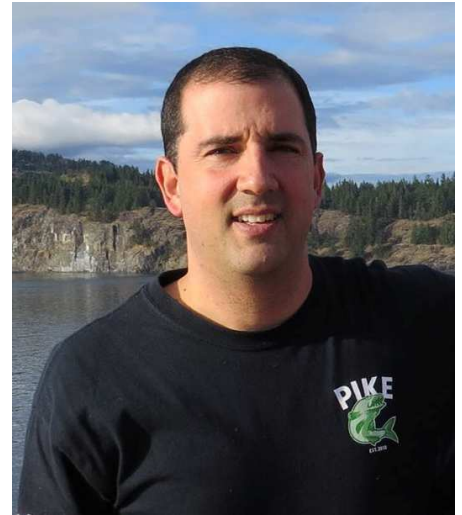
In the Central Oklahoma area during October **188** species were reported with **3** new species which brings the year's total at **300**. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds. Information is accessed at: [ebird](https://ebird.org/region/US-OK?yr=all). 2022 eBird: 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 October 30 & 31, 2022); and occasionally from Facebook, and the OKBIRDS List. I can be contacted at emkok@earthlink.net. Esther M. Key, Editor.

Christmas Bird Count

Dear CBC Party leaders and their teammates:

This year's Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2022! 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 108 species and almost 17,000 birds! I will ask if Pat Velte can add a link on the website to our traditional checklist. I can only add birds that are compiled on these lists and for parties with multiple territories, I respectfully ask that the party leader also compiles a master list.



I really hope we can match or even surpass the impressive 21 count parties comprised of 44 counters from last year! As the time gets closer, I will try my best to reach out to the traditional count leaders to confirm participation and discuss logistics. I also plan to be at this month's club meeting on the 21st.

We always encourage new counters and if you contact me or come to the meeting, 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.

Sincerely,

Nathan—405.496.2077—nrkuhnert@hotmail.com

E-BIRD BIG DAY—OCTOBER 8, 2022

by Guyla Mayo

Forty-three people participated in 9 of our 12 counties for the October 8 Big Day. Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals and Carolina Chickadees were reported in all 9 participating counties. In **Oklahoma County** 19 people reported 102 species including a Reddish Egret that was sighted and photographed by Brett Barnes at Lake Hefner.

Braden Farris saw a kettle of 720 Swainson's Hawks, 80 Broad-winged Hawks, and 113 Turkey Vultures; he also recorded a Red Phalarope at Lake Hefner; Joe Grzybowski sighted a Horned Grebe in with four Pied-billed Grebes. Grace Huffman reported a Blue-headed Vireo at Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge and Eric Moore listed two Blue Grosbeaks at Hafer Park in Edmond.

Twelve birders participated in **Payne County** reporting 72 species. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was listed by Anna Nesterovic at Sanborn Lake and a Spotted Sandpiper by Lucas Bobay at Lake Carl Blackwell.

In **Cleveland County** four people participated and reported 59 species with Carter Stephens listing a Barred Owl in Slaughterville. In **Canadian County** one person added 32 species: Grace Huffman reported a Blue-headed Vireo.

In **Logan County** two participants reported 12 species: D&D Norris identified a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Kairworks Garden. and an American Coot was spotted at Liberty Lake. In **Lincoln County** one person participated reporting 21 species with Megan Miguez spotting a Field Sparrow. Three people in **Kingfisher County** reported 31 species with two Loggerhead Shrikes spotted by Seanna R on the Kingfisher Trails.

Grady County had one participant reporting eight species with Jason Shaw listing a Wood Duck. **Pottawattamie County** also featured one participant, Michelle Spacek, who photographed a Red-breasted Nuthatch and a White-breasted Nuthatch in Pink, OK.



A bit about bird feathers and eggs

By Ann Sherman

Victorian hats led to millions of birds being slaughtered for their feathers. The most popular were hunted nearly to extinction. Flamingos, Birds of Paradise, Rosate Spoonbills were decimated. Snowy and Great Egrets topped the endangered list. Conservationists stepped in and convinced women to stop

killing birds for fashion. They had to deal with a lot of fake news from the people who were making money from the trade. This movement to save the birds led to the established of the Audubon Society.

Oology is the name given to the study of eggs. Birds eggs, in particular. The Victorians were again in the lead to start a craze that would kill untold numbers of birds. "Birdnesting" was seen as a fine hobby for boys. Go out in nature and collect as many different birds eggs as you could. As with collecting birds for hats the hobby was eventually frowned upon.

I just read an excellent book.: *The Falcon Thief. A True Tale of Adventure, Treachery, and the Hunt For The Perfect Bird.* by Joshua Hammer.

It read like a thriller. Early in the book he examines the egg collectors. It had fallen out of favor and was eventually outlawed...but egg collection was still big. It wasn't always dodgy. In the late 1600s Cabinets of Wonders were popular. Eggs were prized. In the Victorian era rich men sent collectors all over the world to gather eggs for their collections. Some of the collections were many tens of thousands of eggs.

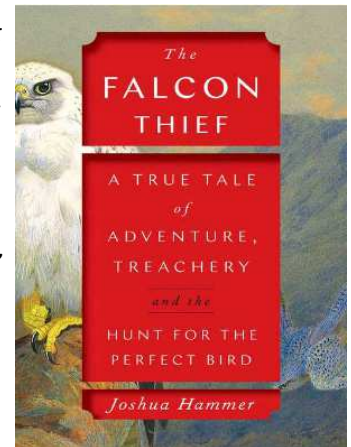
Birds of prey are not found in easy places. Men were attacked at the top of Cottonwood trees by Apaches. They fell out of trees. They fell off cliffs. They were blown out of trees and cliffs. There were a few who were smothered in sand dunes. Stealing eggs is a risky business.

After World War I it was becoming apparent that birds were being driven to extinction by the egg collectors and it was condemned by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in 1922. But it never stopped.

From the book jacket:

On May 3, 2010 an Irish National named Jeffrey Lendrum was apprehended at Britain's Birmingham International Airport with a suspicious parcel strapped to his stomach.

Inside were fourteen rare peregrine falcon eggs snatched from a remote cliffside in Wales. So begins a tale almost too bizarre to believe, following the parallel lives of a globe-trotting smuggler who spent two decades capturing endangered raptors worth millions of dollars as race champions and Detective Andy McWilliam of the UK's National Wildlife Crime Unit, who's hell-bent on protecting the worlds birds of prey.



The Falcon Thief whisks readers from the volcanoes of Patagonia to Zimbabwes Matobo National Park and from a frigid tundra to the deserts of Dubai, all in pursuit of a reckless man gripped by a destructive compulsion to make the most beautiful creatures in nature his own. It's a story that is part true-crime narrative, part epic adventure, and wholly unputdownable until the very last page.

I agree. I suggest you read it.

The Bald Eagle Survey Team

To restore the southern bald eagle population, the Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville released 275 captive-raised bald eagles in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina between 1985 and 1992. In 1991, bald eagle nests were again observed in Oklahoma. From zero bald eagle nests in Oklahoma in 1984 to well over 250 nests today is a huge leap. The Sutton Center is fortunate to receive help from volunteers, called the "BEST" – the Bald Eagle Survey Team. If you would like more information about volunteering with the Sutton Center BEST, please contact us at BEST@suttoncenter.org to find out how you can be an important part of protecting our nation's

Minutes of Oklahoma City Audubon Society Meeting

October 17, 2022

The meeting was opened by President Bob Holbrook at 7:00 PM. Visitors were welcomed.

The minutes of the September 19, 2022 meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer Nancy Vicars reported the club has cash on hand of \$7,550.08.

No new members have joined OKCAS since the last meeting.

Old Business:

Warren Harden suggested a committee be formed to provide programs for future meetings.

New Business:

Jimmy Woodard, head of the 2022 nominating committee of one, reported that it is time for volunteers to step up and volunteer to serve as officers and committee chairs. Grace Huffman will continue to serve as Vice President. Jimmy also reported the fall OOS Meeting will be held at Lake Arcadia.

Joe Grzybowski reported that flocks of dead Pelicans have been found at Lake Hefner due to avian flu. The speaker scheduled for the January OCAS meeting will be a veterinarian who will speak about avian flu. There is a number to call to report suspected avian flu and it was suggested that number be added to our newsletter and to our website.

A friend of Bob Holbrook will guide two birding trips in the USA and one overseas each year. Anyone interested in a birding trip can get in touch with Bob for more details.

Nancy Vicars will lead a private birding tour of Molly Spencer Farms on November 2nd and on November 5th a public tour will be held. Volunteers are needed to assist the public bird walk. On October 29, Hal Yocum will lead a field trip to Mitch Park, beginning at 8:00 AM.

Twelve people participated in a field trip to MWC and some of the “firsts” for this fall were: Yellow-rumped Warblers, Orange crowned and Nashville Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Some new fall migrants for Mitch Park were White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, Spotted Towhees, Clay-colored and Lincoln’s Sparrows and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Joe Grzybowski reported that the Franklin’s and Herrings Gulls have returned.

Patti High asked for refreshment volunteers for the November meeting.

The program was presented by **Tabatha Olsen**, who enlightened members with her research on rails .

The November program will be presented by members Nancy Vicars and Patti Muzny, who will share their experiences with conducting Breeding Bird Surveys and Breeding Bird Atlasing along with monitoring the nests of Bald Eagles.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Muzny
Secretary

A Note From Tabitha

I wanted to make sure I said thank you again for

letting me present tonight. I really enjoy working with the birders here in Oklahoma, as everyone is always very kind and welcoming. I've been in many



birding groups that are mean spirited and competitive to the point of obsession, making it hard to have a good time. I am grateful to meet and talk to such kind and thoughtful people here in Oklahoma, and I wanted to make sure that I express that.

I would like to share our freely available videos and audio of the Yellow Rail vocalization. We are working on publishing our findings using this data; people can see and access our videos and files at the links below.

You don't need an account to access the files. Go to this website (<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/>) and type in the 'search' bar, "Yellow Rail", and it should come up. Or, visit this link to go straight to : <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/FODJ3Q>. If anyone has any questions, I am always happy to chat!

Thank you again and happy birding,
Tabitha Olsen

Refreshments

The following folks will be providing refreshments for the Monday, November 21 OCAS meeting:

Snacks: Snacks: Grace Kaspar-Kirch, Marilyn Taylor, Mary Lane and Sharon Henthorn

Ice/drinks: Randy Henthorn

Fieldtrip to Molly Spencer Farm in Yukon, OK

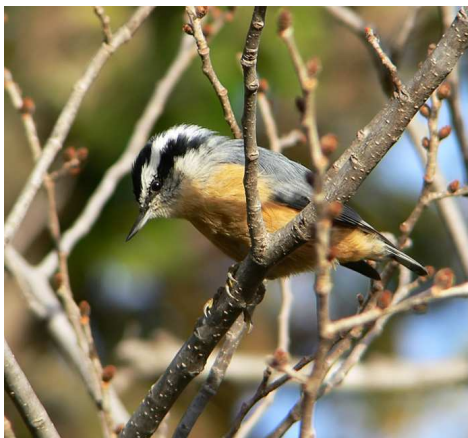
by Nancy Vicars



This public event was well promoted and advertised by Emma Newberry-Davis, Program Manager of the farm. Fifty-one participants had registered to attend this event promoted as an introduction to Birding.

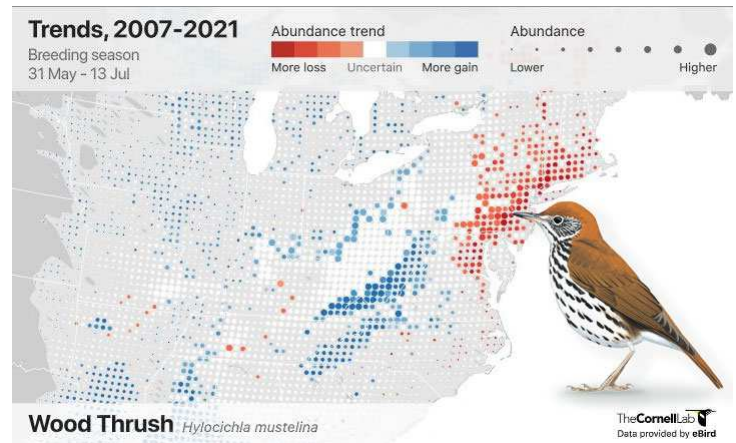
Saturday, November 5th dawned clear, calm and just a tad chilly. Exactly the kind of day we hope for when planning an early fall fieldtrip. A far cry from the first major cold front of the season accompanied by high winds, rain and storms all day on Friday.

Needless to say, Friday's weather event really had a major impact on the attendance. Only 15 registrants braved the cold morning.



The birds were few and far between although we did have a few highlights including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Harris's Sparrow and a Cooper's Hawk. During our spring visit to the farm, we watched this hawk building a nest.

Learn about bird population trends using new Cornell tool



A new tool called **eBird Trends** reveals local changes in bird abundance over the past 15 years. For example, Wood Thrush numbers have declined over the past half century, but the eBird Trend map above paints a more complex picture of recent breeding population changes: some areas show declines while others show increases.

How do you find species with eBird Trends maps?

eBird Trends maps bring the data front and center—all you need to do is pick a species for which eBird Trends are available.

From the eBird Status and Trends homepage, click on the green explore button. Next tap the down arrow next to the word "Filter" and then click the "Species with trends" box under filter by map types. Click on the photo of any species to see eBird Trends as well as weekly abundance visualizations and range maps. You can easily move between Abundance, Weekly, Trends, and Range visualizations using the menu at the top.

Click on the map and scroll to zoom in and out or use the + or - buttons on the left side of the map. To see eBird trend estimates for each 27 x 27 km circle place the mouse over the circle. The pop-up shows the median trend with upper and lower 80% confidence bounds and the average relative abundance for that species in 2014.

<https://science.ebird.org/en/status-and-trends/species?product=trends>