

A Touch of South East Asia's Nature

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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:

Mia Meche, Edmond, OK

Wren Hobbs, Norman, OK

Jimmy Davidson, Edmond, OK

The speaker for our October 20 OKC Audubon meeting will be Joe Grzybowski sharing his recent experience in Central Thailand with A Touch of Southeast Asia's Nature.

Joe recently took part in a Wings tour and had quite the experience visiting some of Thailand's forested and mountainous national parks. Also visited were the salt pan areas along the coast of the Bay of Thailand, host to thousands of wintering Asian shorebirds. Joe always has beautiful photographs to enjoy.

Joe has had an interest in Oklahoma ornithology for a long while. He created a Bibliography of

Oklahoma Ornithology 1984. Retired, he is still a Research Associate with the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. His personal experiences began in western New York and covered the period of the "old-school" ornithologists. Early mentors were individuals like Harold Axtell and Stephen Eaton during a time focused on natural history studies. Coming to Oklahoma, he became acquainted and interacted with George Sutton, an icon of Oklahoma Ornithology, and many of his students. He has conducted field work on wild turkeys, grassland birds, population biology and recovery of black-capped vireos, cowbird parasitism, raptors, etc. and has been associated with the upcoming breed of ornithologists in the State. With Sutton's passing, Joe continued Sutton's record-keeping pattern with the formation of the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee, and has written accounts on the birds of the Southern Great Plains for *American Birds*, now *North American Birds*, since the late 1980s. He is also a Fellow in the American Ornithological Society (formerly American Ornithologists' Union). Come along, bring a friend and enjoy an Eastern Hemisphere experience.



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

Fall is here; the monarch butterflies are all over the place and the Mississippi Kites and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have gone.

I saw two Double-crested Cormorants and two Red-shouldered Hawks at Northeast Park/Zoo Lake this week. Otherwise I'm still waiting for the waterfowl and most of the migrating birds.

Expect increasing success in seeing woodland birds as the branches become more visible and leaves continue to drop. Take nothing for granted ; every week has characteristics of its own. Get out and enjoy!

Your club's president Sharon Henthorn



2025 Christmas Bird Count Schedule

This year's Christmas Bird count (CBC) window runs from December 15 to January 5. As your OKC Audubon Society compiler I've chosen Sunday, December 14 as our count day.

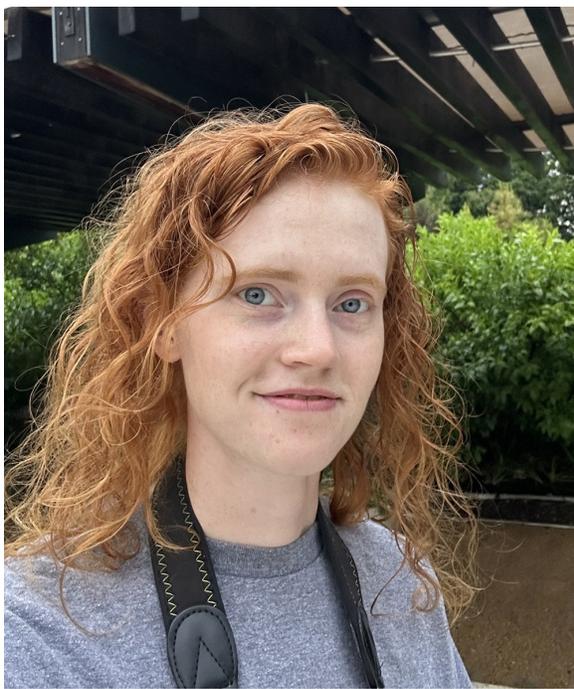
I ask that everyone who has participated in the past continue to cover their same areas as last year. Since I live in Tulsa now, I can't really make the OKC Audubon meetings easily. I will be attempting to contact everyone via email or phone to confirm participation and assignments but I ask everyone to attempt to contact me as well. J.woodard@cox.net or 405-365-5685.

As with last year, I plan to contact Johnnie's on Britton Road (OKC) to reserve a room for that evening for our compilation dinner but I have not done so just yet. I will let everyone know soon when it's confirmed.

BTW, I am also seeking a local birder(s) to take over this CBC in 2026. I will help them with the switchover any way I can. Thanks.



Jimmy Woodard
5918 E 4th Terrace
Tulsa, OK 74112



Bird of the Month: Pomarine Jaeger

By Grace Huffman

In fall migration you never know what you are going to find, and sometimes it can be spectacular, like this month's bird, the **Pomarine Jaeger**!

The Pomarine Jaeger is the largest and stockiest of the three jaeger species, which are basically pirate cousins to the gulls. You will often find them harassing gulls and terns into giving up their catch, instead of fishing for themselves. All three of them are largely oceanic species, breeding up in the Arctic and spending the rest of the year at sea. However, they do occasionally wander inland during migration.

Pomarine Jaegers, like Snowy Owls, eat lemmings during the breeding season and will compete with the owls for nesting locations. They have been known to even kill a snowy owl they deem as an intruder! In years where the lemming population is low, they will opt to wander instead of breeding. When they do breed, they lay their eggs in a depression on the ground, and the young are capable of leaving the nest soon after hatching. Once they grow in their flight feathers, they become a headache for us birders as young jaegers are very difficult to tell apart, as there are light, intermediate, and dark morphs for all three species.

Recently, Devin Bosler found a juvenile Pomarine Jaeger at Lake Hefner, one of very few records in the state. As of October 13, it's still being reported! If you come out to look for it, it is all dark, larger than the Ring-billed Gulls, and is often seen harassing them. While in flight the white wing flashes are visible, with a smaller white line often visible in photos but hard to see in flight. If it's sitting in the water, it will often give the appearance of sitting a little higher up versus the gulls. This is not a guide in how to tell the different jaegers apart, but will hopefully help you pick out this particular bird from the gulls at Hefner!

Overall populations are difficult to monitor since breeding is often dependent on the lemmings, but they are believed to have a healthy population and are considered to be of least concern. If you go out to Hefner to see this bird, or go on a pelagic to find them in their normal habitat, enjoy these pirates! And I wish you luck with identification!



Pomarine Jaeger © Grace Huffman

Reference: allaboutbirds.org

Long-term Monitoring of Red Ridge Begins



Red Ridge, in Oklahoma City, recently welcomed members of the [Oklahoma Ornithological Society](#) for a summer bird count, and it was a major success!

Ten birders explored the preserve on foot, spotting more than 300 individual birds across 47 species, including fan favorites like painted buntings, owls and hawks.

This new partnership supports our growing conservation work and helps us better understand the wildlife that depend on the land. Bird counts like this will now take place regularly as part of our long-term monitoring

Upcoming Fieldtrips:

November 1 (Saturday) - Field Trip to Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge to see cranes; (Saturday, November 8th will be the back-up date in case of rain).

Mark Howery will be leading this trip. Please contact him: (mkhowery@juno.com) or call (405-990-7259) if you plan to attend.

November 8 (Saturday) Mollie Spencer Farm in Yukon, OK, 8:00AM - 10:00AM. OCAS members, contact Nancy Vicars to volunteer as guides.

Location: 1001 Garth Brooks Blvd. (NE corner of Garth Brooks and Vandament St. in Yukon). **Details:** 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Leader: Nancy Vicars, nancy.vicars@sbcglobal.net



Rare hybrid documented near San Antonio

In Texas, biologists have documented an extraordinary bird — the natural hybrid offspring of a green jay

and a blue jay. Once separated by millions of years of evolution and distinct ranges, the two species were brought together as climate change expanded their territories. A backyard birder's photo led to the discovery, and after years of elusiveness, scientists confirmed the bird's identity through genetic testing.

Minutes of the OKC Audubon Society Meeting September 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Cathy Chernausek.

Attendance: 32, including 3 guests

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Vicars presented the report, which was approved as read. Cash on hand: \$9,308.53.

June minutes were read and approved. Nancy has new membership rosters available.

Warren passed around a small feather for identification.

Lots of good trips and birds reported over the break.

Hal Yocum and Matthew Ratcliffe are giving bird walks in partnership with Edmond Park's BioBlitz at Mitch Park. Walks are September 7, 21, and 28.

Steve Stone is leading seasonal bird counts at Red Ridge through a partnership with OOS. The fall count will be Sept 21. Please contact him for more info.

The OOS Fall Meeting will be at Lake Arcadia Oct 17-18. See okbirds.org for more information and to register.

Molly Spencer Farm Public Bird Walk will be Sat Nov 1st (now scheduled for Nov. 8). Reach out to Nancy if you would like to assist.

The speaker was Wren Hobbs, founder of the Norman North High School Bird Club. She gave a great presentation on her club's projects as well as her own bird-focused art.

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 20, 2025, where Joe Grzybowski will give a talk on birds of Thailand.

-Cole Penning, Secretary

Do 'forever' chemicals harm reproductive health?

A new study published in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry by Oxford University Press reports that many tree swallow populations across the United States are living in areas with high levels of exposure to "forever" chemicals. Surprisingly, the researchers found that this exposure did not appear to harm the birds' reproductive health.



Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as "forever chemicals," are synthetic materials that have become a global environmental concern. These compounds enter ecosystems through industrial discharges, firefighting training sites, and wastewater treatment facilities. Such facilities can release residues from everyday consumer products that use these chemicals, including nonstick cookware, food packaging, stain-resistant fabrics, and water-repellent coatings.

In this investigation, scientists measured concentrations of these chemicals in the tissues and diet of tree swallows, a migratory bird found throughout North America. They also examined whether exposure influenced breeding success.

The research included fieldwork at multiple military installations and other locations with differing contamination histories. The researchers found much higher concentrations of forever chemicals at sites treated with firefighting foams, as well as those closer to urban areas. Researchers noted the high concentration of forever chemical perfluorohexane sulfonate at a site whose sources include residual from the manufacturing plant near Cottage Grove, Minnesota, and associated waste disposal sites, but also from other numerous other household and industrial sources originating in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area.

The investigators found that despite differences in exposure levels to these chemicals, there was no statistically significant association between chemical exposure and reproductive outcomes such as whether birds hatched or grew to the point where they could take flight. The health of the bird chicks appeared unaffected by levels of chemical exposure.