

Birds Doing Things

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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:

Natalee Jamison, Edmond

Ethan Milller, OKC

Brittney Logan, Yukon

Gabrielle Bryant, OKC

The speaker for our October 19 Oklahoma City Audubon meeting will be Kathleen Tucker talking about and showing her photographs of birds that are found in Oklahoma that I captured "in action" i.e. "doing something" - mating, flying, fighting, hunting, or just hanging around.

This presentation is designed to be fun, informative, educational, and... just lots of fun.

She will present pictures of birds she has photographed from around the world. Kathleen is a native of Oklahoma

prior to being a 30-year resident of San Diego, CA. Her professional career includes non-profit executive, technology innovator and executive, social entrepreneur, law enforcement professional, and author. As an author, prior works include: consulting with Tom Carter (Reba, My Story) on first-hand details of the plane crash that killed members of Reba McEntire's band; writing Chapter 5 of the national bestseller Footsteps of the Fearless as an inspirational and motivational account of when Kathleen was kidnapped in Africa while on a humanitarian mission; authoring two memoirs that are in the United States Library of Congress (one is the memoir of Mary Ellen Withrow, the 40th Treasurer of the United States).

In her law enforcement career, she is the first woman to receive the American Legion Medal for Heroism and is the recipient of a Congressional Certificate of Achievement bestowed on her by the United States House of Representatives in honor of her valor and outstanding dedication to her community.

Come out and enjoy the camaraderie 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:

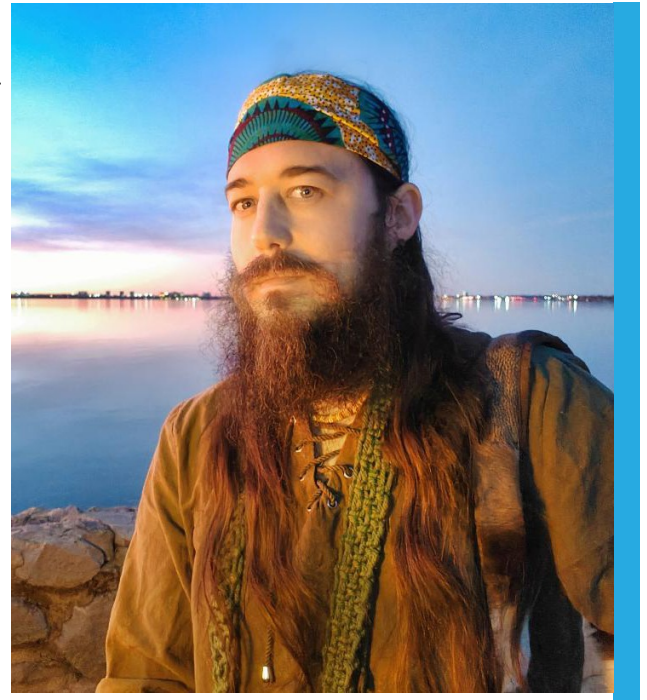
Our meetings are held at the Will Rogers Garden center, located at the intersection of NW 36th Street and I-44.



President's Perspective

Birds have served as symbols for almost as long as humans have existed. Nearly every culture has leaned on them: they soar through Aztec art, perch in Egyptian sculpture, and appear throughout the Bible. Modern life has added icons of its own, from the flashy peacock and majestic eagle to the wise owl and graceful swan. Birds are written into the night sky as constellations like Cygnus, Aquila, and Columba. They are also the most widespread group of sports mascots, from Baltimore to Philadelphia to St. Louis. Birds have become symbols in nearly every facet of life. But one group deserves more than the single note we've assigned it.

Doves and pigeons, members of the order Columbiformes, are best known as symbols of peace. It's easy to see why. The dove returning to Noah's Ark with an olive branch marked the calming of the storm, of rebirth. Yet doves are far more than one symbol. In Oklahoma we see six species regularly, and each one, to me, carries its own meaning.



Mourning Dove: grief and remembrance. The hollow, lamenting coo at dusk and dawn invites quiet reflection. Many people take those calls as loved ones reaching out from beyond.

White-winged Dove: hidden beauty. While perched, this dove keeps its white wing patches mostly concealed. Only at takeoff does it flash its brilliance to anyone watching, a reminder that some beauty stays hidden until the moment it's needed.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: strength and adaptation. Spreading into new lands, this species has worked its three-part coo into suburbs across the continent. It's a bird that thrives wherever it lands.

Inca Dove: humility, persistence, and community. These small birds live in hot, dry country and huddle together to stay warm through cold desert nights, sometimes even stacking on one another.

Common Ground-Dove: connection to the earth. Staying low and walking rather than flying, this tiny dove is a rare sight, even for those actively looking. It rewards patience and a slower pace.

Rock Dove (Pigeon): nature's bond with humanity. Found wherever people settle, pigeons share a fascinating history with us as messengers, war heroes, athletes, and even models. For a closer look, visit the free Pigeon Museum in Oklahoma City.

Doves are usually overlooked, especially in the birding world. They're common, quiet, and easy to dismiss as background. But look closely and you'll find a family full of variety, character, and meaning. They're some of my favorite birds, and I hope this makes them one of yours too.

—Cole Penning

Minutes of the OKC Audubon Society Meeting September 21, 2026

Meeting was called to order by President Cole Penning. Attendance was about 30, one new member, Madahi Lozano and one other guest.

Treasurer's report: Nancy Vicars presented the report which was approved as read. After deposits of \$127.82 and disbursements of \$346.08. The cash on hand was \$10,339.98.

June minutes were read and approved.

Snack schedule was sent around by Cheryl Allen.

No old business

New business : Fall OOS meeting the weekend of Oct 2-3 at Arcadia Education center was announced. Registration at okbirds.org. Tee shirts on sale for \$15 each.

I suggested that members might want to dress up as birds for the October meeting.

Terri Underhill reported on the new Uncommon Ground Sculpture Park in Edmond. They need volunteers to lead birding tours there and can set up a tour of the park. It's on the route 66 tour, located near 2nd and Coltrane.

Oct 17, Martin Nature Park is having a Birding Day 9-3pm

Good bird sightings were reported before the break.

Speaker was Kathleen Tucker and her photographs of "What Birds Eat". A delightful, fun and educational presentation.

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 19, 2026. Our speaker will again be Kathleen Tucker, with a presentation on "What Birds Do"

—Cathy Chernausek, Substitute Secretary



November 7 (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 Vandalment St. in Yukon). Details: 8:00 am - 10:00 am .

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

Refreshments

Refreshment volunteers for the October 19, 2026 meeting:

Snacks: Jeanne Mather, Pilar Escobar, Terri Underhill, and Hal Yokum

Field Trip planned at Zoo Lake Park

Meet 8AM Saturday, October 24 at the main parking lot. Reach the park from the OKC Zoo by heading east, cross the bridge, turn right on Grand, then immediately right again to enter the park.

The park is listed on eBird as Northeast/Zoo Lake Park.

Exciting changes are happening at my favorite City park. The lake is again full of water; most of the wading and shorebirds disappeared with the mud flats gone.

New sightings: I recently encountered a flock of wild turkey on Grand Blvd. around the corner in the middle of the road, undeterred by the bikes, cars, school bus and my close presence. Four toms were parading for the hen and each other.

The Greater Roadrunner continues to spend time in the park and is often seen on the park road, picnic table and ducking in and out of high grass. Always a treat!

Highlight this month was a life bird for me: Peregrine Falcon. At about 6 pm I was near the first fishing pier when a very large bird flew over the lake directly toward me, circled toward the north, folded its wings and dived head first toward the water. I couldn't see it afterward, maybe two minutes in all. Wow!

Warblers, vireos and sparrow are showing up little by little. I've identified Ruby-crowned Kinglets, White-eyed Vireo, Spotted Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Northern House Wren. A Bald Eagle and Red-shouldered Hawk show themselves often.

And it should all get better from now on as migration gets in full gear. The numbers of duck still low but the Double-crested Cormorants and Pied-billed Grebes are arriving.

Sharon Henthorn

Mark Your Calendars: 2026 CBC

The 2026 Christmas Bird Count is scheduled to occur on **Saturday Dec 19th**. There will be a count dinner at Johnnie's that evening from 5-7PM. Johnnie's is at 2652 W Britton. Jimmy Woodard will be the Count Compiler this year.



St. Katharine Drexel Retirement Home in El Reno, sponsored by the Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, has an aviary that is available for sale. The retirement home is a not-for profit facility and has current needs that could be covered by this sale. The aviary is 70" wide, 30" deep, and 75" high. Contact Mary at 405.640.8040.

You've Never Seen Birds Like This:

"Wild Birds Revealed" Season 2 Premieres

ITHACA, NY—Following the successful launch of season one of Wild Birds Revealed, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is releasing a second video series, sponsored by OM SYSTEM, that gives viewers an up close and personal look at the intimate, hidden lives of everyone's favorite birds. Wild Birds Revealed season 2 takes viewers behind the scenes with wildlife photographers and filmmakers Tim and Russell Laman, a father and son duo that have traveled the world in pursuit of the perfect shot. In season 2, Tim and Russell travel to Florida and Southern California sharing insights and techniques for getting great wildlife photos while capturing the incredible lives of birds.

"We are very excited to share our new episodes of Wild Birds Revealed," says Tim Laman. "This year, we are featuring some diverse and spectacular North American birds that most everyone is probably familiar with—but be prepared to be amazed! From hummingbirds and more, we have filmed some bird behaviors that may surprise you. You don't want to miss Season 2 of Wild Birds Revealed!"



Anna's Hummingbird © Tim Laman

The first episode of Wild Birds Revealed is available now, starting with the acrobatic antics of Hummingbirds, followed by three more episodes. The series will culminate in a live event with Tim and Russell. Register now for more information about the live event and to be the first to know when new episodes drop.

"We are truly honored to continue our collaboration with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for a second year," says Eiji Shirota, head of OM SYSTEM Business Unit, OM Digital Solutions Corporation. "We are delighted that, through this series, we can share the hidden lives of wild birds, the wonders of nature, and the joy of birdwatching with an even wider audience. It is also a great source of pride for us that OM SYSTEM camera systems were used to capture some of the remarkable moments in the lives of wild birds featured in the series. We hope the series will deepen people's understanding and appreciation of nature and inspire new encounters with the natural world and moments of wonder."

"The best storytelling can help people see even familiar birds in a completely new way," said Christian Camerota, senior director of Integrated Marketing & Communications at the Cornell Lab. "By combining singular imagery with the wonder of discovery, Wild Birds Revealed has been designed to help deepen people's love and understanding of birds and inspire them to help protect our natural world."

Watch past episodes of Wild Birds Revealed on the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology's YouTube](#) channel.

The world's top squawkers

By [Barbara Moran](#), WBUR

September 29, 2026

Biologists at the University of Massachusetts Amherst have discovered what may be the world's loudest birds, all living in Brazil. But exactly why these birds evolved to be so noisy remains a mystery.

The finding was published Tuesday in the journal [Evolution](#). A male white bellbird screams its mating call. In 2019 it won the record for the loudest recorded call in the world. Now it has some competition.

This is not the first time UMass biologist Jeff Podos has discovered the world's loudest bird. In 2019, he clocked the [white bellbird](#) at 125 decibels — louder than a jackhammer. The bird, which sounds like a smoke detector that needs a new battery and attracts mates by screaming in their faces, has its own entry in the [Guinness World Records](#).

For the current study, Podos, working with his recently-graduated Ph.D student João Menezes, collected amplitude data on 123 bird species in Brazil and Massachusetts. The team found two more birds that broke 120 decibels: the Bare-throated Bellbird and the Red-legged Seriema.

The bare-throated bellbird has a piercing squawk that's similar to the white bellbird; the red-legged seriema sounds sort of like an angry gull. The seriemas sing in duets, much like an older couple squabbling in Walmart. All three birds have some common physical features: namely, wide beak openings and big bodies with bulky muscles. Podos said 120 decibels seems to be around the physical limit for birds; so while there are undoubtedly loud birds outside Brazil, they are unlikely to be much louder than these.

Cornell ornithologist Elizabeth Derryberry said the research is an important step forward in our understanding of bird evolution. Even though scientists have been studying birdsong for decades, it's only recently that technology has allowed easy, accurate measurements of amplitude.

"It's exciting to see work like this because they're starting to fill in what's a pretty large gap in knowledge," said Derryberry, who directs Cornell's [Macauley Library of Natural Sounds](#) and was not involved with the research.

She said if scientists better understand how the birds evolve and behave, it could lead to better protections. "It's a really useful piece of information from a conservation perspective," she said.

Mass Audubon ornithologist Nathan Senner called the findings "remarkable."



A male white bellbird screams its mating call. In 2019 it won the record for the loudest recorded call in the world. Now it has some competition. (Courtesy Anselmo d’Affonseca/Cell Press)