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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:

- Andrea Brenner, OKC
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- Matthew Ratcliffe, Choctaw
- Lauren Lanning, Springfield, MO
- Gloria Rubac, Houston, TX
- Jane Card, Edmond

ID Tips for Wintering Ducks

The speaker for our **September 18** meeting will be Mark Howery. The topic of his presentation will be: **Identification Tips for Wintering Ducks in Oklahoma**

Mark Howery is the Senior Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and has been with the agency for 31 years. He received his Bachelor of Science in Zoology from the University of Oklahoma in 1986, and his Master of Science in Zoology, with an emphasis in ornithology and behavioral ecology, from the University of South Florida in 1991.



In his role as a Wildlife Diversity Biologist, he works with a wide range of nongame fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and small mammals, and most of this is directed towards the conservation of about 80 species that are at-risk of endangerment or extirpation in Oklahoma. Among his responsibilities are coordination of 10 to 12 grants at a time under ODWC's State Wildlife Grants program. In addition to his work within Oklahoma, he represents the state in four multi-state conservation partnerships with the Central Flyway, two regional Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Mark resides in Norman, with his wife of 35 years, Kathy, and their two daughters - Alyssa and Jenna. In his spare time, he is involved in volunteer work with the Cleveland County Audubon Society, the City of Norman Animal Shelter, the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, and is a co-leader of a weekly Bible study at McFarlin United Methodist Church.

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

I've been thinking about what might be worth writing about as we begin a new cycle of newsletters and meetings. Then my July issue of *Birding* arrived and in it I read an interesting article by Pete Dunne: "Is Field ID Dead". Fortunately his closing remarks seem to answer "NO". However, much of the article deals with the Digital and ID Apps approach that has exploded in the past year or more. So, I figured I'd put in my 2 cents worth.

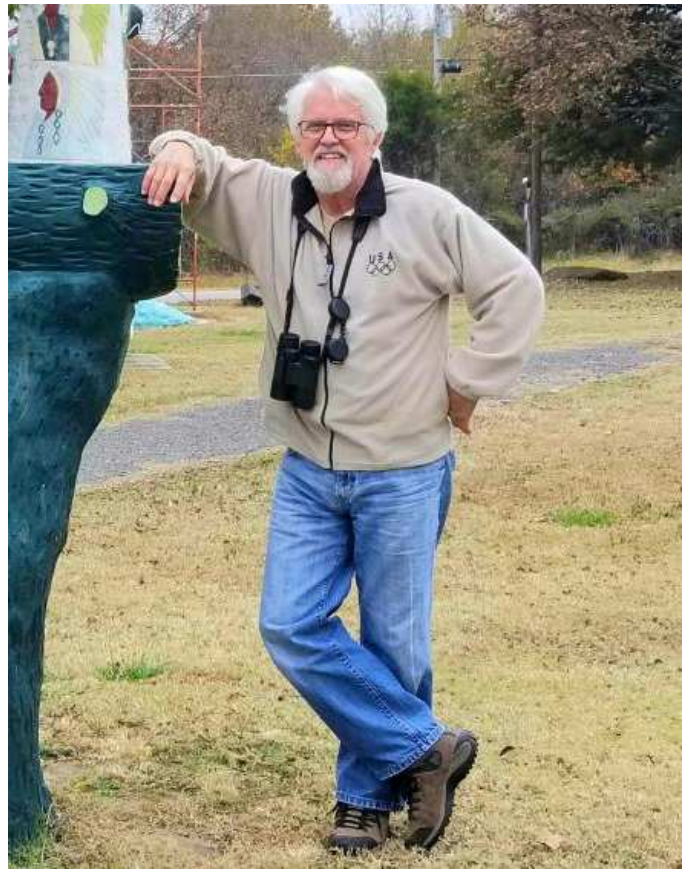
I recon such apps as E-bird, I-naturalist, Merlin and others certainly have their place, are handy, and keep listing up to date and accessible to all those with an interest in what's out there. That I don't doubt. However, I've also noticed that the more we use today's hi-tech, the less we seem to use our own thinking processes—in other words the lazier we get. I know because I find myself right there. My cell phone has a calculator—I seldom stop and try to do simple addition or subtraction anymore. I have to get my phone out, open the calculator and do the math—something I used to do with ease in my head, no matter how many numbers I happened to deal with. I used to drive most anywhere all over the US with only an occasional check on a map. Now, I find I can hardly get to Wal-Mart without plugging into my MapQuest.

I remember a discussion many years ago in *Winging-It* magazine that was started by a person who had taken a photograph of some Ibis in a water reservoir and when he got the slide developed and put it up on the screen, (Yes it was that long ago!) he discovered a Fulvous Whistling-duck in the branches behind them—the question was "can he count it or not?" The consensus was negative but now apparently we can just shoot pictures of anything and everything, drop into one of the apps and count the bird. Maybe that's fine. True, there are some species out there that are almost impossible to tell apart in the field and not singing. Then if one is singing, all we do is make a short recording of it, plug it into an app and presto, we have a "heard bird" for our list.

Well, I suppose that's all fine for those who choose to go that route—it is, after all, their list and their hobby. My list is my list and I include in it those that I wish to include—that's the fun of birding. I have a few that are "heard bird" only, and I'd have it no other way for very good reasons. I don't include birds I've not seen and worked out myself (perhaps someone first called it, gave clues as to its identity, but I still double checked since I've also had instances where an "expert" called a bird but after I double checked it, found it to be something different, and pointed that out for all our profit. While numbers might be great, knowing what we see and being able to correctly identify the next one is a whole lot more satisfying.

So, in a nutshell, as for me and my list, it's what I see, identify, and know. Everybody else's list is their list and includes what they want to include. And that's fine. Now I can get off my "high-horse" and enjoy my Fall and Winter birding.

Bob Holbrook
President





Bird of the Month: Wilson's Warbler

By Grace Huffman

It's fall migration, which means the birds are on the move back south again. And one of the little birds you might find on their way down is the Wilson's Warbler. They are small, bright yellow birds that seem to never stop moving. At first glance they are very similar to Yellow Warblers but there are ways to tell them apart. Wilson's are darker olive colored above, and have a longer and darker tail. Male Wilson's Warblers have a solid black cap. Females and young birds can have a smaller black cap but more often simply have an olive crown.

These birds pass through Oklahoma every spring and fall, but they don't breed here. Instead they breed primarily in Canada and Alaska, as well as higher elevations in northeastern and western states. Females build their nests on the ground or very low, often at the base of a small plant or log so that it is well hidden. Nests built on the ground only have an inside diameter of 1-2 inches to hold the eggs, and they might raise a second brood after the first one fledges.

They winter along the eastern Gulf Coast and down into Mexico and Central America, where they add "honeydew," a sweet liquid produced by some insects into their diet. Interestingly, some Wilson's Warblers defend wintering grounds, while others do not and instead join in flocks of other birds to forage with.

When they are migrating through here, I often listen for their "chip" calls. To me they always sound a bit fussy, which is typically how I try to separate their calls from other birds that might be nearby. I was just in the panhandle where they are migrating in full force right now, and I could hear several calling at once, and there would often be a handful in one area. You can find them all over the state though, especially if you look in trees and shrubs near water. In the spring, the males are often singing.

Allaboutbirds.org lists them as a common bird in steep decline, with habitat loss and cowbirds being mentioned as driving factors. Nevertheless, they can be found if you're out and looking for them this time of year! Good luck!

Reference: allaboutbirds.org



Wilson's Warbler © Grace Huffman

Recorder's Report

Summer 2023

I don't know of anyone sad to see summer fading. August was very hot and kept many birders indoors and off of e-Bird. There were several intrepid birders/listers that have kept us informed of what was out there and we thank you!



Guyla Mayo

A little piece of trivia – Lark Sparrow was the most common sparrow reported for June (10 counties), July (8 counties), and August (7 counties). Followed by Field and Grasshopper Sparrows. This doesn't include House Sparrows, aka Old World or European Sparrows, which were reported in all counties. Some might consider this good news; according to [Cornell University](https://www.cornell.edu), European House Sparrow numbers are in decline based on 21 years of citizen science.

June Sightings

Oklahoma County

American Avocet 1st
Lake Hefner Joe G, Cole P, Steve S
Neotropic Cormorant 1st
Lake Hefner Joe G
American Redstart 1st
Myriad Gardens Trina A
Chestnut-sided Warbler 1st
Myriad Gardens Trina A
White-faced Ibis 2nd
Crystal Lake Brian M, Grace H
Wilson's Phalarope 3rd
Lake Hefner Cole P
Royal Tern 5th
Lake Hefner PDP Trina A
Inca Dove 29th Choctaw Marion H, Jimmy W, Steve S

Canadian County

Fish Crow 5th
Lake Overholser Troy W

Payne County

Hooded Warbler 1st Lake Carl Blackwell Brian M
Ruddy Duck 2nd
Boomer Lake Emerson H, Alex H
Tree Swallow 8th
Home Scott L
Spotted Sandpiper
Stillwater Creek Scott L
Willet 18th
Lake Carl Blackwell Mike B, Anna N
Semipalmated Sandpiper 29th
Lake Carl Blackwell Scott L

Cleveland County

Black-chinned Hummingbird 3rd
Abdul D

July Sightings

Oklahoma County

Spotted Sandpiper 8th
Crystal Lake Brian M, Grace H, Josh S
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 17th
Zoo Lake Park Sharon H

Payne County

Bank Swallow 9th
Lake Carl Blackwell Mike Y
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Home Scott L
Red Crossbill 27th
Sanborn Lake Scott L

Cleveland County

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 9th
Norman Rosario D
Yellow-breasted Chat 12th
Lexington WMA Zach D

August Sightings

Oklahoma County

Osprey 9th
Lake Hefner Brian M
Garganey 10th
Lake Hefner Trina A

American Black Duck 10th
Lake Hefner Trina A
Common Tern 12th
Sewage Lagoon below Hefner Dam Matt R
Northern Harrier 19th
Crystal Lake Brian M, Grace H

Payne County

Short-billed Dowitcher 7th
Lake Carl Blackwell Scott L, Alex H
Lesser Goldfinch 8th
Lake Carl Blackwell Clay B
Nashville Warbler 24th
OSU Riley L
Blue-headed Vireo 27th
OSU Mason H
Canada Warbler 29th
OSU Mason H
Willow Flycatcher 29th
OSU Botanic Garden Scott L

Cleveland County

Common Tern 18th
Lake Thunderbird Jesse P, Joe G
Long-tailed Jaeger 20th
Lake Thunderbird Grace H, Brian M, Anita and Jerry
V, Steve S, Chase M, Larry M, Randy S
Yellow-throated Vireo 20th
Lake Thunderbird Brian M

The information for this report was collected from eBird, ABA Bird News, and the Oklahoma List Serve. Any errors are solely mine. Please feel free to contact me with questions, suggestions, or complaints at guyla1mae@gmail.com.

Northern Goshawk Split

This split reverses a lump from 1957. As it turns out, Eurasian Goshawk is more closely related to a number of other Old World species than it is to American Goshawk, previously Northern Goshawk.

The **American goshawk** (*Accipiter atricapillus*) is a species of raptor in the family Accipitridae. It was first described by Alexander Wilson in 1812. The American goshawk was previously considered conspecific with the Eurasian goshawk, but was assigned to a separate species in 2023 based on differences in morphology, vocalizations, and genetic divergence. It is mainly resident, but birds from colder regions migrate south for the winter. In North America, migratory goshawks are often seen migrating south along mountain ridge tops at nearly any time of the fall depending on latitude.



The Friends of Will Rogers Garden have two upcoming events that they want to share with our membership. Both events are family friendly, free, and open to the public.

The first event is the Garden Party with Friends. It is on Sunday, October 1st from 1pm - 4:30 pm. The event will be held outdoors in the Color Garden (if inclement weather, it will be indoors in the Conservatory). There will be booths with gardening information, butterfly information, face painting, and children's crafts. Also live music, food trucks and a silent auction.

The second event is the Tree Lighting Event on Sunday, November 26th from 4 pm to 7 pm in the Conservatory. Free horse drawn carriage rides, visits with Santa and Rumble the Bison from the OKC Thunder. Also, children's choirs, crafts and food trucks.

Refreshments

Refreshment Volunteers for Sept. 18 2023:

Snacks: Terri Underhill, Nancy Vicars, Patti Muzny and Chindarat Charoenwongse

Ice/drinks: John Eagleston and Cathy Chernausek

Minutes of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society Meeting

Minutes of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society Meeting

June 20, 2023

By Patti Muzny, Secretary

In the absence of President Bob Holbrook, the meeting was opened at 7:00 PM at the Will Rogers Garden Center by Vice-President Grace Huffman. Nancy Vicars' treasurer's report was presented and distributed by Patti Muzny, due to Nancy's absence. Cash on hand as of June 20, 2023, was \$8,659.01. The minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Anna, a representative from the Oklahoma chapter of the Hearing Loss Association spoke to inform the group that her association will meet at the Garden Center at noon on the 3rd Thursday of the month for anyone interested.

The next meeting will be held at the Will Rogers Garden Center on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Visitors and new members were welcomed.

Patti High once again made the snack signup sheet available for upcoming meetings and thanked members who have volunteered to provide refreshments for past meetings.

Grace Huffman reported that Redstarts and Ovenbirds were found at the Myriad Gardens. Sharon Henthorn reported early Wood Ducks at the Zoo Lake.

There were baby Screech Owls in the area of NW 36th and Meridian.

There were 33 members and guests in attendance.

Our program was enjoyably presented by Dr. Doug Wood. He shared his recent (and some rather hair-raising) experiences on his trip to Bolivia.

We will be hosting another great program by Mark Howery when we resume meeting in September.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Muzny
Secretary



SHOWCASING ART AND NATURE AS SAM NOBLE MUSEUM HOSTS EXHIBIT ON SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION

NORMAN, OKLA. – The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History is pleased to announce its collaboration with the School of Visual Arts, Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts, at the University of Oklahoma on a new exhibit featuring the scientific illustration of birds as depicted by students and professionals.

Flight Lines: The Art of Natural History at OU pairs work by students with that of renowned bird artists George Miksch Sutton, Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Francis Lee Jaques. **The exhibit opens on July 15 and runs through Nov. 26.**

Visitors will have the opportunity to view drawings, paintings and animations that capture the beauty and complexity of bird life. Students in OU's School of Visual Arts created much of the artwork on display during their courses, "Drawing the Natural World" and "Computer Animation," which are part of an exciting new scientific visualization track within SoVA that teaches students the art of translating scientific knowledge into visual representations.

The exhibit also showcases pieces by three of the most respected scientific illustrators of the 20th century, most notably Sutton, former OU professor and curator of ornithology at the Sam Noble Museum. Works from the artists range from preliminary sketches to polished watercolors, including many pieces that are on display for the first time.

"We are thrilled to have students in the OU School of Visual Arts engaging with naturalist art and specimens in our museum collections," said Claire Nicholas, assistant curator of ethnology at the Sam Noble Museum.

"Working with the Sam Noble Museum's collections and researchers has been a remarkable experience for our students, profoundly enriching their education as artists and designers," added Haley Prestifilippo, SoVA instructor.

The exhibit will be open to the public during regular museum hours and is included with museum admission. Visitors are encouraged to check the museum's website for hours of operation and special events related to the exhibit.