



# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

December 2010

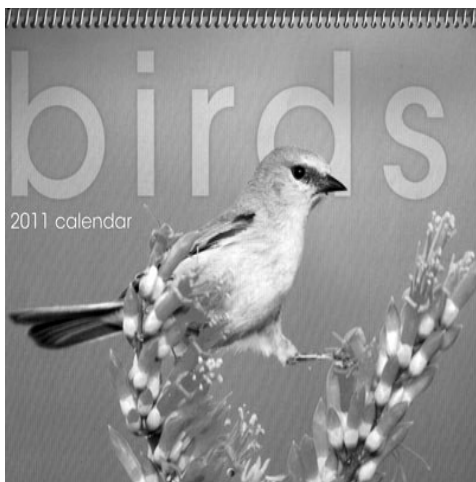
## Tall Bird Tales

The program for our December 20 meeting will be our annual Tall Bird Tales. So, recall your wildest, most beautiful, most exciting, important, historically significant bird story, polish it to believability, then regale the rest of us with it at our holiday celebration meeting. Also, if you have a few digital bird or bird-related photos you would like to share, bring them along on a flash drive and we will share them via our LCD projector and laptop computer. Please, only one story per person and only a few photos per photographer in the interest of time. So, come along and bring a friend for a pretty good evening with other good people and lots of festive holiday treats.

Our January 24, 2011, presenter will be Dr. Doug Wood of Southeastern State University in Durant who will talk about his Prothonotary Warbler research at the Tishomingo Wildlife Refuge north of Lake Texoma. That meeting will be on the fourth Monday of January due to Will Rogers Garden Center being closed on Martin Luther King Day the third Monday of January.



## 2011 Calendars For Sale



Our beautiful new calendars are available for \$5 each. Pick one up at any meeting or order online at [www.okc-audubon.org](http://www.okc-audubon.org). (add \$1.50 each for mailing)

## Refreshments

Everyone, please bring something savory or sweet to share at our annual Christmas party. Drinks will be provided

## Welcome

We welcome Betz Hacker & Billy Menasco to the Oklahoma City Audubon Society

## Dues Notice

It's time once again to renew your annual membership for 2011. OCAS dues are \$15 per household and may be paid at the monthly meetings, online at our website <http://www.okc-audubon.org> or mailed to Nancy Vicars, Treasurer, 820 Arthur Drive, Midwest City, OK 73110.

## Meeting Change

**Mark your calendar now!!** The January meeting will be held on the 4th Monday, Jan. 24, 2011 due to the Garden Center closure for MLK holiday.

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## President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin

What are the rules of birding etiquette? I used to worry about this a lot when I began birding with other people. Should I ever speak except when necessary, and how loudly? Should I dress in camouflage? Will other birders object to my clumsy bird call imitations?

The use of players is controversial. The first time I saw one was at the Salt Plains NWR Spring Festival. There was a Northern Parula in a tree at the refuge headquarters, and an individual with a very nice camera used a player to draw the bird in close. The little warbler responded vigorously to the sounds, flying repeatedly at the player. Some of the participants made their displeasure known to those nearby, but there was never a loudly voiced objection. Are players harmful to birds? I suspect that in most cases, the harm done is minimal. After all, birds are built to handle aggressive challenges from other birds of the same species. During the breeding season they are usually bombarded with songs and calls from neighboring territories. Compared with a real territorial duel, an encounter with a player has very little potential for doing physical harm. However if continued for too long, a player could tire a bird and make it vulnerable to aggression or a predator. During periods when food is scarce, responding repeatedly to a player might dangerously deplete a bird's energy stores. It is generally accepted that players should be used judiciously and only where needed to identify or photograph a bird.

Birds think it is rude to point. I know this because they invariably flee whenever I point in their direction. I can move a bird 200 yards away with the tip of my finger. Does this qualify me for membership in the Fantastic Four? I have made a vow never to point at another bird and hopefully will stick to it.

Experience has taught me a great way to draw a previously unseen species into a target area. I simply stake my reputation publicly that the species doesn't occur there. Under those conditions, a splendid example is bound to show up within two weeks. A number of experiences of this kind have made me extremely reluctant to try and correct other birders. In the past couple of years we have seen some unexpected species in central Oklahoma, Trumpeter Swan, White-winged Crossbill, Brown Pelican, Swallow-tailed Kite, White-tailed Kite and Pine Warbler at Lake Arcadia. It doesn't pay to doubt unusual sightings.

A little extra consideration around other birders makes sense. A little extra tolerance for enthusiasm makes sense as well.

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## Field Trip Report

### Roman Nose State Park, Nov. 20

Carla Brueggen, Matt Jung, Charles Douglas and I hiked the multi-use trail from the lodge around the canyon to Inspiration Point, then along the lake and back across the canyon to the trailhead. The two newbies to this particular route, Carla and Matt, made me proud by getting all the way around without complaint. I'm sure they were glad they brought water and snacks. The walk is not terribly long, but it is almost never level and winds up being an enervating five hours or so for us flatlanders.

On the morning trip to Watonga, the pond north of Okarche held a nice collection of ducks, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck and Bufflehead. Low-flying flocks of White Pelicans were headed south. Along OK 33 a Loggerhead Shrike perched on a brush pile where there always seems to be one, and a Short-eared Owl carcass was lying by the side of the road. The owl's breast was eaten, so it was hard to tell if it was a vehicle or a predator that originally did it in.

We saw three Golden-crowned Kinglets at Roman Nose and two Ruby-crowned. For the third week in a row, more GC Kinglets than RC Kinglets were seen on an OCAS outing. Could it be called an irruption, and could it be related to the Red-breasted Nuthatch irruption this year? We heard towhee calls all day, but saw them only once. It was a real good view though -- two Spotted Towhees, male and female, in the top of a bare, little tree. Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seen in a single day was a record for me. We had good looks at geese flying low overhead, Canada, Cackling and Greater White-fronted. Three Brown Creepers revealed themselves by calling, but showed little more than tiny silhouettes in retreat through the woods. Dark-eyed Juncos probably outnumbered all other species combined. Myrtle Warblers were a big part of balance of our sightings. We saw a few Chipping Sparrows in association with junco flocks in the cedar scrub on the canyon's upper slopes. Song Sparrows were observed several times as singles or pairs.

We had a good, late lunch at El Charro in Hinton, but we ran out of time for a look at Red Rock Canyon or a drive along 152. Our tally for the day was 40 species.

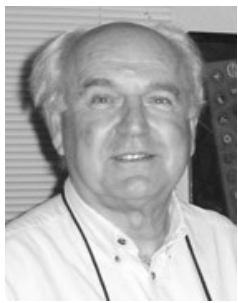
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## Winter Bird Survey

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation conducts a Winter Bird Survey each year. This year, the survey is January 6-9, 2011. Log on to [www.okwinterbirds.com](http://www.okwinterbirds.com) and download the survey form. As you take the survey, you'll have a chance to get up-close views of a number of bird species.

# Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



For a change of pace, this month I would like to talk about a nemesis bird—one that keeps getting away. Scattered records in central Oklahoma suggest that the Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) should show up one of these years on the Oklahoma City Christmas Bird Count (CBC), but it always seems to remain just out of reach. Mark

Howery, Non-game Biologist at the

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, says that “Yes I had two Pine Warblers one year on the Arcadia CBC and we’ve had Pine Warblers either on count day or during count week at least five of the past ten years on the Norman CBC.” One winter I

photographed one in the backyard of a Norman resident; Dr. George Sutton had alerted me to the bird’s presence. And even far north of us, Sutton (Oklahoma Birds, 1967), reported a winter record of “...8 seen on January 1, 1966...in a cemetery in Manhattan,” north central Kansas.

Here inside the Oklahoma City CBC area, Warren Harden, on a CBC several years ago, saw a 2-wing bar, buffy breasted, warbler that possibly was a 1<sup>st</sup>

winter Pine Warbler; it was below the Lake Overholser dam south of NW 10th Street: 1<sup>st</sup> winter plumaged birds can be particularly difficult to identify. Quite a number of years ago I heard a suspicious call (either on count day or slightly before) in the top of a very large pine, typical habitat for the Pine Warbler. But I never could see the singer and had to pass on an ID, because a Pine Warbler’s song is too similar to that of a Dark-eyed Junco or Chipping Sparrow. Like I say, this is a nemesis bird for the OK City Count—so close, but never YES!

Something of a surprise to me was to learn that Pine Warblers aren’t overly attached to pine trees. A. C. Bent (1963 reprint of Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers, part two) reports that N. S.

Goss, in an 1891 article, stated that “in Kansas during the winter months, ‘they seem to be as much at home in the deciduous trees as among the pines, often visiting the orchards and lowland thickets.’”

According to Ken Kaufman (Birds of North America, 2000), Pine Warbler adults are “olive above, yellow on chest, with two wing-bars; males have blurry streaks on chest, females plainer.” Kaufman goes on to say that the song is a “rich musical trill on one pitch;” the song can be quite helpful in identifying the bird. Just don’t forget that the Dark-eyed Junco and the Chipping Sparrow also have similar songs.

The reason I got to thinking about Pine Warblers is that Bill Diffin was telling Warren Harden and me about a Pine Warbler that he and other participants had seen on a field trip to Lake Arcadia on 13 November 2010; the bird was on a peninsula that extended into the lake. The beautiful photograph of this very bird, above, was taken and graciously provided by Eivind Vamraak. As Bill,



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Warren and I were talking about this bird, the subject of what such a Pine Warbler might eat came up and none of us could say much for sure.

Bent (1963) says that A. H. Howell, in a 1932 article reported that 7 stomachs examined of Pine Warblers taken in Florida “showed the food to consist largely of insects and spiders, with small quantities of vegetable debris.”

Again, examine

Eivind’s photo, and note what is in the bird’s bill! Bent (1963) goes on to note that this warbler is an “excellent fly-catcher, but in winter...it feeds largely on vegetable food, mainly the seeds of the various pines, but also on wild fruits and berries...”

This newsletter probably will not be read by most of you until after this year’s CBC, but remember, in our CBC report we can mention species seen during count week, 3 days before and 3 days after count day. So if we do not see one on count day, maybe someone can brush up quickly on identifying points, including song, then carefully check out any large grove of pine you know about, but remember also that the bird might show up in deciduous trees, well away from pines. Otherwise, we will just have to say, “Maybe next year!”

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## Chirpings

November 2010

By Patti Muzny

It's finally fall and the lure of the garden has disappeared with the first frost. What does one do with a couple of gallons of green peppers? In a few weeks when they become unrecognizable because furry stuff is thriving on them, I'll make the decision to recycle them to the compost barrel?

Favorite winter migrants are returning and the resident Cooper's Hawk is still around to police his favorite feeding grounds. Some things in nature just never change. The Grackles have discovered our backyard horse and have been seen checking the ground for tidbits dropped – fresh sweet feed morsels or the aftermath of ingesting the sweet feed! We've also had Yellow-rumped Warblers, Juncos, Chickadees, Song Sparrow, Killdeer and the local Mockingbird, Cardinals and Carolina and Bewick's Wren. In early November, my drive to work was enhanced by the appearance of a Great-blue Heron flapping along the intersection of South Shields and 59<sup>th</sup> Street – not exactly Great-blue habitat!

At our Byars retreat on November 7, we heard our Eastern Phoebe calling around the cabin. On one of my hikes, I found a pecan tree with at least 6 Eastern Bluebirds that were sending out an alarm of some sort. They were soon joined by a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, who took up the vigil. I searched for the source, but didn't see anything that should cause such a commotion. The weeds at the edge of the pond provided cover for a tiny garter snake that had not yet found its winter home.

Down along the creek among the tangle of grape vines, poison ivy, hackberry and a pretty little vine with red berries, I located a half-dozen Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a dozen or so Yellow-rumped Warblers and several dozen American Robins. They seemed to be taking advantage of this year's bumper crop of fruit. The persimmons and hackberries are overloaded with fruit and there are lots of "possum" grapes left high in the trees.

In the neighbor's pasture Brian saw several Black Vultures, a Harrier and Song Sparrows, a Lincoln's Sparrow, a Red-tailed Hawk and a Mockingbird. Our Red-shouldered Hawk was heard earlier by Tim.

My fall hikes during the dry weather make sneaking up on a rock impossible! As I stroll along in the woods, I sound like an elephant in the crunchy leaves. But it's amazing what can be found, regardless of the noise. In between my noisy steps I heard White-throated Sparrows and found some

Juncos and a Song Sparrow. Our son, Tim, saw a Pileated Woodpecker before he and Sam fired up the tractor and chain saw and began clearing some downed timber so my walking trails would be open again. Not only do I use these trails, but our critters enjoy the tangle-free hikes, too.

A few weeks ago Tim bought a "critter cam" and set it up near the end of our pond. We left it for three weeks and when we brought it back to see what had come for drink we were amazed! Three of our white-tailed bucks, some does and one fawn had walked across in front of the camera. We had a ten-point, an eight-point and a little six-point! Brian and I had seen the six-point, but didn't realize we had the big guy. I'd seen his tracks in the soft soil, but was surprised at his size and excellent physical condition.

As I loaf on our porch, I hear gunshots coming from property to the south of us. Maybe our antlered wildlife will be back for another photo op soon; maybe not.

Its fall; its cool; I'm not shut in a building, and it's a great day to be out enjoying the country. My perfume this afternoon is essence of wood smoke and cooked bacon. It's just pretty "Chirpy! Our utility bills are paid; Sam repaired the hot water heater; life is good.

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## Oklahoma City Audubon Society

### Officers 2010

President	Bill Diffin	722-3778
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
Secretary	Nancy Reed	799-1116
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	732-9885
Parliament	Sam Moore	752-9549
Programs	Warren Harden	364-3491
Recorder	Esther M. Key	381-9170
Conservation	Larry Mays	392-2131
Field Trips	Jimmy Woodard	365-5685
Newsletter Editors:		
	Pat Velte	751-5263
	Carla Brueggen	495-3259
Publicity	Cheryl Allen	478-0339
Historian	Nealand Hill	388-6759
Refreshments	Jim Vicars	732-9885
Webmaster	Pat Velte	751-5263

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

*For Oklahoma City Audubon news between newsletters and meetings, be sure to log onto:*

**OKC-Audubon.org**

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## Minutes of November 15, 2010

President Bill Diffin called the meeting to order. New visitors were Betz Hacker, Weldon Dennison, and Carol Enwall's sister-in-law, Laura.

President Diffin asked for any additions or corrections to the October minutes as published in the November newsletter. A motion to accept the minutes as published was made and approved.

Nancy Vicars, presented the November Treasurer's Report:

Cash on Hand 10/18/2010	\$4,960.51
Deposits	171.40
Disbursements	325.90
Cash on Hand 11/15/2010	\$4,806.01

President Diffin asked for any additions or corrections to the report. A motion to approve and accept the report as read was made and approved.

Nealand Hill read the Nomination Committee's report for the 2011 slate of officers & chairpersons. They are:

President	Bill Diffin
Vice President	John Shackford
Secretary	Nancy Reed
Treasurer	Nancy Vicars
Parliamentarian	Ted Goulden
Programs	Warren Harden
Recorder	Esther M Key
Conservation	Larry Mays
Field Trips	Jimmy Woodard
Newsletter Editors	Pat Velte & Carla Brueggen
Publicity	Doug Eide
Historian	Nealand Hill
Refreshments	Jim Vicars
Webmaster	Pat Velte

If anyone is interested in volunteering for an office, please contact Nealand Hill. The elections will be conducted at the December meeting.

### Field Report:

Bill Diffin presented the field trip report for Jimmy Woodard. He reported on three outstanding field trips held October 30 to Lake Overholser, November 6 to Salt Plains and November 13 to Arcadia Lake.

Warren Harden stated he saw a Peregrine Falcon at Owen Stadium.

Compiler, John Shackford announced the Oklahoma City CBC will be held on Saturday, December 18. He requested a change in the process of payment for the CBC count this year. The club has previously paid the \$5.00 fee for each participant. This year we will accept the \$5.00 fee from participants. The payment will not be mandatory, however, it will be appreciated. There is no

fee for backyard feeder watchers. John announced Diane Newell has offered to let us have the after-count party at her house. John passed his hat for donations for chili meat and paper goods for the party. The after party will start at 5 p.m.

On December 4th, John will lead a CBC scouting trip to Lake Overholser & Hefner.

### Committee Report:

Nancy Vicars held a drawing, a token of appreciation, for this year's "Cookie" providers. The following five participants won a free calendar, Russell Linholm, Feodora Steward, Carol Enwall, Jeanette Schoof and Nadine Varner. Refreshments for the December meeting will be provided by everyone. Each person should bring something to share.

### New Business:

President Diffin stated we published important changes to the constitution last month. Before voting on these changes Bill opened the floor for any comments. No comments were made. Bill asked for a vote by show of hand. Those in favor to the changes were 42 members, none opposed. Motion passed.

Susan Schmidt requested the date of each meeting to be published in the newsletter. It was stated the meetings are held on the third Monday of each month except January is held on the fourth Monday.

### Old Business:

Nealand Hill is looking for historical information of the club activities for the last 60 years. Please submit any photos, newspaper clippings and documents to Nealand.

Sharon Henthorn stated she participates in the Cornell Backyard Bird Count. She brought hand outs for Project Feeder Watch.

Dora Webb brought a recently deceased Golden-crowned Kinglet, the unfortunate victim of a window strike at her house, to the meeting.

President Diffin adjourned the meeting for a snack break.

Warren encouraged each person to bring a bird story for the annual "Tall Tales" December meeting.

January's speaker will be Dr. Doug Wood. His topic will be about Prothonotary Warblers. January's meeting will be held on the fourth Monday, Jan. 24, 2011.

Warren introduced Duane Angles, professional photographer. Duane gave an awesome photography showing of Oklahoma Birds. He also brought photography equipment for viewing.

Nancy Reed, Recording Secretary

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## Field Trip Report: Lake Arcadia, November 13

We met at the Edmond Braum's at 8 am and started birding on the north side of Lake Arcadia. In the early going, there were no surprises. Dark-eyed Junco and Yellow-rumped Warbler contributed many of the early morning sightings. We were looking especially for Harris's Sparrow and Brown Creeper, and they both obliged with an appearance at the bridge over the creek east of the Edmond Park entrance. There were three Brown Creepers on neighboring trees, crawling around on the trunks like mice. A little farther east at the Kingsnake camping area, a Golden-crowned Kinglet was spotted in the canopy. A player was used to bring the bird down to a good observation level, and it turned out there were two of them. They were nearly close enough to touch in a shrub just off the road. At the dam overlook pavilion near the Park Office, scopes were set up to get a good look at a possible Bald Eagle sighted earlier in a tree on the south side of the lake. Through the scopes, one could see the white head and tail and dark body of a mature bird perched in an isolated tree near the water.

After the eagle, we went around to Spring Creek park where 15th St ends on the peninsula between the Spring Creek inlet and the Deep Fork River inlet. We pulled into a picnic area on the south side of the peninsula and set up scopes to look for the Brown Pelican. We didn't find the pelican, but a tree on the north side of the peninsula caught the attention of several who noticed it was full of small birds. At first they all appeared to be Yellow-rumped Warblers, but then someone announced that there was a yellow warbler in the tree. This bird had a vivid yellow throat and upper breast, yellow-green back, white undertail coverts and blue-gray wings with two white wing bars. Several of us were gathered around Sharon Henthorn and her field guide looking at warblers when Mark Delgrosso walked up and declared it was a Pine Warbler. It was the first Pine Warbler seen by Oklahoma City Audubon at Lake Arcadia. Eivind Vamraak got photos of the bird the next day and posted them on OKbirds.

Out on the end of the peninsula, Sharon Henthorn noticed a small thrush-like bird near a muddy spot. It flew into a bare little tree nearby and allowed us to approach close enough to identify it -- an American Pipit. We joked that it was a tree pipit, but then Sharon showed us in her guide that there is at least one Eurasian pipit called a tree pipit, i.e. the Brown Tree Pipit. There was another American Pipit right out on the extreme point of the peninsula, which stood alertly on the rocks and gave an occasional loud bell-like call. As we returned from the end of the peninsula, we stopped in the grove of trees and found a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

We left Lake Arcadia around 3 pm and relocated to the Purina Field, parking at Arctic Edge on Kelly. The weedy mounds behind the building were full of Song and White-crowned Sparrows. Savannah Sparrows were in the surrounding dead grass and herbs. We noticed an accipiter moving in a shrubby tree. It eventually flew out to chase some sparrows around, then began soaring in circles to gain altitude and drifted away. While it was overhead, it provided a perfect look at a Sharp-shinned Hawk with square tail and wings thrust forward but bent back at the wrist. Two Northern Harriers in hunting mode were criss-crossing the grassland. We marched to the north end of the field and back without flushing any longspurs. However, the effort did have a nice reward, a LeConte's Sparrow perched on a clump of goldenrod. We returned to the vehicles and moved them north across 33rd St near the wetland there. On the little pond surrounded by cattails, several Gadwall were floating. Terri Underhill walked onto a little peninsula and flushed a Swamp Sparrow. It flew to the far edge of the pond where it could be seen between the cattail stalks picking along the water's edge. In the marshy grassland to the north a late Grasshopper Sparrow was sitting in a bush.

We had a fine day and saw some infrequently seen birds really well. Our tally was 60 species.

Bill Diffin

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## Ross's Gull trip

*By Jimmy Woodard*

After seeing all the recent reports of Ross's Gulls in CO and SD, I decided I couldn't pass up the opportunity to see one of these rare high Arctic gulls. I left at 5 p.m. on Friday and headed north. I picked up Pete Janzen, who lives in Wichita, and we drove thru the night. We arrived at Gavin's Point Dam at 3 a.m. on Saturday morning. We tried to snooze in the car but the cold made it difficult. I was snuggled in my sleeping bag in the back but poor Pete was sitting upright in the front. He had to get out and walk around to keep from getting stiff and sore. Occasionally, he had to start the car and run the heater to keep warm. At 6 a.m. we went into Yankton, along the Missouri River, to eat breakfast. While there, we ran into Nancy Leo and Tim Barksdale, who are from Kansas. It's funny how many times I've run into birders from Kansas while birding in other states.

We visited the spillway at the dam about 7:30 and joined up with several other birders watching for the gull. Mark Brogie, who originally found it, was there. We watched for awhile but the temps were in the low 20's and the wind was blowing about 30. Wind chills were near zero. We had to hop into the car and get warm several times. Mark, Nancy, and others went over to

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the SD side to look for gulls on the ice at Lake Yankton. Shortly, they called and said they found it over on the ice. Pete and I and many others raced over to the spot. Multiple scopes and cameras were trained on the ice patch about 75 yards away. The bright pinkish hue of this small gull really stood out. Several times it got lost in the pile of larger gulls but after much jostling, it would be found again. A couple of times, one of the numerous Bald Eagles would fly over and the gull pack would rise then settle down again. A giant immature Great Black-backed Gull made a short appearance before flying off. he dwarfed the tiny Ross's.

We watched for awhile longer as more birders arrived. One guy made it from New York and another came from Florida. The bird finally flew about 100 yards to another ice floe and perched by itself. We went around to another vantage point and got a head on view of it although it was slightly farther away than it's previous spot.

Pete and I headed back down into Nebraska and stopped at Branch Oak Lake just outside of Lincoln. We saw a juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake and an adult and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Lesser Black-backed Gulls. These birds had been reported previously. By this time the sun had come out and the temps 'warmed' to just below freezing.

We birded our way back home. I dropped Pete off back in Wichita around 8 p.m. and I arrived back in Mustang at 11p.m. after doing 1200 miles in about 30 hours. It was totally worth it even though the weather and viewing conditions weren't ideal early on. The Yankton paper had a front page story about the bird. It was a long article and they had a fantastic photo on the front page. Now I won't have to go to the high Arctic or to Russia to see a Ross's Gull! What an early Christmas present for me!

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## Recorders Report: November 2010

### Greetings in gold

Even though only two new species were added to the 2010 list this month, it was great to greet the returning winter birds while the golden leaves of fall waved farewell to the last of the summer birds. Finally a killing frost arrived to turn the summer plants into mulch while the cool season plants began sprouting for next year's growth and seed production. However, lack of rain is creating a drought and with the high winds, by the end of the month fire danger is growing.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jimmy Woodward saw a flock of Lapland Longspurs near SW 29<sup>th</sup> and Council. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Matt Jung checked the NE mud flats of Lake Overholser and located Bonaparte's Gulls, Forester's Terns, American Avocets, Greater Yellowlegs, and Wilson's Snipe. Around Lake Hefner Mary Lane and Steve Davis located

Belted Kingfisher, Herring Gulls, a Common Loon and Hooded Mergansers. On the 4<sup>th</sup> flying over Norman Brian Davis saw a flock of about 20 Greater White-fronted and one Snow Goose. Near Guthrie Gary Harritt had a Greater Roadrunner go through his yard, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> he observed a Bald Eagle in Kingfisher County. On the 5<sup>th</sup> at Lake Hefner's Prairie Dog Point Matt found Horned Grebe and 4 Dunlin.

In Norman on the 10<sup>th</sup> Brian had a Red-breasted Nuthatch in one of his backyard scraggly pine trees. On the 13<sup>th</sup> Jim Bates birded north of the Coffey Dam at Lake Overholser and found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Swamp Sparrow and at the north end of Morgan Road a Vesper Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow and Eastern Bluebird. Bill Diffin led the OKC field trip to Lake Arcadia where they located Pine Warbler, American Pipits, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Mergansers, Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Fox Sparrow and Harris's Sparrows. While at the Purina Field they saw LeConte's and Grasshopper Sparrows and east of Santa Fe a Barn Owl emerged from a cedar tree and flapped to settle on a tree branch. On the 14<sup>th</sup> at Couch Park in Stillwater John Polo saw a Brown Creeper and lots of Red-breasted Nuthatches, and on Lake Arcadia Eivind Vamraak reported the Brown Pelican. On the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Overholser's Coffey Dam Matt found a Marsh Wren.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> Dave and Martha Evans were visiting Oklahoma City and reported the last Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on a power line at Bryant just south of NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. On Lake Thunderbird Carolyn and Lindell Dillon located a Western Grebe and a dark Snow Goose. On the 19<sup>th</sup> at Lake Hefner Matt found a female Greater Scaup in the north pond. On the 21<sup>st</sup> Ben Holt reported a Ross's Goose tucked into a group of gulls at Prairie Dog Point and a second darker bird overall and slightly larger with a small grin patch which could be either a Ross's X Lesser hybrid or a Lesser Snow Goose. On the 21<sup>st</sup> at Lake Arcadia Valerie Bradshaw and Jimmy observed a Common Goldeneye and at Lake Hefner a **Pacific Loon**.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bill Diffin and Eivind Vamraak met at Prairie Dog Point and located an unusual gull. It was smaller than a Herring Gull but a little larger than a Ring-billed Gull, all brown and white with nearly white legs, double dark bar on the upper wing, but the most easily noticed mark was the dark tip on the pink bill because the black area on the lower mandible was obviously larger than the matching spot on the upper. The identification was later confirmed as a **California Gull**.

During November a total of **105** bird species were reported with **2** new additions making the Central Oklahoma area to date total at **261** species. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds by turning in reports. I can be contacted by e-mail at [emkok@earthlink.net](mailto:emkok@earthlink.net).  
Esther M. Key, Editor. **2010**

Oklahoma City Audubon Society  
c/o Carla Brueggen  
8010 NW 32  
Bethany, OK 73008

## Field Trip Schedule

- Jan. 1 **Elkhart, KS CBC.** contact compiler Sebastian Patti at [sebastianpatti@hotmail.com](mailto:sebastianpatti@hotmail.com) for more info
- Jan. 2 **Black Mesa CBC.** contact Sebastian Patti for more details
- Jan. 3 **Stephens Co. CBC** Meet at 6:15-6:30 a.m. at Daybreak Diner in Duncan, 116 Hwy 81S. Contact June Ketchum at 405-919-2459 or [june.ketchum@duncanregional.com](mailto:june.ketchum@duncanregional.com)
- Jan. 8: **Crystal Lake/Bridgestone** Meet at 8:00 a.m. at McDonald's, I-40 & Council Rd. Leader: Jim Bates
- Jan. 15: **Longspur search / Norman area** Meet at 9AM at the back parking lot of Embassy Suites at 2501 Conference Drive, just east of I-35 and north of Robinson. leaders: Ben and Angie Holt, [Benholtiii@gmail.com](mailto:Benholtiii@gmail.com)
- Jan. 12-16 **TOS Winter meeting in Ft. Worth** Texas Ornithological Society meeting Lyn Barber at [dalybar@aol.com](mailto:dalybar@aol.com)
- Jan. 22 **Canton Lake** details TBA
- Feb. 5 **Sooner Lake** (joint trip with Tulsa Audubon) details TBA
- Feb. 12 **FT Cobb(changed from Foss Lake).** **Meet at the IHOP at I-40 and Mustang Road at 7AM for breakfast or departure at 7:30. Leader: Larry Mays, [retrix@atlinkwifi.com](mailto:retrix@atlinkwifi.com)**
- Feb. 26: **Woodcock Watch** Patty Muzny will host us to observe woodcocks at her cabin just east of Byars
- March 5 **Tenkiller Lake** (joint trip with Tulsa Audubon) details TBA
- March 19 **Stinchcomb WMA** Meet at 8 a.m. at Jim's Restaurant, NW 39th St. & Council Rd. Leader: Jim Bates
- March 26 **South Jenkins St./Norman** Leader: Dick Gunn details TBA
- Apr. ?? **OKC Zoo Behind the scenes birding** Tour the zoo and bird the grounds Leader: Nadine Varner
- Apr. 15-17 **LPC Festival** at Woodward Contact John Kennington for more details, [johnkennington@gmail.com](mailto:johnkennington@gmail.com).
- Apr. 29 **Salt Plains Bird Festival**
- May/June **Club picnic and Nightjar walk at Lake Draper** details TBA
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