



# Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

## Doves of Oklahoma

The speaker for our October 19 meeting will be Dr. Dwayne Elmore, Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He will describe the Columbidae species commonly found in this state and discuss the recent range expansions and what that might mean for other species.



Dr. Elmore grew up in Tennessee where he attended the University of Tennessee to obtain his B.S. in Natural Resource Management. He then obtained a M.S. from Mississippi State University in Wildlife Ecology and a Ph.D. from Utah State University in Wildlife Biology. He is currently the wildlife extension specialist in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University. Specific areas of interest include wildlife habitat



relationships, the role of disturbance to maintain sustainable ecosystems, and social constraints to conservation. When not working, he can usually be found birding with his wife or chasing grouse with his bird dogs.

The October meeting of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, October 19, at the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center. Refreshments will be provided by Terri Underhill, Vasca Stanley, and Carl Webb



### The Oklahoma Ornithological Society

Fall Meeting, Oct. 23, 24, & 25  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Registration and socializing will begin Friday afternoon at Mia Revel's home followed by an evening program by Chris Wilson of the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy Nickel Preserve. Saturday morning will feature a birding trip to the Nickel Preserve.

Additional information and registration online at [www.okbirds.org](http://www.okbirds.org)

### 2010 Dues

OKC Audubon Society dues are \$10.00 per calendar year. In order to receive our newsletters & meeting notices, please remit to:

OKC Audubon Society  
c/o Nancy Vicars  
820 Arthur Drive  
Midwest City, OK 73110  
or pay at any meeting.

## President's Perspective

By Eric Enwall

### Best Birds

For those of you who did not manage to make it to the September meeting, you missed an outstanding presentation by Nealand about his first 700 birds. There must be a gazillion ways to organize such a talk and I suppose Nealand considered most of them but his choice of a compass circle certainly made for a coherent organization. His closing made me choose this topic for my remarks this month.

What is my favorite bird? What is my optimum target bird? I can't imagine having a really clear answer to the first question. Nealand said his was the Am. Goldfinch. But then he said his was something else, and then maybe the Scissortail. Me too. Choose your best bird and then reconsider. I did sort of manage to select (maybe) one of a group browsing through the groups in my Peterson's.

My best loon is the common, because of it's voice; my best grebe is the Western. My best long wader is the Little Blue and my best duck is the Pintail. My best raptor is the Kestrel, but I've never seen a Gyrfalcon. But I have to skip to the end of the book and choose the Lark Bunting from the miscellaneous set or this note would never get by the editor. Even by such a set of restrictions as just by family or group my choices are too many and the list too long. And then it would still be in a constant state of revision when I see an Osprey take a fish right in front of me or hear a White Crowned sing in the winter woods. Now this is one of the finest problems that a person could ever have; that there are too many wonderful birds to choose from, even for a birder of modest experience such as I am. I am a chemist by profession as some of you know and there are a good many times as many chemical compounds (even simple ones) as there are bird

species but I have little difficulty choosing 2,2,2 diazo-bicyclo-octane as a favorite. Could it there that I just got overloaded with diversity?

If you haven't considered it lately, I encourage you to ask yourself the question "what is my favorite bird?" I don't expect that you will be any more successful than Nealand or I at answering the question but it certainly is a good way to trigger the wellsprings of memory and the joys of visualizing all those birds you remember as clearly as the day you really got your first clear identifying look.

One of the best things about photographing birds (so much easier to do these days with modern digital cameras) is the way it can bring back immediately to mind the birds (and birders) one has almost forgotten. But memory can do the job almost as well, and I think if you are like me, sometimes better, just as a fish gets longer and the ghosts scarier with each telling.

What's the target bird? Ask me when we get in the car next week!

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## Washington/Oregon Birding

By Jimmie Woodard

Early on Thursday morning Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, Brian and Patti Muzny and I left for a weeklong birding trip to Washington And Oregon.

We flew into Portland by noon and drove up to Kelso where the Washington Ornithological Society was meeting for the weekend. We were unable to check into the motel early, so we drove up the Mt. St. Helen's Visitor Center. We birded the grounds and a trail through a marsh. We found Steller's Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-Capped Chickadee, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Evening Grosbeak.

On Friday morning, 102 conference attendees broke into more than a dozen field trips to several places up and down the Columbia River. The weather was beautiful and the scenery fantastic.

My trip went to Julia Butler Hansen NWR about thirty miles west of Kelso on the Columbia. The refuge was a mix of fields, treelines, riparian corridors and river and sandy beach habitats.

About a dozen birders enjoyed a River Otter, Kingfisher and Osprey in a nearby creek. We saw two Elk in a hayfield inside the refuge.

Four Sandhill Cranes flew over silently as was as a flock of Canada Geese with four White-fronted Geese mixed in the group.

For nearly two hours, we enjoyed numerous birds in the trees along a road and a slough near the headquarters. We were rooted in place as we noted more Black-throated Gray Warblers than I've seen in all my birding career. Hundreds of Barn and Violet-green Swallows and Vaux's Swifts wheeled overhead. Other good birds seen during this time were Western Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Western Tanager and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Along the banks of the Columbia we hiked the sandy beach and found Caspian Tern, Glaucous-winged and California Gull. A backwater slough and marsh held Common Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher, Marsh Wren and Hooded Merganser. The Friday morning program was about the Bird Records Committee of Washington. They presented why records were important and how to do it. The bird ID quiz and our attempts to describe them adequately for documentation were quite humorous.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, Patti and Brian were with me on a field trip to Ilwaco / Fort Canby at the mouth of the Columbia on the Pacific

Ocean. We drove through rain until we reached the coast. The rain stopped and the sun came out as we began birding with a gorgeous backdrop of a lighthouse on a rocky coast.

We quickly found Brown Pelican, Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants, Red-throated Loon, Wandering Tattler, Whimbrel, Surf and White-winged Scooters, Common Murre, Western Grebe, and Heermann's Gull.

We stopped for lunch at Julia Butler Hansen NWR and were treated to a White-tailed Kite and Peregrine Falcon fly-by.

The evening program was a wonderful talk by author and naturalist Robert Michael Pyle. He was very funny and inspiring.

On Sunday I was on a field trip to Steigerwald Lake NWR, which is east of Portland on the Columbia River. Our leader was Ken Knittle, who amazingly knows Dave Arbor. What a small world the birding community is!

Our group ambled along the trails enjoying another amazingly beautiful day and lots of birds. We found six species of ducks and a Tundra Swan on a pond. Several American Bitterns were out in the open as well as a scraggly looking Great Horned Owl. A Red-shouldered Hawk, a regional specialty was seen. Two resident Barn Owls were found in a large building. As we headed back to the parking lot for lunch we had flyovers by a Merlin, Bald Eagle, and a Peregrine. What a show!

On the way back to Kelso, we stopped at Ken's house. He had a wonderful backyard for birds. We saw several male and female Anna's Hummingbirds and bunches of American Goldfinch.

My group's participation in the conference ended Saturday afternoon, but we stayed in town at another hotel to continue several days of post-conference birding.

NEXT: Part II: Birding in Oregon

**John Gardiner Newell**  
**October 15, 1914–August 4, 2009**

By John S. Shackford

John and Dorothy Newell were the heart of the birding community in central Oklahoma for many, many years, and this often expanded to include a host of other birders across the state and beyond. John would have been 95 in October; Dorothy preceded him in death in 2003. The last few years John had been in frail health, but remained his usual kind and gracious self to the end.

John and Dorothy enjoyed a full life, with four kids: Donna Knauf, Diane Newell, Marilyn Hammond, and John Newell, Jr. They also had 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. John graduated from Syracuse University where he earned his Master of Science Degree. In World War II John enlisted in the US Army 660<sup>th</sup> Engineer Topographical Battalion and served in the European Theater; he received the Croix de Guerre with the bronze star from the French government. He and Dorothy were married in 1943. Later he moved to Oklahoma and worked for Gulf Oil Corporation as an exploratory geologist. One of the stories I enjoyed hearing him tell was that when he found a spot that he felt should be drilled for oil, his bosses would ask him what he thought the odds of hitting oil were on that particular drilling. He would tell them, "50-50—either we hit oil or we don't!," an answer his bosses hated to hear. But I bet they never once thought of firing him—he was too good at everything he did.

John lived near Lake Hefner in Oklahoma City for the last several decades of his life and his front AND back door (which faced Lake Hefner) were always open to all birders. (The Newell family became so used to seeing me at the door that one of the daughters began calling me her illegitimate brother.) John guided most of the birding community in central Oklahoma into becoming better, more enthusiastic, and more appreciative observ-

ers of birds, a gift for sparking enthusiasm that he shared with Dr. George Sutton. John shared many other similarities with Dr. Sutton. Both were writers, artists, record keepers, seekers of truth, appreciators of beauty, supporters of others, activists, and were held in the highest esteem by all. John and Dr. Sutton often held detailed discussions with each other about ornithological matters.

There were the annual trips of our Oklahoma City group, arranged by John and his family, to Devil's Den in northwestern Arkansas. Here John got a chance to meet up again with warbler species he had known in his youth in upstate New York; he enjoyed showing these beautiful warblers, and many other species, to the enthusiastic groups of birders who had come to Devil's Den with him.

John kept meticulous records of his bird sightings in central Oklahoma, especially beginning and ending dates of warblers; he added several bird species to Oklahoma's official bird list or was an integral part of such discoveries. For many years he was the compiler for the Oklahoma City Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, doing his usual masterful job of recording and compiling. The Newells regularly opened their home for the traditional after-count socials and preliminary species tallies.

To give you some idea of how John helped further ornithology, I offer a CBC record of a Green-tailed Towhee. I found one on an Oklahoma City CBC, and the bird eventually proved to be using a discarded brush pile of cedar boughs at the Oklahoma City Zoo. John suggested throwing out some bird seed at the brush pile to see if this rather shy bird would come to feed; also he suggested throwing the seed in such a way as to be able to photograph the bird if it did appear, a great plan I never would have thought of. I

selected a sort of miniature amphitheater spot for a bird photograph and laid the seed down. John's plan worked beautifully, and I was able to get a series of excellent photos of the towhee when the bird showed up "on stage."

For many years John set up Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes at Lake Overholser, boxes he removed in wintertime and improved in design as he learned what best suited the needs of the birds. One of John's favorite stories related to these Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes. One year he waded out to set up a box in the same location he had used the year before. This spot was about 20 feet out into the water. After setting up the box, but before John got back to shore, a Prothonotary Warbler appeared and entered the box. No doubt the bird had been tapping his foot, wondering what had taken John so long to appear.

One of my personal favorite stories of birding with John was the night we went looking for rails in a bog just to the northeast of Lake Hefner. I had heard some suspicious bird calls in the area and John agreed to go bog trotting with me to try to figure out if it was rails or no. I was about 20 and living at home at the time, and had a rarely relevant, but not inconsequential, health problem, so my parents were watching me pretty closely. John and I probably got out to the bog about dark and it was about 10:30 before we got back to his home. My Dad, a Methodist Minister, called and demanded to know where we had been. John said, "We've been looking for rails," to which my father (the Minister) replied, "Well, it must have been one hell of a long rail!"

John was responsible for a photograph of a Black-capped Vireo at the nest that ended up on the cover of American Birds. The reason John was responsible was because he had found the vireo nest in Red Rock Canyon and had taken me there to show me where the nest was, so I got a chance to photograph the nest

and bird. Also at Red Rock Canyon, John found a small colony of nesting Lesser Goldfinches, a quite amazing record.

John Newell was also responsible for the most worthwhile discovery of my ornithological life. He saw two family groups of very young Mountain Plovers in areas with ONLY cultivated fields (no native prairie) in Cimarron County, Oklahoma, and told me about them. Several years later I found actual nests, lots of them, directly in cultivated fields within the plover's nesting range, a finding that has drastically changed conservation efforts for this rare species.

Always, when you were parting with John, his final words would be, "Have fun!" And, because of John, have fun we did.

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## Recorders Report

September 2009

### From Summer to Fall

September is the time to begin saying goodbye to the birds of summer and hello to the birds of winter. Many other species will migrate through Oklahoma from their northern breeding grounds to their southern wintering grounds while the sunflowers put on a fantastic golden show as they provide nectar for butterflies and later seeds for the wintering species.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup> Brian Davis took his youngest boy to the marina at Thunderbird and found 8 or so Summer Tanagers almost all females and one immature male along with a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pileated Woodpecker and Red-headed Woodpecker.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> Matt Jung found the Tri-colored Heron at Lake Overholser and in various other parts of town a Gray Catbird, Bell's Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Eastern

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Screech Owl, Forester's Tern and Brown Thrasher.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> Brian Davis found a shorebird bonanza at Prairie Dog Point on Lake Hefner. Species included Semipalmated Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Sanderling, Pectoral Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs. He also found the first **Caspian Tern**. On the 11<sup>th</sup> he found a pair of American Avocets, a single dark ibis, a small group of female Northern Shovelers and a single Herring Gull. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Matt also reported the Caspian Tern and Herring Gull.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> Matt found a Common Yellowthroat, Warbling Vireo and a Green Heron along South Jenkins in Norman. On the 15<sup>th</sup> along South Jenkins Brian found a Northern Harrier, Osprey, Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers, Least Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Orchard Oriole, Yellow Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> John Polo and Jesse Burton found a window-killed **Canada Warbler** at the Noble Research Center on the OSU campus in Stillwater. On the 20<sup>th</sup> along South Jenkins in Norman Jennifer Kidney reported a Blue-headed Vireo and a **Philadelphia Vireo**. Brian Davis had a report from a friend that an adult Bald Eagle flew over Whittier Middle School in central Norman.

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## Birding 102 - Chasing

by Garey Harritt

This is a more advanced phase of birding but may be taken up by beginners as well as experienced birders. The only restrictions are time and money.

Chasing refers primarily to the chase of a rare or tough to get bird no matter where the bird is located. This type of birding requires a

discipline to only one thing—to actually see the bird.

The first rule is to find the information about a bird. Eric Enwall in his President's Perspective last month wrote about the use of the internet to get information. This is how I find most of my birds. It is an excellent source and the site [www.birdingonthe.net](http://www.birdingonthe.net) will give you all the states and Canada to check for birds. Additionally, one develops a network of birding friends within and out of state.

A year ago we chased the Tufted Flycatcher in the Portal AZ area. We missed the bird although some of the 50 people present saw it. 47 hours after we arrived home, I told Linda I had to go to OKC to get my hearing aid fixed and Linda wanted to pick up a book. I said OK and if we are going to go that far (30 miles), we might as well keep going on to AZ to try for the Tufted Flycatcher again. We did and saw the bird thanks to good friends. Sometimes you have to do the unexpected. We now know how to pack and leave in one hour.

A more recent trip involved thinking about getting Great Grey Owls for two or three days. We had missed this bird on 2 other planned trips. So we decided to go to Idaho and we did see 3 owls. On the way home we considered turning south to AZ for the Aztec Thrush and Plain-capped Starthroat Hummingbird. We went home 3 days before going. We got good looks at the Hummer, but missed the Aztec Thrush. We were a day behind Jimmy and the boys.

The point here is sometimes you have to just go or you miss a bird. You may miss it anyway. I have done both. The only rule is when you hear the news is to "drop your socks" and go out the door.

Chasing can be fun if you like to travel. The reward is worth it. So get out there and chase!

## Bird of the Month

By John S. Shackford

I find the sighting of most Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) very satisfying. First you see a hawk-like bird and get set for a possible complex hawk identification. Then you see the crooked wings, realize you ARE at a lake, and this identification becomes an easy one—it's an Osprey. Watching now turns into uncomplicated fun. The Osprey may already be carrying a fish, one talon ahead of the other on the fish, or after a few minutes of watching, it may dive to the water after a fish—its almost invariable prey.

In Oklahoma, the Osprey is primarily a migratory species. The species nests both north—in the northern U. S. and into Canada—and south—along the gulf coast—of us. Possible breeding of Ospreys in Oklahoma are somewhat confused. Dr. Sutton was rather upset by the fact that an apparently valid old nesting record for Osprey at the Great Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge had escaped his notice before he published his book, *Birds of Oklahoma* (1967). Sutton mentioned that "[E]arly reports of nesting along the Illinois River in Cherokee County...not confirmed..." He did give three summer records for the state. So this is a species to be watched for possible breeding in Oklahoma.

Here is some information on Osprey nests elsewhere. The Osprey lays 2 to 4, usually 3, eggs, reported to be beautiful, with a whitish ground color spotted with brown. Nests can be large and the same nest sites are

often used for many years. Bent, in his "Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey," said that in the past there have been some large colonies of Ospreys. One, on Plum Island, at the eastern end of Long Island, New York, was estimated at about 250 nests. This area was sold and developed starting in 1885; after this many of the birds apparently relocated nearby at Gardiners Island where estimates ranged from 150-300 nests. Numbers on both islands were just estimates, however, not actual counts.

On Gardiners Island a Mr. Abbott reported to Bent: "Osprey nests.....are placed in almost every conceivable situation." Some of these were on rocks and boulders either on



land or protruding from water, on sheds, on piles of debris, on a channel buoy, on sand-bluffs, on pieces of wreckage and driftwood, to mention only some. This diversity of nesting sites on Gardiners Island may have had some relation to Ospreys being crowded out of their former home on Plum Island. And earlier, when Plum Island was crowded with Ospreys, I wonder if development along the coast of Long Island had crowded the Ospreys onto

Plum Island in the first place.

Numbers of Ospreys seem to be on the rebound. The reason for increased numbers is probably due to the flushing out of DDT in our environment in recent years. DDT causes eggshells—particularly of birds of prey—to thin and break in the nest. In recent years we have had as many as 6 or 8 Ospreys at Lake Hefner at one time during fall migration. So be on the lookout! It's particularly fun to watch them dive as they fish.

## Chirpings

By Patti Muzny

My "Chirpings" this time will chirp about my mid-September trip to southern Washington and Oregon. Brian and I joined Jimmy Woodard for a week of incredible scenery and birding. We accompanied the Washington Ornithology Society on several field trips, and made several new birding friends.

Our last day in Oregon, we had been climbing around on mountains and driving down the coast and marveling at the beauty surrounding us, but as Cinderella discovered, we found our "midnight" was fast approaching - we had to get back to Portland, find a motel and catch our flight in the morning! One of our most interesting adventures occurred the evening before we left.

Just before sunset and without even eating any dinner, we quickly drove across town from our motel near the airport to an elementary school in the near downtown area of Portland. Now what, you wonder, were three Oklahoma birders doing at an elementary school? We learned from web information and from our new Washington birding friends, that during the month of September, thousands of Vaux's Swifts could be seen funneling into a large chimney at this school. So many people gathered each evening that visitors were asked to park at a parking lot a few blocks away and walk. Residents in this neighborhood were unable to exit and enter their addition.

We found the lot, parked and trotted toward the school. We could see and hear swifts circling overhead in a manner much like the rivers of bats that enter and exit their caves. On a slope on the school grounds, hundreds of people were lying, sitting, standing, and on flat surfaces, playing kickball and volleyball. Others were in parked cars and sitting on curbs. Some had brought wine glasses and wine, some were snacking, and all were anticipating the evening show.

For several minutes the swifts gathered above. Suddenly an unknown signal was beamed to the first flock with orders to enter the chimney. They circled above several times, and then made an express dive into the shelter of the large chimney. The crowd cheered in awe. The first flock was settled, and others repeated the process. For a few minutes their descents were uneventful. As another group began to descend, there was a collective gasp from the onlookers! An opportunistic Merlin slashed into the flock, disrupting their orderly flights and zoomed off with dinner in its talons. The last gasp had barely filtered out over the crowd when a Peregrine Falcon came in even faster and expertly had another unlucky swift dinner. More gasps/cheers from the crowd and a Cooper's Hawk made its bid.

Prior to our trip, Vaux's Swift had been a life bird for Brian. This night he watched thousands and each of us had a bonus of watching nature's melodrama play out on a magnificent outdoor stage with a toenail moon overseeing from a cloudless sky. It was an awesome way to end a wonderful birding vacation.

## 2010 Calendars



Our beautiful 2010 fund raising calendars are here. They are available for \$7.50 at the monthly meetings. Or order online from <http://www.okc-audobon.org>. Add \$1.50 for mailing.



**Oklahoma City Audubon  
Society  
Minutes of September 21,  
2009 Meeting**

President Eric Enwall opened the meeting with greetings for our visitors.

New visitors were Allen and Joyce Lanning, formerly of New Jersey , and Dana Holbrook, Bob Holbrook's wife.

**Announcements:**

We have Audubon Business Cards for those who would like to pick up some to carry and give to those who are interested in our Audubon society.

Nancy has some handouts on tips for identifying winter loons...

President Eric shared with the group his cancer and that he is now taking chemotherapy treatments.

No copy of the minutes for June, 2009 were available.

**Treasurers Report:**

Nancy Vicars reported June 15, 2009 Cash on Hand was \$6,659.46. Total deposits of \$469.86 bringing the total to \$7,129.32. Disbursements totaling \$1,626.35, bringing Cash on Hand on September 21, 2009 to \$5,502.97. President Eric asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Made and accepted.

Jimmy Woodard plans to have a Saturday field trip once a month. September's trip was to Lake Thunderbird. Eric encouraged us to go on the field trips. October 17, 2009 field trip will be to Ft. Reno to look for short-eared owls. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the El Reno Braum's, at I-40.

We were encouraged to use our Oklahoma City Audubon website for information on upcoming field trips, etc.

Nancy announced that presently she can not lead the Tuesday Morning Birders, so Bill Diffin has agreed to be the leader. Bill said he would like to meet at 7:45 a.m. for the field trips. This week's trip will meet at the police headquarters at Lake Overholser .

**New Business:**

Bob and Dana Holbrook mentioned that Dana may be able to work towards a children's Audubon workshop in the future.

Nancy announced she now has the 2010 bird calendars for sale for \$7.50. Wildbird Store on Western Avenue will again sell them for our Audubon. Also Pat Velte has added information on our Audubon website for ordering the calendars on line.

Nealand Hill announced the upcoming Wildlife Expo at Lazy E arena on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. He will be working there at our booth and said it is a fun thing to do.

October's speaker will be Dr. Dwayne Elmore, Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University , who will talk about the Doves of Oklahoma including the newcomer species.

There was a short break for refreshments.

Tonight's program was Nealand Hill's "Road to 700", all about his very interesting adventure in his quest for life birds.

Dora Webb

## **Field Trips**

**Tuesday Morning Birders—Weekly trips** Contact Bill Diffin, [WilliamDiffin@aol.com](mailto:WilliamDiffin@aol.com)

### **October 17, 2009 — Fort Reno**

Jimmy Woodard will lead this field trip through Fort Reno (El Reno). Plan to meet at 7:30 for breakfast at the Braum's, I-40 & Country Club Rd., El Reno. Contact Jimmy Woodard for more details: [j.woodard@cox.net](mailto:j.woodard@cox.net) or 405.365.5685

### **November 21, 2009—Purina Field (north OKC)**

Warren Harden will lead the field trip through the fields south of NW 150th & Lincoln, near the Purina plant. The field has been a good spot for locating Smith's Longspurs and Short-eared Owls during recent years. The group will meet at the Oak Tree Food & Fuel, Memorial Road & Santa Fe, time TBA

### **December 5, 2009—Oklahoma City Lakes Tour**

John Shackford will host a pre-Christmas Bird Count field trip, working primarily on waterbirds. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot on the east side of the Overholser dam. The group will survey Lake Overholser, then visit the canal area north of Overholser, ending up at Lake Hefner. Please try to RSVP to [johnsshack@aol.com](mailto:johnsshack@aol.com) at least a week ahead.

### **January, 2010 - Lake Arcadia Eagle Watch**

Nealand Hill plans to do a local trip to [Arcadia Lake](#) during the Eagle Watch Days in January. The exact date is pending release of the schedule by the Arcadia Lake management. The lake fee is reduced during the Eagle Watch Days. Please try to RSVP to [nealandw@aol.com](mailto:nealandw@aol.com) at least a week ahead.

### **February—Norman**

We will explore near Norman—not farther than Lake Thunderbird with selection of exact places chosen by recent readings by local birders on our more common sites. Exact details TBA.

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