



Oklahoma City Audubon Society

OKC-AUDUBON.ORG

May 2010

Special Guest: Golden Eagle

Oscar Pack, a well-known, expert, master falconer from Oklahoma City will be the speaker at our May 17 OKC Audubon Society meeting. Oscar will bring his current bird, Jasmina (nickname "Mina"), a female Golden Eagle, to be our special guest. Oscar is an expert master falconer widely known in Oklahoma and around the U.S. for his expertise in bird and conservation matters and for his mild manner. He will talk about Golden Eagles, Mina, and the sport of falconry. Join us for a great evening with a beautiful Golden Eagle, her flyer, and all of your fellow members and guests.

Our meetings are held September through June on the third Monday of each month. They begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Will Rogers Garden Center, I-44 and NW 36th Street. Visitors are always welcome.



OCAS Exhibits at Martin Park Event

On Saturday, April 17, Martin Park had an Earth Fest exhibition from 10 am to 2 pm. OCAS displayed club information, binoculars and field guides at one of the tables. Dianne Newell loaned us an OCAS sign and foldout picture board her mother used to display at exhibitions. The tables were moved inside the Nature Center due to the inclement weather. We handed out brochures and business cards and answered questions about birding in the Oklahoma City area. Although the

weather was not good, about two dozen families came by the table during the exhibit. Some people asked about the presence of orioles and other birds in our area. Others had questions about feeders and what to put in them. One new member, Carol Comp, has joined us as a result of the exhibition. Terri Underhill and Bill Diffin tended the exhibit.

President's Perspective

By Bill Diffin

A number of years ago, while browsing a rack of science journals, I came across one that rates as the most memorable that I never did read. The lead article was titled, "In Search of Carbohydrate". The cover photo showed a single hyena trotting through a dusty African landscape with its head turned to the side, searching for its next meal. The title nicely encapsulated an insight I had recently abstracted from a lifetime of watching nature specials on TV. For wild creatures, success in life equates to a favorable energy balance -- consumption of enough calories to not only fuel the foraging behavior, but also to grow to breeding size, seek out a mate, court successfully, defend a breeding territory, and raise a new generation. For me, a typical American, the idea that finding easy calories is what drives success in life was a little counterintuitive. During my lifetime, the nutritional focus of Americans had always been on counting calories to avoid them.



What had dawned on me rather suddenly was that many TV nature scenes evidenced drastically favorable thermodynamics for the consuming species -- Grizzly Bears swatting salmon out of a river teeming with spawning fish, whales scooping up hundreds of pounds of krill in a single pass through a packed shoal, tuna and dolphins picking sardines out of a trapped bait ball, bison cropping a sea of grass, eight lions climbing on the back of a baby elephant, lizards jumping at swarms of black flies along a river. What these images suggest is that nature and human nature are not so different. Exploiting nature's bounty, taking advantage of a free lunch, finding the bird's nest on the ground, achieving certain victory by means of overwhelming force -- these are routes to success in the wild as well as in human civilization.

Once embraced, the principal of overwhelming thermodynamic advantage can seriously alter the way a person views nature. Most people have an innate appreciation for the beauty of nature and of individual species, but this sense doesn't necessarily translate to an admiration for efficient energy flow. It is the plants often regarded as objectionably vigorous and weedy which are the most efficient converters of

solar energy to carbohydrate and which have the productivity to dependably support populations of animals. A researcher in Texas (Chavez-Ramirez, 1992) found that the berries of the Ashe Juniper, a close relative of the Red Cedar, were consumed by 19 species of birds and 9 species of mammals. Each fall for the past three years I have observed sparrows and finches avidly consuming the seeds of our always reliable sunflowers and ragweeds at the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge. In the spring, it is the heavy crop of elm seeds which seems to be the mainstay of the same seed-eating birds. The Oklahoma plains still produce a vast crop of grass seeds which must sustain a healthy population of small rodents. These rodents are the reason why so many raptors spend the winter here. Hatches and swarms of mosquitoes and look-alikes such as midges and March Flies may make a mess on our windshields, but they sustain warblers, gnatcatchers, flycatchers, swallows, martins and dragonflies. Mississippi Kites eat the dragonflies.

As troublesome as they are, grasshoppers, crickets, cutworms, webworms, red ants, greenbriar, poison ivy, Red Cedar, all represent, or used to represent, important energy flows in our local ecosystems. Decimation of some of these species has undoubtedly had impacts not yet fully recognized. The declining populations of Bobwhites and Prairie Chickens may be caused at least in part to the growing scarcity of some of these or other once reliable energy sources.

Oklahoma City Audubon Society

Officers 2010

President	Bill Diffin	722-3778
Vice President	John Shackford	340-5057
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Treasurer	Nancy Vicars	732-9885
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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

Bird of the Month

By John Shackford



Until this year **Chimney Swift** (*Chaetura pelagica*) have nested regularly in our chimney; we are feeling a bit guilty because we have put a cap on our chimney on the advice of our “chimney sweep.” So we just watch the Chimney Swifts circle around and say to themselves—what’s with these inconsistent, thought-

less people? In some areas Chimney Swift numbers have been dropping in recent years: For central Oklahoma, their numbers on Breeding Bird Survey Routes between 1966-2003 have declined, on average, more than 1.5 percent per year. If you are serious about providing alternatives to chimney nest sites there is information about building an artificial nesting tower at www.chimneyswift.org.

The Chimney Swift, with its tapered head and tail, has been called “a cigar with wings.” During daylight hours, it spends very little time perched—it feeds in flight, drinks water and bathes in flight, gathers nesting material in flight, mates in flight. Other than landing inside a chimney for roosting or nesting, it only accidentally touches our earth. Most build nests inside chimneys, but once in a while a pair will still resort to a hollow tree, their “pre-civilization” nesting habitat. With both feet, in flight, they break off small dead twigs to make their nests. These twigs are covered with saliva and usually pasted to the insides of a chimney. Bird’s-nest soup, an Asian delicacy, is usually made from the nests of either the White-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) or the Black-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus maximus*), species that use only saliva to build their nests. Dr. George M. Sutton, in his book, Birds Worth Watching, 1986, confessed that he had never gotten up the courage to boil 2 or 3 Chimney Swift nests (twigs and all) to see what that bird’s-nest soup tasted like.

A.C. Bent, in Life Histories of North American Cuckoos, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds and their

Allies, 1989, notes that “[o]f the few North American birds—and they are very few—that were influenced favorable by civilized man...the [C]himney [S]wift received the greatest benefit.” Bent goes on to say that the Chimney Swift doesn’t give humans any respect (as Rodney Dangerfield would have said). They build their nests “...in the chimneys of thousands of our homes and crisscross for weeks above our gardens and over the streets of our towns and cities, yet, wholly engrossed in their own activities far overhead, they do not appear to notice man at all.” “[W]e like to see them shooting about over our heads, and we enjoy their bright voices, yet ...it is a guest that does not know we are its host.”



There is an interesting discussion about the Latin name of the Chimney Swift in the Dictionary of Birds of the United States, 2003, by Joel Ellis Holloway of Norman, Oklahoma: The Latin genus name *Chaetura*, means “hair-tail or bristle-tail,” although normally this use is restricted to animals other than birds. But one can see what this name is aiming at—the Chimney Swift’s “bristly” tail.

The real fun starts with the Latin species name, *pelagica*, which means “of the sea.” Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), the original “lister,” assigned the species name *pelagtea* in 1758 and *pelasgia* in 1766: Linnaeus is speculated to have been trying for “the name Pelasgi, an ancient nomadic tribe in Greece,” but in all the confusion the species name ended up being *pelagica*—of the sea; not only is this name not helpful, it misdirects attention to the sea, which does not relate well to this species at all. If Linnaeus couldn’t get it right, this should make the rest of us feel a bit better about the lists we try (or fail) to keep.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome new members **Casey Lindo** and **Carol Comp** to the Oklahoma City Audubon Society.

Guessing the next 10 bird splits

by David Allen Sibley

(Reprinted from www.SibleyGuides.com without permission.)

A favorite activity among avid birders is speculating and pontificating about which species should be “split” into new species (and new checkmarks on the life list). Another way of stating the question is “which subspecies should be elevated to full species status?” I’ve always tried to emphasize the value of paying attention to subspecies even when they don’t “count” on a life list, but there’s only so much you can notice and it’s understandable that we all care a lot more about Island Scrub-Jay, for example, now that it’s considered a species.

It can be a little overwhelming to consider the thousands of named subspecies among the 900 or so North American bird species, so I thought I would browse the list and highlight my own picks for the subspecies most deserving of species status. I offer my top ten with comments below, feel free to disagree and make suggestions. I’ll revisit this subject periodically.

The last word on splitting and lumping species belongs to the [AOU Checklist Committee](#). It should be understood that the committee bases its decisions primarily on published research. It’s easy for me and others to make very definitive statements about our impressions of what is going on in the field, and I suspect many of the committee members would agree with these statements, but the committee must have a firm basis for making a decision. No matter how obvious some of these decisions might seem, any action will have to wait for published research.

The top 10 (from most to least splittable):

Willet - Eastern and Western

These two populations have no contact on the breeding grounds, and are recognizable in all seasons by structure, plumage, and voice. I can’t think of any reason to argue for maintaining these as a single species.

Whip-poor-will – Eastern and Mexican

Two populations with entirely separate breeding ranges, very different songs, differences in DNA, and subtle differences in plumage.

Winter Wren – Eastern and Western

Two populations differ consistently in songs, calls, and

DNA, with subtle differences in plumage. This proposal has [already passed](#) an early round of voting in the checklist committee and may be official in their 2010 supplement to be published this summer. A thorough review of differences in songs and calls is [here](#).

Xantus’s Murrelet – Northern (*scrippsii*) and Southern (*hypoleucus*)

Two populations with little or no breeding range overlap, no evidence of hybridization and consistent differences in plumage and voice. The status quo would seem to be the only thing in favor of keeping these as a single species.

Yellow-rumped Warbler – Myrtle (Eastern) and Audubon’s (Western)

Two populations differ consistently in plumage and calls, slightly in song. These were lumped as a single species in the 1970s, but further research and a shift in philosophy now points to full species status. They certainly seem at least as distinct as Baltimore and Bullock’s Orioles.



White-breasted Nuthatch – Eastern, Interior West, and Pacific

A three-way split of this species would be based on obvious differences in calls, and subtle but consistent differences in plumage and bill size, as well as DNA. A thorough review of the issues by Nathan Pieplow is [here](#).

Marsh Wren – Eastern and Western

Two populations differ consistently in song, subtly in calls and plumage. These are not quite as clear-cut as the Winter Wrens, but I predict that further research will support species status.

Fox Sparrow – Sooty, Thick-billed, Slate-colored, and Red

The Fox Sparrows have been on everyone’s list of potential splits for a long time, with differences in plumage, calls, songs, and DNA. Among the reasons for inaction are lots of apparent intergrades where these populations meet, and the sheer complexity of the group. The distribution of the four groups of Fox Sparrows are similar to the sapsuckers (Yellow-bellied, Red-naped, and two forms of Red-breasted) or solitary vireos (Blue-headed, Plumbeous, and Cassin’s) but the sparrows seem more distinctive and more deserving of species status.

[To read more of this article and learn Sibley’s thoughts about possible splits for Eastern Meadowlark, and Red Crossbills, visit <http://www.sibleyguides.com/2010/04/the-next-10-north-american-bird-splits/>]

Minutes of April 19, 2010

President Bill Diffin called the meeting to order. Casey Lindo, manager of Martin Park Nature Center is a guest and now our newest member.

Bill asked for any corrections to the March minutes as published in the newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Nancy Vicars:

Cash on Hand	\$5,720.80
Deposits	+ 56.52
Disbursements	-114.20
Cash on Hand	\$5,663.12

Bill asked for any corrections to the Treasurer's Report. Motion was made to approve as read and seconded. Motion approved.

Casey Lindo presented a report on Martin Park during Earth Fest 2010. Casey stated there were fewer visitors than they expected to attend Earth Fest due to the abundance of rain. She appreciated the support of Bill Diffin and Terri Underhill working a booth. Bill reported we picked up one new member to OKC Audubon Society while working the booth.

Field Trips:

No report was given.

Committee Reports:

No committee report was given.

NEW Business:

Nealand Hill presented the winner for the First of the Season Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and First of the Season Hummingbird contest. Nancy Reed was the winner in both categories. Nancy was presented with a beautiful Scissor-tailed embroidered cap and a Cedar Works, six-port Bouquet Hummingbird feeder.

Nealand stated that copies of the report on Oklahoma Hummingbirds and a list of beneficial flowers for hummingbirds are available to everyone at tonight's meeting and on our website.

Terri Underhill presented bumper stickers for sale in the amount of \$5.00. Terri is donating \$2.00 of each sale to the OKC Audubon Society. A view of one of these stickers is on the OKC Audubon Society website and they are available at the meetings for purchase.

Nealand Hill has caps available for sale for \$15.00.

Nancy Vicars still has 22 – 2010 calendars left. She

proposes to donate these to Martin Park for Casey to distribute. President Diffin asked for a motion to donate the calendars to Martin Park. A motion was made and a seconded. Motion approved.

Casey reported on the Bluebird nest boxes that are being maintained at Martin Park. She stated two volunteers from OKC Audubon Society are checking the boxes to keep House Sparrows from nesting in the boxes. Casey appreciates the support.

Warren Harden announced he had a half sack of bird seed to give to anyone who could use the seed.

Bill Diffin announced a break for refreshments.

Warren Harden announced the speaker for the May meeting will be a falconer. Everyone is invited to bring a friend to see a live Golden Eagle on Monday, May 17 at 7:00 PM.

Warren introduced guest speaker, Jeremy Dixon who gave an outstanding slide presentation on bears.

Nancy Reed, Recording Secretary

Field Trip to Stinchomb WMA

by Matt Jung

OKC Audubon Society field trip to Stinchcomb WMA and Coffey Dam. Matt Jung led and was the sole participant of this trip. The temperature was in the high 50s, the wind was calm and it sprinkled a little rain off and on.

I started on the east side and walked for about 45 minutes when rain made me turn around. A Canada Goose started to honk the moment I got out of my car to let me know I'll have been spotted and a single BW Teal was swimming in the playa. Cardinals and



Carolina Wren made lots of noise along the way but I could hear White- and Red-eyed Vireos, Indigo and Painted Buntings and even Spotted Towhee and Harris's Sparrows. Crows were croaking off and on and at least one Fish Crow was among them. By the time I was back at the car the rain had ceased.

Tuesday Morning Birders



Tuesday Morning Birders trip leader, Bill Diffin

4/27 -- Overholser Cofferdam and Stinchcomb WR

West -- Susan Prescott, Bob and Dana Holbrook, David Woodson, Charles Douglas and Bill Diffin. At the Overholser Cofferdam we saw Soras at the retaining wall and the rollover dam. A pair of Eared Grebes paddled past four Willets. Prothonotary Warblers were in the woods. Dana and Susan saw a Palm Warbler on the sand pile under the trees. A pair of Summer Tanagers flew through the understory. Bell's Vireos sang in two places. A Yellow-headed Blackbird flew over the rollover dam.

At Stinchcomb WR West, Barn Swallows, Cliff Swallows and Chimney Swifts coursed over the big pond. Several Bank Swallows were among them. Susan saw a Pileated Woodpecker. We watched two soaring Swainson's Hawks over the trail.

4/20 -- Will Rogers Park, Lake Hefner -- Terri Underhill, Charles Douglas and Bill Diffin. We started the day at Will Rogers Park. South of the Tennis Center, we saw Cedar Waxwings, a Great Egret, Mallards, Canada Geese, Chipping Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers. We walked back toward the Horticultural Gardens in the northeast corner of the park. Harris's Sparrows, Carolina Chickadees and Cedar Waxwings were in a wooded draw. A Lincoln's Sparrow warbled atop a shrub along the creek.

In the Arboretum we saw Cedar Waxwings, a Tufted Titmouse, a Cooper's Hawk, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, a singing Lincoln's Sparrow, three Brown Thrashers, an Eastern Phoebe, a Downy Woodpecker and some Harris's Sparrows.

At the south end of the park we saw House Finches and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. To the north were Common Grackles and the Cooper's Hawk with a Starling. Where 32nd St passes under I-44, Barn Swallows were gathering mud for nests. A Killdeer was patrolling in the field east. Eurasian Collared Doves, Brown-headed Cowbirds and European Starlings were other birds distributed more or less evenly around the park.

We drove to Lake Hefner and birded the wooded inlets the Lake Patrol HQ and Stars and Stripes Park. We saw Yellow-rumped Warblers Orange-crowned Warblers, American Goldfinches Common Grackles, Blue Jays, Eastern Phoebes, Carolina Chickadees, a

Carolina Wren, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, White-winged Doves and a Eurasian Collared Dove. In the lake off Hobie Point we saw an Osprey, Blue-winged Teal and a Horned Grebe.

On the treatment ponds were two pairs of Redheads, five Bufflehead, several pairs of Canada Geese, a Horned Grebe, and a Surf Scoter. An Osprey caught a fish out of the lake. Flocks of Ring-billed Gulls and Franklin's Gulls passed overhead.

4/13 -- Yukon City Park, North Yukon, Stinchcomb WR East, Overholser Cofferdam

-- Charles Douglas and Bill Diffin. We started at Yukon City Park. In and around the north woods we saw Yellow-crowned Night Herons, a singing male Black-and-white Warbler, Downy Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, and a male Cooper's Hawk. An immature Red-shouldered Hawk perched east of the pond. A Turkey Vulture was soaring in the morning, and a Swainson's Hawk was soaring over Cornwell at the end of the day.

At the Overholser Cofferdam we saw Northern Shovelers, Blue-winged Teal, American Coots Double-crested Cormorants and American White Pelicans. Cliff Swallows were flying around the 39th St bridge. Marsh Wrens sang in the cattails and Chipping Sparrows scoured around the elms.

4/5 -- Chickasaw NRA, Sulfur, OK -- Terri Underhill, Eivind Vamraak, Charles Douglas and Bill Diffin. We started birding on the west side of Lake of the Arbuckles. We saw Common Loons, Pied-billed Grebes and an American Coot on the lake. Wood Ducks flew along the woods.

At Eagle Point we saw Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Cedar Waxwings, American Goldfinches, Mourning Doves and Yellow-rumped Warblers. At Guy Sandy, a Northern Parula sang in the Sycamores. 132 American White Pelicans soared over.

After lunch we birded the Platt District just south and east of Sulphur. At the Vendome Flower Garden we saw a Louisiana Waterthrush, Tufted Titmice, Yellow-rumped Warblers, American Goldfinches, Carolina Chickadees and a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Near the Nature Center we saw Northern Parulas, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-eyed Vireos, and a White-breasted Nuthatch.

We went to the top of Bromide Hill and observed three Northern Rough-winged Swallows coursing along the cliff. The trail to the Veteran's Lake outflow had a Pileated Woodpecker flying over the trees. As we were leaving Chickasaw NRA, we noticed many American Robins in some of the picnic areas. On the way home, we saw a Cattle Egret, an American Kestrel, a Red-tailed Hawk and a Swainson's Hawk.

Recorders Report: April 2010

Welcoming over 50 newcomers

When April began, the beautiful purple flowering redbuds were highlighting by the gray winter forest, which suddenly turned various shades of green as all the leaves burst forth. The last frost was on the 7th with another one skirting the western side of central Oklahoma on the 26th.

April 1st Cynthia Van Den Broeke reported a beautiful **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** by the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, and Jim Bates saw a **Little Blue Heron** fly over his house in Oklahoma City. Bill Diffin found an **Eared Grebe** on Lake Hefner and a **Swamp Sparrow** at the Coffey Dam on Lake Overholser. On the 3rd at the Coffey Dam he saw a juvenile **Broad-winged Hawk** take off above the wooded swamp and slowly circle higher and higher until it drifted off to the north.

On the 4th Jennifer Kidney found a **Prothonotary Warbler** along south Jenkins in Norman, and on the 6th Dick Gunn found an Eastern Towhee, a fly over Northern Harrier and heard a distant Northern Bobwhite Quail. On the 7th Sue Lutze saw the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in Tuttle, Jimmy Woodward found an **Eastern Kingbird** at Lake Stanley Draper, CJ Metcalf spotted a small flock of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** in a flooded pasture off Reese Lake Road, and Fendorf Steward reported a cloud of 75 to 100 Cedar Waxwings in west Oklahoma City. On the 8th Jim Bates saw American Golden Plovers at the sod farm at SW 149th and MacArthur, Brian Davis ran across over 70 **Up-land Sandpipers** in Norman along Franklin Road between NW72nd and NW60th, and along South Jenkins Dick and Matt saw a singing **Northern Parula** presenting its magnificent self in the early morning sunlight – just dandy!

On the 10th the OCAS field trip at Pat Murphy Park led by Jerry Vanbebber had 4 **American Avocets**, a fly over from an **Osprey** carrying a fish in its talons, and at the Police Station Pond Bonaparte's and Franklin's Gulls. Later Jimmy's group saw a Western Grebe at Prairie Dog Point on Lake Hefner, and at Rose Lake Jerry's group found **Semipalmated Sandpipers**. On the 11th Jimmy found a **House Wren** at the Yukon Park and along Wagner Road some **Lesser Yellowlegs**. At the Oklahoma State Arboretum Vince Cavalieri found Chipping and **Clay-colored Sparrows**, at South Jenkins Ana Starr and Jennifer Kidney saw a **Common Nighthawk** flying down the river, and Jim Bates put out four of John Newell's Prothonotary Warbler boxes along the Coffey Dam road.

On the 12th along South Jenkins in Norman Dick found a **Green Heron** on the Beaver Pond, and on the 14th Matt had a **Grasshopper Sparrow** and Spotted Sandpiper. On the 16th it rained all day and **Cattle Egrets** appeared in a grassy field next to Esther Key's yard. On the 18th Joe Grzybowski saw an adult Bald Eagle circling in Norman. On the 20th the Tuesday Morning Birders led by Bill Diffin

found a female **Surf Scoter** on the Lake Hefner water treatment ponds, and later a **Gray Catbird**. Near the Coffey Dam at Lake Overholser Jim Bates saw a **Sora Rail** run across an open area between bunches of cattails and utter the whinny call. In Edmond Terri Underhill's Carolina Wrens fledged.

On the 21st at Lake Hefner Bill heard a **Warbling Vireo**. On the 22nd Matt and Jenny Foster heard their first **Chuck-will's-Widow** in Blanchard. On the 23rd along South Jenkins Matt and Dick found **Blue Grosbeaks**, an **Indigo Bunting** and a single **Sedge Wren**. In Mustang Jimmy had a **Baltimore Oriole** come to both hummingbird feeders and try to get some sugar water which was a very nice surprise. Later he birded Pat Murphy Park and found a **Swainson's Thrush**. On South Jenkins Dick found a **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Snowy Egret**, and possibly heard a **Great Crested Flycatcher** calling. **Mississippi Kites** flew over Matt and Jenny's home in Blanchard and Terri Underhill's home in Edmond.

On the 24th Jimmy and Nadine found a **Summer Tanager** at the Yukon City Park, the **Yellow-billed Loon** at Lake Hefner, 30 **Wilson's Phalaropes** at the Yukon Treatment Plant, and heard two Prothonotary Warblers at the Coffey Dam. Matt had **Bell's Vireo** and **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at the Coffey Dam and **Western Kingbird** along Morgan Road. Eivind Vamraak and Bill Diffin were birding the west side of the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge when a **Peregrine Falcon** briefly flew over and later Ernie Wilson saw one near Rose Lake.

On the 25th at Lake Stanley Draper Jimmy had several **Kentucky Warblers**, a female **Painted Bunting** and Broad-winged Hawks. Pat Velte discovered that the Surf Scoter is still at Lake Hefner. At Lake Carl Blackwell Timothy O'Connell found a **Pine Warbler**, Jim Bates flushed an **American Bittern** at Rose Lake, and Bill found 41 **Willetts** at the Coffey Dam. On the 26th Tim Ryan and Debby Kaspari birded the eastern edge of Lake Thunderbird and found 3 **Black Vultures**, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Summer Tanager** and **Great-crested Flycatcher**.

On the 27th the Tuesday Morning Birders led by Bill found a **Bank Swallow** at the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge, and Dana Holbrook and Susan Prescott found a **Palm Warbler** at the Coffey Dam. On the 29th Bill and Charles Douglas walked the east Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge and had a **Caspian Tern** fly over the trail heading to Lake Overholser. Angie Holt saw a **White-faced Ibis** and **Dickcissel** at 10 Mile Flats in Norman.

During April over 50 new bird species were reported for a total of 170 bird species making the Central Oklahoma area to date total at 214 species. I appreciate those who help provide the history of central Oklahoma birds by turning in reports. I can be contacted by email at emkok@earthlink.net. *Esther M. Key, Editor.*

Oklahoma City Audubon Society
c/o Patricia Velte
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Stinchomb (cont.)

After leaving Stinchcomb I decided to stop at Coffey Dam, recognized Bill Diffin's SUV parked along with another car. It was a good decision. Yellow Warblers were busy foraging among a flock of Cedar Waxwings. At least 3 Prothonotary Warbler were singing along the dam, so was a Common Yellowthroat and Marsh Wren.

At the lonely Elm on the east end was the Great-crested Flycatcher I missed at Stanchion and it was soon joined by a beautiful Baltimore Oriole, another FOS bird! The willow thickets now hold two Bell's Vireos along with several buzzing Clay-colored Sparrows. At this point I met up with Bill Diffin and his photographer friend from Norway.

We were able to coax a Swamp Sparrow to sound off and also a Sora. Other birds noted were Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk and Turkey Vultures circling toward the south-east. It was 12:30 PM and I called it a day.

Prior to Stinchcomb I stopped at Eldon Lyon Park and found Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Western Kingbirds, N. Mockingbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, 4 chasing Chimney Swifts and lots of Starlings and GT Grackles. I ended the day with 66 species and two First-Of-Season birds, the list is omitted for the sake of brevity.

Field Trips

September 3 - 6, 2010—Cheyenne Bottoms / Quivira NWR

Jimmy Woodard is planning an out-of-state trip to Cheyenne Bottoms/Quivira NWR near Great Bend, Kansas for Sept 3-6th. Additional information will be posted in the newsletter and on the website.



Cookie Patrol

Refreshments for the May meeting will be provided by: Terri Underhill, Vasca Stanley, Jim & Nancy Vicars.