



The Scissortail

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Oklahoma Ornithological Society

Affiliated with the National Audubon Society

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Summer Issue

June 2014

President's Message

During May 2014, an El Niño watch was issued by the climate prediction center. This watch predicted that we would transition into an El Niño event during the summer, although both the exact time of the predicted El Niño and the strength of the event remain unclear. El Niño is associated with high pressure in the western Pacific which pushes warmer than average sea surface temperatures into the eastern Pacific. El Niños are cyclical and typically occur every three to seven years. They result in changes to both weather and climate worldwide, and can have a pronounced effect on birds.

The increase in warmth off the west coast of South America leads to greater amounts of moisture in the air, and so Ecuador and Peru tend to be warmer and wetter and may experience major floods. Flooding can also occur in northern coastal Africa, the eastern Mediterranean, Afghanistan and Iran. In contrast, drought conditions tend to occur in the Amazon, Central America, Australia, India, and the western Pacific.

In the U.S. the effects of El Niño are typically most pronounced during winter. The northern US tends to be warmer than average, while the southern US tends to be wetter and cooler than average. So an El Niño winter will tend to be wetter and cooler than average in Oklahoma, which is good news given the widespread ongoing drought. The effects of El Niño on seabirds in the Pacific can be catastrophic, as the nutrient-rich coastal upwellings are shut off, resulting in a trophic cascade. Fewer nutrients are brought to the surface, resulting in a reduction of phytoplankton biomass, which reduces zooplankton biomass, which in turn reduces fish biomass. This results in breeding Humboldt Penguin populations decreasing by 65-72% during El Niño events! During the severe 1983 El Niño event, populations of Flightless Cormorants on the Galápagos crashed by 50%. Some species in the western Pacific, such as Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies, actually show decreased breeding success PRIOR to the El Niño event due to changes in thermocline depth and chlorophyll concentrations! Along the west coast of North America, sea surface temperatures tend to increase by several degrees, leading to

decreased breeding success in a number of seabird species. However, the warmer sea surface temperatures tend to correlate with a number of species being observed further north than normal, such as Elegant Tern, Xantus's Murrelet, Black-vented Shearwater and others.

The effects of an El Niño event on landbirds in North America are less easily quantified and only a handful of studies have examined the effects of El Niño on landbirds in this area. One phenological study found that the change in precipitation alters the molt strategy of Black-capped and White-eyed Vireos in Texas, which tend to molt earlier during an El Niño year. Other studies have found that El Niño events affect survivorship and fecundity. Sillett et al. (2000) found that Black-throated Blue Warbler overwinter survivorship tended to be lower during an El Niño event, presumably due to dry conditions on the study site in Jamaica. Breeding success of these warblers was likewise reduced during an El Niño due to a reduction in caterpillar density that was tied to El Niño. In coastal California, in contrast, an El Niño event was associated with higher reproduction of Rufous-crowned Sparrows. El Niño resulted in wetter conditions in this state which presumably benefited these birds. Nott et al. (2002) (Cont on page 15)

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Fall OOS Meeting

October 10-11, 2014

Wes Watkins Center—Okla. State Univ.

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society, affiliated with the National Audubon Society, is a member of the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation. It was founded in 1950 and has more than 225 members. It is incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Oklahoma and the Internal Revenue Code. Membership is open to anyone interested in birds and their welfare.

The OKLAHOMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY is dedicated to the observation, study, and conservation of birds in Oklahoma. The Society conducts meetings and field trips, publishes a quarterly newsletter and scientific bulletin, participates in nationally sponsored projects such as the Breeding Bird Survey and the Christmas Bird Count, encourages conservation, cooperates with the State Department of Wildlife and offers assistance to local groups organized for the study and enjoyment of nature

OOS MEMBERSHIP DUES

OOS members receive the newsletter, *The Scissortail*, as well as *The Bulletin*, a professional ornithological publication.

Regular	\$25.00	Includes publication of the Society
Family	\$35.00	One set of publications per family.
Student	\$15.00	Same as regular membership allowing students to participate at reduced fee.
Sustaining	\$40.00 or more.	In addition to membership, gives extra support to the Society.
Life	\$500.00	In addition to membership, provides long range income for the Society through the Endowment Fund.

Libraries and other institutions may subscribe to the publications of the Society for a \$25.00/year fee.

Add \$1.00 to each category if paid after February 15 of the membership year.

Make all checks payable to: Oklahoma Ornithological Society or O.O.S. and mail to: OOS Membership Chair, P.O. Box 2931, Claremore, OK 74018

New members who have joined before December 1 join for that year and receive the preceding March, June, and September issues of publication. New members who join after December 1 become members for the upcoming year and will receive the first publication in March. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Both renewing and new members should enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope to receive their membership card.

Please send notification of change of address to the Membership Chairman promptly as any returned mail from the Post Office is extra expense to the Society.

Notes for the OOS *Bulletin* are being sought. Articles should pertain to early sighting dates, late sighting dates, unusual behavior, unusual anatomical features, or summary papers of rare or accidental birds. Please send items for consideration to the editor of the *Bulletin* by email. Should you have questions regarding the process, please contact the *Bulletin* editor.



O.O.S. Officers

President -- Chris Butler — Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Central Okla., 100 N University Dr., Edmond, OK 73034 405-974-5782 (phone); 405-974-5726 (fax); email: cbutler11@uco.edu {'13-'14}

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Other positions:

Coordinator for Breeding Bird Survey & Winter Bird Atlas -- Dan Reinking --Sutton Avian Research Center, P.O. Box 2007, Bartlesville, OK 74005-2007, (918) 336-7778, dreinking@ou.edu {unspecified}

Publications are issued in March, June, September, and December. Send articles and items that you wish to have included in *The Scissortail* newsletter to Suzy Harris by e-mail: mbhsuzy@cableone.net by **March 1st, June 1st, August 15th, and December 1st** for the following issue. Any readable format is acceptable.

OOS SALES BY MAIL

- Oklahoma Bird Records Committee, Date Guide to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma, 6th Edition. 2012. \$6.00 each in person; \$7 via mail or internet
- OOS Field Checklist. 2005. Tri-fold card. 1-5 cards, \$0.50 each. Packet of 10 checklists, \$3.00

For volume sales and information contact: Nadine Varner, (405) 370-5076; gallinuleofpurple@yahoo.com

For purchase, send order and check to: OOS Sales, 7845 NE 18th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73141 **Make check payable to "OOS."** You may now purchase these publications online at our website **www.okbirds.com** Look for the publications link.

President's Message Cont. from
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likewise found that El Niño events tend to result in wetter conditions in western Mexico which results in a greater prey biomass for birds that overwinter in this area. LaManna et al. (2012) suggest that El Niño events it may also benefit Swainson's Thrushes that pass through western Mexico during migration.

Although El Niño events can have a pronounced effect on both climate and birds, much remains to be discovered. For example, there has been nothing published on the effects of El Niño events on birds in Oklahoma. Logically, a colder and wetter than average winter should affect avian abundance, distribution, or phenology. However, a quick search of past issues of the *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society* finds no mention of El Niño. Likewise, searches of online databases such as Biological Abstracts and Google Scholar fail to turn up any papers on this topic, although there are a few papers about the effect of El Niño events on agriculture in Oklahoma. If an El Niño does develop this year, I encourage all OOS members to pay careful attention to the numbers and species encountered during the winter and to write up some observations for *The Scissortail* or the *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society*.

Chris

Citizen Science at Selman Living Lab

On May 17, 2014 Jim Deming, Nadine Varner and Rebecca Renfro, attended the first Citizen Science Day at the Selman Living Lab. On behalf of OOS we were able to present information on birding with participants of various ages as well as explore some of the areas for birds. Once again we were able to share the binoculars, purchased by OOS for use with such occasions, with several people helping make their experiences more rewarding. There were some young children who really enjoyed looking and talking about several of the laminated bird pictures as we compared different features.

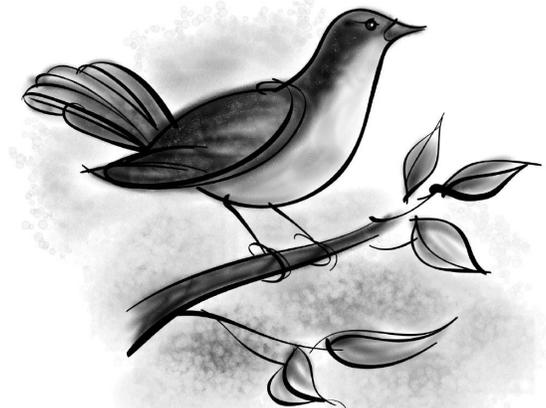
In regards to bird species identified some highlights included very good looks at the Cassin's Sparrows, the Clay-colored Sparrow, Least Tern and Lark Bunting. We also had the good fortune of getting to see some bats in the hand coming out of mist nets at the entrance of Alabaster Cavern.

After dark the Selman Living Lab telescopes were open and some astrophysicists were on hand to share their enthusiasm and knowledge about our beautiful night sky.

Oklahoma Bioblitz

October 3–5, 2014

**Black Kettle National Grasslands
and Washita Battlefield National
Historic Site.**



**Minutes— OOS Executive Board Meeting
Oklahoma City Zoo — Oklahoma City, OK
February 1, 2014**

Chris Butler called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Members in attendance: Chris Butler, Katrina Hucks, Don Glass, Claudia Glass, Nadine Varner, Mickle Duggan, Jim Deming, Joe Grzybowski, Mia Revels, Suzy Harris, Tim O’Connell, and Jimmy Woodard.

Minutes from October 19, 2013 Fall Executive Board meeting were passed out, amended, and approved with corrections.

Major corrections:

Mickle Duggan wanted to remove budget, but keep “I will add \$450.00 to budget for awards.” We will publish a new budget.

Joe Grzybowski had edits for OBRC section, will make corrections on sheet.

Nadine Varner wanted to change to “Reviewed expenses.”

Suzy Harris asked for a list of presentations from the fall meeting?

Chris Butler posted most of the abstracts on the website.

Mickle Duggan would like to see the abstracts in the Scissortail.

Motion to pass as amended: Mickle Duggan/second.

Amendments for Business meeting approved for Scissortail.

Reports:

Membership/Circulation Report: Don Glass

October 18, 2013	9 Student Members
83 Life Members	20 Library Subscriptions
19 Family Members	21 Complimentary & Exchanges
13 Sustaining Members	
66 Regular Members	Total Membership – 231

The December issue of the Scissortail was received on December 20, 2013 (Friday). The Bulletin was received on December 5, 2013 (Thursday) and the mail-out to the members occurred on December 23, 2013 (Monday).

A total of 217 pieces were mailed out by bulk mail at a cost of \$79.20; 3 foreign mail-outs at a cost of \$11.25 (\$3.75 for each) and mail-out to one new member at a cost of \$2.85 (new foreign address). Total cost of December 2013 mail-out was \$93.30.

Don Glass: Membership is up from the last meeting, but down generally. Staying around 240 members. Will send membership reminders in March. Need to okay complementary and exchanges.

CM	13	NISC	
CM	13	American Museum of Natural History	
CM	13	Smithsonian Institution Libraries	
CM	13	Library of Congress	
CM	13	Division of Birds	
CM	13	Sutton Avian Research Center	
CM	13	OOS	Scissortail Editor
CM	13	OOS	Archivist 1,
CM	13	OOS	Archivist 2,
CM	13	OOS	Business Manager
CM	13	Thomson Reuters-Enterprise House	
EX	13	Cornell Lab of Ornithology	
EX	13	Bird Watcher’s Digest	
EX	13	Kansas Ornithological Society	
EX	13	Kansas School Naturalist	
EX	13	Arkansas Audubon Society	
EX	13	Texas Ornithological Society	
EX	13	Colorado Field Ornithologists	
EX	13	New Mexico Ornithological Society	
EX	13	The Ring - Exchange	
EX	13	Wilson Ornithological Society	

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Motion: Joe Grzybowski/second: Nadine Varner. Passed by acclamation.

Don Glass stated that he annual bulk mailing permit has gone up to \$200.00, and also the cost of the mail-out will be increasing due to the increase in postal rates.

Discussion: Going paperless

Don Glass had a concern with going paperless. We are currently getting the bulk mail price which requires 200 pieces to receive. If we have people drop off, the price will go way up.

Mickle Duggan stated that there would be no bulk mail with date guides.

Jim Deming stated that Indian Nations puts the newsletter online, but also mails it.

Tim O'Connell asked how much will we need to mail if members switch to paperless?

Joe Grzybowski stated that we would need less than 1/3 of the members receiving paper mail to go paperless.

Chris Butler suggested that we bring up the option at the spring meeting.

Don Glass asked if this would be the Scissortail, or the Bulletin, or both? He was concerned we would lose members.

Suzy Harris suggested we put a password on it so only members could view it.

Jim Deming thought we would actually gain members.

Chris Butler suggested putting the Scissortail online for a year.

Action:

Chris Butler stated that we will add the Scissortail online for one year. We will not remove the paper option.

Treasurer: Nadine Varner

For all of 2013:

Income: \$12,154.00

Expenses: \$8,389.58

Profit: \$3,765.12

Assets

Checking		\$12,794.75
Investments		
CD/Bulletin	\$36,756.93	
CD/Endowment	\$33,152.13	
CD/Special Projects	\$10,213.51	
Total Investments	\$80,122.57	
Total all Assets		\$92,917.32

Discussion:

Suzy Harris asked what the Royalties section was.

Nadine Varner stated that it was a check from the Baumgartner book.

Business Manager: Mickle Duggan

Budget

Discussion and action on 2014 budget: Proposed budget was distributed to attending members. Budget was discussed at the last meeting and adjustments were made so a budget committee was not convened. There were some corrections, including meeting awards.

Discussion:

Mia Revels stated that the number of awards changed based on the number of presenters. There were awards for posters and presentations, as well as grad and undergrad.

Nadine Varner stated that the budget is a guideline, so funds could be moved for special projects.

Mickle Duggan added that there were also funds for a student worker for OBRC. There were \$200 budgeted for file cabinets, but Joe Grzybowski attained some, so the \$200 can be used for the student worker.

Nadine Varner expressed an interest in printed date guides.

Don Glass stated that he hadn't mailed them out in a while because he didn't know there were any.

Mickle Duggan asked if we wanted to print 250 and mail them out.

Jim Deming asked if we want to print extras.

Mickle Duggan suggested we put them on the website for personal printing.

Nadine Varner suggested we could sell a few extras on thicker paper.

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Discussion of special project proposition:

Tim O'Connell spoke about Jim Lish, who is publishing a book on Red-tailed Hawks, and needs \$10,000 to publish. He asked if this is something we would consider funding any amount for a special project.

Mickle Duggan stated that we do have \$500-1000 for special funding, and the budget is a guideline. We can probably do a one-time thing. We can encourage him to submit a proposal, but funding may depend on our role in it.

Jim Deming expressed a concern is where he will be getting the other \$9000.

Mickle Duggan suggested we could do it on contingency, as a one-time thing, that it gets funded.

Motion to approve budget: Mickle Duggan/second: Nadine Varner. Approved.

Distribution of Constitution: All members in attendance were supplied with a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the society.

Review of endowed funds and recommendation on carry-over funds: Presentation on constitutional requirements and previous board actions with respect to the three endowed funds. Recommend maintaining a carry-over balance of \$10,000.00.

Discussion of and action on inclusion of liability statement on registration form: Review of discussion on liability issues. Recommend inclusion of a liability statement on registration form.

“Participation in Oklahoma Ornithological Society’s activities and meetings in voluntary. Some activities such as field trips may expose you to the possibility of physical injury. By participating in these activities you accept all responsibility for all risks and release Oklahoma Ornithological Society, its officers, and volunteers from any and all liability from property damage, personal injuries or other claims whether known or unknown arising from your participation.”

Motion: Tim O'Connell/second: Nadine Varner.

Appointment of an additional person to serve as auditor for 2013 financials: Audit of 2013 financials will be done when records are received from the treasurer. Constitution requires appointment of an additional auditor by the president to assist business manager with audit. Recommend Doug Wood.

Chris Butler: Appointed.

Tax filings: Tax filings (both state and federal) will be done by business manager with assistance from Larry Pullium.

Committee Reports

Activities: Rebecca Renfro

In absentia: I will have the binoculars at the OOS spring meeting. I do not have anything else to report.

Archivist: Claudia Glass

Claudia Glass had nothing new to report.

Awards: Jim Deming

Jim Deming had one nomination, and a proposal for another nomination. They will be due in August.

Bulletin: Gene Young

In absentia: Plead for more submissions for the Bulletin. Would like to discuss joint meeting and joint publications with KOS.

Discussion:

Mickle Duggan stated that we are constitutionally required to publish the Bulletin by name. Also, they report CBC data, which he did not want to mix between Oklahoma and Kansas.

Joe Grzybowski stated that KOS publishes their CBC results because they don't submit to Audubon.

Discussion of what to include for the Bulletin:

Chris Butler asked for suggestions for the Bulletin. He suggested asking Bill and Linda to write something about the Lewis's Woodpecker.

Joe Grzybowski and Mia Revels also had some things to include in the Bulletin.

Discussion of joint meeting: Not favorable immediately, possibly long-term.

Conservation: Mark Howery

In absentia: Will send conservation report to Chris Butler and Suzy Harris.

OBRC: Joe Grzybowski

OBRC met 25 Jan 2014. We are caught up to January 2014, including Dec 2012-Jan 2014 records, and outstanding 2012 records. Four new species were added to the Oklahoma Check-list, including hypothetical status Golden-cheeked Warbler. We are collaborating with eBird for record confirmation. Will get new date guide ready by the summer, around July. We have budgeted for 600 copies; it is about \$0.75/copy. Will lose ~240 for mail out.

We are setting up an electronic database from the records through 2008. Still need to get latitude and longitude data from records that require a name search. We were able to get file cabinets that are nicer than we budgeted for. Records from 2009 on still need to be processed. We are planning to sort them by year. I plan on using money from OOS for this.

Minutes— OOS Executive Board Meeting

February 1, 2014

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President-elect: Mia Revels

The spring meeting is arranged for 11, 12, and 13 April. The facility will be Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva. There is no charge for the room because we are having a banquet. We just have to pay the banquet costs. Planning on Great Salt Plains NWR, SP for field trips. Jason Luscier from Missouri will be the speaker. Because there is an oil boom right now, I encourage everyone to make reservations early. The cabins at Great Salt Plains are nice. They also have a campground. There may be a possible field trip available for Friday or Saturday night to watch the bat flight.

Discussion of events:

Cave:

Chris Butler thought the cave might have been off limits because of White Nose Syndrome, and the bats may not be back yet. He would talk to Bill Caire to check on this.

Discussion of registration.

Action:

Hold board meeting from 4:30-6:00 PM, then hold registration from 6:00-8:00 PM. Have bird trivia game led by Suzy Harris from 6:30-7:00 PM and eBird workshop held by Katrina Hucks from 7:30-8:00 PM. Alternatively, show slideshows of Trinidad and Tobago by Jim Deming or Newfoundland by Tim O'Connell.

Field Trips:

Jim Deming asked if there was any contact with the refuge and stated that we needed access to the sewage ponds and other closed off units.

Leaders:

Jim Deming, Joe Grzybowski, Chris Butler, Jimmy Woodard, Doug Wood

Jim Deming stated that the Whooping Cranes are usually seen by the tower near dawn, and that we should schedule this with the refuge.

Mia Revels stated that she would like to have the leaders work out the field trips, while she can work on getting access.

Action:

Chris Butler stated that there needed to be Saturday morning, afternoon, and Sunday morning field trips. He suggested that they could be "To be announced" because of varying water levels, but will need to determine the field trip locations and times by 6:00 and announce them at registration.

Jim Deming stated that a Saturday morning field trip to Salt Plains NWR could be scheduled. Try meeting at 6:30 AM at Headquarters, or departing at a specific time from Alva.

Next meeting:

Tim O'Connell volunteered to host Fall 2014 Meeting in Stillwater, depending on football schedule.

Scissortail: Suzy Harris

Suzy Harris had a reminder that the deadline for the Scissortail is March 1st. She will send an email reminder as well.

Special Projects: Tim O'Connell

Tim O'Connell wanted to announce the date for proposal submission – March 8 – and ask for volunteers to help review.

Joe Grzybowski offered to help.

Mickle Duggan stated that Rebecca Renfro was usually interested.

Tim O'Connell stated that he planned to announce the recipients by the end of March. He stated that he would like to weigh proposals with less funding more heavily than proposals with many funded aspects, and include an area stating how much funding a project already has.

Mickle Duggan agreed, even if it is travel requests.

Student Representative: Torre Hovick

Not present, no report.

New Business: Doug Wood

In absentia: proposal for Lower Rio Grande Valley trip

Jimmy Woodard stated that Doug Wood would like to lead a group before (his choice) or after Christmas. There would be two groups, one for leisurely birding, and one for more hardcore birding. Everyone would be required to provide their own transportation, but car-pooling options would likely be available.

Discussion of trip and role of OOS.

Action:

Advertise via OOS and the Scissortail

Motion: Suzy Harris/second: Mickle Duggan

Adjourn:

Mickle Duggan: Motion to adjourn at 3:22 PM/second: Suzy Harris.

Plunge Diving Great Blue Heron **By Chad Ellis**

On March 29th, 2014 I made one of many trips across the dam at Lake Hefner in Oklahoma City. The goal of this trip was to locate the Pacific Loon that had been reported there on several occasions. The wind was calm and the temperature was very comfortable about seventy degrees. I stopped along the way and took photos of every loon that I was able to find. Near the outlet tower there was a Great Blue Heron. He was particularly cooperative with my photography. Looking back at the photos I can now see that the water was unusually clear.

I turned my attention to the distant loons. A short time later the Great Blue took flight. Then the most unexpected thing happened. Just about ten feet off shore and thirty feet from its takeoff point, the heron dove head first into the lake. In the same manner a Brown Pelican does! It righted itself before it was completely submerged, with a fish in its bill. As quick as it all happened it was over. The heron returned to its former post and ate its catch.

I was awe struck at the whole spectacle. Unfortunately, I did not manage to photograph any of it. Who expects anything out of the ordinary from a Great Blue's flight? I will certainly be aware of the possibility in the future.



DONATIONS

Barbara Neas and David Miller
Wally and Bobbie Whaling
Larry Pulliam
Jeremy Ross
John Sterling
Don Turvey
Jerry and Peggie Mitchell
June Knox
Laurence Dunn
Phillip Fickling
John and Brady Polo
Mark Cromwell
C.W. Comer
Stephen Parker
Paul Ribitzki
Connie Taylor

NEW MEMBERS

Morgan Foglestrom---Hastings, OK
Stephen Parker----Oklahoma City, OK
Cassandra Shires----Locust Grove, OK
Benjamin Singleton----Bennington, OK
Tom Traxler----Edmond, OK

Treasurer's Report

By Nadine Varner

Approximately 50 people attended the OOS 2014 Spring Meeting at Alva. This generated \$1,161 in meeting income. This included \$1,028 in registrations/banquet tickets and \$133 worth of merchandise sales (t-shirts, date guides, etc.). Our expenses totaled \$1,343 (not including expenses for merchandise).

We currently have \$14,011 in checking account, \$10,214 in the Special Projects CD and \$70,967 in the Memorial fund/ Bulletin Fund CD

A total of 141 species were seen at the spring OOS meeting! The list is as follows:

Snow Goose	Rough-legged Hawk	Carolina Chickadee
Ross's Goose	American Kestrel	Tufted Titmouse
Canada Goose	Merlin	White-breasted Nuthatch
Wood Duck	Peregrine Falcon	Carolina Wren
Gadwall	American Coot	Bewick's Wren
American Wigeon	Sandhill Crane	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mallard	American Golden-Plover	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-winged Teal	Snowy Plover	Eastern Bluebird
Northern Shoveler	Killdeer	Townsend's Solitaire
Northern Pintail	Black-necked Stilt	American Robin
Green-winged Teal	American Avocet	Brown Thrasher
Redhead	Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Mockingbird
Ring-necked Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs	European Starling
Lesser Scaup	Long-billed Curlew	American Pipit
Bufflehead	Hudsonian Godwit	Sprague's Pipit
Hooded Merganser	Western Sandpiper	Cedar Waxwing
Red-breasted Merganser	Least Sandpiper	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Ruddy Duck	Baird's Sandpiper	Black-and-white Warbler
Northern Bobwhite	Pectoral Sandpiper	Orange-crowned Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Long-billed Dowitcher	Common Yellowthroat
Wild Turkey	Wilson's Snipe	Northern Parula
Pied-billed Grebe	Wilson's Phalarope	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eared Grebe	Franklin's Gull	Spotted Towhee
Double-crested Cormorant	Ring-billed Gull	Chipping Sparrow
American White Pelican	Rock Pigeon	Clay-colored Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Field Sparrow
Great Egret	Mourning Dove	Vesper Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Greater Roadrunner	Lark Sparrow
Little Blue Heron	Great Horned Owl	Savannah Sparrow
Cattle Egret	Barred Owl	Le Conte's Sparrow
Green Heron	Chuck-will's-widow	Song Sparrow
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Belted Kingfisher	Lincoln's Sparrow
White-faced Ibis	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Swamp Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Downy Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Osprey	Hairy Woodpecker	Harris's Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Northern Flicker	White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Pileated Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Northern Cardinal
Cooper's Hawk	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Loggerhead Shrike	Eastern Meadowlark
Broad-winged Hawk	White-eyed Vireo	Western Meadowlark
Swainson's Hawk	Blue Jay	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Brewer's Blackbird
Ferruginous Hawk	Horned Lark	Common Grackle
	Purple Martin	Great-tailed Grackle
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
	Cliff Swallow	House Finch
	Barn Swallow	House Sparrow

The Spring OOS Meeting Report

The 2014 Oklahoma Ornithological Society's Annual Spring Meeting was held at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva Oklahoma, April 11-13, and was full of great birds and great times! Field trips were taken to the Great Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, the Great Salt Plains State Park, and birding hotspots in and around Alva. Many thanks to all of the field trip leaders who volunteered their time to show off the avian wonders of the Great Salt Plains area, especially Jim Deming, who spent the entire day before the meeting scouting out the areas for good birds! The meeting list totaled 141 bird species, with Katrina Hucks volunteering for the difficult task of compiling all the lists from all of the trips and participants (Thanks Katrina!). The birds seen on the field trips are listed at the end of this report. Ever the eternal optimist, I had hoped for lots of rain, a hope that was not fulfilled. Still, there was water and the associated birds present and it was really fun to get to spend time in that special part of the state.

Friday night we gathered at NOSU, visited, and participated in several new activities, including a rousing game of Bird Trivia! There was also a workshop on eBird, which lots of people participated in. Friday night activities are always a favorite part of the meeting for me, getting to see people I haven't seen in a while and catching up on things in an informal setting.

Saturday morning were the field trips with one group headed out to Great Salt Plains and the other staying around the local Alva environs. Folks took their own lunches and then met back at the University that evening for the banquet and a great talk from our guest speaker Dr. Jason Lusciur entitled: "Understanding Plummeting Populations of Rusty Blackbirds: the Plight of North America's Fastest Declining Songbird". Jason is such a dynamic speaker, and his talk was just wonderful! He is currently an Assistant Professor of Biology at Truman State University in northeastern Missouri. Sunday morning everyone dispersed, birding all the way home!

The Fall Technical Meeting is scheduled for October 10-11, at the Wes Watkins Center on the campus of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. I hope to see you all there!

Mia Revels
President-Elect

ANNA MARION BEBB NORMAN 1929 -2014

Anna Marion Bebb Norman passed away after a long battle with MS on March 30, 2014 at the age of 85. She was born on February 22, 1929 to Forrest and Mary (Payne) Bebb in Muskogee. The Bebb family settled in Oklahoma prior to statehood. Marion grew up and attended school in Muskogee. She continued her education at Lindenwood College, St. Charles, MO before attending DePauw University, Greencastle, IN where she graduated with a degree in botany.

Marion and James (Jim) L. Norman were married on December 30, 1952. They raised three daughters. Marion was a florist and co-owner of the Bebb Floral Company which was founded by her father and her uncle, Maurice Bebb, in 1910.

Marion's life revolved around her family and service to the community. She held leadership roles in numerous organizations including Service League, PEO Sisterhood, Community Concert, Indian Nations Audubon Society, and Oklahoma Ornithological Society. Marion and Jim traveled in 49 states, Canada, Mexico, and Central America searching for birds to add to their "life lists". She loved camping and canoeing trips with her family which included stays at the Bebb cottage on Lake Belle Taine in Minnesota.

PAUL FLOYD NIGHSWONGER 1923-2014

Paul Floyd Nighswonger was born in Alva, OK on April 14, 1923 to Howard Lewis and Lucie (Floyd) Nighswonger. Paul died March 23, 2014. He grew up on the Woods County farm, homesteaded in 1902 by his grandfather, Paul H. Nighswonger, surrounded by numerous extended family members and a special

mentor, Louie Thurman. Eight years of grade school were completed at Greenleaf with Paul often driving himself to school. He attended high school at Horace Mann on the Northwestern campus. He began college at Northwestern, but in 1943, entered the Army, eventually earning rank of 1st Lieutenant as a B-17 co-pilot in the Army Air Corps. He particularly enjoyed his tour at Foggia, Italy, remembering stories and Italian words for the rest of his life. He finished college in 1949 and Elaine Moore became his bride on May 6, 1951. The couple settled on the home place 12 miles northwest of Alva. To this union six children were born. In 1964, Paul and Elaine moved to Norman, Oklahoma where Paul began graduate school at the University of Oklahoma. After five years, he earned his PhD in Plant Ecology and was hired to teach at his alma mater, NWOSU. Paul found his true calling as a teacher, covering classes in botany, biology, genetics, ornithology, and a favorite, Resource Awareness.

Paul had many hobbies and interests, such as collecting stamps, flying airplanes, banding birds, collecting books and traveling. He was always ready to start a trip! He was an especially good photographer. His plant specimens at the OU Herbarium are known for their artistry. He was active in the community, serving on boards for the museum and his local rural water district. He was a long time member of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, Oklahoma Ornithological Society, and Oklahoma Native Plant Society. For many years, he taught Sunday school at Cedar Grove Wesleyan Church.

Birds That Fly By in the Night

By Gustave Axelson

Many birds migrate unseen under cover of darkness, but they can be heard—and their flight calls may offer clues for making wind turbines safer for birds

Last autumn, on a crisp September night about 50 miles east of Buffalo, New York, a Cornell Lab of Ornithology audio-recording device captured a fleeting sound—just one-fifth of a second, a single note like that of a spring peeper—from the night sky.

That sound was a nocturnal flight call from a Swainson's Thrush, one of more than 13,000 nocturnal flight calls gathered by Cornell Lab recorders during a two-week period last September. The recordings were part of a pilot project to assess acoustic monitoring as a tool for evaluating the potential impacts to birds at wind turbine sites.

The research—conducted with Cornell Lab audio-recording devices placed at seven sites across western and central New York—was funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Each site was in close proximity to existing wind turbines or areas proposed for wind-energy development.

“By understanding the causes of bird mortality, we [can] integrate changes in future wind turbine construction to avoid such problems,” said Greg Lampman, a senior project manager for environmental research at NYSERDA.

More than half of the 13,000 recorded flight calls came from eight species (such as Swainson's Thrush and Blackpoll Warbler) that are “fly-through” migrants, traveling through the state between their Canadian breeding grounds and wintering ranges in Latin America. These species are not included in the typical breeding-bird surveys used to evaluate species affected by turbines.

Four other species identified in the audio recordings by flight calls in the project (Upland Sandpiper, American Bittern, and Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows) have threatened or special concern status in New York. And two species (Bay-breasted and Black-throated Blue warblers) have been designated by recent research from the University of Minnesota to be “super colliders”—species particularly prone to colliding with buildings and towers.

Estimates of birds killed by wind turbines each year range from 100,000 to more than 400,000, which is relatively small compared with the hundreds of millions of birds thought to die from collisions with buildings and towers annually.

“Wind turbines aren't as much of an issue yet, because wind is still only 3 to 4 percent of our country's total energy generation. But if we're going to get to 20 percent from wind by 2030, that means a massive expansion of turbines,” said Ron Rohrbaugh, a lead Cornell Lab conservation scientist on the NYSERDA funded project.

Most bird collisions occur during migration, when birds move en masse. Much songbird migration occurs at night, presumably so birds can avoid predators, take advantage of calmer skies, and maximize time spent feeding during the day. That means many movements are largely invisible to human eyes, cloaked in darkness and difficult to monitor.

Birds That Fly at Night (Cont'd from page 23)

But each migrant bird species gives a unique flight call, some as brief as 20 milliseconds. Scientists think night flight calls help flocks of birds stay together and navigate in darkness.

The Cornell Lab has been studying flight calls for more than two decades. In 2006, then Cornell University graduate student Andrew Farnsworth published his Ph.D. thesis, which included, with the help of recordings from colleagues, a “Rosetta Stone” to identify the flight calls of 48 species of warblers. Today, Farnsworth is a fulltime Cornell Lab researcher, and he’s part of a Lab migration-monitoring team that can identify flight calls of many nocturnally migrating birds.

Monitoring migrating birds is a complex science. Daytime observations often only provide glimpses into the behaviors and pathways of migrants, particularly those at refueling locations. Nocturnal monitoring—with radar, for example, which can detect movements of migrating birds but cannot provide any clues about species identification—is much more difficult. Acoustic monitoring has the potential to unveil the unseen rivers of millions of Neotropical migrants—great aggregations of warblers, tanagers, orioles, thrushes, and grosbeaks with herons, shorebirds, and cuckoos—that move through the night sky on many spring and autumn evenings.

Rohrbaugh says the Lab’s research on the potential impacts of turbines on nocturnally migrating birds should not hinder efforts to capture wind as a clean, renewable energy source, but instead will inform turbine placements and times of operation to reduce impacts.

“A very high percentage of the collisions occur during windows of peak bird migration in spring and fall,” says Rohrbaugh. “It could come down to as few as 15 to 20 nights a year when the largest concentrations of birds are moving and potentially at risk of colliding with spinning blades. Maybe it’s possible to shut down the turbines on those nights.”

That’s just one example of the kinds of simple solutions that may come from acoustic monitoring, Rohrbaugh says. And he adds there’s a lot more waiting to be heard and discovered. In recordings during September as part of this project, the highest proportion of flight calls by far were captured just prior to sunrise.

In other words, this pilot project might have only heard birds when they were closer to the ground before sunrise, either descending into stopover habitat or taking off on the next leg of their journeys. There may be a greater stream of migration up there, just waiting to be heard.

