



The Scissortail

a newsletter of the
Oklahoma Ornithological Society

Volume 73, Number 2

Summer 2023

President's Message

Dear Members,

As I write this letter, May is almost over, as is peak migration. It seems to have sped by. I hope that you were able to enjoy it while it lasted.

The OOS Spring Meeting was held in Bartlesville on May 13th, and it was so good to see so many friends there. If you were unable to attend, you were missed. I cannot thank Rebecca Renfro enough for all her hard work in planning and coordinating the meeting. What a program! I found it encouraging to see so many children at the various activities. I plan to continue focusing on developing new birders and nature lovers during my tenure. My 7-year-old son had an eye-opening experience holding a Gray Catbird while visiting Joe Grzybowski's bird banding demonstration. That was my first experience with bird banding as well. I am thankful for the memory we both share.

In another first for me, I was able to attend one of the field trips to the Sutton Center for Avian Research during the Spring Meeting. Learning more about the center's efforts to help some of the United States' most threatened birds was a wonderful opportunity. OOS is so proud of the hard work and dedication of the Sutton Center and its employees to help imperiled birds. I hope that our organization can partner with them in the future.

During the OOS Board Meeting, the decision was made to host the 2023 OOS Fall Meeting at the ODWC's Arcadia Conservation Education Area near Edmond. The date is to be determined. Be on the lookout for more information on that when it becomes available. You won't want to miss out on another excellent meeting.

Regards,

 Zach Poland

OOS Certificate of Merit

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society annually recognizes individuals and groups demonstrating outstanding accomplishments in the field of Birds, Nature, and Wildlife Conservation in Oklahoma to ensure that future generations may always appreciate and protect our natural resources.

The Award can be in one of three categories:

1. Youth, age 18 and under, demonstrating outstanding accomplishments for the conservation of Birds, Nature, and Wildlife.
2. Persons demonstrating outstanding accomplishments for the conservation of Birds, Nature, and Wildlife.
3. Groups demonstrating outstanding accomplishments for the conservation of Birds, Nature, and Wildlife.

If you want to nominate someone for this Award, please complete the OOS Certificate of Merit Nomination Form (found on the OOS website) and email it to Mia Revels, revels@nsuok.edu
Submission deadline: August 1, 2023

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*Member Information
as of 6/01/2023*

Total Current Members: 146

Welcome New Members

Gaylynn Boice (Oklahoma City), Constance Chapple (Norman), John Hamshar (Park Hill), and Steve Wolfe (Broken Arrow).

Contributions

Mark Howery, Tim O'Connell, Rebecca Renfro, and Paul Ribitzki.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so via the OOS website (https://www.okbirds.org/get_involved) or by mailing a check to:

Oklahoma Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 35413
Tulsa, OK 74153

*OOS Officers and Chairpersons
as of 6/01/2023*

President – Zach Poland, 3123 E. 48th St., Tulsa, OK 74105 zachapoland@gmail.com (405) 880-2014

Past-President – Jeff Tibbits – ODWC, PO Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152. jeff.tibbits@odwc.ok.gov (405) 535-7382

President-elect – **VACANT**

Secretary – Steve Stone

Treasurer – Carrie Cartwright – 2525 W Ithica St. Broken Arrow OK 74012 carrie.r.cartwright@gmail.com

Membership/Circulation – Zach Poland, 3123 E. 48th St., Tulsa, OK 74105 zachapoland@gmail.com (405) 880-2014

Awards – Mia Revels, Dept of Natural Resources, 611 N. Garland Ave., Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK 74465 revels@nsuok.edu (918) 444-3824

Activities – Rebecca Renfro – 6024 Cornell Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74006 relore@aol.com (918) 333-4875

Conservation – Mark Howery – 801 Hemphill Ct., Norman, OK 73072 mark.howery@odwc.ok.gov (405) 447-3641 (home); (405) 521-4619 (office)

Archivist – Claudia Glass – 14805 E. 500 Rd., Unit D, Claremore, OK 74017 cglass@rsu.edu (918) 230-2404 (home); (918) 343-7697 (office)

Special Projects – Donald Glass – 14805 E. 500 Rd., Unit D, Claremore, OK 74017 dglass@rsu.edu (918) 230-2404 (home); (918) 343-7710 (office)

OOS Bulletin Editor – Eugene A. Young – Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 E. Grand, P.O. Box 310, Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310 eugene.young@north-ok.edu (580) 628-6482 (phone); (580) 628-6209 (Fax)

The Scissortail Editor – Jake Kirkland 1701 NW 20th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73106 kirklandj@gmail.com (510) 282-2650 (cell)

OBRC Chairman – Joe Grzybowski, 715 Elmwood Dr., Norman, OK 73072 j_grzybowski@sbcglobal.net (405) 205-9598 (cell)

Webmaster – Jeff Tibbits – ODWC, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152 jeff.tibbits@odwc.ok.gov (405) 535-7382

Other Positions:

Coordinator for Breeding Bird Survey & Winter Bird Atlas – Dan Reinking – Sutton Avian Research Center, P.O. Box 2007, Bartlesville, OK 74005-2007 dan@suttoncenter.org (918) 336-7778

VACANT POSITIONS:

- **Business Manager**
- **President-elect**

Special Projects Award

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society proudly announces a Special Projects Award to Abigail Triemstra of the University of Oklahoma titled *Subtle Effects of Lead on Passerine Birds in the Tar Creek Superfund Site*. A description of Abigail's research project follows -

The Tar Creek Superfund Site is a former mining site in Northeast Oklahoma contaminated with heavy metals, such as lead, zinc, and cadmium. Though studies have been done at this site that shows birds are affected by this pollution, the specific ways they are affected remain unknown. As an undergraduate student, Abigail researched how pollution affected fish-eating birds in the Great Lakes, which got her interested in researching how pollution affects

birds. Now that Abigail is a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, she is researching how the pollution at Tar Creek affects the passerine birds there. The pollution at Tar Creek could be causing many problems, but one of the main effects Abigail is looking at is the birds' cognition. To this end, Abigail is constructing and deploying data-collecting bird feeders that she will use to test the associative learning and reversal learning abilities of the birds at the superfund site and compare that to outside birds. Abigail will also collect several other measures of overall bird health and development that will help determine whether birds in the superfund site differ from birds outside of it.

Noteworthy Records of Birds in Oklahoma: Summer 2022 Period

The following is a listing of noteworthy records of birds for the Summer period—June and July 2022. It incorporates records outside or near limits of expected occurrence delimited by the DATE GUIDE to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma, Seventh Edition (Oklahoma Bird Records Committee (OBRC), 2019 Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Norman, OK). Also included are noteworthy high counts. Exceptional records reviewed and found acceptable by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee are in bold. Species whose names are followed by an (R) are expected, but RARE in very low frequencies. Underscores and italics depict records for date or locality outside limits specified in the DATE GUIDE. m. ob. = multiple observers.

Summer generally represents a lull of migration activity, although some shorebirds have lingering patterns, and some others are returning southward by late June, with others routinely so during July. This season showed a paucity of such. There were a few lingering waterfowl vagrants, species breeding north of Oklahoma, Common Loons, and a few post-breeding vagrants Laughing Gulls wandered northward into Oklahoma. As in recent years, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to show a spread across eastern and central Oklahoma to west-central edges in Alfalfa and Carter counties, with a group exceptionally west in Texas County; marshland species such as King Rails, Common Gallinules, and

Least Bittern, however, are still scarce. Osprey has become established as a breeding species in eastern Oklahoma, a recent phenomenon; a few were noted further west this summer. Some really surprising summer records included a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in late July, likely a very early fall migrant, and most unusual summer vagrant Dark-eyed Junco and Western Tanager.

Among significant rarities this season, the Zone-tailed Hawk noted during spring 2021 (as a first State record) continued its presence in the Wichita Mountains W.R. since spring this year. The season's surprise was, clearly, a Mexican Violetear, a rare U.S. vagrant found in Stillwater. And, as part of a broader pattern of expansion/invasion from Florida into the Southeast and Midwest in the last few years, Limpkins noted during spring continued at three locations, with multiple individuals at two locations.

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE (2022)	COUNTY	LOCALITY	OBSERVER
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	13	4 Jun 2022	<u>Blaine</u>	<u>airfield north of Watonga</u>	Grace Hoffman, Brian Marra, Steve Stone
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	2	7 Jun 2022	Comanche	Fort Sill Golf Course	Kurt Meisenzahl
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	7, 2, 2	8, 13, 26 Jun 2022	Alfalfa	Cherokee	Aaron Short
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	2	9 Jun 2022	Kingfisher	Dover Marsh	Randy Soto
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	2	9 Jun 2022	Canadian	Yukon City Park	Jake Gerlt
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	1-3	11-12 Jun 2022	<u>Jackson</u>	<u>Altus City Reservoir</u>	Kenneth Showalter, Trina Arnold
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	4-7	24-30 Jun 2022	<u>Jackson</u>	<u>Altus City Reservoir</u>	Kenneth Dempsey, m. ob.
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	3	14 Jun 2022	<u>Washita</u>	<u>Foss</u>	R.J. Baltierra
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	3-6	15 Jun-3 Jul 2022	Major	Ames	Adiranh Martinez Orozco, m. ob.
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	4	17 Jun 2022	<u>Payne</u>	<u>Sanborn Lake</u>	Scott Loss
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	2	17-20 Jun 2022	<u>Payne</u>	<u>Lakeview Road Pond</u>	Mike Yough et al.
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	1	22 Jun-7 Jul 2022	<u>Payne</u>	<u>OSU</u>	Landon Neumann, m. ob.
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	2	24 Jun 2022	<u>Payne</u>	<u>Stillwater</u>	Landon Neumann
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	1	24 Jun 2022	Carter	Healdton Lake	Don Pearson
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	5	14 Jul 2022	<u>Texas</u>	<u>Mile 34</u>	Jack Hartfelder
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	1	15 Jul 2022	Alfalfa	Carmen	Aaron Short
Cinnamon Teal	2	<u>4 Jun 2022</u>	Woods	Alva Sewage Ponds	Aaron Short
Cinnamon Teal	6	<u>14 Jul 2022</u>	Texas	Mile 34	Jack Hartfelder
Cinnamon Teal	1	<u>30 Jul 2022</u>	Payne	Cushing WTP	Scott Loss
Greater Scaup (R)	1	<u>4 Jun 2022</u>	Woods	Alva Sewage Ponds	Aaron Short
Greater Scaup (R)	1	<u>16 Jun 2022</u>	Carter	Healdton Lake	Don Pearson
Lesser Scaup	1	<u>1 Jun 2022</u>	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Devin Bosler
Lesser Scaup	1	<u>4 Jun 2022</u>	Payne	Cushing WTP	Mike Yough
Eared Grebe	4	<u>25 Jul 2022</u>	Texas	Fluddle	Curt & Kathy Hofer
Inca Dove	1	15 Jun 2022	<u>Major</u>	<u>Ames</u>	Adiranh Martinez Orozco
Mexican Violetear	1	8-10 Jul 2022	Payne	Stillwater yard	Scott Loss, m. ob.
Black-chinned Hummingbird (R)	1	8-12 Jul 2022	<u>Payne</u>	<u>Stillwater yard</u>	Scott Loss, m. ob.
Rufous Hummingbird (R)	1	21-22 Jul 2022	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>Bethany</u>	Frank Walker
Rufous Hummingbird (R)	1	23 Jul 2022	<u>Woodward</u>	<u>Boiling Springs SP</u>	Jim Bradford

Rufous Hummingbird (R)	1	29-31 Jul 2022	<u>Cleveland</u>	<u>Norman</u>	Abdul Dominguez
Calliope Hummingbird	1	29 Jul 2022	Cimarron	Kenton	Steve Stone
Common Gallinule (R)	1	9 Jun 2022	Kingfisher	Dover Marsh	Randy Soto
Common Gallinule (R)	1	24 Jul 2022	Payne	Cushing WTP	Landon Neumann
Limpkin	1-4	1 Jun-1 Aug 2022	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	David Arbour, m. ob.
Limpkin	1-2	1 Jun-23 Jul 2022	Tulsa	Oxley Nature Center	Josh Smith, m. ob.
Limpkin	1	18 Jun-8 Jul 2022	Carter	Healdton Lake	Don Pearson, m. ob.
Black-bellied Plover	1	<u>11 Jun 2022</u>	Cleveland	Ten Mile Flats	Harold Yokum
Short-bill. Dowitcher (R)	1	23 Jul 2022	Cleveland	Lake Thunderbird	Joe Grzybowski
Laughing Gull (R)	1	7 Jul 2022	Payne	Lake Carl Blackwell	Scott Loss
Laughing Gull (R)	1	27, 31 Jul 2022	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Brian Marra, Michael Kane
Laughing Gull (R)	1 im.	28-30 Jul 2022	Cleveland	Lake Tunderbird	Joe Grzybowski
California Gull (R)	1	<u>12-13 Jul 2022</u>	Tulsa	Keystone SP	Krzysztof Lasoki
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	<u>29 Jul 2022</u>	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Chase Moxley
Caspian Tern	8	<u>28 Jun 2022</u>	Wagoner	Taylor Ferry	Jana Singletary
Common Loon	1	<u>3 Jun 2022</u>	Tulsa	Lake Yahola	Megan Migues
Common Loon	1	<u>9 Jun 2022</u>	Payne	Lake Carl Blackwell	Scott Loss
Common Loon	1	<u>11-13 Jun 2022</u>	Jackson	Altus City Reservoir	Kenneth Showalter, Trina Arnold, Taylor Harting
Anhinga	1	24 Jun 2022	<u>Johnston</u>	<u>Tishomingo NWR</u>	Justin Roach
Anhinga	1	30 Jun 2022	<u>Johnston</u>	<u>west of Milburn</u>	Justin Roach
Least Bittern (R)	1-2	1-15 Jun 2022	Payne	Teal Ridge Wetland	m. ob.
Least Bittern (R)	1	5 Jun 2022	Oklahoma	Lake Overholser--east side	Brian Marra, Grace Huffman
Least Bittern (R)	2	9 Jun 2022	Kingfisher	Dover Marsh	Randy Soto
Tricolored Heron (R)	1	14 Jun 2022	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	David Arbour
Osprey	1	<u>6 Jun 2022</u>	Beckham	Lake Elk City	Cindy & Gene Cunningham
Osprey	1	<u>27 Jun, 7 Jul 2022</u>	Payne	Lake Carl Blackwell	Scott Loss
Zone-tailed Hawk	1	5 Jun-18 Jul 2022	Comanche	Wichita Mountains WR	m. ob.

Crested Caracara (R)	1	6 Jun 2022	<u>Cotton</u>	<u>Whites Lake</u>	R.J. Baltierra
Crested Caracara (R)	1	6 Jun 2022	<u>Jackson</u>	<u>Sandy Creek</u>	R.J. Baltierra
Crested Caracara (R)	1	1 Jul 2022	<u>Pittsburg</u>	<u>near McAlester</u>	Randy King
Yellow-bel. Flycatcher (R)	1	<u>30 Jul 2022</u>	Payne	Hackelman & 140th St	Scott Loss
Alder Flycatcher	1	<u>30 Jul 2022</u>	Payne	Botanic Garden at OSU	Scott Loss
Vermilion Flycatcher (R)	1	26 Jun 2022	<u>Jackson</u>	<u>Eldorado</u>	Jimmy Woodard
Bell's Vireo	1	2 Jul 2022	<u>Cimarron</u>	<u>Black Mesa SP</u>	R.J. Baltierra
Cassin's Sparrow (R)	1	1 Jun 2022	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>nw. Oklahoma City</u>	Devin Bosler
Dark-eyed Junco	1	<u>29 Jun 2022</u>	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Nate Peterson
White-throated Sparrow	2, 1	<u>1, 7 Jun 2022</u>	Tulsa	Williams Green	Zach Poland
Louisiana Waterthrush	2, 1	23, 24 Jun 2022	<u>Ellis</u>	<u>Four Canyon Preserve</u>	R.J. Baltierra
Northern Parula (R)	1	4 Jun 2022	Blaine	Roman Nose SP	Grace Hoffman, Brian Marra, Steve Stone
Northern Parula (R)	1	19 Jun 2022	<u>Woodward</u>	<u>Boiling Springs SP</u>	R.J. Baltierra
Northern Parula (R)	1	1 Jul 2022	<u>Comanche</u>	<u>Lawton</u>	Kurt Meisenzahl
Hepatic Tanager	1	1 Jul 2022	Cimarron	mesa country	R.J. Baltierra
Western Tanager	1	<u>9 Jul 2022</u>	Texas	Texhoma WTP	Owen Hilchey

Joseph A. Grzybowski, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, and 715 Elmwood Dr., Norman, OK 73072

OOS Board Meeting Minutes
Spring 2023

Meeting: Spring 2023 Board Meeting
Date: May 13, 2023
Location: Bartlesville Public Library (Bartlesville, OK)

Officers/Chairs Present

Zach Poland
Steve Stone
Joe Grzybowski
Rebecca Renfro
Jake Kirkland
Mark Howery (remote)

Others Present

Jimmy Woodard
Randy Soto
Jay Pruitt

was not discussed.

- A motion to raise the price of each checklist to \$0.50 and to charge \$2.00 for domestic shipping for order quantities of 1 – 10 was made by Steve Stone and seconded by Jake Kirkland. **Motion Passed**

• The board discussed the distribution of the Field Checklists of the Birds of Oklahoma and ways to reduce costs. There was a discussion about offering a PDF copy of the checklist on the OOS website; this created comments concerning how much to charge for a PDF download or should the checklist be offered for free. It was also mentioned that maybe the PDF should be provided to OOS members free of charge. The group agreed that we should continue to make printed copies of the checklist available for sale and that a PDF version would be made available to members. It was also mentioned that we currently provide a Date Guide of The Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma to all new members and that we should also include a hardcopy of the Checklist as well.

- A motion that Zach Poland would email a PDF copy of the new checklist to all OOS members was made by Jake Kirkland and seconded by Rebecca Renfro. **Motion Passed**

• An Oklahoma photographer sent an email to the OOS address. He made an inquiry about using OOS resources (Facebook or website?) to communicate his photography exhibit that will be held at a state museum. Zach Poland responded to his email and said he would discuss the matter with the board. Zach recommended that we tell the photographer “No” and that we set a policy addressing how we handle future requests. There was discussion around what types of events we would communicate, and it was mentioned that we are a non-profit and endorsing any event such as this could jeopardize our non-profit status. Because of the rules for non-profits, it was decided that a motion for a new policy would not be needed.

• Zach Poland asked the board to discuss the location for the Fall meeting. Continuing with the sentiments from the 2022 Fall meeting, the group generally agreed that the next Fall meeting could be held at the Lake Arcadia Conservation Education Area (CEA). There was further discussion and debate about the location of Fall meetings beyond 2023. Two of the options debated included 1. Holding the meeting at the

Call to Order

- The regular Spring meeting of the OOS Board of Directors was called to order at 3:30 pm on May 13, 2023, in the Bartlesville Public Library, Bartlesville, Oklahoma by Zach Poland.
- Board members present – see above

Acceptance of Agenda

- The agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes not available at the time of the meeting.

Business from the Previous Meeting

- Google/Outlook email addresses for OOS – Jeff Tibbits, approximately \$3/month per Jeff’s email

Agenda Topics

- Zach Poland reported that the organization’s 2022 taxes were filed recently by Jeff Tibbits.
- Content for the Spring edition of The Scissortail newsletter will be due soon. All members/chairs were asked to submit content to Jake Kirkland no later than Sunday, May 28.
- The inventory of the Field Checklists of the Birds of Oklahoma is running low; additionally, three new species have been added to the checklist. Zach Poland received a quote for printing new checklists. The quoted cost is \$0.19 per side or \$0.38 per checklist for 500 copies.
 - A motion to spend \$200 to print new checklists was made by Steve Stone and seconded by Rebecca Renfro. **Motion Passed**
- We currently sell the Field Checklists of the Birds of Oklahoma for \$0.40 per checklist or 10 for \$4.00. Domestic shipping is free and international shipping is \$2.00. The board discussed the accessibility and purpose of the checklist and debated how much to charge. Several members noted that the goal is not to make a profit on the checklist, but we shouldn’t lose money when selling them. The cost of international shipping

Arcadia CEA annually or 2. Rotating the meeting between the Arcadia CEA and an eastern location. Locations that tie in state universities could be desirable.

Dates and availability of the Arcadia CEA were discussed. Mark Howery will confirm available dates in the October/November time frame for the meeting.

- A motion to hold the 2023 Fall Meeting at the Lake Arcadia CEA was made by Rebecca Renfro and seconded by Jake Kirkland. **Motion Passed**

Chair Reports

- **Special Projects, Don Glass:** (not present, report made via email), The special project committee awarded \$500 to Abigail Triemstra, University of Oklahoma, for her project on the Subtle Effects of Lead on Passerine Birds in the Tar Creek Superfund Site.
- **Bulletin, Gene Young:** (not present, report made via email), provided an update via email. 2021 is a wrap...the last issue of Vol 54 No 3&4, Sept/Dec is in print...likely ready next week. 2022...V 55 No 1&2, March/June is in print...likely ready next week. 2022...V 55 No 3&4 has been submitted to printer for formatting. 2023 V 56 No 1 has been submitted to the printer for formatting and will undergo review (OBRC 2021 report). Gene thanked Joe and Zach for providing content for Bulletins and said that Manuscripts are badly needed.

- **Activities, Rebecca Renfro:** open discussions on the location and planning for the Spring 2024 meeting.
- **OBRC, Joe Grzybowski:** we are getting caught up. They have added three new species which brings the Oklahoma total to 491 and there is one species still pending.
- **Scissortail, Jake Kirkland:** reminder that content for the newsletter is due on May 28.
- **Treasurer, Carrie Cartwright:** money was moved to a Midfirst Bank CD and has already earned \$234.56. The savings account balance is roughly \$10,000 and the Checking account balance is roughly \$16,000. Carrie has been added to accounts, but still has limited access. Nadine Varner will need to complete the process in person at the bank in Tulsa.
- **Membership, Zach Poland:** membership is currently at 145. Active membership numbers typically peak around Q3.

New Business

- No new business was proposed

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Discuss location of Fall Meetings for 2024 and beyond. One fixed location or an East/West rotation?

Adjournment

- Zach Poland moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 pm, seconded by Jake Kirkland.

Minutes submitted by: Steve Stone

Minutes reviewed by: Zach Poland

Spring 2023 Meeting Activities Report

We had a fun 2023 Spring gathering in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Thank you to Zach Poland (current president) and Jake Kirkland for getting the information out.

The Sutton Avian Research Center shared a program for children with Danial Harris, Education Program Manager, and Rebecca Renfro, and one for adults to tour their Masked Bobwhite Quail breeding facility with Aviculturist Morgan Anderson. These activities included lots of up-close encounters with live birds.

Joseph A. Grzybowski, Dan Reinking, Jimmy Woodard, and Mark Peterson helped with mist netting and banding experiences and leading field trips, and generously sharing their knowledge and expertise.

Mae Dean Erb gave a fun origami class, and then our fun evening speaker Greg Bilby, a Cherokee storyteller, did a great job engaging the audience.

Other highlights included two games of WingSpan, and some of the OOS board members were able to tour the Attwater's Prairie Chicken breeding facility with Dr. John Hoolihan, Ph.D., Conservation Director, and Dr. Lena Larsson, PhD., Executive director of the Sutton Center.

Most agreed it was so nice to finally meet up again with friends who share a passion for the birds of Oklahoma.



Rebecca Renfro – OOS Activities Coordinator

Spring 2023 Meeting Field Trip Report


The Spring 2023 Meeting field trip was held Saturday morning (May 13, 2023) at the Pathfinder Parkway in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.



Thunderstorms with heavy showers early in the morning and the threat of continued rain postponed the original start time by around an hour. The rain slowed, and the sun eventually came out, leading to a beautiful day. Around eighteen birders joined the start of the field trip, and Mark Peterson and Jimmy Woodard led the group. With late arrivals and group leaders, over twenty-five participated in the event. It was great to see many longtime OOS members as well as some new faces in the group. Along the main path, Joe Gryzbowski and Dan Reinking set up mist nests and held a bird banding exhibit that many field trip participants could observe and enjoy. Two of their first captures were a Gray Catbird and Swanson's Thrush.

The group birded for around three hours and traveled approximately three miles round trip on the main path along the Caney River. This section of Pathfinder Parkway is a walking path within a canopy of large, mature trees with an occasional opening and is a well-known hotspot for passerines. As expected, there were plenty of migratory and breeding birds to observe. Some of the highlights for the day included Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Ovenbird, Mourning Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Acadian Flycatchers. Zach Poland took a wrong turn and was able to report Canada and Kentucky Warblers as well. The group also observed Cooper's Hawks and Eastern Phoebe collecting material and tending to new nests.

At the start of the day, from the parking area, several participants also observed a Peregrine Falcon flying over the woods. At least 55 species were observed, including eighteen species of warbler, five species of vireo, six different types of flycatchers, four species of woodpecker, and two types of Night-Herons.

 Steve Stone, OOS Secretary

