



The Scissortail

a newsletter of the

Oklahoma Ornithological Society

Volume 76, Number 2

Summer 2026

President's Message:

Thank you to everyone who came to the spring meeting in Idabel! We had a great time with the various activities, the speaker, the dinner, and, of course, the birding. Thank you also for being flexible with the meeting plans. As you may have noticed, we had to adjust our plans slightly to adhere to unforeseen permitting and insurance requirements. We discussed this at the Spring board meeting and have a good plan going forward.

We hope you're also getting excited for our next two meetings! This fall, we will continue from the past couple of years and meet at the Lake Arcadia Conservation Building. This has proven to be a wonderful venue for us in the past. The Spring 2027 meeting has also been set for Camp Billy Joe near Black Mesa! More information about both meetings will come soon.

I'm really excited to continue growing our outreach and partnerships in other ways as well. We recently held a booth at the Oklahoma Environmental Education Expo and have continued our seasonal surveys through our Red Ridge Partnership. There will hopefully be even more events and collaboration announcements coming soon. I want to give a huge thanks to all the OOS board members, especially Rebecca, Steve, Zach, and Jake, who have been instrumental in planning and running all our events and activities.

Thanks,



Cole Penning

2026 Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your OOS Membership for 2026. All memberships run from January to December. You will receive all issues for a calendar year. Memberships can be renewed here: https://www.okbirds.org/get_involved There is also a form at the end of this newsletter that you can print and mail with a check to renew your membership, if you prefer.

Membership Categories:

\$26 Regular - Includes publications

\$35 Family - One set of publications

\$16 Student - Discounted dues with regular benefits

\$40+ Sustaining - Extra support to OOS

\$500 Life

Thanks,



Zach Poland

5/22/26 Q2 OOS Scissortail Membership Update

Total members: 137

New Members: James Baldwin (Mustang), Christina Berry (Chandler), Chad Brack (Ninnekah), Jennie Brooks (Oklahoma City), Gabrielle Bryant (Nichols Hills), Kaylee Fast (Tulsa), Kaitlin Garcia (Bartlesville), Donald McCoy (Lewiston, MT), Sandra Taylor (Tulsa)

Contributions: Tim O'Connell, Paul Ribitzki, Don Turvey

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**OOS Officers and Chairpersons as of
10/18/2025**

President – Cole Penning;
cole_of_oklahoma@yahoo.com

Past-President – Zach Poland;
zachapoland@gmail.com

President-elect – Randy Soto;
randazo_670@hotmail.com

Secretary – Steve Stone;
stevestonemail@gmail.com

Treasurer – **VACANT**; Acting – Zach Poland
and Rebecca Renfro

Membership/Circulation – Zach Poland

Awards – **VACANT**; Acting – Zach Poland

Activities – Rebecca Renfro; relore7@aol.com

Conservation – Mark Howery;
mark.howery@odwc.ok.gov

Archivist – **VACANT**
Emeritus: Claudia Glass;
crglass1970@gmail.com

Special Projects – **VACANT**; Acting – Jake
Kirkland; kirklandj@gmail.com

Business Manager - **VACANT**

OOS Bulletin Editor – Eugene A. Young;
eugene.young@north-ok.edu

The Scissortail Editor – Jake Kirkland;
kirklandj@gmail.com

OBRC Chairman – Joe Grzybowski;
j_grzybowski@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster – Jake Kirkland;
kirklandj@gmail.com

Other Positions:
Coordinator for Breeding Bird Survey & Winter
Bird Atlas – Dan Reinking;
dan@suttoncenter.org

If you would like to nominate anyone, including
a self-nomination, for any open positions,
please reach out to President Cole Penning.

2026 OOS Special Project Grant

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society is
pleased to announce that Manuel Andrew
Lederer, a graduate student at Southeastern
Oklahoma State University studying under Dr.
Doug Wood, has been awarded an OOS
Special Projects Grant.

Manuel's project, "Changes in Avian
Abundance and Species Richness at Multiple
Spatiotemporal Scales along Breeding Bird
Survey Routes in South-Central Oklahoma,"
examines how bird populations in south-central
Oklahoma have shifted over time by comparing
historic and recent Breeding Bird Survey data
across multiple routes in the West Gulf Coastal
Plains/Ouachitas and Oaks and Prairies
ecoregions. His work aims to better understand
how habitat change and landscape
fragmentation have influenced local avian
communities, with important implications for bird
conservation in the region.

Please join us in congratulating Manuel on this
award and wishing him success in his fieldwork!
We look forward to hearing him present his
findings at a future OOS meeting.



Jake Kirkland

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF BIRDS IN OKLAHOMA: SUMMER 2025 PERIOD

The following is a listing of noteworthy records of birds for the Summer period—June and July 2025. 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). Exceptional records reviewed and found acceptable by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee are given 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 marks a period of breeding, with a lull among late-spring migrants and the onset of fall migration, particularly of shorebirds. An array of laggard summer vagrants and some that wander northward. As expected, a small number of summer vagrant waterfowl and late spring migrants were noted this season. As in recent years, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to show a spread across central and west-central to range edges in Woods and Tillman counties. A few southeastern marshland species were reported away from Red Slough. Some “real-surprise” mid-summer records of migratory and/or wintering species included those of Western Grebe, pockets of breeding Eared Grebes, American Golden Plover, and most surprisingly, a lone outlier Rad Crossbill in southeastern Oklahoma. Black-chinned Hummingbirds and Lesser Goldfinch continue their expansion into central and north-central Oklahoma.

Perhaps unusual in its own right, only one review-species record occurred. The **Zone-tailed Hawks**, first noted during spring 2021 (as a first State record), continued their presence in the Wichita Mountains W.R. since spring this year, where they again nested, but were observed only in early June.

SPECIES	#	DATE (2025)	COUNTY	LOCALITY	OBSERVER
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	2, 2,3	2, 6 Jun, 19 Jul 2025	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Mary & Lou Truex, Melinda Droege, Debra Halter, Gregg and Sandra Flokstra
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	4	6 Jun 2025	<u>Delaware</u>	<u>Grove Lakehouse</u>	Toby Tilton
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	4	9 Jun 2025	<u>Woodward</u>	<u>Fort Supply Reservoir</u>	Tim Springer
Snow Goose	1	<u>4 Jun 17, 19 Jul 2025</u>	Garfield	Meadowlake Park, Enid	Curtis Stewart
Snow Goose	1	<u>4, 31 Jul 2025</u>	Texas	Thompson Park, Guymon	Bill Carrell, Joseph Webber
Cackling Goose	5	<u>4 Jun 2025</u>	Garfield	Meadowlake Park, Enid	Curtis Stewart
Cackling Goose	1	<u>21 Jun, 3 Jul 2025</u>	Oklahoma	Arcadia Lake--Spring Creek Park	Grace Huffman, Brian Marra
Cinnamon Teal	2	<u>1 Jun-6 Jul 2025</u>	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Bill Carrell, John Ault, m. ob.
Cinnamon Teal	2-3	<u>17-28 Jun 2025</u>	Beaver	EW 5 Rd.	Terry Mitchell, Jimmy Woodard, m. ob.
Green-winged Teal	15-2	<u>1 Jun-27 Jul 2025</u>	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Bill Carrell, Don Pearson, m. ob.
Green-winged Teal	2	<u>11 Jun 2025</u>	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR, Sandpiper Trail	Richard Diedrich
Green-winged Teal	11	<u>28 Jun 2028</u>	Beaver	EW 5 Rd.	Joe Grzybowski

Bufflehead	1 F	<u>28 Jun 2025</u>	Beaver	EW 5 Rd.	Joe Grzybowski
Red-breasted Merganser	2-1	<u>8-24 Jun 2025</u>	Tulsa	Lake Yahola	Jason Glass, Craig Hunt
Red-breasted Merganser	1	<u>10 Jul 2025</u>	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Brian Marra
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1	17 Jun 2025	<u>Payne</u>	<u>E 0650 Rd.</u>	Michael Reichert, Hande Acar
Black-chinned Hummingbird (R)	1-2	21 Jun-28 Jul 2025	<u>Pontotoc</u>	<u>west of Ada</u>	Randy Mitchell
Black-chinned Hummingbird (R)	1	14 Jul 2025	<u>Woods</u>	<u>Alva</u>	Aaron & Brittany Short
King Rail (R)	1	<u>2, 4 Jun 2025</u>	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Mary & Lou Truex
Virginia Rail	3	<u>21 Jul 2025</u>	Cimarron	western (private property)	Dillon Cochran, Matthew Cloyd
Sora	1	<u>25 Jul 2025</u>	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Scotty Lofland, Bryan Box
Common Gallinule (R)	2-10	2 Jun-26 Jul 2025	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Mary & Lou Truex, m. ob.
American Golden Plover	1	<u>21 Jul 2025</u>	Cleveland	Lake Thunderbird, East Sentinel	Joe Grzybowski
Piping Plover (R)	1	25-30 July 2025	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Trina Arnold, m. ob.
Piping Plover (R)	2	27 Jul 2025	Cleveland	Lake Thunderbird, East Sentinel	Joe Grzybowski
Long-billed Curlew	5	<u>24 Jun 2025</u>	Blaine	Salt Creek Canyon	CJ Stephens
Marbled Godwit	1	<u>18 Jun 2025</u>	Sequoyah	Sequoyah NWR	Fred & Kay Zagst
Short-billed Dowitcher (R)	2	21 Jul 2025	Cleveland	Lake Thunderbird, East Sentinel	Joe Grzybowski
Laughing Gull (R)	1	21 Jun 2025	Oklahoma	Arcadia Lake--Spring Creek Park	Grace Huffman, Brian Marra
Laughing Gull (R)	1	3 Jul 2025	<u>Jackson</u>	<u>Altus City Reservoir</u>	John Ault
Laughing Gull (R)	1	31 Jul-1 Aug 2025	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Randy Ison, m. ob.
American Herring Gull	1 inj.	<u>thru 3 Jul 2025</u>	Payne	Boomer Lake	Scott Loss, m. ob.
Caspian Tern	1	<u>thru period</u>	multiple counties		m. ob.
Eared Grebe	up to 73	<u>thru period</u>	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	m. ob.,
Eared Grebe	31, 19	<u>15, 28 Jun 2025</u>	Texas	Optima Reservoir	Jimmy Woodard, Joe Grzybowski
Eared Grebe	8-9	<u>17-28 Jun 2025</u>	Beaver	EW 5 Rd.	Jimmy Woodard, m. ob.
Western Grebe	1-2	<u>23 Jun-31 Jul 2025</u>	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Mary & Lou Truex, m. ob.
White Ibis (R)	1	28 Jun 2025	Johnston	Tishomingo NWR	Dillon Cochran, Aaron Short, Steve Stone, Justin Roach
Glossy Ibis (R)	1-2	2-6 Jun	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Mary & Lou Truex, Melinda Droege
Glossy x White-faced Ibis (R)	4-5	23, 28 Jul 2025	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Mary & Lou Truex, Jimmy Woodard
Glossy x White-faced Ibis (R)	1	28 Jul 2025	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR	Joe Grzybowski
American Bittern	1	<u>30 Jul 2025</u>	Woods	Alva Sewage Ponds	Aaron Short
Least Bittern (R)	1	5 Jul 2025	Carter	Ardmore Club Lake	Janeson Waits

Least Bittern (R)	2	19 Jul 2025	Noble	Sooner Lake, Bank Fishing Area	Landon Neumann
Tricolored Heron (R)	1	11 Jun 2025	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR, Sandpiper Trail	Richard Diedrich
Osprey	1	<u>6-7 Jun 2025</u>	Payne	Lake Carl Blackwell	Scott Loss et al.
Zone-tailed Hawk	1	1, 5 Jun 2025	Comanche	Wichita Mountains WR	Bill Carrell, Melinda Droege
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	<u>21 Jun 2025</u>	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR, Eagle Roost Trail	Joe Neal, Samantha Heller
Red Crossbill (R)	1 M	<u>6 Jul 2025</u>	McCurtain	Idabel	Keissa Barber
Lesser Goldfinch (R)	1-2	15-18 Jun 2025	<u>Woodward</u>	<u>Boiling Springs SP</u>	Tim Springer, m. ob.
Lesser Goldfinch (R)	1	17 Jun 2025	<u>Cleveland</u>	<u>Norman</u>	Hannah Magruder
Spotted Towhee	1	<u>22 Jul 2025</u>	Cimarron	near Kenton	Dillon Cochran, Matthew Cloyd
Chihuahuan Meadowlark (R)	multiple	thru period	Cimarron	western half	m. ob.
Ovenbird (R)	1	<u>3 Jun 2025</u>	Oklahoma	Myriad Botanical Gardens	Grace Huffman
Wilson's Warbler	1	<u>8 Jun 2025</u>	Oklahoma	Crystal Lake	Grace Huffman, Brian Marra
Black-headed Grosbeak	1	<u>22 Jul 2025</u>	Cimarron	Kenton, Hillcrest	Dillon Cochran, Matthew Cloyd

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

OOS DUES INVOICE

If your dues are paid or you are a life member, please consider a donation or use this form to recruit a new member.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip plus four _____ - _____

Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Year first joined OOS _____

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Dues are for January 1—December 31

Please enter my Membership in the OOS as a;

☐ Student Member \$15.00 ☐ Family Member \$35.00

☐ Regular Member \$25.00 ☐ Sustaining Member \$40.00+

☐ School/Library \$25.00 ☐ Life Member \$500.00

Membership Subtotal \$ _____

Donation Subtotal \$ _____

Total _____

Members are encouraged to make contributions to the Society. Contributions may be deducted to the extent allowed by current law (our IRS ID is 23-7057442). For sustaining members, the first \$25.00 is considered membership, and the remainder is a contribution to the fund of your choice. Please check one of the funds below and enter the amount you wish to donate:

☐ General Fund \$ _____ ☐ Endowment \$ _____

☐ GMS Bulletin Fund \$ _____ ☐ Special Projects \$ _____

Donation Subtotal \$ _____

Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to receive a membership card. Make check payable to Oklahoma Ornithological Society and use the enclosed envelope or mail to OOS, P.O. Box 35413, Tulsa, OK 74153. If you have questions regarding your membership, please write us at the above address or our e-mail is: zachapoland@gmail.com



Meeting Minutes

Oklahoma Ornithological Society Executive Board

Meeting: Winter 2025 Board Meeting
Date: December 7, 2025
Location: Remote Zoom Call

Officers/Chairs Present		Members Present
Cole Penning	Randy Soto	
Zach Poland	Joe Grzybowski	
Steve Stone		
Mark Howery		

Call to Order

- The Winter Board Meeting of the OOS was called to order at 3:00 pm on December 7, 2025, by Cole Penning, President.
- Board members and members present – see above

Acceptance of Agenda

- No formal agenda provided.

Approval of Minutes

- Steve Stone read the minutes from the Summer 2025 Meeting.
- The group had no edits for the minutes, and they were accepted.

Agenda Topics

The only agenda item was preparations for the Spring 2026 Meeting.

- The Spring Meeting will be held in the Red Slough/Idabel area.
- Options for dates were discussed.
- Locations for the meeting were discussed. These included the Museum of the Red River and SE Oklahoma State University campus.
- Steve Stone will reach out to potential meeting locations and hotels in Idabel to explore rates and availability.
- The group discussed options for speakers and individual board members will reach out to some of these options to check interest and availability.



Meeting Minutes

Oklahoma Ornithological Society Executive Board

- Concerning registration costs, the group agreed that keeping the same fee structure as previous meetings would be a good idea. No motion was made.
 - o Students = \$5
 - o Full Meeting (includes meal) = \$30
- Cole will send a survey to all board members seeking input on meeting dates, registration fees and other information.

Chair Reports

- Membership, Zach Poland: No update.
- Bulletin, Gene Young: Gene requested manuscripts via email. Zack and Jake delivered the current bulletins to the printer for printing and distribution.
- Special Projects, Don Glass: No update.
- Treasurer, Carrie Cartwright: No update.
- OBRC, Joe Grzybowski: No update.
- Scissortail, Jake Kirkland: No update.
- Activities, Rebecca Renfro: No update.

Business from the Previous Meeting

- None

New Business

- None

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- None

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Steve Stone

Minutes reviewed by: