



# The Scissortail

a newsletter of the  
*Oklahoma Ornithological Society*

**Volume 73, Number 1**

**Spring 2023**

## President's Message

Dear Members,

2023 is off and running. The days are getting longer; buds are forming on the trees and many of the resident bird species have been singing in my yard for weeks now. Some birds have already started their breeding rituals, and many others are preparing to do so soon. This is an exciting time of year for bird enthusiasts and is a busy time for the OOS. I would like to take this time as a reminder and highlight a few opportunities OOS has to offer.

The start of 2023 brings the membership renewal period. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please consider doing so. The main focus of my tenure as President is membership. This includes membership retention, growth, and engagement. I value OOS and its mission. I think that you do too. I look forward to working with you towards that mission.

Please mark your calendar and register for the OOS Spring Meeting in historic Bartlesville on May 13, 2023. I am really excited about the program that Rebecca Renfro has put together. The thoughtful schedule will have something for birders of all ages. Bartlesville has a reputation for great birding opportunities at that time of year, but I'm most looking forward to seeing friends old and new. I hope to see you there!

**OOS Spring Meeting 2023**  
**May 13th, 2023, Bartlesville, OK**

### Friday Evening May 12th:

Wingspan game (TBD; based on interest)

### Saturday, May 13th:

**7 AM-Noon:** Bird banding demonstration by Joe Grzybowski and bird walks at Pathfinder Parkway, additional field trip (TBD) led by Josh Engelbert

**Lunch:** On your own

**1 PM – 4 PM:** Children/family-friendly origami and activities led by Maedean Erb at Bartlesville Public Library

**3:30 PM – 5 PM:** OOS Business Meeting

**5:30 PM - 8 PM:** Dinner at Crossing Second with evening presentation by Robert Lewis, Cherokee Storyteller

And more!

**Cost:** \$25 for individuals, \$40 for families (cost includes meal on Saturday Evening)

I want to make a special mention of the deadline to apply for OOS Special Projects Grants is quickly approaching. The Oklahoma Ornithological Society's Special Projects awards provide funding to students at any level, faculty researchers, and individuals or civic groups proposing to do work that aligns with our general mission to promote the "observation, study, and conservation" of birds in Oklahoma. Don Glass and his team are eager to learn about ideas and lend support to bring them to fruition. More details about the OOS Special Projects Grants can be found at [okbird.org](http://okbird.org).

Cheers,



Zach Poland

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*Member Information*  
*as of 3/06/2023*

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**Total Current Members: 135**

(Tulsa), James Shroyer (Eufaula) and Judy Simmons (Tulsa).

**Welcome New Members**

**Contributions**

Charles Frederico (Durant), Ashley Goodart (Catoosa), Alicia Lear (Tulsa), Lisa Nesterak (Newalla), Virginia Soukup and Mathew Radford

Tim O'Connell, Martha Hordinsky, Stephen Parker, and Don Turvey

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*OOS Officers and Chairpersons*  
*as of 3/06/2023*

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

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

**Webmaster** – Jeff Tibbits – ODWC, P.O. 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

**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

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

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

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**VACANT POSITIONS:**

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

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## Do You Want a Bird Story? How About One on Slaty-backed Gull in Oklahoma?

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There is always the hope in birding of finding that special rarity. But when it happens, and it's a gull, that pesky-to-identify group, it becomes a story of what the heck, nahhh, let me check my brains, get photos, photos.....

Randy and Rhonda were out at Prairie Dog Point, Lake Hefner one Saturday evening—21 Jan 2023 to be exact, about 4:50 PM, when we spotted a dark-backed gull on shore. It looked larger than the other Lesser black-backed Gulls, and then we noticed the legs, they were pink. Wait a minute—Lesser Black-backed Gulls have yellow legs.

We first had to ask each other what it could be. Slaty-backed Gull came to mind for Randy right away. But then Rhonda noticed the range in the field guide. Eastern Asia. Whoa!!! Got some photos, then the brain check. Called Joe Grzybowski to see what he thought—either Slaty-backed or Western—photos already favored Slaty-backed. Next day bright and

early, Randy and Joe were at Hefner looking with a few other birders. But not until 4:20 PM did Randy relocate the gull in the middle of the lake. Brian Marra managed a few photos of the gull with wing spread showing the string of sub-terminal white spots on the outer primaries. ID as Slaty-backed Gull was confirmed, first for Oklahoma. In the next week, it was found and seen by many. In fact, it was photographed by Trina Arnold at mid-day of the day we found it.

Perhaps as big a surprise, on 29 January, Joe Grzybowski came upon it at a compost site in McClain County almost in disbelief. Both he and Randy checked eBird to see if it was being reported at Hefner that day, it wasn't. To add to the story, a Slaty-backed Gull, possibly this bird, was noted in Austin, TX 7 Feb, then again back at Hefner on 10 Feb by Jessy Pine. Quite the Bird Story.



Randy Soto and Rhonda Fair, Joe Grzybowski

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### Conservation Report

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#### **Breeding Bird Survey turns 55 in Oklahoma**

Most OOS members know about the national Breeding Bird Survey, and many of you run one or more of the 50 routes in Oklahoma, but you may not remember that this year marks the 55th anniversary of the first routes that were established in our state in 1967. Many of you right now are questioning my math, but because the BBS was temporarily suspended in 2020 during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be the 55th season of the BBS program. The Breeding Bird Survey was established in 1967 by the Migratory Bird Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to simultaneously monitor the population trends of hundreds of land birds across the United States. That same year, the first routes, 35 of them, were established in locations distributed across the state. A very nice summary of the program and a map of the routes can be found in Baumgartner's 1992 book *Oklahoma Bird Life*. Since those initial years, more routes have been added by the Sutton Avian Research Center and the Ouachita National Forest, bringing the total number in our state to 62. From 1974 through the early 2000s, Bill Carter served as the volunteer coordinator for the Oklahoma routes. Dan Reinking at the Sutton Center has filled that role for the past 20 years. Over its 55-year history, the Breeding Bird Survey has collected tens

of thousands of bird observations in Oklahoma – an amount sufficient to estimate the population trends for well over 100 land bird species. Each year, a few of Oklahoma's routes go unsurveyed, and currently, 22 routes are looking for a birder to adopt them and cover them. Who better to run these routes than the skilled birders of the OOS! I encourage you to read up about the BBS program and considered signing up for a vacant route if there's one near you (<https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/index.cfm>).

#### **Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas Ends Its Fourth Season**

Another important monitoring program for Oklahoma birds is the Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas which is entering its fourth field season. The current Breeding Bird Atlas effort is the second one in Oklahoma's history – the first Atlas was conducted 25 years ago during the five-year interval between 1997 and 2001. The current effort is using the same protocol and the exact same blocks as the first Atlas so that the results will be directly comparable. Combined, the two Atlases are snap-shots in time of Oklahoma's nesting bird community and should depict changes in geographic range and abundance over time. The second Breeding Bird Atlas has passed the halfway point in terms of covering its 583 sampling blocks,

but volunteers are needed to sign up for and survey over 160 blocks during the next two summers. Once again, the Breeding Bird Atlas is being organized by Dan Reinking at the Sutton Avian Research Center and more information about the Breeding Bird Atlas can be found on the Sutton Center's website at: <https://www.suttoncenter.org/research/ok-bird-atlases-surveys/second-oklahoma-breeding-bird-atlas/> I'm sure that Dan would welcome your participation! You can sign up for a block online or contact Dan with any questions at: [dan@suttoncenter.org](mailto:dan@suttoncenter.org) or (918) 336-7778. Current sponsors for the Breeding Bird Atlas include the Macklanburg Foundation, Commonwealth Foundation, Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Records-Johnston Family Foundation, the Sutton Avian Research Center, and contributions of time and money by the dozens of individuals participating in this important project.

### **National Audubon Society's Conservation Ranching Program**

In January of 2023, the National Audubon Society announced that they had just signed an agreement with the 100th ranch that has joined their conservation ranching program. Through its conservation ranching partnerships, the National Audubon Society aims to conserve crucial habitats that support grassland bird populations by promoting beef that is produced on these ranches using sustainable grazing practices. Altogether, the 100 ranches (and growing) that have partnered with the National Audubon Society conserve grassland habitat on nearly 2.7 million acres across the Great Plains and the western U.S. Four of these ranches can be found in Oklahoma (Ellis, Jefferson, Okmulgee, and Osage counties) including the Double P Ranch and the Circle N Ranch. The ranches in the program use regenerative agriculture and restorative grazing practices that improve prairie plant diversity, soil condition, and vegetation complexity by mimicking the grazing that was once carried out by roaming herds of Bison. Rather than confine cattle on one or two pastures, regenerative grazing keeps cattle moving and shifts them to new pastures and new grass every few days. This reduces grazing pressure, eliminates over-grazing, and retains the "ice cream" plants that sedentary cattle tend to over-utilize. Audubon's certification program encourages ranchers to implement bird-beneficial grazing and land-management practices, and in return, the National Audubon Society helps ranchers market their beef. We know from many recent research and monitoring projects, that grassland birds have shown the steepest population declines in

North America during the past 50 years. Conservation ranching has a tremendous potential to protect grassland habitats and the birds that depend upon them while also maintaining the economic viability of ranching communities.

### **Recovering America's Wildlife Act 2021 – 2022**

The 117th Congress (spanning the period from January 2021 through December 2022) was a dynamic one that saw some conservation gains for endangered species, Neotropical migrant birds, and wetlands, but it also included some disappointments. One of the biggest of these was the failure to pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). The initiative behind RAWA has been building since 2016 through the 115th, 116th and 117th Congresses, and I've discussed this briefly in previous conservation reports. In a nutshell, RAWA would create nearly \$1.4 billion annually in new conservation funding nationwide - \$1.3 billion per year would be apportioned to state wildlife agencies as cost-share grants to implement each state's Wildlife Action Plan, while another \$97 million would be apportioned to federally recognized Native American tribes for tribal fish and wildlife conservation programs. The funding would be phased in over four years and the funding that would not be apportioned to states and tribes during the first three years would be directed into an endangered species recovery fund totaling \$900 million.

The most recent RAWA bills (H.R. 2773 and S. 2372) were introduced into the House of Representatives in April 2021 and into the Senate in June 2021. Both bills were assigned to committees and hearings were held in the House and Senate in late 2021. Two of Oklahoma's Representatives were co-sponsors of the House bill (Tom Cole and Frank Lucas) while Senator Jim Inhofe was a co-sponsor of the Senate bill. In the House, RAWA was voted out of the House Natural Resources Committee early in 2022 with one of the Committee's strongest bi-partisan votes. It went to the House leadership where it received a Floor Vote on June 14th and passed comfortably with a vote margin of 231 to 190. In the Senate, RAWA was passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on June 21 and seemed destined for a vote of the full Senate. In the Senate, the RAWA bill had 47 co-sponsors including 16 Senate Republicans and was thought to be a sure bet for passage. However, week after week went by without it being scheduled for a floor vote. There was a last-ditch effort to include it in the Senate Omnibus Spending bill in December, but unfortunately, that effort failed



and the conservation funding that came so close to passage died with the Senate's adjournment shortly before Christmas. But as we've learned from the past, there are few permanent victories and few permanent defeats. Many of RAWA's co-sponsors remain in the House and Senate and there is a sincere intent to

reintroduce the bill later this Spring for another run.



Mark Howery, Conservation Board Member

## Top 100 Oklahoma eBirders

Below is a list of the eBirders with the top 100 lists of species for Oklahoma during 2022. Underlined names are Members of OOS!

### Ranking, Observer and Species (% total species seen in Oklahoma in 2022)

1. <u>Brian Marra</u>	332	85.79%	49. Bill Hopping	181	46.77%
1. Grace Huffman	332	85.79%	52. Megan Miguez	179	46.25%
3. <u>Steve Stone</u>	325	83.98%	53. Anna Nesterovich	177	45.74%
4. <u>Braden Farris</u>	320	82.69%	54. <u>Larry Mays</u>	176	45.48%
5. <u>Joe Grzybowski</u>	319	82.43%	55. Mark Braunschweig	172	44.44%
6. <u>Melinda Droege</u>	311	80.36%	56. Jack Olson	171	44.19%
7. Logan Kahle	304	78.55%	56. Matthew Andreev	171	44.19%
8. Terry Mitchell	298	77.0%	56. Hande Acar	171	44.19%
9. Lucas Bobay	291	75.19%	59. <u>Sandy Berger</u>	170	43.93%
10. RJ Baltierra	287	74.16%	59. Joe Neal	170	43.93%
11. <u>Jimmy Woodard</u>	278	71.83%	61. <u>Kurt Meisenzahl</u>	169	43.67%
12. Mike Yough	274	70.8%	62. <u>Zach DuFran</u>	168	43.41%
13. Scott Loss	269	69.51%	63. Cole Penning	166	42.89%
14. Aaron Short	268	69.25%	63. <u>Chase Moxley</u>	166	42.89%
15. <u>Landon Neumann</u>	266	68.73%	63. Carrie Pratt	166	42.89%
16. <u>Zach Poland</u>	257	66.41%	66. Carmen Ricer	163	42.12%
17. <u>Curtis Stewart</u>	254	65.63%	66. Vivek Govind Kumar	163	42.12%
17. <u>Douglas Wood</u>	254	65.63%	68. Rebecca Koch	160	41.34%
19. <u>Mathew Radford</u>	251	64.86%	69. Vincent Weber	159	41.09%
20. Alex Harman	246	63.57%	69. Anthony Canganelli	159	41.09%
21. <u>Trina Arnold</u>	244	63.05%	69. Joseph Saunders	159	41.09%
22. <u>Josh Smith</u>	241	62.27%	72. Jan Eckardt Butler	157	40.57%
22. Nick Tepper	241	62.27%	73. <u>Jeremy Ross</u>	156	40.31%
24. Nathan Moses	239	61.76%	73. Karen McGee	156	40.31%
25. Levi Radford	232	59.95%	75. Matthew Toomey	155	40.05%
26. <u>Clay Billman</u>	230	59.43%	76. Robert Merideth	154	39.79%
27. Jana Singletary	228	58.91%	76. Katie Crissup	154	39.79%
28. <u>Mary &amp; Lou Truex</u>	225	58.14%	78. <u>Robert Harding</u>	153	39.53%
29. <u>Deanne McKinney</u>	222	57.36%	78. Salt Plains Biologist	153	39.53%
30. Cody Delano	220	56.85%	80. CJ Stephens	151	39.02%
31. Justin Roach	218	56.33%	81. <u>Calvin Rees</u>	150	38.76%
32. <u>Jacob Kirkland</u>	216	55.81%	81. Tabitha Olsen	150	38.76%
33. Steve Davis	215	55.56%	83. OU Ornithology	149	38.5%
34. Don Pearson	213	55.04%	83. Brent Barnes	149	38.5%
35. <u>Virginia Soukup</u>	210	54.26%	85. Cameron Lang	148	38.24%
36. Greg Cook	208	53.75%	85. David Londe	148	38.24%
36. Steve Glover	208	53.75%	85. Sara Loss	148	38.24%
38. Jerry Vanbebber	198	51.16%	88. <u>Betz Hacker</u>	146	37.73%
39. Adrianh M. Orozco	197	50.9%	89. <u>Esther M Key</u>	144	37.21%
39. Michael Reichert	197	50.9%	90. Vic Harjo	143	36.95%
41. Alec Hopping	196	50.65%	90. Mike Bike	143	36.95%
42. Kevin Wilson	195	50.39%	90. Kalen Melton	143	36.95%
43. BioBlitz! Okla.	194	50.13%	93. Shawn Johnson	141	36.43%
44. <u>David Dyer</u>	189	48.84%	93. Jake Gerlt	141	36.43%
44. Jacob Crissup	189	48.84%	93. Dustin Lynch	141	36.43%
46. Josh Engelbert	188	48.58%	93. Joel Stephens	141	36.43%
47. Daniel Horton	187	48.32%	97. Nich. Del Grosso	140	36.18%
48. Hadley Walters	182	47.03%	98. Molly McCown	138	35.66%
49. <u>Tim O'Connell</u>	181	46.77%	98. Carter Stephens	138	35.66%
49. Chad Ellis	181	46.77%	100. Jason Shaw	134	34.63%

\_\_\_\_\_ OKLAHOMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (OBRC) – \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEW LIST \_\_\_\_\_

The OKLAHOMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (OBRC) of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society has maintained review status for records of Oklahoma birds determined by the species status in its current editions of the DATE GUIDE to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma. When the OBRC first began in 1985, it requested documentation of all species observations that fell outside the expected dates and regions it could specify for that species in the first edition of the DATE GUIDE. This review status has evolved over time. With eBird and the increase in numbers of incoming records evaluated under a similar format for supporting observations, the OBRC withdrew from formally evaluating most of the seasonal and regional rarities to what is now a review of more exceptional state records.

The DATE GUIDE to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma is now in its Seventh Edition [Oklahoma Bird Records Committee (OBRC), 2019, Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Norman, OK; <https://www.okbirds.org/publications>]. A Review List has previously not been specified explicitly, only implicitly as indicated above. The OBRC has decided to provide an explicit Review List here to include its current policy of (1) review for those species not given expected dates or region statuses in the current edition of the DATE GUIDE, (2) for records of those species assigned statuses in one side of the state observed in the other (so species given status in eastern Oklahoma ONLY noted in the Panhandle, and vice versa, with a few special exceptions), and for those species added to the State Checklist (see below) since the 2019 DATE GUIDE.

The OBRC also processes any records of species not yet recorded for Oklahoma—new State birds. From this, it maintains an Official Checklist (The Oklahoma Ornithological Society Checklist of Oklahoma Birds, Sixth Edition (2022; see <https://www.okbirds.org/publications>). Links to the OBRC Review List will soon be posted to the OOS webpage.

Oklahoma Bird Records Committee July 2022

**FROM: OKLAHOMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE:  
OKLAHOMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
DATE GUIDE EDITS to Seventh Edition (2019)  
Added: 26 February 2022**

The Oklahoma Bird Records Committee (OBRC) maintains a DATE GUIDE to the Occurrences of

Birds in Oklahoma, now in its Seventh Edition (2019; <https://www.okbirds.org/publications>). The DATE GUIDE lists all bird species documented in Oklahoma (through its publication date) and indicates dates of occurrence and regions of the state in which a species is expected to occur. Some species are considered too rare to receive such. The OBRC uses the DATE GUIDE to assess when observations of species require documentation (written or photo/audio) for support.

When the OBRC first began in 1985, it evaluated the existing data on Oklahoma birds to establish what was known on bird occurrence and phenology in its first DATE GUIDE (1986). There was much to be learned. It requested documentation of all observations that fell outside the expected dates and regions it could specify for any species from existing data. That was largely a success and created later DATE GUIDE editions that incorporated the new and sometimes changing patterns of occurrences. In the early teen years, with eBird use on the rise under a similar format of supporting observations, the OBRC withdrew from formally evaluating the seasonal and regional rarities to what is now a review list of more exceptional records.

The Review List for species records processed by the OBRC are for those species not given expected dates or region statuses in the current DATE GUIDE, and those assigned statuses in one side of the state observed on other (so species given status in eastern Oklahoma ONLY noted in the Panhandle, and vice versa). The OBRC also processes any records of species not yet recorded for Oklahoma—new State birds. From this, it maintains an Official Checklist [The Oklahoma Ornithological Society Checklist of Oklahoma Birds, Sixth Edition (2022; see <https://www.okbirds.org/publications>)].

Incoming observations provided by birders can adjust statuses of species in Oklahoma. These changes are normally accommodated in a future edition of the DATE GUIDE. However, some decisions for review status are made in between editions. The OBRC recently evaluated the incoming information for 9 species of review list status, and assigned 3 of them date and regional statuses. Please adjust your DATE GUIDE (2019) as follows:

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**

**31 Jul- 12 Sep**

**RARE in SE\***

**\*Le Flore, Pushmataha and McCurtain cos. ONLY**

## CRESTED CARACARA

ALL YEAR

RARE in SE\*

\*McCurtain, Choctaw and Bryan cos. ONLY

## NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

2 Nov- 15 Jan

NE\*

\*Cherokee County ONLY

To summarize information on these species:

The **Swallow-tailed Kite** now appears annually, but in a diffuse pattern in southeastern OK into southwestern, central and northeastern OK. Dates largely show pattern of post-breeding vagrancy, specified here, but with scatter into spring and summer.

**Crested Caracara** has been occurring more and more regularly in the counties along the southern border, particularly the southeasternmost. This species has long been a rare to uncommon breeder in the Blackland Prairie of Texas, a strip of prairie that largely parallels east of I-35 to within a county of Oklahoma. The records north of this southern Oklahoma county border are infrequent.

The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** Project at the Nickel Family Preserve, Cherokee County, has demonstrated that they are regular fall migrants and, from their radio-tracking, that some winter, supporting the assigned DATE GUIDE status above. The dates are a conservative range from these netting and tracking data. Studies across the US are showing

that more are present in general than suspected in earlier decades. From banding in northeastern Arkansas, it is likely present more broadly in the Ozark Mountains counties (Adair and Delaware), although not substantiated with actual observations. Its presence in the rest of the state is still clouded by the difficulty of detecting this species.

Other species considered for status change were Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-necked Grebe, Yellow-billed Loon, Calliope Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird and Evening Grosbeak. Evening Grosbeak was given date and regional status in the 1986 edition of the DATE GUIDE. However, in the 1990s, the species declined substantially at the continental level with a wide gap when no Evening Grosbeaks were observed in Oklahoma. There has been an uptick in recent records, but the OBRC will watch what develops before removing it from the review list. It still remains a species of significant interest and rarity. Regionally, Yellow-billed Loon is still a very rare species. For the other 4 species, the available data still appeared too limited.

The DATE GUIDE to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma now in its Seventh Edition [Oklahoma Bird Records Committee (OBRC), 2019, Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Norman, OK] is available from the OOS web-page; <https://www.okbirds.org/publications>

 Oklahoma Bird Records Committee; Joe Grzybowski (Chair)

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## *Noteworthy Records of Birds in Oklahoma: Spring 2022 Period*

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The following is a listing of noteworthy records of birds for the Spring period—March through May 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. For exceptional records reviewed and found acceptable by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee, species names are given in bold. Species whose names are followed by an (R) are expected, but RARE in very low frequencies. Bold and italics for date or locality depict records outside limits specified for the species in the DATE GUIDE. High counts are also placed in

bold and italics. m. ob. = multiple observers.

The spring period generally underscores migrations across most taxa. Many wintering waterfowl and gull species have been leaving earlier and earlier in the past decade, and so exemplified this season. Only four records of waterfowl species and one gull species were exceptional enough to list here. However, while there were some very early arrivals (e.g., Common Nighthawk, Yellow Warbler), most earlier-than-normal arrivals were only marginally so. It was more of a delayed season. Some sparrow species (Fox, Song White-throated, in particular) left or passed through later than usual.

Oklahoma's mid-continental location opens the chance of both easterly and westerly avifauna to show pattern-shifts. Say's Phoebes, for example, showed an easterly mid-April series into east-central Oklahoma, and a number of Cassin's Sparrows also flexed easterly, one to McCurtain County in far southeastern Oklahoma. A few exceptional western species easterly were a Cassin's Vireo in Greer County, Brewer's Sparrow in Jackson County, and MacGillivray's Warbler in Comanche County. Eastern wood-warblers westerly were generally few, but note the Blackburnian Warbler in Texas County and Chestnut-sided Warbler in Cimarron County. Even the normal flush of rarer eastern wood-warbler species in eastern Oklahoma were more sparsely reported this season—only one Golden-winged, two records of Bay-breasted Warbler, and fewer into central Oklahoma. And this was true for western neotropical migrants as well, with seemingly few birds to be found. Probably of note, with the apparent low numbers, are species that stand out in that way. There was a general dearth of some normally more common species. Possibly just an impression, but it seemed to be true for Eared Grebes and Wilson's Phalaropes, and swallows in general, in particular Barn Swallows.

There is the spread of some southeastern species into the State or further into the state. Although more subdued this spring, this pattern reflected records of Yellow-throated Warbler in western Oklahoma. Neotropic Cormorants have become more routine in south-central and central Oklahoma, so much so as not to list their records here. One more recent advance is that occurring for the Crested Caracara.

A species resident in the Blackland Prairie of Texas (an eco-region fingering east of I-35 in Texas to within a county or two of the Oklahoma border), caracaras have advanced into the southeastern and south-central edge of Oklahoma. Observations this season depict this penetration.

Perhaps the most exciting finds of the season were Limpkins at multiple locations. A species of the tropics previously restricted to Florida in the U.S., only two records existed for Oklahoma before 2022, one each year, 2020 and 2021, at Red Slough WMA in far southeastern Oklahoma. Multiple individuals appeared at Red Slough this season and also at Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa, with others at several locations in Wagoner and Mayes counties. And this spread into Oklahoma is part of a broader expansion of Limpkins over the past ten years along Gulf Coastal areas from Florida west to Louisiana and the Houston area, and with records north in eastern adjacent states and into the southern Great Lakes region. An exciting time.

Perhaps of a parallel surprise, this season were reports of two Brown Booby, a species of tropical salt waters, in Payne and Tulsa counties, both very unexpected flyovers. A Eurasian Wigeon in Alfalfa County was a mega-rarity for Oklahoma. The Zone-tailed Hawk pair that provided the first State Record last year and nested in the Wichita Mountains W.R. was back again this season. And the Hooded Oriole that visited a feeder in Osage County was a first State Record. Other OBRC review species were also noted.



SPECIES	No.	DATE	COUNTY	LOCALITY	OBSERVER
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	7	<b>22 Apr 2022</b>	Cleveland	Lake Thunderbird, North Sentinel	Kim Pagel
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	2	<b>24, 25 Apr 2022</b>	Grady	Shannon Springs Park	Jason Shaw, Randy Soto
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	1	<b>25-28 Apr 2022</b>	Oklahoma	Bethany/War Acres WTP	Steve Stone, m. ob.
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	2	2 May 2022	<b>Blaine</b>	unspecified	Jimmy Woodard
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	11	16 May 2022	Payne	Lake Cark Blackwell	Clay Billman
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (R)	2-27	27-31 May 2022	Alfalfa	Cherokee	Jeremy Ross, Cameron Lang, Aaron Short, m. ob.
Greater White-fronted Goose	2	<b>10 Apr 2022</b>	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Mary & Lou Truex
Cackling Goose	1	<b>14 May 2022</b>	Garfield	Meadowlake Park, Enid	Curtis Stewart
Cinnamon Teal	1 M	5, 20 Apr 2022	<b>McCurtain</b>	<b>Red Slough WMA</b>	David Arbour
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	1	4 Mar 2022	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR	Curtis Stewart
Surf Scoter (R)	2,1	5, 11 Mar 2022	Oklahoma/ Canadian	Lake Overholser	Eric Guthrie, Dorrian Anderson
Surf Scoter (R)	1	<b>24 Apr 2022</b>	Payne	Lake Carl Blackwell	Scott Loss et al.
White-winged Scoter (R)	1-4	6-28 Mar 2022	Canadian	Lake Overholser	Randy Soto, m. ob.
White-winged Scoter (R)	1	19 Mar 2022	Sequoyah	Sequoyah NWR	Braden Farris, Hadley Walters
White-winged Scoter (R)	1	<b>21 Apr 2022</b>	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Brent Barnes
Black Scoter (R)	1	1-12 Mar 2022	<b>Payne</b>	<b>Lake Carl Blackwell</b>	Clay Billman, Scott Loss, Mike Yough
Long-tailed Duck	7	13 Mar 2022	Kay	Kaw Lake, McFadden Cove	Alex Harman, Carrie Pratt et al.
Long-tailed Duck (R)	1	<b>28 Mar, 1 Apr 2022</b>	Canadian	Lake Overholser	Steve Davis, Steve Stone, Devin Bosler
Bufflehead	1	<b>12 May 2022</b>	Custer	Clinton	Amanda Boyle
Common Goldeneye	1	<b>8 May 2022</b>	Kay	Ponca City Lakes	David Reed
Horned Grebe	1	<b>13 May 2022</b>	Tulsa	Lake Yahola	Zach Poland
Eared Grebe		Low numbers	April 2022	Statewide	
Inca Dove (R)	1	5 May 2022	<b>Major</b>	<b>Ames</b>	Adriahh Martinez Orozco
Common Nighthawk	2	<b>28 Mar 2022</b>	Cleveland	Norman	Nancy Reed
Common Gallinule	1, 3	<b>21, 25 Mar 2022</b>	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	David Arbour
<b>Limpkin</b>	1-2	21 Apr thru May 2022	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	David Arbour, m. ob.
<b>Limpkin</b>	1-2	10 May thru May 2022	Tulsa	Oxley North Woods	Diana Hartzmann, Josh Smith, m. ob.
<b>Limpkin</b>	1	15 May 2022	Wagoner	Location 1	Steve Metz, Jim Hoffman, Peter Michael
<b>Limpkin</b>	1	15 May 2022	Wagoner	Location 2	Steve Metz, Jim Hoffman, Peter Michael
<b>Limpkin</b>	1	21 May 2022	Mayes	unspecified	Henry Castro Miller
Sandhill Crane	18	<b>19 Apr 2022</b>	Beaver	unspecified	Conner Langan
Whooping Crane (R)	3	<b>7 Mar 2022</b>	Alfalfa	just east of Salt Plains headquarters	Mark & Mary Peterson
Black-necked Stilt (R)	1	4 May 2022	<b>Tulsa</b>	<b>56th St. Sod Farms</b>	Zach Poland
Black-necked Stilt (R)	1	8 May 2022	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	Wyatt Egelhoff
Black-necked Stilt (R)	1	13 May 2022	<b>Sequoyah</b>	<b>Sequoyah NWR</b>	Michael & Sharon Pratt
Piping Plover (R)	3	18 Apr 2022	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR	Glen Hensley
Piping Plover (R)	1	28, 30 Apr 2022	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Chase Moxley, Rachel & Dean Winstead

Piping Plover (R)	2	4 May 2022	Oklahoma	Lake Arcadia	Devin Bosler, Braden Farris, Steve Stone
Piping Plover (R)	1	5 May 2022	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Logan Kahle
Piping Plover (R)	4	5 May 2022	Payne	Lake Carl Blackwell	Mike Yough, Alex Harman
Piping Plover (R)	1	6 May 2022	Oklahoma	Midwest City sod farms	Jimmy Woodard, Randy Soto et al.
Piping Plover (R)	1	<b>15 May 2022</b>	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Phil Chaon
Whimbrel (R)	4	29 Apr 2022	Greer	Quartz Mountain SP	Logan Kahle
Whimbrel (R)	1	30 Apr 2022	Cleveland	Lake Thunderbird, East Sentinel	Mary & Lou Truex, Jerry Vanbebber, m. ob.
Whimbrel (R)	16	30 Apr 2022	Woodward	Fort Supply Reservoir	Miguel Demeneghi
Whimbrel (R)	28	8 May 2022	Woodward	Fort Supply Reservoir	Joseph Tuttle
Whimbrel (R)	1	10 May 2022	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR	Glen Hensley
Western Sandpiper (R)	1	<b>12 Mar 2022</b>	Alfalfa	Great Salt Plains SP	Curtis Stewart
Laughing Gull (R)	1	<b>22 Apr 2022</b>	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Braden Farris
California Gull (R)	1	20-22 Apr 2022	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Braden Farris, Brian Marra, m. ob.
Lesser Black-backed Gull (R)	1	<b>29 Apr 2022</b>	<b>Greer</b>	<b>Quartz Mountain SP</b>	Logan Kahle
Common Tern (R)	1	<b>2 May 2022</b>	Payne	Lake Carl Blackwell	Scott Loss
Common Tern (R)	2	<b>7 May 2022</b>	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR	RJ Balteirra
Red-throated Loon (R)	2, 1	2, 5 Mar 2022	<b>Custer</b>	<b>Foss Reservoir</b>	Joe Grzybowski, Jack Olson, Randy Soto
Pacific Loon (R)	2	2 Mar 2022	<b>Custer</b>	<b>Foss Reservoir</b>	Joe Grzybowski, Jack Olson
<b>Brown Booby</b>	1	29 Mar 2022	Payne	Boomer Lake	Deb Hirt
<b>Brown Booby</b>	1	21 May 2022	Tulsa	Oxley North Woods	Josh Smith
Snowy Egret	1	<b>21 Mar 2022</b>	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	David Arbour
Tricolored Heron (R)	1	<b>12 Apr 2022</b>	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	Steve Nord
Tricolored Heron (R)	1	8, 12 May 2022	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	Wyatt Egelhoff, Alec & Bill Hopping
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1-2	<b>13, 15 Mar 2022</b>	Tulsa	Mohawk Park	Morgan Miguez, Tad Alford, m. ob.
Glossy Ibis (R)	1	2 May 2022	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR	Logan Kahle
Glossy Ibis (R)	1	5 May 2022	Tulsa	Bixby sod farms	Mathew Radford, Jeff Cox
Glossy x White-faced Ibis hybrid (R)	1	28 Apr 2022	Payne	White Bard Estates pond	Scott Loss
Glossy x White-faced Ibis hybrid (R)	1	2, 15 May 2022	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR	Logan Kahle, Curtis Stewart
Glossy x White-faced Ibis hybrid (R)	2	7 May 2022	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Steve Glover et al.
Black Vulture	1	19 Mar 2022	<b>Dewey</b>	<b>Oakwood</b>	Mathew Radford, Virginia Soukup
Black Vulture	1	8 Apr 2022	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Salt Plains NWR</b>	Gene Stagner
Black Vulture	2	9 Apr 2022	<b>Blaine</b>	<b>Roman Nose SP</b>	Logan Carter, Sarah Anderson
Osprey	1	<b>18 Mar 2022</b>	Comanche	Lake Lawtonka	Carmen Ricer
Osprey	1	<b>19 Mar 2022</b>	Sequoyah	Sequoyah NWR	Braden Farris, Hadley Walters
<b>Zone-tailed Hawk</b>	1	22 Apr thru May 2022	Comanche	Wichita Mountains WR	Jeremy Ross et al., m. ob.
Ferruginous Hawk (R)	1	<b>4 Apr 2022</b>	Washington	Tuxedo	Melinda Droege
Ferruginous Hawk	1 im.	<b>22 Apr 2022</b>	Tillman	Hackberry Flat WMA	Logan Kahle
Long-eared Owl (R)	1	28 Mar 2022	Washington	Hogshooter Creek	Melinda Droege
Long-eared Owl (R)	1	15 Apr 2022	Woods	Hatfield Park	Aaron Short
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	<b>29 Apr 2022</b>	Washington	Pathfinder Parkway	Josh Engelbert
Crested Caracara (R)	1	3 Apr 2022	<b>Tillman</b>	<b>Davidson</b>	Chad Ellis

Crested Caracara (R)	1	30 Apr 2022	<i>Coal</i>	<i>Tupelo</i>	Brian Marra, Grace Huffman, Steve Stone, Deanne McKinney
Crested Caracara (R)	2	6 May 2022	<i>Atoka</i>	<i>Lane (3 mi. E)</i>	Joe Grzybowski
Crested Caracara (R)	1	8 May 2022	Bryan	Durant	Seth Kastner
Crested Caracara (R)	1	22 May 2022	<i>Payne</i>	<i>Teal Ridge Wetland</i>	Landon Newmann
Merlin	1	<b>3 May 2022</b>	Canadian	Mustang (4 mi. W)	Jake Gerlt
<b>Pacific Slope/ Cordilleran Flycatcher</b>	1	10 May 2022	Cimarron	Black Mesa SP	Wyatt Armstrong
Say's Phoebe (R)	1	10 Apr 2022	Alfalfa	Salt Plains NWR	Curtis Stewart
Say's Phoebe (R)	1	10, 11 Apr 2022	<i>Tulsa</i>	<i>Bixby sod farms</i>	Bill Carrell, Mathew Radford
Say's Phoebe (R)	1	13, 14 Apr 2022	<i>Osage</i>	<i>Tallgrass Prairie Preserve</i>	Lucas Bobay, Cody Delano
Say's Phoebe (R)	1	16 Apr 2022	<i>Payne</i>	<i>Oklahoma State Arboretum</i>	Kevin Wilson
Vermillion Flycatcher (R)	pair	8 Apr thru May 2022	Cimarron	Black Mesa SP	Debra Mielke, David Wiggins, m. ob.
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	<b>25 Mar 2022</b>	Jackson	N1970 & E1800 Rds.	John Ault
Cassin's Vireo (R)	1	<b>29 Apr 2022</b>	<i>Kiowa</i>	<i>Quartz Mountain SP</i>	Logan Kahle
Plumbeous Vireo (R)	1	2 May 2022	Cimarron	Boise City to southwest	David Wiggins, Joe Grzybowski
Philadelphia Vireo (R)	1	6 May 2022	Carter	Healdton Lake	Don Pearson
Red-eyed Vireo	1	14 May 2022	<i>Beaver</i>	<i>Turpin</i>	Alec & Bill Hopping
Red-eyed Vireo	1	19 May 2022	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Thompson Park</i>	Logan Kahle
Northern Shrike (R)	1 ad.	<b>9, 10 Mar 2022</b>	<i>Comanche</i>	<i>Wichita Mountains WR</i>	Joe Grzybowski, Pia Alexander
Cave Swallow (R)	6	29 Apr 2022	<i>Bryan</i>	<i>Platter Rd.</i>	Logan Kahle
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	<b>26 May 2022</b>	Texas	Optima Reservoir--Dam overlook	Nick Tepper
Winter Wren	1	<b>23 Apr 2022</b>	Tulsa	Williams Green	Zach Poland
Gray Catbird	1	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	Canadian	northwest of Mustang	Jake Gerlt
<b>Western Bluebird</b>	6	23 Mar 2022	Cimarron	Black Mesa SP	Joe Grzybowski, Steve Metz
Veery (R)	1	13-14 May 2022	<i>Payne</i>	<i>Ghost Hollow</i>	Scott Loss, Mike Yough, Clay Billman
American Pipit	<b>700</b>	14 Mar 2022	McClain	Ladd Road, Goldsby	Joe Grzybowski
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>	18	5 Apr 2022	Cimarron	Black Mesa SP	Kathy Riggs
Purple Finch (R)	1	31 Mar-5 Apr 2022	Comanche	Lawton	Carmen Ricer
Smith's Longspur	5	<b>3 Apr 2022</b>	Osage	John Dahl WMA	Curtis Stewart, Adrianh Martinez Orozco
Cassin's Sparrow (R)	1	5 May 2022	<i>Johnston</i>	<i>near Tishomingo</i>	Justin Roach
Cassin's Sparrow (R)	1	16-17 May 2022	<i>McCurtain</i>	<i>Idabel</i>	Lucas Bobay
Cassin's Sparrow (R)	1	20 May 2022	<i>Payne</i>	<i>Stillwater Airport</i>	Landon Newmann
Cassin's Sparrow (R)	1	21 May 2022	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>Prairie Prime Ranch</i>	Braden Farris
Brewer's Sparrow	1	26 Apr 2022	<i>Jackson</i>	<i>southwest of Eldorado</i>	Logan Kahle
Fox Sparrow	1	<b>15 Apr 2022</b>	Sequoyah	Sequoyah NWR	Sandy Berger
Fox Sparrow	2	<b>17 Apr 2022</b>	Okmulgee	Beggs	Brett & Lareina Niland
White-throated Sparrow	1-8	<b>14-31 May 2022</b>	Tulsa	Williams Green	Zach Poland
White-throated Sparrow	6, 2	<b>16, 18 May 2022</b>	Oklahoma	Myriad Botanical Garden	Steve Stone
White-throated Sparrow	3	<b>17 May 2022</b>	Oklahoma	Lake Hefner	Devin Bosler
Henslow's Sparrow	1	<b>25 Mar 2022</b>	Osage	Tallgrass Prairie Preserve	Lucas Bobay
Song Sparrow	1	<b>29 Apr 2022</b>	Kiowa	West Otter Creek Crossing	Logan Kahle
Song Sparrow	1	<b>1 May 2022</b>	Payne	Cushing WTP	Scott Loss
Swamp Sparrow	1	<b>7 May 2022</b>	Osage	Tallgrass Prairie Preserve	Lucas Bobay
Eastern Towhee	1	27 Mar 2022	<i>Kingfisher</i>	<i>Lake Elmer</i>	Grace Huffman, Brian Marra



Bobolink	<b>200</b>	6 May 2022	Oklahoma	Midwest City sod farms	Jimmy Woodard, Randy Soto et al.
Baltimore Oriole	1	<b>2 Jan 2022</b>	McClain	Newcastle	Sharon Gentry Beasley
<b>Hooded Oriole *</b>	1 M	14-15 Apr 2022	Osage	Sand Springs	Rebecca Hays, Steve Metz
Bronzed Cowbird (R)	1 M	28 May 2022	<b>Texas</b>	<b>Thompson Park</b>	Logan Kahle
Golden-winged Warbler (R)	1	6 May 2022	Wagoner	near Stone Bluff	Lara Sheppard
Swainson's Warbler (R)	1	9 May 2022	<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>Lake Thunderbird, East Sentinel</b>	Randy Soto
Tennessee Warbler	1	<b>11 Apr 2022</b>	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	David Arbour, RJ Baltierra
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	<b>2 May 2022</b>	<b>Comanche</b>	<b>Lawton</b>	Kurt & Sharon Meisenzahl
Hooded Warbler	1 M	12 Apr 2022	<b>Tulsa</b>	<b>Williams Green</b>	Zach Poland
Hooded Warbler	1 F	25 Apr 2022	<b>Tulsa</b>	<b>Woodward Park</b>	Zach Poland
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>	1 M	24-26 Apr 2022	Tulsa	Arkansas River	Peter Michael, Jim Hoffman et al., m. ob.
Cerulean Warbler (R)	1	7 May 2022	<b>Tulsa</b>	<b>Turkey Mountain Trail</b>	Alex James
Bay-breast. Warbler (R)	1	<b>30 Apr 2022</b>	Washington	Pathfinder Parkway	Melinda Droege
Bay-breast. Warbler (R)	1	5 May 2022	Tulsa	38th St	Jim Thomas
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>	1	<b>26 Apr 2022</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>Thompson Park</b>	Daniel Bellich
Blackburnian Warbler	1	4 May 2022	<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>Martin Park Nature Center</b>	AiLeng Chan
Blackburnian Warbler	1	12 May 2022	<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>Lake Hefner</b>	Braden Farris
Yellow Warbler	1	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	Tulsa	Owasso	Nathan Moses
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	12 May 2022	<b>Cimarron</b>	<b>near Kenton</b>	RJ Baltierra
Blackpoll Warbler	1	<b>21 Apr 2022</b>	Tulsa	Mohawk Park	Jana Singletary
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>	1	9 May 2022	Sequoyah	Sequoyah NWR	Felice Lyons
Palm Warbler (R)	1	20 Apr 2022	<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>Lake Thunderbird, West Sentinel</b>	Randy Soto
Palm Warbler (R)	2	28-29 Apr 2022	<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>Lake Thunderbird, West Sentinel</b>	Cody Delano, m. ob.
Palm Warbler (R)	1	29 Apr 2022	<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>Lake Hefner</b>	Seth Kastner, m. ob.
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	2, 4 Apr 2022	<b>Comanche</b>	<b>Wichita Mountains WR</b>	Pia Alexander, Jacob Kirkland
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	21 Apr 2022	<b>Washita</b>	<b>Seven Cowboy Wind Farm</b>	Erin Hatchett
Prairie Warbler	1	<b>11 Apr 2022</b>	McCurtain	Red Slough WMA	RJ Baltierra, David Arbour
Prairie Warbler	1	16 May 2022	<b>Comanche</b>	<b>Wichita Mountains WR</b>	Rosario Douglas
Canada Warbler (R)	1	18 May 2022	Payne	Couch Park	Scott Loss
Wilson's Warbler	1	<b>13 Apr 2022</b>	Cleveland	Norman	Joe Grzybowski
<b>Hepatic Tanager</b>	1 M	27, 29 May 2022	Cimarron	near Kenton	Logan Kahle, Scott & Sara Loss
Summer Tanager	1	<b>6 Mar 2022</b>	Tulsa	Minshall Park neighborhood	Matthew Morton
Scarlet Tanager	1	14 May 2022	<b>Canadian</b>	<b>Calumet</b>	Jacob Kirkland, Joseph Saunders
Scarlet Tanager	1	19 May 2022	<b>Payne</b>	<b>Couch Park</b>	Landon Neumann, Clay Billman

\* **First State Record**

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