

FEATHERS

Volume 2, Number 2

February 2009

Payne County Audubon Society

1st Annual Garage Sale!



Expo Center
Sat., Feb 27th
9 am - 1 pm

SEEKING DONATIONS: Please don't throw out that used croquet set, the lounge chair that doesn't quite go with your new décor, or any of your "old" items that have been replaced with holiday updates. Now is the time to clean out your attic and garage for a worthy cause.

DROP OFF donations at the south entrance to the Expo Center on Friday, February 26 between 4 and 8 pm.

All electrical items must be in working order, and all clothing must be washed or dry-cleaned, on hangers, and with the labels/size attached, please.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Please plan on donating items that you no longer need or use. The money PCAS raises will be used to put on our annual community Nature Day and Audubon Camp programs. 🐦

Spread the word!

Feb Program: "Butterflies - Here today, gone tomorrow"

Please plan on attending our exciting February program: "Butterflies— Here today, gone tomorrow," February 4th at 7 PM in Room 119 of the Stillwater Public Library.



Bryan Reynolds



Ray Moranz

Management college will present the program.

We will hold our usual silent auction concurrent with the program. After the program, door prizes will be awarded and participants will have the opportunity to put together a driftwood butterfly mobile.

Program is free and open to the public. 🐦



The Great Backyard Bird Count

FEBRUARY 12-15, 2010



New York, NY and Ithaca, NY—Bird watchers coast to coast are invited to take part in the 13th annual [Great Backyard Bird Count](#), Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15, 2010. Participants in the free event will join tens of thousands of volunteers of all levels of birding experience to count birds in their own backyards, local parks or wildlife refuges.

Each checklist submitted by these "citizen scientists" helps researchers at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and the [National Audubon Society](#) learn more about how the birds are doing—and how to protect them. Last year, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

Read rest of [Press Release](#). 🐦



From the President's Desk . . .

by Susan Walker

Nothing "birdy" about the piece below, but I'm the Ed so I will take the liberty of running it. I wrote it years ago, and it's one of my favorites. Lawrence Gibbs ran part of it in the *NewsPress* when he had a column there, so some of you may remember it.

I continued the story in a sequel in which I use another 100 or so OK place names. If you get as much fun out of reading this piece as I got writing it, let me know and I'll run the sequel in the *March Feathers*.

Oklahoma Geography Lesson

*In which I work over **Forty-One (IXL)** Oklahoma place names into a narrative*

One day, my pa, **Edmond Reed McAlester**, and his bride-to-be, **Vivian Eva Ada Clinton**, decided to **Cement** their **Friendship** with a little **Sweet-water**. They have enjoyed a long-lasting **Bond** of **Mutual Love** ever since.

They met **Pryor** to Pa's **Victory** over **Lone Wolf**, the **Battiest Ponca** Indian this side of the **Red River**. During their **Warr**, **Acres** and acres of **Lone Wolf's** land were lost.

"**Harrah, Harrah!**" yelled Pa at the outcome of the war. He was proud to **Wynnewoods** and **Moore Grand-fields**. L.W., **However**, was sad and angry about losing his **Loveland**. In fact, he was **Hartshorne**.

Well, one thing led to another and Pa and L.W. got into a real **Slapout Bug-tussle** that finally ended with **Lone Wolf** kicking Pa in the **Shindler** and then hopping around holdin' his foot and groaning: "Aieeee! My **Poteau**, my **Poteau!**"

When he took off his moccasin and said, "**Lookeba**, me **Chouteau**," Pa told him not to **Bray** like a jackass. "If the shoe **Fitzhugh**, wear it," was Pa's **Rocky** advice.

This made L.W. so angry that he had **Broken Bow** and **Broken Arrow** over his knee. A **Major** mistake.

"Aieeee! My **Pawnee**, the **Payne**, the **Payne!**" he shrieked.

Pa was unsympathetic. "It's **Shawnee** and not mine," he responded. "That wasn't real **Slick**, L.W. You should have **Waukomis** with open arms. You must be **Loco**. Don't you see that we can **Grant** you anything! We can bring you **Commerce**. With a **Little Enterprise**, you could win **Fame** for your tribe. If it'll make ya feel better, I'll return **Paul's Valley** and all of the east tract to the **Stonewall** near **Woodlawn Park**. **Yewed** be **Taft** not to take it.

"Well . . . will **Utica** this **Golden** opportunity or not?"

"Yeah, yeah, **Watova**. I'll take it, **Okay? Yost** don't **Haskell** me anymore," muttered L.W.

"But **Sayre, Edmond**, this was not a **Fairland** deal. Because of **Dewar**, there's **Nowata** and no **Mountainview** on what's left of my land. All I ever **Wanette** was to **Lookout** to a **Clear-view**, a **Fairview**. You've taken what was mine. You think I'm **Happyland** was stolen from me? No longer will I be able to hunt **Buffalo (Bison)**, **Fox**, or **Beaver**. The rattle of the **Kingfisher**, the cry of the **Jay**, and the song of the **Red Bird** are lost to my ears. The . . ."

"Quit your bellyachin' L.W. Have you been smoking' **Cabaniss**? Don't **Acme** again. **Granite** you've lost some land, but **Yukon** still see for **Miles** from your **Sportsman Acres**. Why my daughter **Sallisaw** all the way to **Miami** just t'other day. 'Sides which, **Atoka** mere fraction of the water. There's **Stillwater** there. You got a **Goodwell** with **Crystal** clear water in it," countered Pa. "But, I have a **Bigheart**, and my **Pottawatomie** ta give this tract to ya, so I'm makin' **Avery** effort to give it to ya now in a **Valiant** gesture to be **Noble** and do the **Wright** thing.

"Now **Vamossa! Skedee** back to your **Village** before more **Sparks** fly! **Talala!** Get that **Bushyhead** outta here! Get them **Bowlegs** in gear and take your **Poteau** and **Pawnee** with ya before ya **Ketchum** in your mouth. As **Olive** and die! **Inola** my days I've never seed sech a snivelin' **Pearson**.

At this, **Lone Wolf** made a rude sign and said, "**Pushmataha!**" before riding **Woodward** into the **Forest Park**. 🐾

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(Nature Camp & Nature Day), Position to be Filled

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Member volunteers on rotation

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Susan Walker, webmistress@paynecounty audubon.com



In My Yard

by Joyce Konigmacher

Another month . . . another blizzard, so where is global warming when you need it, huh? As I recall, when the forecasters were first talking about this winter season, they said that it was going to be wetter than usual, and warmer than usual. We got the wetter part . . . but where is the warmer part?

Doom and gloom had been in the forecast for over a week, so I stocked up on birdseed in preparation for being holed-up for an extended period. Seeing the empty shelves at the store made me happy that other folks had taken the same precautions. On Thursday morning, I woke up, anticipating a view of snow, or some form of precipitation. I had to wait until about 11 AM. In the meantime, SW Oklahoma was already suffering with freezing rain, which would eventually cause power-outages over much of the area.

I could not understand why I was not seeing any birds at my fully stocked feeders. Several times, I went outside in both the back yard and the front yard, to see if the neighbor's cat was lurking in the shrubbery, preparing to pounce on any unwary visitor. I just couldn't figure it out . . . no birds anywhere.

Later, I discovered a pile of gray feathers in the back yard, and then I knew what was going on. The resident Sharp-shinned Hawk had been sitting somewhere nearby, where I couldn't see him, but the birds could. And their alarm network had worked for everyone except the unlucky previous owner of said feathers. After the hawk had finished off its lunch, the birds came back in force, but were frequently spooked, taking-off en masse at the slightest provocation.

One visitor of note was a female cardinal with an entirely white head, except for her crest. She appeared briefly, along with some other cardinals, but did not show up on any of the following days.

On Friday, it began to snow heavily. I had to refill feeders constantly, and sweep away the accumulating snow from the patio and the front walk, so that the birds could have seeds on bare pavement, since the

snow was so soft, and all of the thrown seed would sink below the surface. Juncos ate from the suet feeders, something I had never seen before. Fox Sparrows, Harris Sparrows, White-crowned, Lincolns, and House Sparrows. Purple Finches and every color combination of Junco that you can imagine! Loads of Goldfinches. I was in bird-watching heaven!

Then on Saturday, the evil Starlings showed up, along with others of their ilk. Brown-headed cowbirds, Grackles, and a large flock of mature and immature Red-winged Blackbirds joined in too. These hogs took over the feeders and intimidated all of the 'desired' birds to such an extent that they gave up and left. In the house, I watched in dismay, as I went from the front windows to the back windows, beating on the glass with a wooden spoon and waving my arms in hopes of shooing off the unwanted hordes. At times, I had to take down the suet feeders, remove the peanut-butter feeders, and the dish of raisins, as all of these items were favorites for the hated Starlings. I spent two days trying to discourage those nasty birds.

Gee, can you tell that I don't like Starlings?

The Kiwi

by Jerry Wilhm



Internet photo: uskiwi.wordpress.com/2009/11/

The kiwi is a New Zealand bird that is unable to fly.

Kiwis inhabit forests but they are seldom seen because they are active at night.

The bird is about the size of a chicken, Its body is stocky and its feathers are shaggy and dull-brown and hair-like. The kiwi's legs and neck are short, and it lacks a tail, though it has tiny wings.

Although the kiwi has

poor eyesight, its long, flexible bill contains nostrils at the tip which enable kiwis to locate earthworms, insects, and berries at night. Hair-like whiskers around its beak help the bird detect movement beneath the forest litter. When feeding, the bird sweeps its bill back and forth sniffing out its prey.

Kiwis are nocturnal, meaning that they sleep during the day and are active at night. During the day, this nocturnal bird rests in a protective entanglement of trees.

The female Kiwi delivers the world's largest egg relative to its body size. The egg can weigh around 25% of the weight of the

(Continued on page 4)

C O N N E C T I O N S

INSIDE A BIRDHOUSE

A rare look inside an actual [birdhouse](#). Submitted by Joyce Konigmacher.

TRISTATE RESCUE

. . . an update on the Kent Island red-tailed hawk. Here is the [article](#) we published on the bird. This bird had a nasty wing fracture, but is recovering pretty well so far. The wing is still wrapped, so I don't yet know how she'll fly. . . Erica Miller. Submitted by Freddy Miller.

HOOTERS CALENDAR

2010 [Hooters Calendar](#) is now available. Submitted by Sarah Kimball.

WINTER BIRDS

SURVIVAL CHALLENGE

Act now! You've got only 15 days to enter the Winter Birds Survival Challenge.

A new environmental challenge from the [Celebrate Urban Birds](#) project at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) invites partici-

pants to show how birds are surviving in their neighborhoods this winter. E-mail Press Release from Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

LONGEST MIGRATION

Some birds make long treks south during wintertime, but the Arctic tern bests them all, flying on average 44,000 miles (70,900 km) on its annual migration from pole to pole, according to a new study.

The shortest journey recorded for the tern was 36,900 miles (59,500 km) and the longest 50,700 miles (81,600 km).

The study confirms what has been supposed for decades - the Arctic tern has the longest annual migration of any animal in the world. When added up over a lifetime, the total journey for the bird is the equivalent of three trips to the moon and back. [Click here](#) to read about the Top 10 Most Incredible Journeys on the planet according to Live Science. 🐦

The Kiwi

female. Incubation can last 75 days and is the responsibility of the male. He sometimes sits on the egg for up to a week without leaving the nest.

The kiwi's song consists of two shrill and mournful notes. These give the bird its name, Ki-Wi.

The bird is legally protected in New Zealand and serves as the national symbol. New Zealanders commonly refer to themselves as "Kiwis."

Nona and I spent nine months in New Zealand. Although we visited many forests, we did not observe wild kiwis. We did observe them in a zoo, however.

In order to enable visitors to view the birds, the zoo reversed the light period in the area where they were housed: Lights remained on during our night and the birds became in-

(Continued from page 3)

active. They became active in the subdued light during the day.

We observed that the pear-shaped creatures often displayed poor balance. To prevent falling, they would sometimes touch their bill to the ground thus creating a tripod. The sweeping movement when they were feeding was an interesting adaptation to observe.

Kiwi birds have been called a genetic leftover. Their characteristics seem very odd to us, probably because they haven't evolved much at all. They are suspected to be about 8 million years old. That's 7 million years older than humans! Due to New Zealand's isolated environment, kiwis have been safe from predators and haven't needed to do much adapting. They just hang around. 🐦

Coming to the Stillwater Public Library

by Jay Criswell

(Click on cover to read more about each title.)



Bright Wings: An Illustrated Anthology of Poems about Birds

by Billy Collins, illustrated by David Sibley



The Curse of the Labrador Duck: My Obsessive Quest to the Edge of Extinction

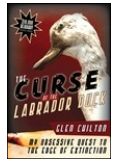
by Glen Chilton

On Thin Ice: The Changing World of the Polar Bear

by Richard Ellis

Rewilding the World: Dispatches from the Conservation Revolution

by Caroline Fraser



Monthly Quiz to Make You a Wiz

Building Birds

by Jerry Wilhm

Starting with each group of letters in Column A, add a group from Column B, and then a group from Column C to build twelve different birds. Each group of letters can be used only once. For example, HUM plus MINGB plus IRD is the HUMMINGBIRD.

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>
1.	DIC	DRUN	EAD
2.	KIN	HTH	CKER
3.	BU	DOWL	AN
4.	SAN	HI	AWK
5.	PE	DPIP	NGA
6.	BL	OR	HER
7.	AN	ODPE	IRD
8.	ROA	LIC	ANT
9.	MEA	GFIS	ER
10.	CORM	ACKB	ARK
11.	NIG	FFLEH	SEL
12.	W0	KCIS	NER

(Answers on page 6)

MIGRATORY DOUBLE BREEDING

by Jerry Wilhm

Two Old World bird species have been observed to have a second breeding during their northward migration. Ornithologists at the University of Washington have documented this behavior in three species of birds during their southward migration in the New World.

The ornithologists studied songbirds that had raised their young in the United States and then immediately migrated. During a three-year period from 2005-07, the team, led by Sievert Rohwer, University of Washington professor emeritus, collected songbirds from the lowland forests of coastal western Mexico.

These forests lie in an arid scrubland that becomes productive during the monsoon season from July through August. During this time, the small trees leaf and insects flourish.

The team found evidence of a migratory breeding in five species of birds; the yellow-billed cuckoo, orchard oriole, hooded oriole, yellow-breasted chat, and Cassin's vireo.

Rohwer stated: "We saw these birds breeding and

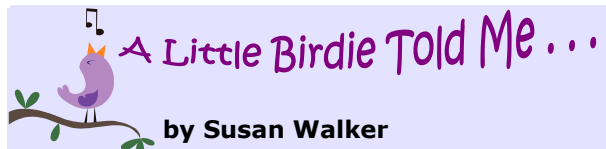
we were completely surprised."

They observed that the five species of birds had bred earlier that year since the females had dry and featherless abdominal brood patches. The featherless abdominal patches enhance the ability of the birds to transfer heat to the eggs.

Active nests were found for two species, and males of all five species were singing and defending territories. Rohwer stated that "It's pretty much unheard of to have a nocturnal migrant with a second breeding season."

Ornithologists have noted the decline of the yellow-billed cuckoo, once commonly seen throughout the western United States. The destruction of habitat in the U.S. is often given as the reason. Rohwer believes that the real problem could be the increase of irrigated industrial farms in northwestern Mexico, which result in loss of habitat for the birds.

This study is described in [more detail](#) in an online edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, October 26. 🐦



ARCAMAX'S WORD OF THE DAY 1-7-10.

nidicolous \ni-DI-keh-lehs\ (adjective) - Nest-dwelling, nesting, usually referring to birds whose offspring are helpless at birth and must remain in a nest until they mature.

"When he married Mathilda, Frederick converted from the nomadic to the nidicolous life with unexpected aplomb."

Latin nidus "nest" + col(ere) "(to) inhabit" + -ous. The stem nid- originates in a PIE compound form *ni-zd-o- "nest (place of sitting down)" from *ni- "down" + s(e)d- "sit." Old English "nest" comes from the Germanic variation of the same compound, *nistaz, also underlying "niche" and "nick." *Submitted by Les Imboden*

NATURE PROGRAMS DIRECTOR.

After much input, revision and reduction, I managed to get the ad for the Nature Programs Director into the *NewsPress* and the flyers for same posted around campus. Thank you **Elaine Stebler** and **Les Imboden** for helping with this endeavor.

FROSTBITTEN BROWN PELICANS.

On January 8th, during our bitter cold spell, **Freddy Miller** forwarded me an article about Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research facility's latest rescue—a flock of 29 brown pelicans that hung around too long in the Chesapeake Bay area and suffered from frostbite. Freddy's daughter, **Erica Miller**, DVM, works for Tri-State. Go to [delawareonline](#) to read the article, to watch a video of a pelican being treated, and to see Erica in both the video and accompanying photo.

EAST MCELROY WILDLIFE RESERVE?

That's what it looked like to me the first week of Jan. Wildlife—and some domesticated species—were everywhere.

First I encountered two equine escapees running east down the center of the road, their blankets flapping in the wind. They ran a quarter mile or so and then veered off to the field opposite Cimarron Hills development,

which field just so happened to be filled with a couple of hundred Canada geese. On the way, the two horses interrupted six doe whitetails crossing to the south side of the road. All jumped the fence . . . that is all but one. The smallest crawled under the lowest wire. I called 911 about the horses and continued on.

The wildlife viewing wasn't over. At the corner of Fairgrounds and McElroy, I encountered a flock of about a dozen wild turkeys. Such and unexpected adventure on a simple drive home! 🐦

Senator Tom Coburn
U.S. Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-3603

Senator James Inhofe
U.S. Senate
453 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-3603

Representative Frank Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3603

Rep's web site
www.house.gov/lastname

Senators' web site
www.senate.gov/lastname

Capitol switchboard
1-877-217-8234

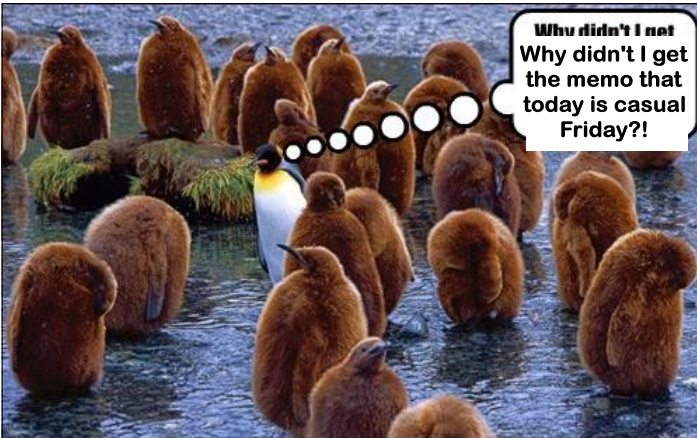
White House Comment Line 1-888-225-8418

Talk to Pat Jaynes about becoming an Audubon Activist
patjaynes@sbcglobal.net



You toucan make a difference.

The Last Word . . .



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Reminders and Announcements:

- **Our first Thursday night program for 2010 will be tomorrow night, Feb. 4, at 7 PM in Room 119 of the Stillwater Public Library.** Bryan Reynolds and Ray Moranz of *Butterflies of the World Foundation, Inc.* will present "**Butterflies - Here Today, Gone Tomorrow!**" Come and enjoy this informative presentation, and don't forget to bring a few dollars along for our monthly silent auction.
- **We are now officially in the 2nd Annual Rusty Blackbird Blitz,** a nationwide effort to survey populations and habitats of this rapidly declining species. From now until Feb. 14, please keep your eyes open for Rusty Blackbirds, and enter your data (positive and negative) on eBird. Full instructions can be found here: http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Research/Rusty_Blackbird/blitz.cfm
- **Feb. 12–15 is the 13th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count.** Last year, more than 93,000 checklists were submitted for this event, so it has grown as expected into an important tool for monitoring wintering bird populations in North America. Stillwater has led the state in participation for the past several years, and we are looking to keep that level of enthusiasm growing. This count is very beginner-friendly, and a great way to get kids active in the outdoors. Full details here: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.
- **PCAS is holding a Community Garage Sale at the Payne County Expo Center on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9am–1pm.** We need donations of items (they are tax deductible) and lots of shoppers to help us make this event a success. Proceeds will support 2010 educational programming, primarily our two, week-long Audubon Nature Camps in June and Nature Day in October. Details on this, as well as other events and announcements, can be found at our website, <http://www.paynecountyaudubon.com/>.

See you Thursday,
~Tim O'Connell Secretary, PCAS 🐦



Answers to Quarterly Quiz

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. DICKCISSEL | 7. ANAHINGA |
| 2. KINGFISHER | 8. ROADRUMMER |
| 3. BUFFLEHEAD | 9. MEADOWLARK |
| 4. SANDPIPER | 10. CORMORANT |
| 5. PELICAN | 11. NIGHTHAWK |
| 6. BLACKBIRD | 12. WOODPECKER |

Payne County Audubon Society
PO Box 82
Stillwater, OK 74076



Nonprofit Org.
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Stillwater, Oklahoma
Permit No. 351



Snow geese, greater white-fronted geese and Canada geese lift off a pond west of the Glass Mountains
Photo by Michael Harvey. Check out others of Michael's photos on the website Gallery.

✂-----
Audubon

Membership entitles you to receive the National Audubon Society magazine, *Audubon*. With membership, you also automatically become a member of your local chapter, Payne County Audubon Society, receive *Feathers*, the Chapter's quarterly newsletter, and participation in the Chapter's monthly meetings, field trips, and events.

Membership

- Yes, I want to join Audubon at the low introductory rate of \$20—that's 43% off regular dues!**
- Two-year membership — \$30
- Senior Citizen or student rate — only \$15
- I wish to make an additional donation of \$ _____

Please complete and return:

Name

Address

City/State/ZIP

e-mail

(We respect your privacy. Your e-mail address will be used only by PCAS Chapter officers and directors to communicate with you about upcoming programs and events.)

Method of Payment

- Payment is enclosed Please bill me

Dues include \$7 for **Audubon** magazine. Please allow 4-6 weeks to receive your first issue.

Chapter Code: T05 - 7XCH

- The National Audubon Society occasionally makes its membership list available to carefully selected organizations whose mailings you might find of interest. To omit your name from this list, please check here.**

The PCAS asks that each member try to volunteer at least twice each year. Be careful: This might be fun! Please check the activities below that you are interested in.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sept. Potluck Opener | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma IBA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Bird Count | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backyard Bird Count | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/Brochure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdathon | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Awards/Scholarships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teal Ridge Litter | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elections | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know; call me |

Please detach this completed form at the dotted line and send it and your check (payable to PCAS for *Feathers* or National Audubon Society for membership) to:

Payne County Audubon Society
PO Box 82
Stillwater, OK 74076

