

# Results of the PCAS First Annual Big Day BIRDATHON, April 16, 2011

by Tim O'Connell, Big Day Coordinator

**O**n April 16<sup>th</sup>, 15 teams of birders scoured the forests and fields of our fair state to find as many species as possible and earn donations from sponsors for their efforts. A beautiful spring day formed the backdrop as teams headed to The Great Salt Plains, Red Slough, and local hotspots.

**T**eams competed head-to-head in several categories. Some teams counted only those birds observed while walking to their locations. At least 6 teams spent their day exclusively in Payne County. The open category was for teams who could start anywhere they liked but had to end up at the tally rally location in Stillwater by 6 PM. We also had a fourth category for teams birding Red Slough who were not able to attend the tally rally.



Photo: Tim O'Connell

*L to R: Walking Trophy, Oklahoma Trophy, Payne County Trophy*

**A**ll competitors were winners, of course, because all enjoyed a great day afield, saw some beautiful birds, laughed with friends, and were treated to a good old-fashioned American backyard cook-out. In terms of the competition, however, the results look like this:

**Walking Trophy:**  
"Wandering Totalers," 51 species



Photo: Tim O'Connell

*Andy Crosby accepts the Walking Trophy on behalf of the Wandering Totalers*

**Payne County Trophy:**  
"AuduBonJovi," 100 species



Photo: Tim O'Connell

*Dustin Lynch and Tim O'Connell of AuduBonJovi celebrate their victory in the Payne County category*

## Oklahoma Trophy: "Fowl Play", 75 species



Photo: Tim O'Connell

*Fowl Play team members Melanie Waller, Alyssia Culbertson, Caitlan Chappel, Derek Webb, and Kelsey Anderson celebrate their overall victory in the open category by lifting the Oklahoma Trophy*

**A**lthough they weren't part of the official tally rally, both Red Slough teams did very well: "Talk Birdy to Me" found 89 species and "Noddy Sloughligans" found 79.

**The overall winner was AuduBonJovi with 100 species**, but compiling the list from all teams in Payne County indicated that at least 119 species were found within the county on the 16<sup>th</sup>. That makes 120 the target for future big days in April!

**T**he important numbers, however, will be worked out when BIRDATHON concludes at the end of May. That's when we'll know how much was raised by all teams in support of Payne County Audubon Society this year.

**List of teams competing in the Big Day** (tally in parentheses):

### RED SLOUGH

**Noddy Sloughligans** (79): Joshua Lucero, Jess Lawrence, Justin Rolan

**Talk Birdy to Me** (89): Michael Harvey, Monika Burchette, Eric Duell, Andrea King

### OPEN CATEGORY

**Fowl Play** (75): Kelsey Anderson, Derek Webb, Melanie Waller, Alyssia Culbertson, Caitlan Chappel, Steven Chappel

**Dos Dithering Dits** (59): Elaine Stebler, Damona Doye

**Moorhen Jobs** (73): Brian Hidden, Mia Hidden, Jarrod Powers, Nicole Farless

**Edward Scissortail** (63): Jim Cowley, Les Imboden

### PAYNE COUNTY

**AuduBonJovi** (100): Dustin Lynch, Tim O'Connell

**Sacrifice Bunting** (50): Charles Moore, Chad Ensign, Maggie Polito

**Brewed Parasites** (95): Jason Heinen, Kent Anderson

**Booby Boys** (46): Aaron Warburton, Andrew Coffey, Austin Jackson

**Hooters & Peckers** (32): Adam Gourley, Blayr Beougher

**Pishing the Night Away** (54): Ariel Richter, Kelsea McElfresh, Anh Tranh

**The Bushtits** (45): Mark Jensen, Bryce Burkhead

### WALKING CATEGORY

**Wandering Totalers** (51): John Polo, Andy Crosby

**Team Woodcock** (33): Lacey Gurley, Sariah



Photo: Tim O'Connell

*Big Day Competitors enjoying the Tally Rally cookout in Tracy and Tim's backyard after a grueling day of competitive birding*