

OKLAHOMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2004 REPORT

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This is the annual report of the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee (hereafter OBRC) of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. The OBRC requests and reviews documentations of rare and unusual records as per the *Date Guide to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma* (Fourth Ed., 2004, Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Tulsa; hereafter the Date Guide). The OBRC publishes full, quarterly seasonal reports in *The Scissortail*, the newsletter of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. This report summarizes the activities of the OBRC for the calendar year 2004, including any decisions pending from prior years. OBRC members evaluating 2004 records included in this report were: Jim Arterburn, Jeff Cox, Bonnie Gall, Joe Grzybowski, Jo Loyd, Larry Mays, Dan Reinking, Jim Thayer, and Don Verser.



Fig. 1. Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) at Sunset Lake, Guymon, Texas County, on 13 January 2004. Photograph by James W. Arterburn.

During 2004, the OBRC received 502 records from 61 observers: 416 records of 156 species were accepted (83%), 24 records of 18 species were rejected (5%), 2 records of 1 species was deferred (0.4%), and 60 records of 25 species required no action by the Committee (12%). Below are comments on records for species that were either first state records, or for those species that have no dates listed in the Date Guide: 50 of those records were accepted (88%) and 7 records were rejected (12%).

Three species were added to the Oklahoma state list in 2004 and 1 species was deleted. Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*), and Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) were added in full status. Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) was deleted due to a lack of evidence of a self-sustaining population. This brings the number of species on *The Oklahoma Ornithological Society Check-List of Oklahoma Birds* to 469, of which 17 are in hypothetical status (based on written documentation alone, or for species where wild origin was uncertain).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the *AOU Check-list of North American Birds*, Seventh Edition (AOU 1998) through the 45th supplement published in 2004 (Auk 121:985–995). Each record consists of the English name, scientific name, OBRC record number(s), number of individuals and age and sex if known, specific location and county of observation (county in italics), date(s) of observation, observer(s) [if the record was accepted], and any comments. All observers who submitted documentation (written descriptions or photographs) of accepted records are listed. The observer who first discovered the bird and/or submitted the documentation is in italics. For rejected records, the observer's name is omitted, and an explanation is given detailing the reason(s) for rejection.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

- Brant** (*Branta bernicla*), (2004-011-019-022-041). One bird seen on Sunset Lake in Guymon, *Texas*, on 1 January 2004 by John Sterling. Bird seen and photographed through 13 January 2004. *Berlin Heck*, Kurt Meisenzahl, Jo Loyd, James W. Arterburn.
- Brant** (*Branta bernicla*), (2004-441). One bird photographed on Sunset Lake in Guymon, *Texas*, on 24 November 2004. *Steve Metz*.
- Brant** (*Branta bernicla*), (2004-476). One bird shot southeast of Fort Cobb, *Caddo*, on 11 December 2004. *Todd Dunaway*.
- Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*), (2004-009). Five birds seen south of Highway 60, one-half mile east of Nowata County line, *Nowata*, on 1 and 2 January 2004. *Bonnie L. Gall*.
- Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*), (2004-498). Three birds photographed at Salt Plains NWR, *Alfalfa*, on 30 December 2004. *Pat Velte*.
- Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*), (2004-002-012-018-021-036-040). One adult male seen on Sunset Lake in Guymon, *Texas*, on 29 December 2003 by Larry Mays.

Bird seen and photographed through 18 January 2004. *James W. Arterburn*, Berlin Heck, Kurt Meisenzahl, Jo Loyd, Steve Metz.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), (2204-076). Two birds seen on Lake Yahola, *Tulsa*, on 9 November 2003. *Bill Carrell*.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), (2004-037-094-134-155-156-170-171-187). One to 2 birds seen and photographed at Lake Tenkiller, *Sequoyah*, from 22 January 2004 through 2 May 2004. *James W. Arterburn*, James B. Thayer.

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*), (2004-349). One bird photographed at Red Slough WMA, *McCurtain*, on 8 September 2004 and seen through 29 September 2004. *David Arbour*, Charles Mills.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), (2004-408-496). One bird photographed on Fort Gibson Lake, *Wagoner*, on 20 November 2004 and photographed again below Fort Gibson Dam, *Cherokee*, on 26 December 2004. *James W. Arterburn*.

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*), (2004-392). One bird seen and photographed at Lake Keystone, *Osage/Pawnee*, from 26 August 2004 to 2 September 2004. *Pascall Pelletier*, James W. Arterburn, Jo Loyd.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), (2004-152-163). One bird photographed at Hackberry Flat, *Tillman*, on 13 and 22 April 2004. *Berlin Heck*, Lou Truex.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), (2004-231). One adult video-taped at Lake Carl Etling, *Cimarron*, on 18 May 2004. *Steven Mlodinow*, Paul Lehman.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), (2004-232). One adult video-taped at Lake Optima, *Texas*, on 12 May 2004. *Steven Mlodinow*, Paul Lehman.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), (2004-270). One adult photographed at Salt Plains NWR, *Alfalfa*, on 21 June 2004. *James W. Arterburn*.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), (2004-058). One adult photographed on Canton Lake, *Blaine*, on 4 February 2004. *Doug Tozer*.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*), (2004-043). One adult photographed on Lake Hefner, *Oklahoma*, on 24 January 2004. *James W. Arterburn*.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*), (2004-122). One first-winter bird seen on Canton Lake, *Blaine*, on 4 February 2004. *Doug Tozer*.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*), (2004-382-384-473-487-501). Two birds seen and photographed at Red Slough WMA, *McCurtain*, from 22 October 2004 through 27 December 2004. *David Arbour*, Berlin Heck, Matt White.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*), (2004-213). One bird seen in Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 11 and 12 May 2004. *John Dole*.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), (2004-491-492-497). One bird seen below Broken Bow Dam, *McCurtain*, on 29 December 2004 by John Sterling. Bird photographed on 29-31 December 2004. *Berlin Heck*, Matt White.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*), (2004-340). One bird seen east of Kenton, *Cimarron*, on 5 September 2004. *Patricia L. Seibert*.

- Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrulus*), (2004-444-455). Two birds seen and photographed in Guymon, Texas, on 2 December 2004. *Berlin Heck*, David Arbour.
- Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrulus*), (2004-499). Two birds seen north of Woodford, Carter, on 25 December 2004. *Brush Freeman*.
- Golden-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), (2004-188). One adult male seen at Hogshooter Creek, Washington, on 14 May 2004. *Bonnie Gall*.
- Golden-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), (2004-363). One bird seen at Little River NWR, McCurtain, on 14 September 2004. *Dan Reinking*.
- Baird's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus bairdii*), (2004-430). One to 2 birds seen near Balko, Beaver, on 15 October 2004. *Joseph A. Grzybowski*.

RECORDS REJECTED

The OBRC believes it is important to note that rejection of a record does not necessarily mean the identification was incorrect. In some cases, conditions of the observation were brief or distant, or the observation was made under difficult viewing conditions. In other cases, the description provided was incomplete or did not rule out other possible species. The OBRC thanks all contributors of documentations and strongly encourages continued participation in this process, which serves to strengthen the ornithological record of bird occurrences in Oklahoma.

- Mottled Duck** (*Anas fulvigula*), (2004-303-306-320-330). One bird seen at Red Slough WMA, McCurtain, from 2–16 August 2004 and photographed on 3 August 2004. Photographs of bird did not rule out a possible Mallard / Mottled Duck hybrid.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*), (2004-057-064). One adult male photographed on Canton Lake, Blaine on 7 February 2004. Photographs showed bird to be a hybrid between Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*).
- Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), (2004-160). One bird heard in small depositional wetland in a cattle field, Kay, on 19 April 2004. Identifications based only on calls or songs are difficult to evaluate, and the OBRC in this case could not rule out other possible sources of the calls.

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Willow Flycatchers nesting at Red Slough, McCurtain County.—From 2001 to 2004, I made a number of observations on the nesting of Willow Flycatchers