

Where to find more information about birds

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society offers publications and field trips to its members and invites any students or adults to join. Visit www.okbirds.org.

The National Audubon Society has several Oklahoma chapters that host programs and field trips. To find one near you visit www.audubon.org.

The Wildlife Diversity program of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation conducts bird feeder surveys, eagle watches, and other programs. For information visit www.wildlifedepartment.com.

The George M. Sutton Avian Research Center is devoted to cooperative conservation solutions for birds and the natural world through science and education. To learn about its many projects and educational programs visit www.suttoncenter.org.

For a wealth of information about birds, visit the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology website at www.allaboutbirds.org.

Don't forget to visit your local library and bookstores!



*Greater Prairie-Chicken/photo by Dan Reinking
This beautiful bird of the tallgrass prairie is in decline.*

This guide prepared by Dan L. Reinking/Sutton Avian Research Center

My First Oklahoma Bird Guide

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

State bird of Oklahoma

Photo by Dan Reinking



In Oklahoma April through October

Additional information

- Lays 4-5 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma except western end of Panhandle
- Catches insects in flight
- Migrates to Central America for the winter



Carolina Chickadee

Common visitor to bird feeders



Photo by Dan Reinking

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 3-9 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma except western end of Panhandle
- Nests in tree cavities or birdhouses
- Eats insects and seeds
- Often gathers in small flocks in the winter

BIRDS I HAVE SEEN

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European Starling

Not native, but common in towns

Photo by Patricia Velte



In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 5-7 bluish eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Eats insects, fruit, and seeds
- Competes with native birds such as woodpeckers and Eastern Bluebirds for nest sites

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Common visitor to hummingbird feeders

Photo by Dan Reinking



In Oklahoma April to October

Additional information

- Lays 2 tiny white eggs
- Nests throughout the eastern two-thirds of Oklahoma
- Builds a small nest with plant down, spider silk and lichens
- Eats nectar and small spiders
- Many birds migrate across the Gulf of Mexico in one long flight



Mourning Dove

Frequently seen on the ground or wires



Photo by Brenda Carroll

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 2 white eggs
- Builds a flat, flimsy nest of twigs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Eats seeds



White-breasted Nuthatch

Common visitor to bird feeders



Photo by Dan Reinking

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 5-9 eggs in a tree cavity
- Nests throughout eastern and central Oklahoma where mature trees are available
- Eats insects and seeds
- Can walk up or down tree trunks head first

Eastern Bluebird

If you build it they might come

Photo by Patricia Velte



In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 4-5 bluish eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma except for the western Panhandle
- Likes to use nest boxes placed in open areas near trees
- Eats insects and fruit

Turkey Vulture

Usually seen soaring overhead

Photo by Dan Reinking



In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 2 on a rock, in a cave, in a hollow log, or in an old building
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Eats dead animals which helps clean the environment
- Has a good sense of smell to find its food
- Young birds have black heads while adults have red heads



House Sparrow

Not native, but common near houses



Photo by Patricia Velle

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 3-6 speckled eggs
- Often seen in small flocks during the winter
- Eats seeds and insects
- Competes with native birds like Eastern Bluebirds for nest cavities



American Robin

One of our most familiar birds

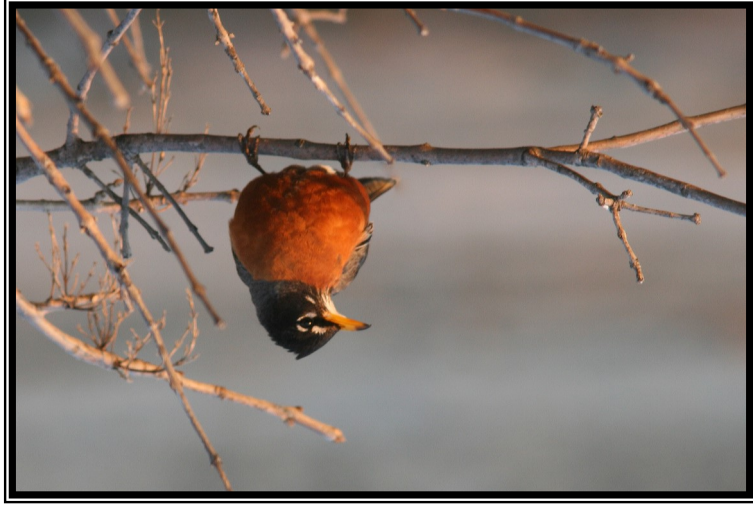


Photo by Dan Reinking

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 4 blue eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Eats earthworms and fruit
- Often seen on the ground in yards and parks where short grass is available



Harris's Sparrow

Common visitor to winter bird feeders

Photo by Dan Reinking



In Oklahoma October to May

Additional information

- *Nests in Canada*
- *Often seen in flocks of other sparrows coming to bird feeders*
- *Eats seeds*
- *Spends its time on the ground and in bushes or low trees*



Tufted Titmouse

Common visitor to bird feeders

Photo by Dan Reinking



In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- *Lays 3-6 eggs in a tree cavity*
- *Nests throughout Oklahoma except western end of Panhandle*
- *Eats insects, seeds, and acorns*
- *One of the few birds in Oklahoma with a crest on the head*



American Goldfinch

Common visitor to bird feeders

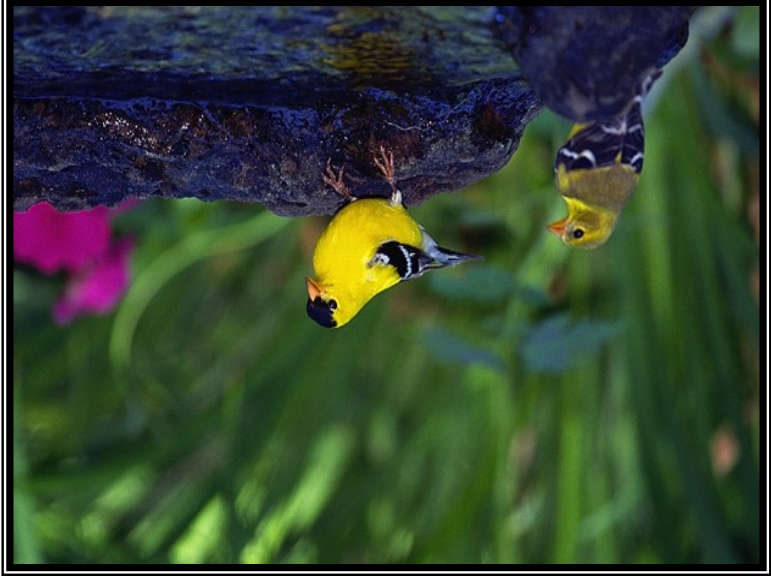


Photo by Brenda Carroll

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 5 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Eats seeds and feeds its young seeds instead of insects
- Males are brilliant yellow in the summer, but both males and females are much duller brownish-yellow during the winter



Great Blue Heron

One of the tallest birds in Oklahoma

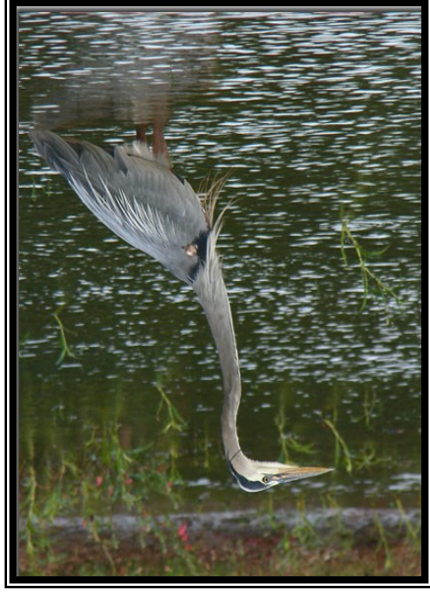


Photo by Patricia Velle

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 3-5 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Catches frogs, snakes, fish, and insects
- Usually nests in colonies with other herons and egrets



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Common and talkative cavity dweller

Photo by Berlin Heck



In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 4 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma except in the western Panhandle
- Eats insects, fruits, and nuts
- Often heard chattering or seen foraging wherever mature trees are present



Blue Jay

Loud and watchful feeder visitor

Photo by Dan Reinking



In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 4-5 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Eats nuts, seeds, and insects
- Often sounds an alarm if a hawk or owl is seen



Northern Mockingbird

Backyard bird and talented vocalist



Photo by Berlin Heck

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 3-5 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Eats insects and fruit
- During spring and early summer, mockingbirds sometimes sing all night long. They can learn large numbers of songs and calls.



Northern Cardinal

One of our most colorful birds



Photo by Dan Reinking

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 2-3 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma except western end of Panhandle
- Eats insects and seeds
- Often visits bird feeders



Baltimore Oriole

Brilliantly colored favorite of many

Photo by Berlin Heck



In Oklahoma April to September

Additional information

- Lays 4-5 eggs
- Nests throughout eastern and central Oklahoma
- Eats insects, fruit, and nectar
- The closely related Bullock's Oriole lives in western Oklahoma.



American Crow

Highly intelligent and very social

Photo courtesy Wikimedia.org



In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 4-5 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Eats almost anything it can find
- Young adults sometimes help their parents raise the next brood



Red-tailed Hawk

The most common hawk in Oklahoma



Photo by Larry Hancock

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 2-3 eggs
- Nests throughout Oklahoma
- Eats rabbits, mice, birds, and snakes
- Although common in the summer, even more Red-tailed Hawks spend the winter in Oklahoma

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Bald Eagle

Our nation's symbol is recovering well



Photo by Steve Metz

In Oklahoma all year

Additional information

- Lays 1-3 eggs and nests near rivers and lakes
- Eats fish, ducks, and carrion
- After releases by the Sutton Avian Research Center, there are dozens of nesting eagles in Oklahoma. Thousands more spend the winter. No longer endangered, they are recovering well from DDT poisoning.

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