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Printing of the G.M. Sutton Avian Research Center
2020 Winter Newsletter is generously provided by Williams.



Photo by Dan Reinking



Your generous donation helps us with our mission of "finding cooperative conservation solutions for birds and the natural world through science and education."
Join us in protecting our natural heritage for the next generation!

George
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AVIAN RESEARCH CENTER



The **SUTTON** *NEWSLETTER*

**ATTWATER'S
PRAIRIE-CHICKENS
RAISED FOR
RELEASE!**

VOLUME 55 | WINTER 2020

*"finding cooperative
conservation
solutions for birds and
the natural world through
science and education"*



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ON THE COVER:

Aviculturist Madeleine Kaleta shows off one of our captive raised Attwater's prairie-chickens.

Photo by Ariel Wapnick

A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Sutton Center friends,

Change is inevitable, and many things we now take for granted were science fiction for previous generations. Just think of the speed and comforts of travel in climate-controlled vehicles, the ease of communication with our smart phones, and the information available through voice commands. Modern luxuries come at a price – although humans figured out ways to reduce some sources of pollution, we consume natural resources at an increasing pace while plastics litter every corner of our world. We will not find solutions by pointing fingers, instead we need to work together. It is encouraging to see what we can accomplish when help is mobilized during disasters that seem to happen at increasing rates.

I am writing this as the U.S. presidential election is mere two weeks away, and division along party lines seems like the Mariana Trench. Whatever the results be, we must move forward with a goal of making a better future for generations that come after us. I am talking about being good stewards of this earth and its diversity of life.

Although the Sutton Center is a comparatively small organization, we pride ourselves on great accomplishments. Your contributions go a long way. As we strive to recover threatened birds, their existence is dependent on people like you who care. How do we start caring? By learning, becoming personally connected, and thereby empowered to act. So, please share your knowledge about these conservation efforts that you support. It takes all of us working together to make a difference.

In this year of a great pandemic, with the loss of so many, including our greatest patron and friend Harold Price Jr., we also have some good news to share. We were proud to see a trailer full of Attwater's prairie-chickens head south for release on the coastal prairies, and watch over a thousand masked bobwhites take off through the skies for release at the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. Surveys gave citizen scientists opportunities to significantly contribute to our knowledge of the state of birds here in Oklahoma, including another record year for bald eagle nests monitored. As two of the nests now have cameras installed, we are anxious to see whether the bald eagles will use these same nests as in previous breeding seasons. We are so very grateful to all our volunteers who keep us efficient

and help us with everything from education, to field surveys, to fundraising, and with animal husbandry.

Stay safe and healthy, and thank you for being a part of our collective mission to conserve birds and the natural world!

Lena Larsson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Photo by Tom Gilbert

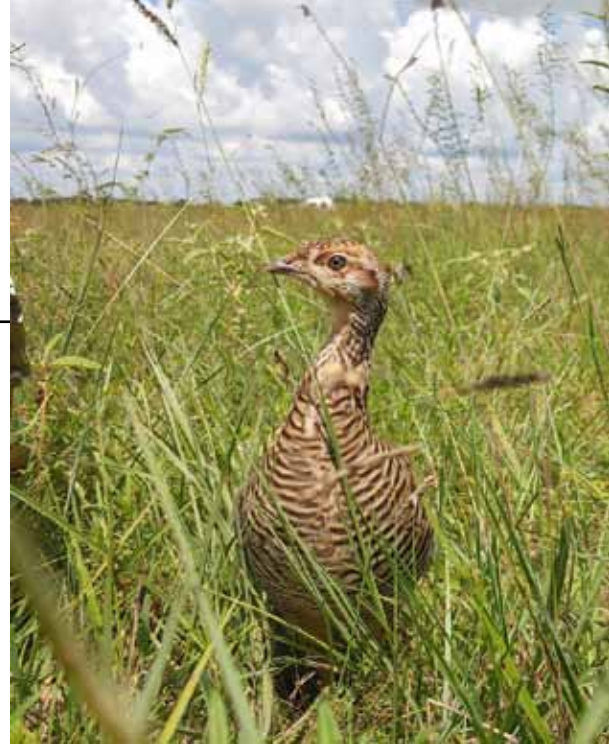


First Full Season at Sutton for Attwater's Prairie-Chickens!

by Cara Brown, Tayler Harlow, Kevin Jarrell, Madeleine Kaleta, Lena Larsson, Aaron Pratt, Steve Sherrod, Gary Tweedy, Ariel Wapnick

This is an exciting year because it concludes the first breeding season for Attwater's prairie-chickens (APC) from start to finish at the Sutton Avian Research Center! The Attwater's prairie-chicken program at Sutton began in 2015 with experimental, captive breeding efforts of greater prairie-chickens (GPC), a less at-risk species. As the Attwater's and greater prairie-chickens are closely related, the GPC is an excellent species on which to test new techniques before implementing same on the critically endangered APC. Last year, the Sutton Center's captive APC flock was established by transferring 58 fertile APC eggs from our Texas partners in the recovery program. After our first full year of breeding and raising Attwater's, we now look forward to 2021 with plans for expansion and a larger captive breeding flock.

Throughout the year, COVID-19 has had a great impact on everyone, including the APC recovery program. The other facilities that breed APCs are zoos, and the spring closures limited income from visiting patrons and consequently, funding for staffing. However, the zoos were still able to produce more Attwater's chicks for release than expected, considering the constraints. The limitations prompted alternative methods, such as incubating eggs under both domestic and APC hens. They also let some hens raise their own broods, with variable results. Some APC hens turned out to be supermoms while others were not successful. Many lessons and insights were learned from these trials that will be helpful for the recovery program. Thanks to our supporters, the Sutton Center was able to continue functioning relatively normally despite a shortage of seasonal staff. We continue to take extra precautions to keep our staff and the public safe per CDC guidelines, with increased disinfecting, hand washing, face masks, and social distancing.



An Attwater's prairie-chicken released at Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. *Photo by Remy Sutherland*



The trailer, custom-made with fitted racks for safe transport of the birds, is loaded with the transport crates for the drive to Texas. *Photo by Ariel Wapnick*



A flock of Attwater's prairie-chickens exploring the great outdoors. *Photo by Cara Brown*

First Full Season at Sutton for Attwater's Prairie-Chickens! (Continued)



A pair of young Attwater's prairie-chickens surveying their domain. Photo by Ariel Wapnick



An Attwater's prairie-chicken is evaluated for transfer (from right to left) by USFWS biologist Brandon Melton, STCP/Hamerstrom Grouse Chair Dr. Aaron Pratt, and lead aviculturist Tayler Harlow. Photo by Cara Brown

Preparations for Release

The 2020 breeding season was crazy busy. One of the intended chick buildings was used for adults, as the barn normally dedicated to APC breeding pairs was full. We hatched most APC chicks within a relatively concentrated time interval, and as a result, we were suddenly at maximum capacity in much of our chick-raising spaces as well. We started off our chick season unusually early with our first egg laid on March 19 and our first chick hatched April 19. As our chicks grew and moved to outdoor enclosures, we began preparations for the transfer toward release. Our previous transfers of prairie-chickens have gone north to Nebraska (GPC) in contrast to these birds that were heading south to Texas.

As genetic diversity is so important for the APC recovery, the ancestry of each individual was evaluated to determine whether it should remain in the breeding flock or be transferred for release in Texas. After that was settled, testing, paperwork, and permitting remained. Who doesn't love paperwork? These preparations went smoothly, and the birds slated for transfer were cleared for departure.

The transfer day of August 19 began before dawn on a cool morning. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists Dr. Mike Morrow and Brandon Melton from the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) arrived the evening before, as it would be a long day of driving once the birds were ready to go. The team worked fastidiously to capture 49 Attwater's prairie-chickens, weigh, collect samples, medicate, record, exchange color bands, and fit with radio transmitters before placing them into transportation boxes. Veterinarian Dr. Huckaby and her assistant Heather took blood tests since we retain samples for molecular analyses. All prairie-chickens were medicated with two types of dewormer for intestinal parasites. Some broken flight feathers on two of our birds did not seem good enough to ensure escape from predators after release, so the decision was to let them stay at Sutton.

The transportation boxes were secured on fitted racks in a custom-made trailer that the Friends of The Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge donated for the recovery program in 2017. The trailer makes loading easy, the racks ensure spacing between crates to allow airflow, and it is air-conditioned to keep the birds cool during transport. There are audio, video,



A young Attwater's prairie-chicken demonstrating their exceptional camouflage in the grasses.



USFWS biologist Dr. Mike Morrow prepares a band for an Attwater's prairie-chicken restrained by lead aviculturist Tayler Harlow while USFWS biologist Brandon Melton (background) inputs the data prior to transport to Texas.

Photo by Maddy Kaleta



A group of young Attwater's prairie-chickens beginning to explore their new-found access to the prairie field.

Photo by Cara Brown

temperature, and carbon monoxide monitors to allow staff in the towing vehicle to make sure the birds are safe while underway.

A video of processing the Attwater's for transport is available on Sutton Center's Facebook page (<https://tinyurl.com/y5ex76jl>). After leaving our facility and upon arrival in Texas, the birds were given time to acclimate in flight pens at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge for two weeks before they were released. After release, the prairie-chickens were given access to feeding stations as they adjusted to freedom and learning to find food on their own. Much appreciation goes out to USFWS biologists Dr. Mike Morrow and Brandon Melton who spend their summers driving to and from breeding facilities, transporting the Attwater's back to historical booming grounds on the coastal prairies of Texas. Dr. Mike Morrow has dedicated his career and the past 30 years to studying and preserving the Attwater's prairie-chicken, and each bird in his hands is another step toward recovery for this endangered species.

Looking Ahead

As the Attwater's prairie-chickens we raised were headed down the road, we were also sad to say goodbye to Tayler Harlow. She moved back with her fiancé to their native Wisconsin. We thank her for an incredible job as lead aviculturist through the pandemic. We will miss her dearly, and wish her the very best in her next endeavors.

As our goal is to increase production of Attwater's, we need to make room for more breeders. We kept 25 APCs that hatched this year, so we can now fill both large barns with breeding pairs. We therefore found a new home for most of our greater prairie-chickens, while retaining a few for experimental breeding trials. This fall's focus is sanitizing the former greater prairie-chicken barn so we can move the additional Attwater's inside by this winter.

Other winter goals include plans for further expansion. A quarantine building is on the horizon, which will be beneficial for isolating unhealthy individuals. We are also finalizing plans for an on-site maintenance workshop, additional chick buildings, acclimation pens, and an insect building to expand our current insect colonies. Finally, in hopes of encouraging more egg laying and thereby more APC production, we are looking at options to add outdoor space to our breeder barn chambers.

Second Breeding Bird Atlas Continues the Sutton Center's Long-Term Monitoring of Birds in Oklahoma

Photos and article by Dan Reinking



Recently fledged young such as this red-winged blackbird confirmed this species as a breeder in this Osage County atlas block.



A singing male such as this dickcissel in suitable nesting habitat during the nesting season qualifies as possible breeder status in a bird atlas block.



For most species, carrying nesting material qualifies as confirmed breeder status in a bird atlas block, but Carolina wrens often build nests that are not used, so a later observation of an incubating wren was needed to confirm this species as a breeder.

The first field season of the second Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas got underway this year, despite some disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. About two dozen enthusiastic volunteers surveyed several dozen randomly selected atlas blocks across the state. Planned to require five summers of surveys to complete, this intensive inventory of Oklahoma's nesting birds follows up on the initial atlas project completed by the Sutton Center from 1997 to 2001. Bird atlas projects are designed to be repeated at intervals of about 20 or 25 years using consistent methods, enabling comparisons of bird distributions over time. Ongoing monitoring of bird populations helps track those species in need of extra conservation efforts, and helps us understand how factors such as climate change and land use changes are affecting nesting birds.

Our atlas blocks are approximately 3 by 3.5 miles in size. Skilled birders commit to surveying one or more atlas blocks each season, making at least two visits and spending a total of at least 10 hours finding and counting birds in each block. The idea is to find and identify as many species as possible within each block, count the number of each species seen or heard, and watch for specific activity or behaviors that are indicative of nesting. Codes are assigned to each type of behavior to make it easy to record the data. Evidence of nesting spans four categories ranging from "Observed" (no evidence) through "Possible Breeder," "Probable Breeder" and "Confirmed Breeder." A species being present in a block and singing during its nesting season qualifies as a possible breeder. Numerous behaviors indicate a probable breeder, including observing a male and female interacting, courtship displays, or agitated behavior often indicative of a nearby nest or fledglings. Many potential behaviors or observations can be used to confirm nesting as well, including nest building activity, seeing recently fledged young, an adult carrying food, or actually locating a nest containing eggs or chicks.

A project of this scope is a marathon rather than a sprint, and at least four more summers will be needed to complete surveys in all 583 atlas blocks dispersed across all 77 of Oklahoma's counties. Ultimately, it will be fascinating to see how Oklahoma bird populations have changed over the past two decades, and that information will contribute to the Sutton Center's mission of conserving birds.





The professional climber Dave Hewitt ascended an adjacent tree before moving over in mid-air to the tree with the eagle nest.



Pictured from left to right: BEST volunteer Cheryl Cavert; Sutton Center staff Lena Larsson, Steve Sherrod, and Audra Fogle; Holtz Electric staff Richard Hogue, tree climber Dave Hewitt, and Josh Robison.



Miranda and Lena cover the white camera with camouflage tape.

Don't Try This at Home!

Installing an Eagle Camera

Even Challenges Professionals

by Audra Fogle, Photos by Dan Reinking

About this time every year, the Sutton Center begins the arduous task of getting our eagle cam in good working order for the breeding season. Every year we face challenges from ant-induced equipment failure to lightning strikes. Even when everything is working properly, nature cannot be controlled. This is what makes our eagle cameras not only exciting, but so very important for our viewers. Nature is wild. It can be beautiful and sweet in one moment or brutal and devastating in the next. It's fascinating. Having a bird's eye view into the life of our bald eagles introduces people of all ages to the wonder of our natural world and the struggles that even our most majestic birds have to overcome in order to survive.

Just this past season, after a rival eagle attack damaged the eggs, our Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge nest failed. Soon after, an irreverent raccoon was observed hanging out in the nest and then all went dark. Thank you, Atlas Broadband, for helping get the camera back up and running!

Thanks to the sponsorship of Duke Energy Renewables we located a second active nest and, after much research, determined that it would also be a good candidate for a nest camera. With the financial support of Duke Energy Renewables and several local supporters: The City of Bartlesville, Verdigris Valley Electric, American Electric Company, United Rentals and Holtz Electric we successfully installed the second camera in October. Thank you, team!

Since this was my first experience with the installation of a nest cam, I learned a few things:

1. Camouflage duct tape is good, but camouflage Gorilla tape is even better.
2. Trees are not easy to climb.
3. Eagle nests smell really, really bad.

First, in order to disturb the nest as little as possible, the camera must be disguised. Miranda, our educator, was quite skilled in the DIY wrapping of the camera with camouflage Gorilla tape! Who knew? Second, when installing a camera several feet above an eagle's nest, the branches get very, very small. It was terrifying to watch our professional climber navigate the tree but impossible to look away! After several hours, he successfully strapped the camera in the tip-top branches for a perfect view into the nest. We also learned (after he was safely back on the ground) that an eagle's nest reeks of decay! While our scientists might just roll their eyes, I had never considered the lasting impact of all those fish and various other prey. Good hunter = smelly nest.

We are excited about the possibility of multiple viewing opportunities. While we can't guarantee that the eagles will re-nest in the same location, eagles are good candidates for nest cams because they typically use the same nesting sites for several years. So, for now, we have our fingers crossed that we will be able to bring you up-close-and-personal views of two eagle families this winter. Stay tuned!



Tools required for processing.

Photo by Jonathan Lautenbach



Attaching a leg band on a male sage-grouse.

Photo by Gib Mathers



Attaching a GPS transmitter on a female sage-grouse.

Photo by Holly North



Collecting a blood sample.

Photo by Laura Murdoch

Processing After Capture...

by Aaron C. Pratt

In the Summer 2020 issue of the newsletter I described a recent field trip to capture greater sage-grouse. There are several techniques that can be used to capture grouse in general, and sage-grouse specifically, but spotlighting at night is the most popular method for sage-grouse. So, the next question is, what do we do with a bird after we capture it?

I was told in my formative years that if you capture an animal you will likely never have that animal in hand again so you should tend toward over-collecting data. It will be your only opportunity and you never know the future value of the information you collect. On the other hand, handling an animal can be stressful for it so you want everything to go as quickly and smoothly as possible. It is important to balance collecting information and the safety of the animal.

The time after capture and before release is usually termed 'processing.' The exact tasks you complete during processing will depend on the objectives of the project, but there are some standards that most researchers do. The first standard is attaching a numbered leg band that will serve as a unique identifier for that bird. For most grouse studies the main objective is to attach a VHF or GPS transmitter of some type that will then be used to collect locations of where the bird goes.

After the band and transmitter, you usually record specific characteristics of the individual. The sex and age of the individual are always recorded. Determining sex will vary by species of grouse but age is usually determined by the shape and wear of the outer two primary feathers. The most specific you can get with age for grouse is either 'hatching year,' 'second year,' or 'after second year' because during fall in the second year (~1.5 years old) grouse finish growing their adult plumage and become no longer distinguishable. Weight is a good indicator of animal health and is usually recorded, but like with people, an optimal weight is dependent on body type/size. Therefore, weight can be combined with other measurements, such as wing chord and tarsus length which reflect the bird's size, to determine whether it is 'fat' or 'skinny.' Besides these three measurements some researchers collect other measurements such as head length/width, bill length/width, nail length/width, etc. The stage of the molt can also be recorded which can further indicate the age, health, or reproductive history of the bird.

The final thing that is usually done during processing is to collect blood, feathers, or another type of sample depending on the animal. A blood sample is frequently taken for a genetic record of the individual. As stated above, the only opportunity to collect samples can be after capture, so sometimes extra steps are taken to ensure a more complete collection. With advancements in the field of genetics, collecting blood is an example of a sample you collect without fully understanding its value until sometime in the future. Collecting samples can also help identify the presence of a disease or the past diet of the individual, among other things.

What you collect after you have captured an animal depends on your research objectives and the balance between collecting data and animal safety. The items I describe above may sound like a lot but after you have processed a few birds you get into a rhythm, so it only takes a few minutes per bird. Then, after you are finished collecting what you need, it is time for release!

Masked Bobwhite update:

The masked bobwhite recovery effort has been receiving widespread publicity! The October 2020 issue of Birding magazine had an article on the project, and Audubon magazine will have an article in an upcoming issue. Be sure to look for both at your newsstand if you are not a subscriber.

The Masked Bobwhites' 2020 Breeding Season

by Brittney Tayrien and Don Wolfe



From left to right: Trevor Lauber, Rebecca Chester, Warren Dean (Pilot, on upper steps), Peter Coltman (co-pilot, on lower steps), Hailey Freeman, Don Wolfe, Lacrechia Johnson, Grayson Johnson Gibbons. Photo by Brian Gibbons

For the 2020 breeding season, we had 54 genetically managed pairs (assigned to produce the most genetically diverse offspring), and 13 three-hen/two male “clusters” where the hens were unrelated to the cocks. This strategy certainly boosted our egg production.

We made four chick transport trips to Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR) from mid-July through mid-September. We were fortunate and appreciative of our new partnership with LightHawk, a non-profit organization that seeks out projects to help make a significant impact with conservation efforts. They have a network of over 300 volunteer pilots who donate their time, aircraft, and fuel for the flights, and we want to especially recognize the two pilots that assisted us this year, Warren Dean and Mike Schroeder. This not only relieved some of the financial commitment; the trips were much less stressful for the birds as well as our personnel. Last year we made 6 driving trips, each taking 22-23 hours to reach the destination in Arizona. Our LightHawk flights took only 3 to 3 1/2 hours each. Most importantly, we had ZERO mortality of chicks during the transports this year. While last year we transported our chicks at a week of age, this year we waited until they were two weeks old. It's a balancing act, as our goal is to get the chicks bonded with the foster dads as young as possible, but older chicks are hardier for transport. After arrival, the foster families are kept in outdoor pens on the refuge and released when the chicks are three weeks old. We hatched 1548 chicks this year, of which 1023 were transported as chicks to BANWR, along with 11 adult masked bobwhite. We held back a little over 200 chicks for future breeders, fosters, and covey augmentation. We plan to take 120 masked bobwhites to the refuge in early December. These birds will be radio-tagged and released in close proximity to existing coveys through the winter, which allows for seamless tracking of the coveys as well as adding other potential breeding birds into the wild population.

Fumiko Sakoda went to BANWR for one month to help relocate missing birds and to assist other technicians tracking birds. The BANWR technicians track our released birds daily, but if any birds go missing, they would send Fumiko out to relocate them. While there, Fumiko was also able to use her telemetry expertise to help improve the skills of less experienced field personnel.

In a year of Sahara dust plumes, wildfire smoke across the entire country, nearly continual Gulf Coast hurricanes, and a world-wide pandemic, it is likely no surprise that the Pacific jet streams were also abnormal and wildly unpredictable. In most years, the summer monsoons deliver about half of the annual precipitation on BANWR during the months of July and August, resulting in a flush of arthropods, especially grasshoppers, which are an important food source for growing bobwhite chicks. This year, however, the expected summer monsoons never developed, so the arthropods were extremely scarce, and the survival of chicks was poor. For that reason, it was decided to hold on to the chicks from our 4th hatch until they are about 2 months old before releasing them, as they are less dependent on insects by that age. Fortunately, there have been numerous and regular sightings of masked bobwhite in various locations on BANWR. Thus we expect that the winter coveys will be forming soon, and will serve as a foundation to build on over the winter and spring by augmenting with older juvenile and adult birds. Additionally, two nests of previously released birds were found this year, and although they were both assumed to have failed, we are still encouraged, as those were the only two hens that were being tracked until the time for nesting. The USFWS estimated that there were at least 200 birds surviving into the breeding season, so there is a good likelihood that there was wild reproduction in 2020, an encouraging sign that our hard work is beginning to pay off for this endangered species.

John E. Toepfer Portrait

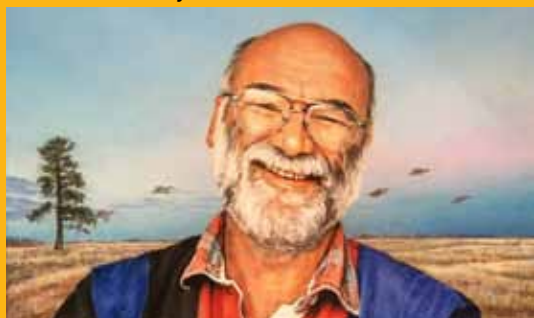
by Deann L. De La Ronde

The Winter 2015 issue of the *Sutton Newsletter* introduced my very dear and best friend, Dr. John E. Toepfer, to its readership and supporters. I felt the readership might also like to see this recent acquisition commemorating Dr. Toepfer. I first met John during the summer of 1969 while living with the late Drs Frederick & Frances Hamerstrom of Plainfield, Wisconsin. I was illustrating Fran's first in a series of books, *An Eagle to the Sky*. John and I remained dear friends throughout his life.

Knowing how John ate, drank and slept (whenever he did) prairie-chickens throughout his entire career as a field wildlife research biologist, I felt very keenly that further recognition should be given him in the form of a painted portrait. John was happiest out in the field, not behind a desk, so this is the John I wished to portray the John that I knew best. He had the nicest smile that made his eyes twinkle.

The background depicted in his portrait is where the Hamerstroms had seen their first Wisconsin prairie-chickens. The lone pine tree used to have one of Fran's many kestrel boxes (which housed bees the summer I had to climb up to collect the nesting material for analysis, with a rickety ladder perched atop the Hamerstrom VW van roof an exceedingly fast descent followed). This spot was also where John did a fair amount of night lighting to attach radios to the young PC of the year. This tree still stands on Leola Marsh.

I am grateful that the Sutton Center saw this portrait as a further tribute to this truly remarkable man who was taken from us much too early.



Artist: Deann L. De La Ronde

Leave a Lasting Legacy

We're so grateful for your giving!

Your donations make a difference with every pair of birds we breed, every egg we lovingly care for, every chick we hatch, every bird we study and every child we inspire. And there are so many ways to provide giving that goes hand in hand with your long-term financial planning.

We make it uncomplicated and transparent. Ask your financial advisor to include the gift you choose – whether it is a financial donation, stocks, life insurance benefits, or property – as a bequest to the Sutton Avian Research Center in your will. Or ask about establishing an annuity or remainder trust that benefits Sutton.

Our partnership with the Tulsa Community Foundation, Green Country's experts in helping nonprofits make the most of long-term gifts, means your legacy charitable giving is easy and straightforward. Their expertise will help ensure what you give in your will is powerful and transformative for years to come.

With the rapid changes happening to our plants, insects and animals, our world needs us to lend a helping hand. When we all come together to protect our landscape and our wildlife, our planet will benefit for generations to come. Adding a charitable gift to your financial planning can help us ensure your grandchildren and great-grandchildren enjoy our beautiful natural world.

Legacy giving is something anyone can do, for any amount. Every gift makes a difference!

For more information, please contact Audra Fogle at afogle@suttoncenter.org or by calling 918-336-7778.

Photo by Dan Reinking



In Memoriam: Harold Price

by Warren D. Harden

We are so very sad to share that Harold Price has left this life. He was a long time resident of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where he was president of the H.C. Price Co., a worldwide pipeline construction company headquartered in the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Price Tower. After retiring, Harold became interested in supporting recovery efforts for the endangered bald eagle. In 1984 he offered his spacious home and acreage to Dr. Steve Sherrod for the newly established Sutton Avian Research Center. Steve quickly accepted, giving startup Sutton Center a headquarters, office space and land to develop into a bald eagle raising facility. With Harold's vision and philanthropy and trust in Steve Sherrod, the Sutton Center quickly became a renowned avian research center eventually receiving presidential recognition for its significant work in the removal of the bald eagle from the Endangered Species list. For Sutton Center, Harold served terms as board chair and financial advisor.

Harold was an amiable, erudite conversationalist and lover of the arts and nature. His extensive modern art collection made his home a veritable art gallery. Frank Lloyd Wright was an acquaintance who built both a Price home and the iconic Price Tower. Harold and wife Sandy have been instrumental in supporting the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. Harold loved downhill and cross-country skiing in Sun Valley. A Sutton Center tour I led found intrepid Harold and Sandy with us in the back of a flatbed potato truck rambling up a long and rough dirt road. We were headed to the monarch butterfly preserve high in the west Mexican mountains of Michoacan where the Prices saw monarchs by the millions. Another Sutton Center tour took us to Kodiak Island with grizzly bears fishing just below our viewpoint atop a stream bank. A sow with a cub ambled up to within a few feet of us, paused, gave us suspicious looks of the worst kind, then walked on. Later, while we were boarding a rubber raft, two grizzly cubs appeared in the grass next to us. Suddenly, the mother bear came charging. I thought she was after Harold and others, who by their response also thought this. Fortunately, she stopped beside her cubs. Harold loved adventure, far different from the business life he had led.

Harold's support for Sutton continued through the years along with his friendship with Steve Sherrod who accompanied Harold and Sandy on many occasions. Without them the Sutton Center would not be what it is today. The legacy of their generosity continues today.



Harold and Sandy Price at "The Eagle Soars Event" celebrating the proposed delisting of our national bird.



Warren Harden and Harold at their observation point on Kodiak Island watching grizzly bears fish.

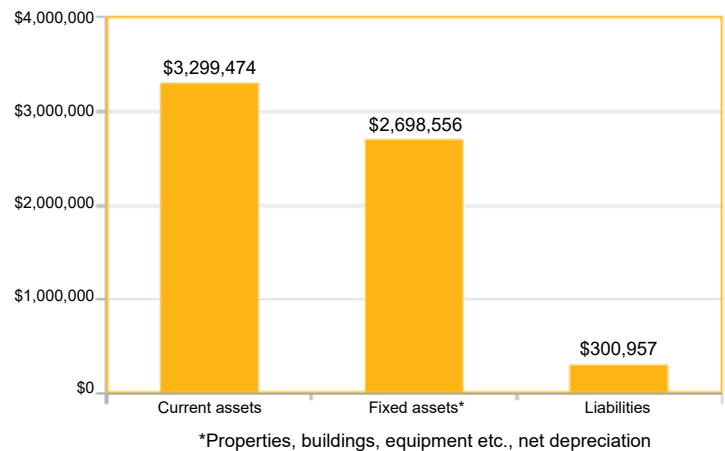
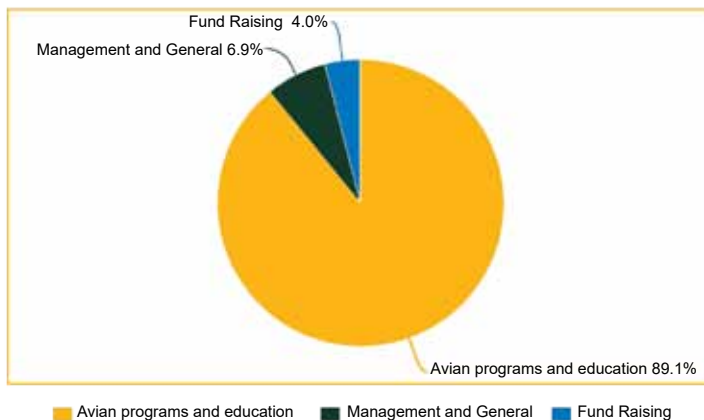
Amazon Smile

You can make a difference while you shop through Amazon. Simply shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1023595 or in the Amazon Shopping app turn AmazonSmile ON to benefit George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center Inc, and AmazonSmile will donate!

Financially Sound, Fiscally Responsible

Since our beginnings 36 years ago, the Sutton Avian Research Center has continued to serve as one of the most influential and effective bird conservation organizations across the nation. In 2020, not only have we prepared more than 1,200 masked bobwhites for release, launched the second edition of the Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas, delivered our first Attwater's prairie-chickens into the wild, and kicked off an Ambassador Education Program to work hand-in-hand with our Oklahoma educators, but we have also worked with citizen scientists to record a record number of bald eagles in our state! ALL in the midst of a most unusual and challenging year! Your generous support makes it all possible!

From Fiscal Year 2019



There is a practical side to conservation, too...

- 1 Professional tree climber dangled high above the ground to wire a second eagle camera for the 2021 nesting season
- 4 Light Hawk flights traveled 3678 miles to release masked bobwhites. 0 birds were lost in transit!
- 58 BEST (Bald Eagle Survey Team) volunteers checked a record 263 bald eagle nests across the state
- 82 Purple gallinules counted in one day in Oklahoma during the first year of the second Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas
- 300 Hours spent by educator Miranda Adams to train five new ambassador animals for STEM education
- 500 Mice consumed by our great horned owl in three months
- 1500 Buckets of new sand hauled by our staff to replace the sand in one Attwater's prairie-chicken breeder barn
- 6200 Mealworms and crickets raised and fed to our released Attwater's prairie-chickens to give them the very best chance for success

Purple gallinule at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area in southeastern Oklahoma.

Photo by Jay Pruett



Become A Wildlife Conservationist - Give the Gift of Art This Christmas!

Christmas Coalition of Artists Raise Funds for Sutton

Artists are among the best ambassadors for wildlife. Not only do they see the beautiful details of our natural world but they are able to communicate it in ways that evoke a passionate response in others. This Christmas give the gift of art. Not only will you be sharing beauty with a loved one, you'll be supporting local artists, and because of their generosity in donating a portion of the proceeds to the Sutton Center, you will be a wildlife conservationist too!

We are exceptionally grateful to our diverse friends who will be donating a portion of their sales this Christmas to benefit the Sutton Center. They've made it easy to donate, visit our website or shop directly with the artists and when you purchase, let them know that you are a Sutton friend too!

Josh Stout - joshstoutart.com

After his steady rise and scorching sales record, Oklahoma artist Josh Stout continues to catch the attention of collectors across the U.S. As one of the top selling regional artists, we were blown away when Josh agreed to paint live at Wild Brew and donate 100% of the sales back to the Sutton Center.

Pushing new ideas of composition with an explosive color pattern has been a successful combination for this thriving artist. His mix of impressionist and abstract techniques stop people in their tracks and draw them across the room. Wherever you see Josh's art... it captivates you. Check out Josh's brand-new studio or view online. He has an inventory of original paintings and sculptures or high-quality prints for your gift-giving needs.



Larry Waid - larrywaidsculptures.com

Larry is on fire! Even in this COVID landscape, he is sweeping local art shows. His focus is on 3-dimensional work creating both realistic human and animal sculptures. Larry's love of sculpting comes through in his design!

We first met Larry Waid at the NatureWorks Show and Sale and the rest is history. He helped us to restore an eagle sculpture that had been damaged and has donated to Wild Brew for years. As the former president of the Oklahoma Sculpture Society, he has helped us connect young artists with professional sculptors as well as donating his time to help us run the Sutton Award. If artwork creates a vibe, having a Larry Waid sculpture is sure to bring joy to your home!

Lynn Nabb

facebook.com/DesertWrenStudio or desertwrenstudio@gmail.com

Lynn first learned of our organization through her mom who was a devoted eagle cam viewer. Her love of birds is a natural fit with Sutton Center. When she called to offer a custom portrait for Wild Brew, we were so thankful. This year's painting of masked bobwhites created an all-out auction war! Lynn is an avid traveler (pre-pandemic), gardener, hiker, backpacker, canoeist and rock hound. She is definitely our kind of artist! This Christmas, Lynn is offering gift certificates to support the Sutton Center. Her custom portraits are top-notch!



Become A Wildlife Conservationist - Give the Gift of Art This Christmas! (Continued)

Christmas Coalition of Artists Raise Funds for Sutton



Jan McKay - artbyjanmckay.com

Jan McKay is a native of England, moved to Australia, now living and working as an artist in the United States. With 26 years' experience as an Interior Designer, Jan developed a natural eye for beauty and design, which has translated into her paintings.

With the tragic death of her daughter in 2008, Jan's focus shifted from designer to artist. Her daughter Stephanie was talented in many areas, and took private art lessons for 3 yrs. After her passing, the art teacher suggested that Jan try art, and she did. Learning under her daughter's instructor, Jan discovered her love of art. The themes of her wildlife paintings reflect the love of mother and child.

Her paintings of wildlife, pets, and nature, are the perfect subjects to display the beauty of creation, and the love we have been given from above.

Jan's passion for nature isn't only on canvas, she is also a federally licensed wild bird rehabber. She has nursed scissor-tailed flycatchers, cardinals, robins, mockingbirds, blue jays, and bluebirds, just to name a few. During breeding season taking care of all of the baby birds that people rescue becomes a full-time job. She says it's a labor of love to help nature survive and being able to release them to thrive the way nature intended.

We. Love. Jan. After first meeting her at a random art show, Jan has become an integral part of our Sutton Award and the NatureWorks Show and Sale. Her warm, enthusiastic spirit is a gift to humanity! Jan keeps an inventory of originals and high-quality prints on hand. We are so excited to have her support this Christmas season.



Rachel Dazey - dillonrose.net

At age 18 Rachel Manchester Dazey was an intern at the Sutton Center. She actually lived in the building with the birds and helped train them for the education program that was taken into schools around the state to teach the importance of birds and a sustainable environment. Rachel loved having the opportunity to work hands-on with the birds and get to know each one. She especially loved working with the raven 'Chupacabra' which they used in the programming to teach the importance of recycling; he would pick up cans and put them in a little recycling container in front of the kids.

It's not often that one of Sutton Center's interns becomes a famous jewelry designer. Her love of birds is reflected in many of her jewelry creations. In 2018, her show at Tulsa Artists Coalition gallery had a winged theme. Rachel's designs are INCREDIBLE and affordable. We are so grateful that she is willing to donate a portion of sales to wildlife conservation efforts. Make sure to check out her online gallery for your gift giving needs this Christmas.



Local Foundation Issues a Generous Challenge for Education

by Audra Fogle



Our 10,000 sq. ft. barn was home to more than 270 young bald eagles that Sutton Center raised for release from 1985-1992.

Photo by Dan Reinking

In our last edition, we introduced Miranda Adams, Sutton's educator, who has been working diligently to collaborate with teachers so that our wildlife education programs are STEM friendly and teach to Oklahoma standards for education in engaging ways. Over the summer, you've had a chance to meet our newest ambassador animals on social media. And now, we invite you to join the Lyon Foundation to help us update our existing facilities and make some necessary additions to keep our education program moving forward! We are so thankful to have received a generous challenge grant from the Lyon Foundation that moves us towards the \$165,000 needed for this education facilities renovation. This project will include: important improvements to our 35-year-old eagle barn to house and care for our education animals; the addition of a classroom with the latest technology for virtual learning; plus, the construction of a garage to house our emergency fire truck and other Sutton vehicles. Funding for start-up materials, including educational trunks filled with hands-on activities that can be checked out by educators, and the replacement of our 2005 van so that we can safely and efficiently transport ambassador animals around the state is also needed. Please help us make our goal by making a designated donation for education. With cold weather coming, we have immediate needs to winterize our education animal area.



Stella the skunk thanks a member of the Ochelata Volunteer Fire Department for keeping her safe! Being remotely located on a wooded hilltop and having past experience with wildfires, Sutton takes fire management seriously. Thanks to a collaboration with fire officials, we have taken major property management steps to reduce the risk and we maintain our fire truck to keep us safe.

Photo by Dan Reinking

Every dollar donated up to \$80,000 will be matched if it is received before the May 2021 deadline.

In Spite of 2020's Best Efforts... "Cooped Up Wild Brew" has Online Success



Dead Armadillo's Blackberry Hazy IPA made a delicious Wild Brew. Their spacious outdoor "Bone Yard" allowed for a well-attended, fun and socially-distanced beer launch.

Photo by Tom Gilbert



"Cooped Up Wild Brew" would not have been possible without the generosity of the Dead Armadillo Brewery this year! Pictured: Tony Peck, Dead Armadillo master brewer and 2020 committee co-chairs Kyle Riggs and Sam Dagnall.

Photo by Tom Gilbert

After "Five Days of Food, Foam, Fun and Feathers!" in early August and lots of help from the Wild Brew committee, our local business partners, Tulsa's restaurants and the Dead Armadillo Brewery, we successfully wrapped up Wild Brew 2020. While it was not the legendary social event Wild Brew is famous for, we were excited to have a fun way to support the important wildlife conservation mission of the Sutton Center despite the difficult circumstances. Even though we didn't come close to our 2019 revenue, we are extremely grateful to all of our patrons and supporters for making the event a success! This year's much-needed proceeds benefited our newly launched education program and will provide food, care and training for our ambassador animals so that we can work hand in hand with our local teachers to provide free and accessible STEM and STE(A)M programming for our schools.

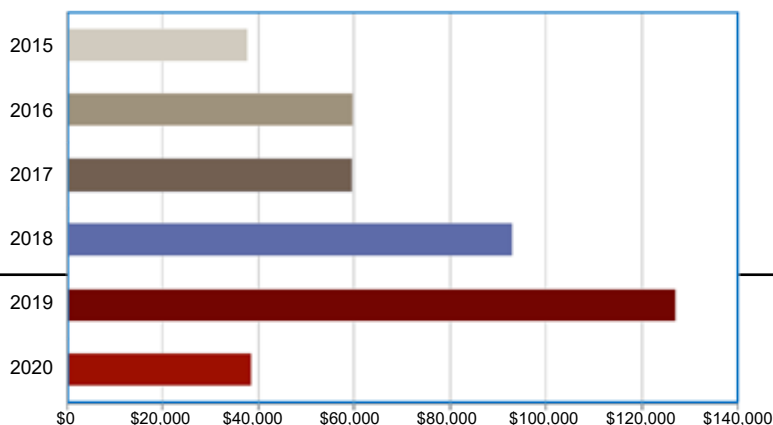
Please help us say thank you to these restaurants and businesses for supporting Wild Brew. Your patronage and your verbal thanks to them for their Wild Brew participation really helps!

WILD BREW SUPPORTING RESTAURANTS:

- Albert G's
- Baxter's Interurban
- Big Dipper Creamery
- Bull In The Alley
- Burn Co Barbeque
- Chimi's Mexican Food
- Corn Popper
- Dilly Diner
- Dust Bowl
- El Guapo's
- Elgin Park
- Elote
- Fassler Hall
- Hideaway
- Howdy Burger
- In The Raw
- Jane's Delicatessen
- Justin Thompson Catering
- Kilkenny's
- McNellies Pub
- Mexicali Border Café
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Old School Bagel
- Prairie Brew Pub
- RICARDOS Tex Mex
- Roppongi
- Santa Fe Cattle Co.
- Society
- Taziki's Mediterranean Café
- The Tavern
- The Vault
- Waldo's Chicken & Beer
- White River Fish Market
- Yokozuna

Even though we look forward to flocking together in 2021, we did discover new ways of throwing a party through the online auction, gift cards that encourage party-goers to try out new restaurants and Wild Brew party-to-go kits that just might return next year!

Wild Brew Comparison



Sutton Hero

Echo Kopp was just one hour short of finishing her wildlife studies at the University of Oklahoma when her professor suggested an independent study at the Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville. She had never heard of the place and little did she know that she would still be making a difference for the organization four years later! While interning, she helped with a variety of projects from animal care to administration. When a staff member she had been assisting suddenly left during the preparations for the annual Wild Brew fundraiser, she worried what would happen and decided to help. Since her official internship ended in 2016, Echo continues to be invaluable. She approaches every project, familiar or not, with enthusiasm and tenacity. Her leadership with high school students at the annual Sutton Award not only affirms our young artists and their teachers, but her passion for wildlife is contagious. In 2020, even though she had her doubts, she set her mind to help Wild Brew succeed! Her (and her small team of volunteers) efforts not only made a difference for the annual fundraiser by securing over 2000 gift cards for Wild Brew, but helped to give business back to Tulsa's restaurants. "At first, when COVID hit, I was discouraged and concerned about funding raised by Wild Brew, but I was encouraged by the receptivity from the restaurants in spite of the hardship. It made me feel good to help Sutton and to give people a little push back in to our great restaurants. Count me in for next year!"

We sincerely appreciate our honorary chairs Dr. Kirby and Genny Lehman and Harvey and Leisa Payne for going the extra mile to support the event in an extra challenging, online, and socially distanced year!



Echo Kopp (pictured on horseback with her husband Willie).

WILD BREW IN-KIND SPONSORS:

- American Direct Mail Services
- Bailey Ranch Golf Course
- Bank of Oklahoma
- Butcher Bros Meats
- Cabin Boys Brewery
- Dead Armadillo Brewery
- Dead Armadillo Craft Brewing
- Fogue and Bates Tobacconists of Tulsa
- Green Country Home Repair
- Hasty Bake Charcoal Ovens
- High Gravity Fermentation Supplies
- Hillcrest Country Club
- IdeaStudio Branding and Marketing
- JD Young Technologies
- Josh Stout-local artist
- Larry Waid-local artist
- Lynn Nabb- local artist
- Marshall Brewery Company
- Mathis Brothers Furniture
- Neff Brewing Company
- Owasso Liquor & Wine
- Pearl Brewery Tours
- POSTOAK Lodge and Retreat Center
- Inn at Price Tower and Copper Restaurant
- Proximity Malt
- SilverTree Technology
- SixPR
- Sticker Mule
- Toy Depot
- Victoria Kamp- local artist
- Vincent Anthony Jewelers
- VISUALFX

2020 NEST MONITORING DATA

NESTS
CHECKED

263

OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES

249

CONFIRMED
ACTIVE

207

PRODUCTIVE NESTS

2018	130
2019	152
2020	172

CONFIRMED FLEDGLINGS

2018	198 - 259
2019	239 - 313
2020	260 - 326

Another BEST Year!

by Cheryl Cavert

The Sutton Center's BEST (Bald Eagle Survey Team) did their best in accepting the challenges in monitoring Oklahoma's breeding bald eagle population this past season. The regular hurdles of weather, time and personal/family issues that affect our monitoring efforts every year were further complicated by the various COVID restrictions we all faced, from safer-at-home orders to access closed in some nesting territories. But we persevered and checked a record number of nests in 2020!



John Peaden at
BEST meeting.

One of our BEST volunteers, John Peaden, is especially heartened by the energy of this growing group. When he started volunteering with the BEST in the early years, just a handful of us fanned out across the state to check around 100 nests. Now with over 50 tireless and committed BEST volunteers, over 260 nesting territories were checked in 2020! Peaden says he is very proud of our results as it shows how the BEST are getting better at monitoring as our numbers grow and the eagle population is continuing to be healthy.

John Peaden began volunteering with the BEST after retiring from American Airlines. His wonderful wife Linda helped out as time allowed, and she joined him full-time after she retired three years ago. As they make their rounds, it is a contest who spots a nest first — he did not say who has won the most, just that he is glad they are looking for eagles and not hummingbirds! He also volunteered with the USFWS for three years, where he became intrigued by bald eagles. Specifically, he was bothered by how many adult eagles were killed by vehicle impacts. That led him to learn more about eagles' habits and habitat, to find out why this was happening on a regular basis. He theorizes the adult bald eagles often ingest lead in their scavenging efforts, which leaves them progressively weaker and in a drunken-like state, unable to react like an otherwise healthy adult.

When John visits the nests he monitors, he often meets with the landowners to exchange updates. It is also an opportunity to share with them what he has learned about the toxic effects of lead on eagles, including information from Sutton Center's lead education program. He prizes the relationships he has built with the landowners he meets, even helping some after the flooding last year. Most all are proud to host an eagle nest on their land and attentively look out for them, which thrills John, knowing the eagles are watched between his monitoring visits.

Photo by Jim Bradford

John has been involved in falconry since he was a youngster in the Stillwater area, first applying (unsuccessfully) for a falconry permit when he was 12, eventually getting a breeder's permit for his two kestrels and two red-tailed hawks when he was 14 and ultimately his falconry license. He states he has always been intrigued by wildlife – “whether it was raptors, women or cars!” Even during the rest of the year when he is not monitoring nests, if he spots an eagle in an area, he likes to follow them around to confirm what territory they are from. When he worked at American Airlines, they had kestrel boxes in the hangars to keep the starlings in check and John was called on to trap kestrels that made their way into the offices as well!

One of the most impactful disappointments during his time with the BEST was the devastating loss of eaglets from several nests in the spring of 2015 due to the tornadic storms crossing Sand Springs and northern Tulsa. One of the nests John monitored went down and by the time the game warden and John joined up to investigate, just remains were left. Thankfully John has been able to document that all the nests were rebuilt and have since produced young every year! His favorite challenge every season was finding where on a 7000-acre ranch their pair of eagles chose to nest, usually in a different area of the ranch each year.

One of the most rewarding parts of the Peaden's involvement with the BEST has been working with a group of people with a similar goal. Whether it was the great BEST citizen-scientists he met or working with the landowners, John states it has been an honor to develop relationships with people who care about the conservation of the eagles. As John and Linda Peaden plan to become “snowbirds,” and begin their last year of actively monitoring nests with the BEST in 2021, John wishes we had more time to share our stories. I know he has plenty more to share!

Animal Ambassadors of Sutton

Excitement is in the air as preparations are made for our reimagined and better than ever Sutton education program! Meet our newest animal ambassadors and follow their journey on Facebook and Instagram with #suttoncenter!



Cricket the great horned owl.

Cricket is a curious and vocal great horned owl. He greets his caregivers with sweet chirps, much like the crickets that gave him his name! Great horned owls get their name from the tufts of feathers on their head. These “plumicorns” resemble horns but are actually used to aid in camouflage. Great horned owls are extremely adaptable birds living across North and South America in woodlands, mountains, and even suburbia. Owls are mostly nocturnal so they can be difficult to spot, but they can often be heard vocalizing with their well-known series of “Hoo H’hoos!”

Birthday: March 4th, 2020

Favorite treat: Mice. • Weight: 2.8 lbs.

Fun fact: They can’t smell! This allows them to be the top predator of skunks.

Loves to: Perch in the sun and play with sticks.

Conservation status: Least Concern

Stella is a smart and energetic striped skunk. Her caregivers love giving her opportunities to play, go on walks, train, and solve puzzles! Her favorite time of day is meal time so we like to make it extra exciting by hiding her food in a variety of toys, places, and puzzle feeders. She spends most of her time learning new behaviors and is always eager to participate if a treat is involved! While wild skunks have a potent defense in the form of a sulphur-based spray, program participants have no reason to fear a stinky surprise when meeting Stella.

Birthday: March 7th, 2020

Favorite treat: Mealworms, crickets, eggs, and cottage cheese. • Weight: 3.5 lbs.

Fun fact: Their black and white markings are a skunk’s first line of defense against predators. They are meant to tell other animals to stay away, or they’ll be sorry!

Loves to: Go on walks and eat.

Conservation status: Least Concern



Stella the skunk.

Animal Ambassadors of Sutton (Continued)



Turbo the golden pheasant.

Turbo is a friendly and inquisitive golden pheasant. He loves to greet people at the door with excited chirps and is always ready to investigate new items. Male golden pheasants can be easily identified by the bright coloring that gives them their name, although Turbo won't grow this plumage until his second year. Like other species of pheasant, he prefers to forage on the ground and can run very quickly! Turbo frequently gets "turbo charged" and enjoys running in circles when extra excited.

Birthday: March 26th, 2020

Favorite treat: Mealworms and blueberries. • **Weight:** 1 lbs.

Fun fact: Native to China, the golden pheasant was introduced to the United Kingdom around 100 years ago as a gamebird much like the ring-necked pheasants we have in the United States.

Loves to: Run, fly, and watch birds from his window.

Conservation status: Least Concern

Sgt. Pepper and Cranberry are Narragansett turkeys. The Narragansett turkey is a heritage breed originating in the United States and one of the friendliest varieties of turkeys available. Cranberry has an in-your-face personality, and when food is involved all bets are off. Sgt. Pepper is more reserved and prefers to let Cranberry take the lead, but given the chance his unique personality shines equally as bright. Both turkeys love following people around and visiting Turbo across the hall.

Birthday: May 20th, 2020

Favorite treat: Mealworms, blueberries, apples

Weight: Sgt. Pepper 10 lbs. Cranberry 7 lbs.

Fun fact: Narragansett turkeys have traditionally been known for their calm disposition, good maternal abilities, early maturation, egg production, and excellent meat quality.

Loves to: Explore new places, swing, and steal treats from each other.

Conservation status: Livestock Conservancy Watch List



Sgt. Pepper (L) and Cranberry (R) the Narragansett turkeys.



Photo by Dan Reinking

The Sutton Award Goes Online for 2021

In a year of cancellations and disappointments, The Sutton Award is bright spot for students and art programs in 2021!



"George Miksch Sutton"
by Robert Heindel

The Story behind the Sutton Award

Dr. George Miksch Sutton (1898-1982) is one of the most prominent ornithologists and bird artists of the 21st century. His fascination with birds began at a young age. As a boy, he began collecting bird feathers, eggs and nests, and kept extensive notes about the birds he observed. By age 16, his first bird drawing, as well as several of his articles had been published. When "Doc" Sutton arrived in Norman in the spring of 1952 to begin work at the University of Oklahoma, he was already an acclaimed artist, writer, explorer, and teacher. His passionate interest in ornithology and the natural sciences led him on several expeditions in the continental U.S. as well as the Arctic, Mexico, and South America. By the time of his death in 1982, he had written 13 books, over 200 scientific journal articles, and illustrated at least 18 books.

Although he was trained in the sciences, he felt equally at home in the arts and is revered by bird lovers everywhere for his beautiful paintings. He was a master with pen and ink and watercolor, preferring to paint birds from real life. His painstaking illustrations of a beak, a foot, or the underside of a wing were unmatched. Sutton was one of the first ornithologists to study and illustrate baby bird development.

"AS AN ARTIST, George Sutton will be ranked with Audubon and Fuertes as one of the great American painters of bird life; as a man, he will be held in even greater esteem by all who came within his orbit. His influence, profound and pivotal, upon generations of aspiring artists resulted in what has been called the "FuertesSutton Tradition" in American bird painting. I shall always remember "Doc" with love, not only as a brilliant artist and teacher, but more importantly as a modest, thoughtful, and generous friend and gentleman." --A1 Gilbert

We are proud to carry on the memory of George Sutton and are grateful for the ongoing financial support and partnership with NatureWorks that makes the Sutton Award possible. Educating and inspiring young people to appreciate the beauty of diversity as well as learn to tell a conservation story that will inspire others to preserve it aids both the Sutton Center and NatureWorks in our central missions of protecting the natural world for the next generation.

For 2021, we will be hosting the 17th annual Sutton Award virtually. We know this will be a challenging year and adjustments will need to be made, but we cannot step back from our wildlife conservation mission, even during a pandemic! We are fortunate to have the technology in place that makes an online event possible. Do you know a young Oklahoma artist or high school art teacher? Help us get the word out about this scholarship opportunity!

For more information and entry details: suttoncenter.org/art

Sutton Center's Recent Publications

Morrow ME, and Toepfer JE. 2020. Use of predator-deterrent fences to increase Attwater's prairie-chicken nest success. Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management. Accepted Draft (online early). <https://doi.org/10.3996/112019-JFWM-099>

Pratt AC, and Beck JL. 2019. Migration and the greater sage-grouse. Grouse Partnership News Fall 2019.

Reinking DL. 2019. Summer red crossbills in Iowa. Iowa Bird Life 89(4): 141-143.

Svedarsky D., Septon G., Larsson LC, Wolfe DH. 2019. Toepfer Stories. George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center, Bartlesville, OK.

Recent Presentations

Adams MK. 2020. Bird's the word at G.M. Sutton Avian Research Center. ITEC Conference Species of Interest, Online. 20 Aug.

Gibson BD, Larsson LC, Pratt AC, Sherrod SK. 2019. Releasing captive-raised greater prairie-chickens into the wild. 33rd Meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council, Bartlesville, OK, 7 Nov.

Gibson BL, Harlow, T, Larsson LC, Sherrod SK. 2019. Captive breeding and raising of prairie-chickens for release into the wild, with experimental methodologies potentially applicable for breeding other galliformes. 33rd Meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council, Bartlesville, OK, 5 Nov.

Morrow ME, and Toepfer JE. 2019. Use of predator-deterrent fences to increase Attwater's prairie-chicken nest success. 33rd Meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council, Bartlesville, OK, 5 Nov.

Wolfe DH. 2020. Overview of GMSARC. Connections Academy, Bartlesville, OK, 12 Feb.

Wolfe DH. 2020. Lead ammunition and eagles. Jenks Raptor Rally, Jenks, OK, 25 Jan.

Wolfe DH, Johnson LA, Radke B, Chester R, and Goodwin JG. 2020. Masked bobwhite recovery efforts - high points and hurdles. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Online. 29 Sep.

VOLUNTEERS

Helen Agnew	Debra Gallegher	Kirby & Genny Lehman	Lauren Rogers
Rosalia Aragon	Neil Garrison	Jacob Logan	Carla & Mike Schnake
David Arbour	Ashton Gacsai	Buddy Long	Chelsea Schumann
Terra, Barrett, Rylee Argo	Tom Gilbert	Scott Loss	Lynn Shambles
Mike & Debbie Baab	Sandy Gilstrap	Linda Maholland	Scott Shepherd
Rose Ann Barnhill	Regan Gorman	Hope McGaha	Edward Shane
Karla Boggs	Pat Gwin	Vicki McGraw	Feather Smith
Valerie Bordeaux	Ping Hackl	Laura McIver	Richard Song
Jim Bradford	Jim Harman	Gary Meek	Randy Soto
Dustin Browning	Vonceil Harmon	Alexis Miller	Betsy Stewart
Judy Bryant	Richard Hasegawa	Coleman Miller	Curtis Stewart
Inez Bumham	John Hays	Patricia Muzny	Courtney Stookey
Edgar & Valentina	Brent Hemphill	Landon Neumann	Rex Thompson
Campuzano	Glen Hensley	Brad Nichols	Sandy Thompson
Yessica Urzua	Zara Howerton	Liz Nichols	Sierra Thompson
Cheryl Cavert	Ella Humphries	Oklahoma Sculpture Society	Holly Urschel
Patty Clark	June Hunt	Tyler Palmer	Nancy Vicars
Emma Clayman	Michael Isaacs	John & Linda Peaden	Larry Waid
Sam Dagnall	Amy Johnson	Mark Peaden	Lori Walderich
Ishita Das	Barbara Joyce	Lynn Pearson	Angie Whisnant
Austin Davis	Victoria Kamp	Tony Peck	Cindy & Justin
Bill Diffin	Sherri Kelley	Mark Peterson	Williams
Melinda Droege	Esther Key	Zach Poland	Stephanie Williams
Jan Duffy	Bettina Kirkland	John Porter	Avarie Wilson
Elizabeth Elliot	Echo & Willi Kopp	Thad Reed	Jim Winner
Angela Evans	Nathan Kuhnert	Cynthia Reese	Doug Wood
Brian Fennern	David Latham	Mia Revels	Jimmy Woodard
Andrea Ford	Doug Latham	Lisa Riggs	Connie & Ron Yott
Nathan Foster	Robert Laub	Kyle Riggs	Mike Yough
Rich Fuller	Seinna, Matt, Christy Leach	Justin Roach	

"An excuse to be out birding is always enticing for birders. Since Nancy Vicars and I participated in the first Atlas project 20 years ago, no arm twisting was necessary to convince us to begin another birding adventure with the Sutton Center. 2020 has been a year of many challenges and changes, but as long as we can raise our binoculars we can still watch birds and be safe. From the smallest hummingbird to our awesome bald eagle, it's all good! And speaking of eagles...monitoring known eagle nests and finding some previously unknown was the BEST avian scavenger hunt! Bring on 2021!"

Patti Muzny

Atlas volunteer and BEST volunteer

"The best part about being a part of the BEST is getting a unique opportunity to observe the eagles nesting while also helping to ensure that they are continuing to thrive in Oklahoma."

Seinna Leach

"My favorite thing about being the BEST is getting an intimate view into the life of such a majestic beautiful bird."

Helen Agnew

"The best part of volunteering with the B.E.S.T. is being given the opportunity to make a difference through the protection of bald eagles and their habitat. Watching new eagles grow and leave the nest has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences I have ever had."

Nathan Foster

"Why do I volunteer to help out with the monitoring of Oklahoma's bald eagle nests? It's my chance to 'give back.' I derive a lot of pleasure from the natural world. The nest-watching program is a way for me to 'do some good.'"

Neil Garrison

Thank You to our Generous Sutton Supporters!

October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

Up to \$99

John & Melissa Abdo, Bartlesville Genealogical Society, Tug & Phyllis Baughn, Alan & Venice Beske, Walter & Betty Bohn, Barbara Bottini, Butcher Bros Meats, Cabin Boys Brewery, James & Mary Lou Chamblee, Harold Christie, Philip Coe, Mark Delgrosso, John DePue, Michael & Rosario Douglas, Ford Drummond, Kathleen Forster, Gilbert & Carolyn French, Robert & Maureen Goldsberry, Dr. H. Vondale & Jan Graham, Ruth & John Grant, Denise Gregg, Steve Holcombe, Lisbeth Hoyt, Ron Huebner, Humana Foundation, Nancy Irby, Peter & Debra Janzen, Cheryl A. Kilpatrick, Steve Lance, Marshall Brewing Company, Beverly & Rick Morgan, Joe Neal, NEFF Brewing Company, Jacob Norman, Owasso Bouquet of Gardeners, William Stephen Paul, Helen Perry, Mark Peterson, Leslie & Bob Pritchard, Doug Quinn, Joel Rabin, Jorge Ramirez, Jennifer Reeder, Billie Roane, Hugh & Betty Rodgers, Bill & Susan Schmidt, Robert Solecki, Angie Spencer, Steve Stieben, Rachel Strassberger, Ted & Stephanie Theban, Jim & Marjorie Thiel, Sharon Tracy, Mary Vande Steeg & Jack Wagner, Nadine Varner, Sandra Waldo & Ken Dewey, Dyan Wapnick, Luann Sewell Waters, Melinda West, William & Norma Winter.

\$100 to \$499

Alex & Teresa Adwan, Mary Ann Allbritton & Thomas LeBlanc, George Archibald, Elizabeth Aubrey, Bailey Ranch Golf Course, Steven Belanger, Johnny Bellmyer, Green Country Home Repair, Jay & Rebecca Berlo, Ken & Gerry Bonds, F. H. & Dr. Diane Bosworth, BP Foundation, Ken Brune, Gary & Judy Bryant, Mac Butcher, Steve Byrd, Marion & Anita Cabler, Cheryl L. Cavert, Jeffrey Cox & Cristy Creitz, Brenda & Mark Craig, Rebecca Crocker, Bob Curtis, Dead Armadillo Craft Brewing, Walter & Mary Lou Dillard, Rebecca Dixon, Christy Fees, Fogue and Bates Tobacco, Greg Foley, Laura Frossard, Pamela Glass, Grand Lake Audubon Society, George Halkiades, Anthony Haney, Warren Harden, Jim Harman, Harmony Science Academy - Carrollton, Roderick Harwood, Hillcrest Country Club, High Gravity Homebrewing, Shaun Horton, Michele Hughes, William C. Hunter, Deloris J. Isted, Alan & Sally Jenkins, David & Rebecca John, Victoria Kamp, Elise Kilpatrick, Bill & Midge Kissack, Thomas Landrum, Mary Lane & Steve Davis, Lena Larsson, Kenneth & Amanda Lawrence, Steve & Kristi Lee, Candy Lindsey, Charlene Lingo, Carol Littleton & John Bailey, Paula Martel, Daniel Martin, Joel & Shirley Martin, Microsoft, Keith Mirkes & Rita Veal, Walter Montgomery, Lynn Nabb, Ken & Kara Gae Neal, Malisa Nell, Charles J. Newling, Steve Oehlenschlaeger, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Phyllis Ogilvie, Greg & Brenda Olds, Sean & Kelly Orta, Owasso Liquor and Wine, William G. Paul, Robert & Mary Plank, Zach Poland, James & P. J. Polk, POSTOAK Lodge & Retreat, Eric & Carey Pribil, Leslie & Bob Pritchard, Jay Pruett, David Puckett, Brad & Lisa Raley, Clifton Raphael, Joan Reynolds, Leigh & Tom Rorschach, Mary Rounds, Joe Rustici, Jeff Schlesinger, Doug Schwegman, Schwegman Insurance & Financial Services, John & Melissa Shackford, Dr. Patrick or Genie Shannon, Laura & Kyle Shannon, Susan Sherrod, Sandy & Jacquelyn Singleton, Lloyd Snow, Anne & Charles Steel, David & Betsy Stewart, Daniel & Jeanne Strope Family Foundation, Todd & Joyce Sutton, Jen & Clint Syrowitz, Julie Thompson, Toy Depot, Brian & Pamela Ufen, Joyce Varner, Vincent Anthony Jewelers, Cheryl Wilson & Bill McGhee, Craig & Camille Wittenhagen, Harold & Mary Jo Yocum, Peter D. Ziegler.

\$500 to \$999

Steve Corbett, Jim Deming, Hideaway Pizza, Robert & Roxana Lorton, Steve & Kathy McDonald, Minnesota Sharp Tailed Grouse Society, Allen & Holly Oliphant, Harvey & Leisa Payne, John Porter, David & Arleen Riggs, Bernard & Marcy Robinowitz, Steve K. Sherrod, Brooke Stevens, Don W. Verser, Nancy C. Vicars, Joe & Terese Williams.

\$1,000 to \$4,999

American Heritage, Barbara L. Bates, Joel Bein, The Rub, Janet Bellovich, Roger & Angela Box, Rick Butefish, American Direct, Stephen & Emma Clayman, ConocoPhillips, David & Charlotte Delahay, Doenges-Bartlesville, Joe & Colleen Fairless, Steven J. Furcich, The Furcich Family Foundation, Proximity Malt, Todd Golla, Explorer Pipeline, Grasslans Foundation, Hasty Bake, Peggy V. Helmerich, Lee Holcombe, Cross Timbers Land, Inn At Price Tower, Elizabeth B. Kane, Linda Maholland, Mathis Brothers Furniture, Thomas Oare, Jo Ann Payne, Bob Pickle, Records-Johnston Family Foundation, Inc., Carl & Nan Reinking, Amanda Simcoe, The Meat and Cheese Show, Josh Stout, Trevor Tack, David & Betty Turner, VisualFX Inc., Larry Waid, Terry Wolfe, Williams, Gale & Mark Wood, Aimee Wyatt, Susan Young.

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Bank of Oklahoma, Bartlesville Community Foundation, CRESAP Family Foundation, J D Young, Kirby & Genny Lehman, Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino, Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpen, Orbison & Lewis, Attorneys at Law, Betty Shaull, Lori Walderich, IdeaStudio.

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Grace & Franklin Bernsen Foundation, The Pauline Dwyer Macklanburg & Robert A. Macklanburg Jr. Foundation, NatureWorks, Phillips 66 Company, SilverTree Technology.

\$25,000 or more

Chapman Charitable Trust, Commonwealth Foundation, The Duke Energy Foundation, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Harold & Sandy Price, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Wild Brew 2020 supporters, Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation.

Memorials and Honoraria

In memory of Sam Daniel: Dr. Patrick & Genie Shannon. In honor of Betty Littleton & Sarah Gordon: Charlene Lingo. In honor of Carol Littleton & John Bailey: Charlene Lingo. In honor of Tom Polk: James & P. J. Polk. In memory of Randall Porter: Bartlesville Genealogical Society, Harmony Science Academy - Carrollton. In honor of Dan Reinking: Carl & Nan Reinking, Mary Vande Steeg & Jack Wagner. In memory of John Toepfer: Lena Larsson, Microsoft, Minnesota Sharp Tailed Grouse Society, Charles J. Newling, Jen & Clint Syrowitz, Jim & Marjorie Thiel, Terry Wolfe, Peter D. Ziegler.