

Autumn in Oklahoma brings the southerly passage of snow geese skeins through the skies, and flocks stopping to forage where short, green vegetation or waste grain can be found. Snow geese are dimorphic, meaning that they come in two color morphs known as white and blue. Both are regularly seen in Oklahoma, and the winter food available to them here and elsewhere in the central plains as a result of agriculture has contributed to significant growth of the population. In many areas of its sensitive arctic breeding habitat, the enlarged snow goose population has outstripped the food supply and damaged the habitat. Oklahoma and other states have responded with increasingly liberal hunting seasons and bag limits in an effort to reduce the population to sustainable levels.

This week in eastern Oklahoma: ARRIVALS Ross's Goose, American Scoter, Glaucous Gull DEPARTURES Turkey Vulture, Sora, Whooping Crane, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper Dan Reinking is a senior biologist at the Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville. Contact him at [dreinking@ou.edu](mailto:dreinking@ou.edu) or see [tulsaworld.com/suttoncenter](http://tulsaworld.com/suttoncenter). The Bird Watch list is excerpted from the Date Guide to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma, which lists normal dates of occurrences for bird species by seven geographic regions of the state. It is a publication of the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. For full information about the guide and how to report unusual bird sightings at unusual times of year go to [tulsaworld.com/okbirds](http://tulsaworld.com/okbirds).