

The Wild Side!

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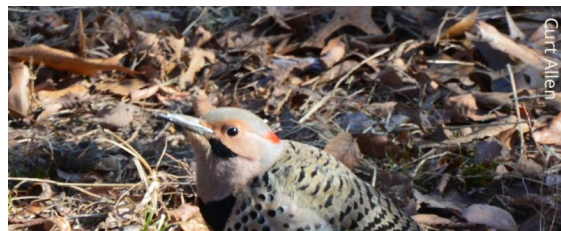
Winter Hiking on Great Plains Trail

Temperamental, unpredictable, and sometimes downright cold, the mere thought of Oklahoma winters can cause some wildlife enthusiasts to batten the hatches until spring green-up. Though our state does endure a few blustery, brutal, winter days there are also several mild reprieves when Oklahomans can stretch their legs and enjoy the wintry landscape.

[Tuck these three Great Plains Trail hiking ideas in your stocking cap while you're waiting for winter's next warm spell](#)

Species Spotlight: Northern Flicker

A winter visitor to both rural and residential areas, the northern flicker is a colorful member of the woodpecker family.



Flickers not only search for insects on tree trunks, but also spend a lot of time on the ground foraging for ants.



[Learn more in the Wildlife Department's Field Guide](#)

Wildscaping with Winterberry

A dual-purpose wildlife plant, winterberry offers a late season treat to many species of wildlife during winter and is a great hiding spot for bird nests in the spring. The red berries also supply a welcome splash of color to Oklahoma's winter landscape.



[Learn more about this native shrub and find out what to pair it with in your wildscape](#)

Christmas Birds Counted at Red Slough

Last month 17 bird watchers met in southeastern Oklahoma to restart a bird counting tradition. The citizen scientists covered nearly 180 square miles from the Idabel area south to the Red River, including the 5,814 acre Red Slough Wildlife Management Area on Dec. 22 and documented **111** species of birds, including 2,537 Ring-necked Ducks, 1,396 Red-winged Blackbirds and 1,346 Green-winged Teal.



[Learn more about Red Slough WMA and get the Christmas Bird Count species list](#)

Calendar of Events

Landscaping with Native Plants

Feb. 4, 2017
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Doors open to exhibits at 8:30 a.m.)
Tulsa Garden Center
Hosted by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society

Birds of Prey Program

Feb. 18, 2017
9 a.m. - Noon
Hackberry Flat Center, near Frederick



The Wild Side e-newsletter is a project of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's Wildlife Diversity Program. The Wildlife Diversity



Program monitors, manages and promotes rare, declining, and endangered wildlife, as well as common wildlife not fished or hunted. It is primarily funded by the sales of Wildlife Department license plates, publication sales and private donors.

Get involved with the Wildlife Diversity Program and learn more about Oklahoma's nongame wildlife at: wildlifedepartment.com

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