

Tulsa Audubon Society Annual Report for 2015



Dear Friends of Tulsa Audubon Society,

Once again we have had a very busy year for the Tulsa Audubon Society. It's tough to keep this to one page, so here are the highlights of our accomplishments in 2015:

- Flycatcher Trail, our outdoor classroom on the grounds of Jenks Public Schools, has seen heavy use all year with students and the public, and we featured it on our annual habitat garden tour. This has been an excellent example of build it and they will come! Both for people and wildlife - especially the butterflies, nesting Purple Martins and Chimney Swifts.
- TAS again provided a scholarship to send a high school student to a birding camp this past summer, and scholarships for 2 students to attend the Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival.
- We sent a Board member to attend National Audubon's annual convention this past summer.
- Held our 22nd Annual Backyard Habitat Garden Tour, reaching hundreds of people with the message of the value of native plants for yards and their benefit to birds, butterflies and other urban wildlife.
- We were one of the leading sponsors for the Doug Tallamy presentation on *Living Landscapes* held in August, attended by over 250 people learning how to turn their own landscapes into more beneficial urban habitats for native bird, butterflies and other wildlife.
- Our annual January Eagle Days Program, our collaborative event with Jenks Public Schools, had hundreds of people joining us to view Bald Eagles on the Arkansas River, and see captive Bald and Golden Eagles up close, teaching the public about Eagles and the challenges that they face in both urban and rural landscapes.
- We led the effort to protect a Bald Eagle nest on the Arkansas River from disturbance by construction equipment, featuring coverage by all of the Tulsa television news programs (some with live remotes!) and the Tulsa World.
- Wild At Art is our newest event, featuring artists with nature oriented work, and for 2016 it was a bigger and better weekend event, raising funds for TAS and our WING-IT wildlife rehab partners who spend countless hours rehabbing and then releasing a variety of injured wildlife. This year we've added book signings (featuring Jim Lish and his new book on Red-tailed Hawks) and painting classes (like Pinot's Palette.)
- TAS continues as the prime sponsor and organizer of the Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival held in Woodward County every year. This festival attracts birders from all over the United States.
- The Annual Purple Martin Roost Watch in downtown Tulsa continues to grow, with hundreds of people joining us to see the hundreds of thousands of martins coming to roost. There was a weather event that killed and injured hundreds of martins, but TAS members rescued many, and we had excellent television and newspaper coverage of the story. We worked with the property owners to educate them so they will be more tolerant of the birds.
- We received a \$10,000 grant from National Audubon Society, and are partnering with the Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in educating the State Legislatures on appropriating siting of Wind Farms.
- We gave monetary support to the Monarch Initiative of Tulsa, an educational forum with the mission to provide information to promote the creation of habitat for the declining Monarch population.

We can't do any of the above without the support of our members! Some of the projects (all of which are *local!*) needing funds are: Birding camp scholarships; Maintenance of Flycatcher Trail outdoor classroom; Support of our work on the Lesser Prairie Chicken; Purchasing binoculars and bird guides for Birding 101 classes; And many other projects.

There are several ways to help. Volunteers are always needed for our many activities. Please join us at any of our events, or contact me to find out how you can help. If you are not already a member, please consider joining Tulsa Audubon. For just \$20/year you become a member of TAS and National Audubon. See tulsaaudubon.org/membership.htm. But memberships are not enough, we also need your financial support. Every year we are reaching thousands of people in northeast Oklahoma (and beyond!), but there is always more to do and funds are usually the limiting factor. You can mail a check to Tulsa Audubon Society, P.O. Box 330140 Tulsa OK 74133 or visit tulsaaudubon.org/donate.htm. On that page you can also specify a recurring donation, which we ask you to consider. We can also accept donations of stock, please contact us for the account numbers.

Thank you,

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