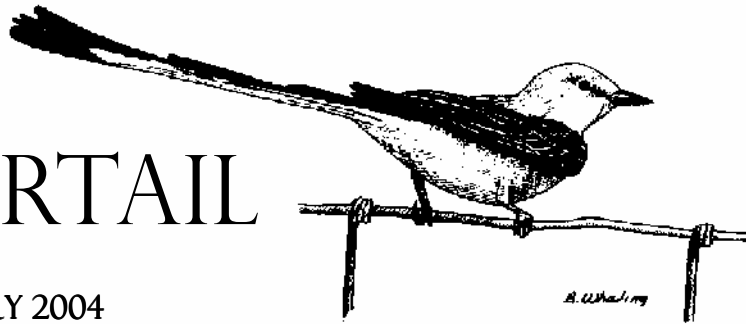


# TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
VOL. LXV, NO. 3

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2004

EDITOR: PETER LOWEN

## *From the President*

Thank you to everyone who took an interest in the Take Back Audubon (TBA) movement, and sent in their proxies, which were included in last month's Scissortail. I want to give you an update from annual meeting, held Dec. 6 in Cincinnati. In a nutshell, we lost the proxy showdown, 3,259 to 37,100. Hence, the TBA Board candidates and resolutions did not pass.

But this was not a bad result - it was actually somewhat incredible. 10% of the chapters nationwide participated and took almost 10% of the proxy vote. Given the logistics of getting TBA to members, and the short time line, this was a remarkable result. It also will

certainly get the attention on National Audubon's leadership - and there is reason to believe we are making some progress.

First, the TBA members at the annual meeting represented us well, and got the Board's attention. Second, Carol Browner - past administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (back when it actually tried to protect the environment!) - was elected chair of the NAS Board. She supported a motion to refer the five TBA resolutions in their current form to the Board of Directors for consideration, and that motion passed without opposition, and with the agreement of the TBA members present.

While the Board will not likely be enacting democracy reforms and restoring a dues share any time soon, there seems that there may be a slightly more chapter-friendly "tone at the top." But we need to watch developments closely at future Board meetings and stay engaged. We may need to be ready to mount another proxy challenge next year, one that should generate many more proxies.

Carol Browner closed the meeting with an impassioned plea to close ranks for the battle for the environment that we face. One TBA candidate at the meeting felt that she is a breath of fresh air on the board, and that she did hear and listen to our concerns. We shall see.

*John Kennington*

## TAS Upcoming Events

**Tuesday Morning Birders.** The Tuesday Morning Birders meets at 8:00 a.m. every Tuesday morning at the Tulsa Garden Center from November through March. Trip leaders are listed by week.

1st Tues	Dave Edwards	865-7598
	Bob Gard	241-4273
	Jim Thayer	494-3784
2nd Tues	Bob & Donna Germany	493-2726
3rd Tues	Jo Loyd	835-2946
4th Tues	Patty & Paul Moser	252-2824
5th Tues	Bruce Nixon	494-3865

**First Saturday of every month.** Bird with Oxley Nature Center Staff in Mohawk Park. Meet 8:00 a.m. at parking lot. Call 669-6644 for details.

### January

10 Sat. **Eagle Days.** Meet between 8 and 10 a.m. in the parking lot of the Watchable Wildlife Area, east of the Corps of Engineers Office on the north side of the Arkansas River at Lake Keystone dam. For information contact Bob Gard 241-4273, [gardb@aol.com](mailto:gardb@aol.com) or Dave Edwards, 865-7398.

18 Sun. **Eagle Days.** See January 10 information.

19 Mon. **Oxley Nature Center Winter Census.** To participate, contact Lynda Fritts, 669-6649, 341-7431, [okbirdwoman@yahoo.com](mailto:okbirdwoman@yahoo.com)

20 Tue. **Society Meeting.** "How to Document Rare Bird Sightings and the Benefits Thereof" by Jim Arterburn, chairman of the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee

24 Sat. **Field Trip.** Lake Hefner, OKC at Stars & Stripes Park for gulls. Leader: Jim Arterburn, 481-5077, [j.w.arterburn@worldnet.att.net](mailto:j.w.arterburn@worldnet.att.net).

### February

7 Sat. **Field Trip.** Tallgrass Prairie and Foraker for wintering hawks. Leader: Jim Thayer, 494-3784 for time and place.

17 Tue. **Society Meeting.** "History of the Deep Fork NWR" by Darrin Unruh, refuge manager.

## Ornithology 101



The Audubon Society of Missouri's website, <http://www.mobirds.org/>, has a nifty new resource in its E-zine (online magazine). From either the ASM homepage (above) or its E-zine, access the Ornithology 101 link. This page provides a concise introduction to ornithology (surprise!), and there are no quizzes or even homework. For amateur birders like your budding editor, it builds on information learned in the field and from the field guides, providing access to another level of bird knowledge.

A memorial service was held for Janet Slater on October 11, 2003. It was a celebration of her life. She planned the service including the readings, family participation and the music. The memorial was attended by many of her Audubon friends. A poem was read that Janet had written after a family picnic when she was 16 years old.



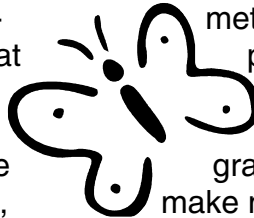
I saw a Great Blue Heron rise  
Into graying twilight skies,  
From the marsh's soggy bed,  
Over clumps of Arrow Head,  
Swiftly, he the willows cleared;  
Then silently, he disappeared,  
And never I a rustle heard  
From the gray-blue wing beat of the bird.  
Only his dominant presence there  
Sustained in the gray blue evening air,  
Lifted my heart upon his wings  
And soared with the beauty of living things.

## Gardening For Life

Carol Eames

The value of a wild backyard

How do children learn to love nature? Take a moment to think back to your own childhood. What were those experiences that helped you become an adult who now wants to help save a small piece of the planet? Children can learn about nature from parents, school, classes, field trips, television and reading, but the best way to learn about nature is to watch and figure things out for themselves. One of the best, and closest, places to do this is their own backyard. If there



is only an expanse of Bermuda grass and a gas meter, not much learning or caring can happen. A backyard needs to be full of things to be discovered, a place to dig for worms, chase lightning bugs, catch grasshoppers, turn over stones and rocks, make mud pies, run barefoot, puff dandelion seeds, listen to spring frogs, feed birds in winter, discover a chrysalis, watch a spider spin a web and roll in piles of leaves. A backyard habitat is the place where environmental caring can begin.

### TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: John Kennington 809-6325

Vice-President: Lynda Fritts 669-6644

Secretary: Cyndie Browning 492-5622

Treasurer: Mary Jackson 254-1350

Recorder: Amy Lambert 747-4202, 272-4794

Directors: Carol Eames, Bob Gard, Jo Loyd, Tomye Mainer, Patty Moser

TAS Website: <http://www.tulsaaudubon.org>

**Tulsa Scissortail** is the bimonthly newsletter of the Tulsa Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. As the "Scissortail" newsletter goes to the printer two weeks before the date of issue, your editor needs items for that issue at least a week prior to that (For Mar/Apr 2004, that will be Feb. 10th or so). All articles, ideas, and constructive criticisms are welcome.

e-mail: [thelowenfamily@aol.com](mailto:thelowenfamily@aol.com)

phone: 296-3093

Thanks - Peter Lowen, Editor



# Recorder's Report

Recorder: Amy Lambert  
Oncewasamy@aol.com

Mail: 12006 E. 80th Street North  
Owasso, OK 74055  
Amy Lambert 272-6595 or Pat Seibert 747-02

## October-November 2003

Species	Date	Count	Location	Observer
R Red-necked Grebe	22-Nov-03	1	Lake Yahola	B. Carrell/T.
R Black Vulture	25-Aug-03	3	Hominy (Osage Cty)	B.Gard, et al
R Black Vulture	20-Nov-03	1	Eagle Roost	D.Edwards
R Surf Scoter	09-Nov-03	2	Lake Yahola	B.Germany, et al
R Black Scoter	09-Oct-03	2	Lake Yahola	Carrell, Mitchell,
R Peregrine Falcon	14-Oct-03	1	Mohawk Park	B.Germany,et al
R Peregrine Falcon	16-Oct-03	1	Down Town Tulsa	T.Mitchell
Prairie Falcon	16-Nov-03	1	176th St N & Harvard	P.Seibert
O Solitary Sandpiper	21-Oct-03	1	North Tulsa County	J.Loyd,et al
O Spotted Sandpiper	28-Oct-03	1	Mohawk Park/Lynn Lane	P. Moser, et al
O Semipalmated Sandpiper	11-Nov-03	2	Mohawk Park	B.Germany,et al
O Franklin's Gull	02-Dec-03	2	Lake Yahola	B.Gard, et al
O Bonaparte's Gull	25-Oct-03	1	Lake Yahola	B.Carrell
Short-eared Owl	16-Nov-03	1	176th St N & Harvard	P.Seibert
O Ruby-throated Hummingbird	21-Oct-03	1	Residence, Tulsa	B.Germany
R Rufous Hummingbird	02-Dec-03	1	Residence, Tulsa	J.Arterburn
O Eastern Wood-Pewee	12-Oct-03	1	Oxley Nature Center	Carrell, Mitchell,
L Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	03-Nov-03	1	East Tulsa	T.Mitchell
O Cliff Swallow	09-Oct-03	1	Lake Yahola	Loyd/Seibert
O Marsh Wren	20-Sep-03	2	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
O Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	04-Oct-03	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
O Gray Catbird	26-Oct-03	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
O Yellow Warbler	28-Sep-03	2	Oxley Nature Center	C.Browning,
O Yellow-rumped Warbler	27-Sep-03	1	Lake Yahola	B.Carrell
O Yellow-throated Warbler	28-Sep-03	1	Oxley Nature Center	C.Browning,
O Ovenbird	12-Oct-03	1	Williams Center Green	M.Kamp
Mourning Warbler	09-Oct-03	1	Williams Center Green	Loyd/Seibert
O Summer Tanager	12-Oct-03	1	Oxley Nature Center	Carrell, Mitchell,
O Scarlet Tanager	01-Oct-03	1	Oxley Nature Center	T.Mitchell
O Lark Sparrow	29-Nov-03	1	Ray Harrell Nature Park	R. Anderson
O Fox Sparrow	12-Oct-03	1	Williams Center Green	M.Kamp
O Swamp Sparrow	27-Sep-03	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
O Swamp Sparrow	28-Sep-03	2	Oxley Nature Center	C.Browning,
Dark-eyed Junco	09-Oct-03	1	Mohawk Park	Loyd/Seibert
Smith's Longspur	16-Nov-03	1	176th St N & Harvard	P.Seibert
O Orchard Oriole	08-Sep-03	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell

O = Out of Date

R = Rare

L = Late

.....  
 : OK birders, let's make a New :  
 : Year's Resolution to report :  
 : interesting sightings to Amy :  
 : Lambert. At every meeting, :  
 : she courteously asks us to :  
 : please report, report, report :  
 : those bird sightings. :  
 :.....

### *Taking a Dim View of Things*

Our very own TAS member, Cyndie Browning, and her birding buddy, Phil Floyd, maintain a website highlighting Oklahoma birders, with monthly interviews of the state's most experienced, acclaimed, and/or notorious bird watchers. Visit their site at [www.adimview.com](http://www.adimview.com) to learn more about your fellow birders and explore the rest of the website.

# Whooping Crane Migration

The Latest on *Grus americana*

## Florida

Sixteen whooping cranes following three ultralight aircraft reached their winter home December 8, 2003, completing a 1,225-mile migration from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in central Wisconsin to Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge along Florida's central Gulf Coast.

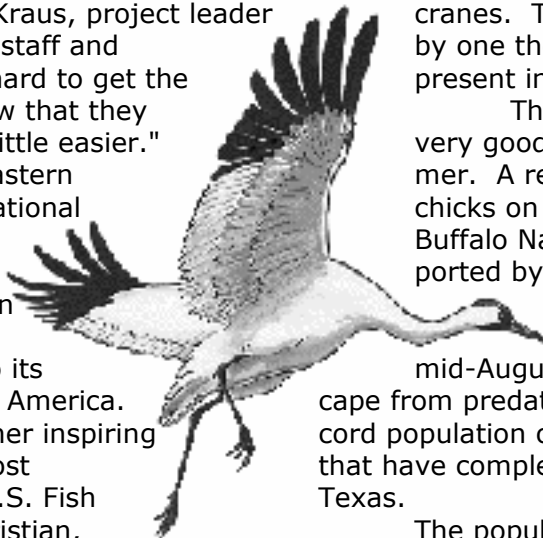
"We're pleased that both the cranes and crew arrived safely," said Jim Kraus, project leader at Chassahowitzka NWR. "Our staff and volunteers have worked very hard to get the cranes' pen site ready, and now that they are here we can all breathe a little easier."

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP), an international coalition of public and private organizations, is conducting this ultralight-led reintroduction project in an effort to return this highly imperiled species to its historic range in eastern North America.

"Today marks yet another inspiring step toward recovering this most endangered crane," said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's John Christian, who is co-chair of WCEP. "With the contributions of our myriad state, nonprofit and federal partners, I have no doubt that the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership will continue on a path to restoring whooping cranes to the skies and wetlands of eastern North America."

The 16 cranes left Necedah, Wis., on October 16, following ultralight aircraft. International Crane Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists will monitor their winter behavior and track them on their anticipated spring migration north in 2004.

- (Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership news release)



## Texas

The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in December announced the highest numbers of endangered whooping cranes are wintering in Texas in approximately the last 100 years. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Whooping Crane Coordinator Tom Stehn completed a census flight on December 10th and tallied 189 whooping cranes. The current population exceeds by one the previous high of 188 whoopers present in the fall of 1999.

The increase in numbers is due to very good nest production last summer. A record 61 nesting pairs fledged 27 chicks on their nesting grounds in Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada, as reported by the Canadian Wildlife Service. The young cranes were old enough to fly by mid-August increasing their ability to escape from predators and their survival. The record population of 189 includes 24 young cranes that have completed their first migration to Texas.

The population in Texas reached a low of only 15 birds in 1941, before efforts were taken to protect the species and its habitat. The population has been growing at 4 percent annually and reached 100 birds in 1987. "We were hoping for 200 whooping cranes in the year 2000, but the population went into a decline for a couple years before rebounding back to 185 cranes last winter," said Mr. Stehn.

The whooping crane population continues to face many threats, including collisions with power lines in migration, limited genetic variability in the birds themselves, loss of crane migration habitat, and winter habitat threatened with loss of productivity due to reduced fresh water inflows and chemical spills.

The only natural wild population of whooping cranes nest in the Northwest Territories of Canada in summer and migrate 2,400 miles to winter at the Aransas and Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuges and surrounding areas. Wintering whooping cranes use salt marsh habitat foraging primarily for blue crabs.

- (Fish & Wildlife Service press release)

### Bird Seed Update

Thanks to everyone for a successful Bird Seed Sale. However, I still have about a pallet's worth of seed to sell to close out the sale – we still have small quantities of most items. To see what is still available, check our website, [www.tulsaadubon.org](http://www.tulsaadubon.org) or call John Kennington at 809-6325.

drawing from [www.bringbackthecranes.org/](http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/)

# Kamp-ing Trip to Western Oklahoma

submitted by Marty Kamp

On Friday, November 21, 2003, a group of Tulsa Audubon Society (TAS) members met in Oklahoma City and birded Lake Hefner and Lake Overholser. It was a beautiful clear day with little wind. The most interesting species was the two grebes on Lake Hefner – still to be determined as to whether they were Western, Clark's, or hybrid. Mid-afternoon we headed west to Clinton and joined up with other Tulsans who had skipped the Oklahoma City lake check. After a satisfying meal at a local Mexican restaurant, we called it a night.

Saturday morning it was cold, overcast and breezy. The sixteen TAS participants checked Foss Reservoir early, getting good looks at six Western Grebes – a state life bird for several. Nancy Vickers, field trip co-leader, and about a dozen Oklahoma City folks arrived. We were fortunate to have Brian Lockwood, the Washita NWR manager, join us for the



TAS and Oklahoma City Audubon Society participants check out Foss Reservoir on Saturday morning.

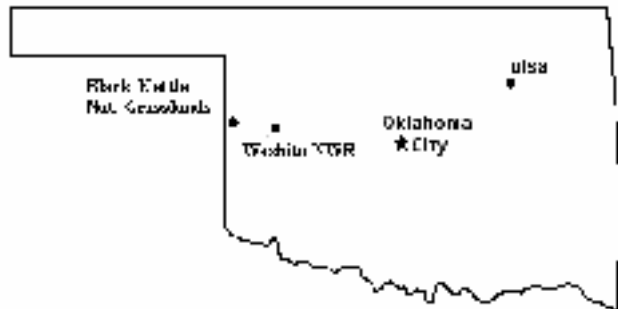
won't identify them by name. With Nancy Vickers leading, the rest of us headed to Elk City and had a wonderful dinner at an all-you-can-eat catfish restaurant.

Sunday morning it was really cold, but mostly sunny. The wind was roaring out of the north, but no snow. Our remaining group headed west to Black Kettle National Grassland. We stopped at the Washita Battlefield National Historical Site where, in 1868, Lt. Col. George Custer massacred the residents of the Southern Cheyenne village of Peace Chief Black Kettle. After checking Dead Indian Lake and Skipout Lake, we decided to call it quits about mid-morning. It was so cold and windy that very few birds were moving. On the way back to Tulsa, we were down to two cars in our caravan. Since it was early, we took an alternate scenic route home, traveling through the Antelope Hills in northern Roger Mills County and arriving in Tulsa about dark on Sunday. Although we didn't see as many winter western species as hoped for, everyone enjoyed seeing the shinnery oak-grasslands vegetation largely unique to this part of western Oklahoma. Several participants added state life birds to their lists and a couple added life birds.



If cold and windy is your cup of tea, you would have enjoyed the TAS field trip to western Oklahoma. Surviving trip participants on Sunday morning at the Washita Battlefield National Historical Site.

morning. We stopped at several locations on Washita NWR, including access to locked areas where we had up-close great looks at Ross' and Snow Geese. After lunch at the refuge headquarters, we walked around the grounds, spooking a couple of Great Horned Owls from their roost in the cedars and surprising a Red-Shouldered Hawk lunching on a Western Meadowlark (it came back and finished lunch after we left). In the afternoon, we checked several areas around the refuge and Foss Reservoir. There were Bald Eagles overhead. Towards late afternoon, flocks of Sandhill Cranes and mixed flocks of geese started streaming in to the lake from their day feeding grounds. A winter storm was forecast to move in on Sunday and about half the Tulsa folks headed home - we



Editor's note: shinnery n. *Southwestern U.S.*, a dense growth of small trees, especially scrub oaks (who knew?)

**NAS/TAS Introductory Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check:*

\$20 1 yr Introductory     \$30 2 yr Introductory

\$15 1 yr Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 1 yr Introductory Senior

Check enclosed, payable to: **National Audubon Society chapter T01/7XCH (please put on check)**

Please bill me

Mail to: National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 52529  
Boulder, CO 80322

**Please note T01/7XCH must be on check and envelope**

\$10 Subscription to *Tulsa Scissortail* and local membership. Mail check to:

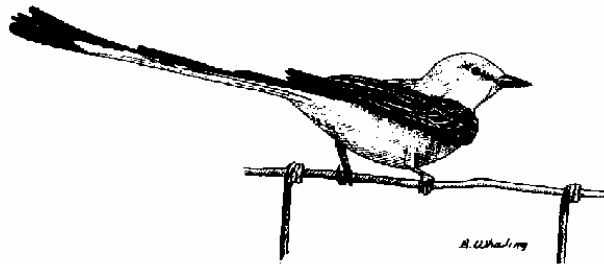
Tulsa Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2476  
Tulsa, OK 74101

**A Call to Optics**

**Tulsa Audubon Members** - Bring your spotting scopes and your expertise to the Eagle Days events on Saturday, January 10, and again on Sunday, January 18th at the Keystone Dam. (More information is in the Calendar of Events on page 1.) This is a great opportunity for the Tulsa Audubon Society to educate the general public and showcase our interests, abilities, and friendliness. Call Bob Gard at 241-4273 to participate.



Tulsa Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2476  
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*Happy Holidays!*

*Please share your "Scissortail" with a friend and get them to join!*