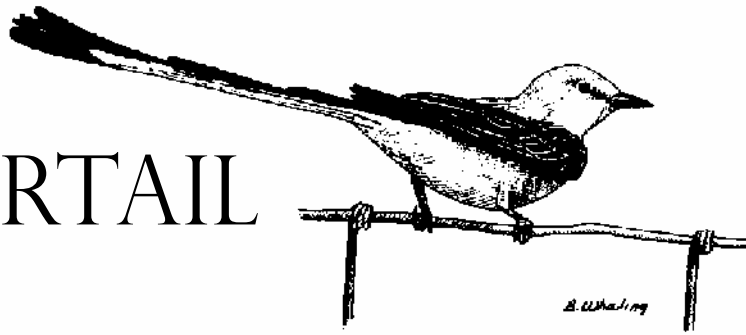


# TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA  
AUDOBON  
SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
VOL. LXV, NO. 5

SUMMER 2004

EDITOR: PETER LOWEN

## *From the President*

As we're completing another program year, I once again want to thank our many volunteers who keep Tulsa Audubon in action. We've had a great year of field trips and programs, and we've done great work with our Bald Eagles and Least Terns. I also need to note a significant addition to our Audubon family – the members of Make Every Home A Wildlife Habitat. After MEHAWH disbanded, we offered TAS memberships to all of their members, and TAS now sponsors the annual Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale. Rather than leave anyone out, I just want to say "thank you" to all our volunteers on behalf of all TAS members.

I also want to welcome Dave Edwards and Martin Brown to our Board of Directors, who are replacing Jo Loyd and Marcie Goad, whose terms are expiring. All of our officers are returning, including me! This is really a first, as we previously had a 2 year term limit on president. This limit was removed just prior to me being elected president in 2002, so I did not even know about it – until a month ago I thought I would be stepping down as president!!

Be sure to get out and support the Garden Tour June 12-13. We also need many of our TAS members to volunteer to help sell tickets that weekend. If you can help please

contact Jan Curth at 747-4017 or Jgpj@cox.net. Volunteers receive a free ticket.

Finally, I've added a new butterfly information page to the TAS web site, [www.tulsaaudubon.org/butterflies.htm](http://www.tulsaaudubon.org/butterflies.htm). This page contains information provided by Jon Fisher and other TAS butterfly watchers. Be sure to check it out and try to learn some new butterflies!

As always, please contact me at 809-6325 or johnkennington@cox.net with any questions of concerns about Tulsa Audubon.

*John Kennington*



**PLEASE NOTE:** the local TAS mailbox was temporarily out of service. If you had any mail returned as a result, rest assured that the problem has been corrected.

The address for the Tulsa Audubon Society continues to be

P. O. Box 2476  
Tulsa, OK 74101

(TAS apologizes for any inconvenience.)

## TAS Upcoming Events

**Tuesday Morning Birders.** The Tuesday Morning Birders meet at 8:00am every Tuesday morning in March, and at 7:30am beginning in April (through October), at the Tulsa Garden Center. 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	Donna Horton	586-0522

**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.

### June

1 Tues. **Board Meeting** - 7:00pm at Jo Loyd's house. Call 835-2946 for directions

### 5 Sat.

**Field Trip.** Fort Gibson area for nesting Prothonotary Warblers and other summer birds. For time and place call leaders Patty and Paul Moser at 252-2824, or perromiel@aol.com. Alternate phone is 808-8037.

### 12 - 13

Sat. & Sun. - **Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale.** Sponsored by the Tulsa Audubon Society. Saturday from 9am to 5 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. Details on page 2. Everyone should plan to attend, if not assist. Call Carol Eames at 446-2720 to volunteer.

### July

#### 10 Sat.

**Field Trip.** Day trip to Elaine Renning's place on Grand Lake for wading birds, nesters, and large birds of prey. Meet at GRDA headquarters, west end of dam on SH28 in Langley at 8:30 am. Please contact Elaine beforehand at 742-8963 (Tulsa) or 918-435-4734 (at lake).

### August

#### 21 Sat.

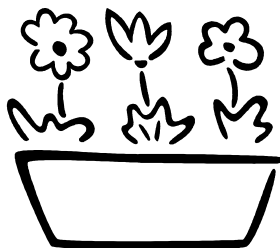
**Field Trip.** Lake Heyburn for late summer birds and migrants. Meet 8:00 am at the Tulsa Garden Center to carpool. Bring water and pack picnic food to share at lunch after the morning's birding. Contact leader Bob Harwood in advance at 496-2933 or RJHarwood@prodigy.net.

# Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale

The 11th annual wildlife habitat garden tour and plant sale now has a new sponsor. Make Every Home a Wildlife Habitat merged with the Tulsa Audubon Society in 2003 and the popular habitat garden tour will now be sponsored by the Tulsa Audubon Society. The dates for this year's tour are:

Saturday, June 12 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday, June 13 - Noon to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$5 and children under 13 are free. Tickets may be purchased at any of the homes listed on the days of the tour. This is a once-a-year chance for the public to visit wildlife-friendly yards and to buy plants that attract wildlife.



Yards to visit (with the corresponding nurseries) are as follows:

2130 E. 22nd Pl.	Pine Ridge Gardens
1332 E. 17th Pl.	Wild Things Nursery
1514 E. 17th Pl.	Collector's Garden
1335 E. 18th St.	Missouri Wildflower Nursery
1760 S. Quincy Ave.	Clear Creek Farm & Garden

The tour will now benefit the programs and activities of the Tulsa Audubon Society and will fulfill the purposes of the National Audubon Society's new program titled, "Gardening for Life," which promotes the creation of healthy habitats in home landscapes.

You can also check out the website for the Tulsa Audubon Society at [www.tulsaaudubon.org](http://www.tulsaaudubon.org), or call Carol Eames at 446-2720.

## Red Slough/Little River Field Trip April 16-18, 2004

trip leader Suzie Tramel

Both Mia Revels and Dave Arbour treated us like royalty during the trip. They are truly classy folks who deserve our thanks. They took us in hand and shared their corner of Oklahoma with us, interjecting personal experiences and expertise as we enjoyed sightings of life birds and favored migrants. Over 100 species made our trip list. The birding group consisted of OKC birders Jimmy Woodard, Max Fuller, Nealand Hill, Nancy & Jim Vicars; Berlin Heck, Phil Floyd; Tulsa Auduboners Art Browning, Cyndie Browning, Glen & Gail Storey, Marty Kamp, Patty Moser, Chris Otto, Jim Thayer & yours truly.

We found interesting herps and nutria to round out a particularly delightful outing down in the SE corner of the state. Special thanks also to Cyndie & Phil's locating the nesting Brown-headed Nuthatches; Patty & Marty didn't do too badly with their little side trip to see AND hear the Bachman's Sparrow near the Atoka Wildlife Management Area.

"Ain't birding just grand!?!"

by Mia Revels

News from Warblerville: I was joined on the refuge this weekend by members of the Tulsa Audubon Society, the Oklahoma City Audubon Society, Ony Banning, and Jacquie Reynolds (an NSU student). What festivities! Lots of good birding and good socializing.

On Saturday, we set up mist-nets at four different locations before finally catching a Swainson's Warbler! He was unbanded then, but now sports a shiny aluminum band and red, white, and blue color bands at the request of Berlin Heck. Four more males were located, making a total of nine territories filled so far.

On Sunday, Ony and I went out to survey the refuge and band as many males as we could. It turned out that we could band three. All of these were also previously unbanded males. I am wondering what has happened to all the males I banded in the previous three years! Four is a relatively small sample size though; maybe they will show up soon. We also ran into the OKC birders who were looking for a Hooded Warbler. Ironically, Ony and I had just accidentally mist-netted one and set it free! I hope they finally got to see one....

### 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: Martin Brown, Carol Eames, David Edwards, Bob Gard, 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, P.O. Box 2476, Tulsa, OK 74101. 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 Fall 2004, that will be August 12 or so).

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

Peter Lowen, Editor



# Recorder's Report

Recorder: Amy Lambert  
 lambert.a@sbcglobal.net  
 Amy Lambert 272-6595 or Pat Seibert 747-4202

Mail: 12006 E. 80th Street North  
 Owasso, OK 74055

	Species	Date	Count	Location	Observer
F	American Bittern	09-Apr-04	1	Apache Sewage Pond	D&B Germany
R	Black Vulture	29-Mar-04	1	Lake Yahola	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
R	Long-tailed Duck	04-Jan-04	1	Lynn Lane Reservoir	J.Loyd
O	Peregrine Falcon	04-Jan-04	1	Mohawk Park	B.Carrell
R	Greater Prairie-Chicken	19-Jan-04	1	176th St N @ Hwy 11	Loyd/Seibert
O	Sora	04-Apr-04	1	Apache Sewage Pond	B.Carrell
R	Sandhill Crane	10-Mar-04	1	Eagle Roost	B.Germany
O	Franklin's Gull	03-Feb-04	2	Keystone, S River Rd	B.Gard, et al
R	California Gull	13-Feb-04	1	Lake Yahola	B.Carrell
R	Ringed Turtle-Dove	29-Feb-04	1	Residence, Tulsa	B.Foster
R	Eurasian Collared-Dove	21-Feb-04	1	125th N & Sheridan	B.Carrell
R	Eurasian Collared-Dove	27-Apr-04	1	South Tulsa County	P. Moser, et al
R	White-winged Dove	06-Apr-04	1	Residence, Tulsa	I.Lutsey
F	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	20-Apr-04	1	N Tulsa City	Kamp,McMahon,Stubbs,Droege
R	Vermilion Flycatcher	30-Apr-04	2	Residence, Tulsa	C.Browning,P.Floyd
F	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	27-Mar-04	1	Keystone Dam	Loyd/Seibert
O	White-eyed Vireo	27-Mar-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
O	White-eyed Vireo	29-Mar-04	2	Keystone Dam	T.Mitchell
O	Bell's Vireo	02-Apr-04	1	Residence, Tulsa	J.Crampton
O	Warbling Vireo	04-Apr-04	2	N Tulsa City	M&G Kamp
O	Fish Crow	13-Jan-04	1	Lake Yahola	B.Germany, et al
O	Purple Martin	19-Feb-04	1	Residence, Tulsa	D.Sherry
O	Barn Swallow	05-Mar-04	1	Lake Yahola	B.Carrell
O	Sedge Wren	10-Feb-04	1	Mohawk Park	B.Germany, et al
O	Swainson's Thrush	06-Apr-04	3	N Tulsa City	B.Gard, et al
O	Yellow-throated Warbler	20-Mar-04	1	Keystone Area	B.Carrell
R	Pine Warbler	20-Mar-04	1	Keystone Area	B.Carrell
R	Pine Warbler	27-Mar-04	1	Keystone Dam	Loyd/Seibert
R	Pine Warbler	29-Mar-04	4	Keystone Dam	T.Mitchell
R	Palm Warbler	29-Apr-04	1	Woodward Park	T.Mitchell
O	Prothonotary Warbler	03-Apr-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	T.Mitchell
O	Northern Waterthrush	20-Apr-04	1	N Tulsa City	Kamp,McMahon,Stubbs,Droege
O	Louisiana Waterthrush	20-Mar-04	1	Keystone Dam	B.Carrell
O	Common Yellowthroat	31-Mar-04	1	Keystone Dam	B.Carrell
O	Common Yellowthroat	04-Apr-04	1	Oxley North Woods	B.Carrell
O	Scarlet Tanager	31-Mar-04	1	Keystone Area	J.Fisher
O	Lark Sparrow	29-Jan-04	1	Keystone, Walnut Creek	R. Anderson
N	Smith's Longspur	03-Jan-04	30	176th N & Lewis	Mitchell & Woodfin
F	Bobolink	24-Apr-04	2	Bixby Sod Farm	J.Loyd
F	Yellow-headed Blackbird	24-Apr-04	1	Bixby Sod Farm	C.Browning

O = Out of Date      R = Rare      N=Notable      F=First This Year

## There's No Place Like Home...

Ivyland, PA, Friday, February 6, 2004 - You know where you live, but do you know your "ecological address?" Audubon At Home, a new program made possible in part by the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is bringing conservation home through an exciting, interactive website designed to give visitors useful information on making their backyards more bird-friendly. It accomplishes this by helping users identify the natural characteristics of their property and its role in local ecology.

The new Audubon At Home website, [http://www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/index.html), contains a treasure trove of information to create backyards that will attract birds and safeguard them as well. "Each yard, no matter the size, has the potential to help birds," said Sally Conyne, Director of the GBBC. "By providing just a few necessities, your home landscape will attract birds, beneficial insects, and other wildlife. You'll be rewarded with a low-maintenance yard bustling with the variety of colors and textures you would find in far wilder places." To find out more, visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

# 2004 BIG DAY COUNT

May 1, 2004

Jo Loyd

Participants in the annual Big Day Count conducted by the Tulsa Audubon Society experienced difficult birding during the early part of the day. Temperatures were in the low 50's with a strong, gusty wind from the north, and precipitation ranged from a mist to heavy showers. A big thanks to forty-two hardy birders, some starting at 5:30 am and ending at 8:30 pm. All told, they counted 166 species, tallying 14,983 individual birds. This compares with the May 3, 2003, count of 157 species and 12,643 individual birds.

## TULSA BIG DAY RESULTS

Pied-billed Grebe, 8	Pectoral Sandpiper, 51	Horned Lark, 5	Summer Tanager, 38
American Wh. Pelican, 105	Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 12	Purple Martin, 252	Chipping Sparrow, 140
Double-cr. Cormorant, 95	Wilson's Phalarope, 12	Tree Swallow, 4	Clay-colored Sparrow, 6
American Bittern, 2	Franklin's Gull, 822	No. Rough-wng. Swallow, 119	Field Sparrow, 17
Great Blue Heron, 96	Bonaparte's Gull, 7	Bank Swallow, 50	Vesper Sparrow, 2
Great Egret, 172	Ring-billed Gull, 117	Cliff Swallow, 671	Lark Sparrow, 27
Snowy Egret, 21	Caspian Tern, 5	Barn Swallow, 806	Savannah Sparrow, 199
Little Blue Heron, 7	Forster's Tern, 6	Carolina Chickadee, 211	Grasshopper Sparrow, 3
Cattle Egret, 95	Rock Dove, 161	Tufted Titmouse, 151	Song Sparrow, 24
Green Heron, 6	Mourning Dove, 228	White-breasted Nuthatch, 8	Lincoln's Sparrow, 32
Yellow-cr. Night-Heron, 4	Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 6	Carolina Wren, 93	Swamp Sparrow, 2
White-faced Ibis, 1	Eastern Screech Owl, 1	Bewick's Wren, 2	White-thr. Sparrow, 25
Turkey Vulture, 101	Barred Owl, 14	House Wren, 15	Harris' Sparrow, 27
Canada Goose, 219	Common Nighthawk, 1	Sedge Wren, 4	White-cr. Sparrow, 87
Wood Duck, 24	Chuck-will's-widow, 18	Marsh Wren, 2	Dark-eyed Junco, 1
Gadwall, 4	Chimney Swift, 65	Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5	Northern Cardinal, 333
Mallard, 104	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird, 16	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 181	Rose-brst. Grosbeak, 1
Blue-winged Teal, 129	Belted Kingfisher, 6	Eastern Bluebird, 148	Blue Grosbeak, 13
Northern Shoveler, 39	Red-headed Woodpecker, 8	Gray-cheeked Thrush, 2	Indigo Bunting, 143
Lesser Scaup, 2	Red-bellied Woodpecker, 41	Swainson's Thrush, 163	Painted Bunting, 17
Red-breasted Merganser, 1	Downy Woodpecker, 67	American Robin, 399	Dickcissel, 321
Bald Eagle, 7	Hairy Woodpecker, 5	Gray Catbird, 13	Bobolink, 11
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1	Northern Flicker, 14	Northern Mockingbird, 212	Red-wng. Blackbird, 592
Cooper's Hawk, 3	Pileated Woodpecker, 6	Brown Thrasher, 45	Eastern Meadowlark, 216
Red-shouldered Hawk, 12	Eastern Wood-Pewee, 1	European Starling, 2,220	Yellow-hd. Blackbird, 32
Swainson's Hawk, 6	Acadian Flycatcher, 1	Cedar Waxwing, 469	Brewer's Blackbird, 2
Red-tailed Hawk, 45	Least Flycatcher, 1	Tennessee Warbler, 31	Common Grackle, 453
American Kestrel, 11	Eastern Phoebe, 63	Orange-crowned Warbler, 10	Great-tailed Grackle, 48
Northern Bobwhite, 1	Vermilion Flycatcher, 2	Nashville Warbler, 59	Brown-hd. Cowbird, 174
Sora, 4	Great Crested Flycatcher, 70	Northern Parula, 53	Orchard Oriole, 19
American Coot, 8	Western Kingbird, 58	Yellow Warbler, 18	Baltimore Oriole, 58
Semipalmated Plover, 7	Eastern Kingbird, 109	Yellow-rumped Warbler, 33	House Finch, 77
Killdeer, 114	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 167	Black-thr. Green Warbler, 1	American Goldfinch, 202
Greater Yellowlegs, 39	Loggerhead Shrike, 9	Yellow-throated Warbler, 10	House Sparrow, 510
Lesser Yellowlegs, 71	White-eyed Vireo, 8	Palm Warbler, 1	
Solitary Sandpiper, 13	Bell's Vireo, 15	Blackpoll Warbler, 1	TOTAL BIRDS: 14,983
Spotted Sandpiper, 41	Yellow-throated Vireo, 3	Black-and-white Warbler, 20	
Upland Sandpiper, 20	Blue-headed Vireo, 3	American Redstart, 1	NO. OF SPECIES: 166
Hudsonian Godwit, 1	Warbling Vireo, 49	Prothonotary Warbler, 7	
Semipalmated Sandpiper, 98	Philadelphia Vireo, 1	Ovenbird, 1	
Western Sandpiper, 20	Red-eyed Vireo, 30	Northern Waterthrush, 1	
Least Sandpiper, 66	Blue Jay, 85	Louisiana Waterthrush, 5	
White-rumped Sandpiper, 6	American Crow, 338	Kentucky Warbler, 1	
Baird's Sandpiper, 33	Fish Crow, 50	Common Yellowthroat, 14	

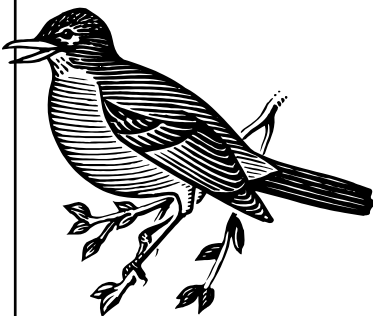
## Birding on the Cheap

by Peter Lowen

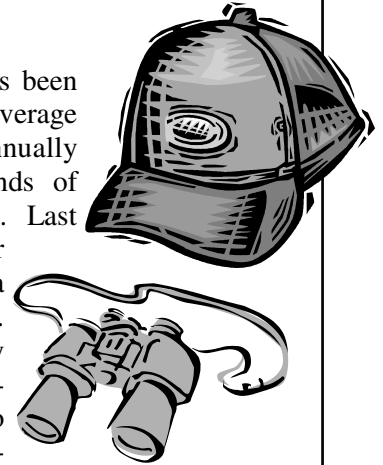
When I started *birding* as many of us have come to understand it, I lived in Denver, CO. I had seen some birds in Florida and North Carolina, but really took the plunge along the Front Range of the Rockies when I met a birder named David Pantle. I was driving around, birding ineffectively; he was luring a Virginia Rail out of a stand of cattails with a taped call, in order to photograph it. He invited me to sit and watch what is still one of my strongest and most magically mesmerizing birding experiences. Then, he invited me to join the local birding club, the Denver Field Ornithologists

I started to bird with the best birders Denver had to offer. DFO sponsored trips every weekend day except Christmas weekend and Easter Sunday. There were lots of half-day trips and plenty of helpful birders to learn from. Soon, I found myself hankering for longer trips to add new birds to my list, and eventually went out to the eastern edge of the state in order to add Northern Cardinal to my state list. (I am a helpless lister.) Still, though, I couldn't believe the absurdity of some birders, who would drive all the way to Nebraska to look for wintering longspurs. Surely these birders were not only dedicated, but also mentally unfit as well. It was unbelievable that looking for some "little brown jobs" could justify this incredible use of time and resources.

As time went on, and my personal quest for new birds increased, it was easier and easier to rationalize the importance of a four-hour drive in search of rarities. Poking around one's readily accessible radius of 50 miles from home no longer slaked the thirst for birds. On a frigid April morning on the Pawnee National Grasslands, I suffered frostbite on some toes in order to sit alone in a spider-infested bird blind, watching Lesser Prairie-Chickens on their lek at six in the morning, 300 miles from home. Another trip was necessary to North Park to see displaying Sage Grouse (no luck), 200 miles away. Suddenly, interstate travel to see new birds made sense. Hey, if I could spot 200 birds in each of the 50 states, I'd have 10,000 tick marks to my name. That sounded relatively reasonable (and fun).



Now that the birding hook has been long set, I accept that your average just-call-me-crazy birder annually logs hundreds if not thousands of miles by car in search of birds. Last time I looked, however, regular unleaded gas was up to \$1.88 a gallon with no apparent ceiling. That certainly changes my view of birding sorties and crusades. (My goal here is not to chastise birders for enthusiastically following their hobby, but to offer an alternative.)



I know Aline Romero has been a champion of the Tulsa County list, which is a rather local alternative to a State list, but two of my favorite lists are my yard list and neighborhood list. In two and a half years, just walking around the developments and soon-to-be-developments of South Tulsa, I have tallied 125 species. My wife may roll her eyes, but I keep lists of the most productive walks in each of the 12 months. The top walk ever was 40 species (March), and the lowest month's record was 18 (November). Every month, I have new incentive to go out and beat what brush remains.

I compete only against myself, slowly acquiring knowledge of the habits and songs of the truly local birds, down to the individuals. Does it have the excitement of a Panhandle tour or a Big Bend odyssey? No, but it is satisfying and rewarding, and good exercise, to boot.



So, good birders of the Tulsa area, I urge you to strap on your binocs, bring along a water bottle if needed, and walk out the front door, and see what's in your neighborhood.

Don't get me wrong; I do love a birding road trip. However, when the realities and costs of living in a complicated and unbalanced world are hard to ignore, birding by foot is a guilt-free way to enjoy this great passion.

**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

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

OR, for only Tulsa Audubon Society

\$10 Local membership - includes

**Tulsa Scissortail.** Mail check to:

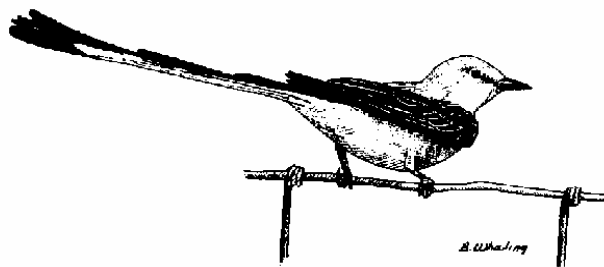
Tulsa Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2476  
Tulsa, OK 74101

**CAPED CRUSADERS**

Catch the flight of one million bats at a Selman Bat Watch Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights this July from 6 – 10 p.m. in Freedom, OK. The only public bat-flight viewing in Oklahoma, it was named one of the top 10 "must-see, jaw-dropping spectacles," by *Birder's World* magazine in August 2003. \$9 adults, \$5 children, groups (12 or more people) receive a 10% discount. Seating is limited, so register today. Deadline is June 28. Get more information and download a registration form at [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com) or contact the Wildlife Department at (405) 424-0099. The event is sponsored by the Wildlife Diversity Program of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.



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



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