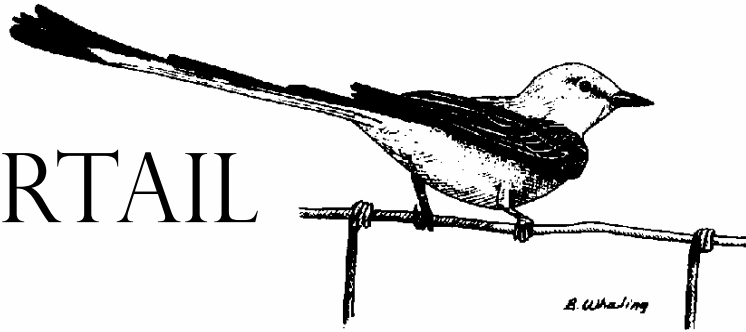


TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
VOL. LXVII, NO. 3

SPRING 2006

EDITOR: PETER LOWEN

From the President

Forever Wild – 2006!

I asked Peter to “hold the presses” on this issue of *The Scissortail* because a great opportunity for TAS just came up the last week of February. We were offered the chance to host Forever Wild 2006!, A Multi-Media Celebration of Wild Lands, Wildlife, and Wild Rivers. The presentation features nature photographer/folksinger “Walkin” Jim Stoltz. You will experience Jim’s inspiring photographs and original backcountry ballads from over 26,000 miles of hiking through America’s last wild places. The event will be held on March 25 at the new Performing Arts Center at Monte Cassino School, 2206 S. Lewis in Tulsa. The best part is that *admission is FREE!*

The short notice was because there was an unexpected cancellation on his schedule, giving us the chance to bring him to Tulsa.

Jim has been performing for 20 years, and in honor of this anniversary he and the group *Musicians United to Sustain the Environment* is offering this free tour in all 50 states, working local organizations across America to inspire folks to act on behalf of nature. Visit the website for the project, www.foreverwild.info and Jim’s own web site, www.walkinjim.com for lots more information.

Audubon Collaborative Funding

Last fall, National Audubon organized a conference call for leaders of all the chapters in Oklahoma, prompted by the start of a new program for National, Collaborative Funding. For this year, about \$1,400 is being made available to Oklahoma for the chapters. The funds can be used to enhance existing programs or develop new projects in ways that will increase membership involvement and/or attract new leaders. This collaborative discussion is also an opportunity to explore projects of benefit to several

Chapters – through joint involvement in a project, through collective training or development of materials or programs of benefit to all.

The Chapter Leaders decided to use this opportunity to have a state-wide meeting, similar to the Oklahoma State Audubon Council that had been active for a number of years back in the 1980s through early 1990s. The meeting is on March 4th, so I can’t report the results to you just yet, but we will discuss how we can work together in the future, and how we can best leverage the funds from National. One idea that had come up, and which some other states have done, is to develop a basic birding course curriculum and materials, which all the chapters can use to reach out to the community and share our love of birds and nature.

President’s Message continued on page 2.

TAS Upcoming Events

Tuesday Morning Birders. The Tuesday Morning Birders meet at 8am November through March at the Tulsa Garden Center. From April through October meet at 7:30am.

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

March

21 Tue. Society Meeting. *Lewis and Clark Expedition: Three Forks to Astoria* by Carol Eames, Tulsa Zoo Education Curator, retired. In a recent trip, Carol retraced the steps of the famous expedition in the second, and most perilous part of their journey.

25 Sat. Field Trip. Ray Harrall Nature Park (7501 S. 3rd St., Broken Arrow) and Bixby sod farms. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the park located one-half mile east of S. 161 E. Ave. on E. 121 St. S., then S. on 3rd St. behind the school. Contact: Tomye Mainer 918-459-7582 or tomyemainer@aol.com

25 Sat. Forever Wild 2006! Performance by Walkin’ Jim Stoltz at the Monte Cassino Performing Arts Center, 2206 S. Lewis Ave. at 7:00p.m. See above and page 3 for more information.

April

18 Tue. Society Meeting. Barn Owls - A Bird’s Eye View by Jerry Vanbebber, a relatively new and very enthusiastic birder. See a fascinating video shot right inside an active owl box.

22 Sat. Field Trip. Lake Eucha and Brush Creek area for early migrants. For time and place to meet, contact Pat Seibert at 918-747-4202, barnowl674@aol.com or at the lake phone 918-435-8194.

29 Sat. Field Trip. Nature Conservancy Nickel Preserve Spring Count. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Eagle Bluff Parking lot. For information contact John Fisher at 918-245-8662 or rgs455@cox.net

Cont’d on page 2.

President's Message - cont'd **Operation Migration**

Aline Romero

At the December 2005 meeting we recognized long-time member Aline Romero, who has recently moved to Wynnewood to live with her daughter's family. We presented her with a framed picture from an article published in the Feb. 14, 1986 Tulsa Tribune profiling her and Forrest and their lifelong passion for birds and nature. (It just NOW dawned on me that this was from Valentine's Day and the headline of the article was "Togetherness – Tulsa couple's roles perfected after 45 years.") If you have not already done so, please visit tulsaaudubon.org to see pictures of Aline at the meeting, and to see a copy of the Tribune article.

You may be familiar with Operation Migration, the project which is trying to introduce a new population of Whooping Cranes that nest in Wisconsin and winter in Florida. The fascinating aspect is that they use an ultralight aircraft to teach the young birds the migration route to and from Florida. I have had a link on the tulsaaudubon.org home page for many years. Last Fall Operation Migration issued an urgent plea for help. Due to the skyrocketing cost of gasoline, they did not have enough money in their budget to purchase enough gas for the ultralight. The TAS board voted to donate \$184, the cost to lead the birds one mile, to Operation Migration. So be sure to follow the cranes on their northward migration this Spring, knowing you all helped in a small way!

John Kennington

Upcoming Events cont'd from page 1

May

6 Sat. Big Day Count. Tulsa Audubon Society annual day-long, country-wide census of migrant and resident species. Organizer: Jo Loyd, 835-2946 or jo.loyd@sbcglobal.net.

16 Tue. Society Meeting. The Nature Conservancy in Oklahoma by Jay Pruett, Director of Conservation for the Nature Conservancy, Oklahoma Chapter. Presentation on the programs of the Conservancy and the properties that it owns or manages in Oklahoma.

20-21 Sat/Sun Field Trip. Black Mesa State Park and Cimarron County. Leader: Gail Storey 918-742-2684 or gailstorey@sbcglobal.net

2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Jo Loyd

On December 17th Tulsa Audubon Society participated in the National Audubon Society 106th annual Christmas Bird Count. A big thanks to the 48 volunteers in 21 parties who logged 120 party hours, while driving 580 miles, walking 31.5 miles, and counting 104 species and 190,119 individual birds.

On past CBC counts we occasionally had a single Eastern Phoebe, but this year an amazing number of 13 phoebes were tallied. The Fish Crow were a first for the Tulsa CBC. Also thanks to Tomye and Jim Mainer for hosting the soup supper at the end of the count. The following is a listing of the species and numbers of the count.

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Common Loon, 1 | Green-winged Teal, 20 | DUCK SPECIES, 33 | Wilson's Snipe, 26 |
| Pied-billed Grebe, 23 | Redhead, 3 | Bald Eagle, 4 | Bonaparte's Gull, 713 |
| Great Blue Heron, 57 | Ring-necked Duck, 103 | Northern Harrier, 41 | Ring-billed Gull, 2219 |
| Snow Goose, 1 | Greater Scaup, 6 | Sharp-shinned Hawk, 6 | Herring Gull, 3 |
| Cackling Goose, 5 | Lesser Scaup, 40 | Cooper's Hawk, 6 | Rock Dove, 753 |
| Canada Goose, 1381 | Bufflehead, 199 | Red-shouldered Hawk, 56 | Mourning Dove, 323 |
| Wood Duck, 10 | Common Goldeneye, 108 | Red-tailed Hawk, 171 | Eurasian Collared-Dove, 2 |
| Gadwall, 569 | Hooded Merganser, 71 | HAWK SPECIES, 1 | Barn Owl, 8 |
| American Wigeon, 7 | Common Merganser, 165 | American Kestrel, 83 | Eastern Screech Owl, 4 |
| Mallard, 2819 | Red-breasted Merganser, 43 | American Coot, 1 | Great Horned Owl, 12 |
| Northern Shoveler, 274 | Ruddy Duck, 5 | Killdeer, 40 | |
| Northern Pintail, 11 | | Greater Yellowlegs, 1 | <i>Count list cont'd on page 4</i> |

TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: John Kennington 809-6325 Vice-President: Gail Storey 742-2684
Secretary: Cyndie Browning 492-5622 Treasurer: Mary Jackson 254-1350
Recorder: Amy Lambert 272-4794, 747-4202

Directors: Martin Brown, Carol Eames, David Edwards, John Fisher, Tomye Mainer, Brandon Scott

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

"Tulsa Scissortail" is the quarterly 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 Summer 2006, that will be May 14th or so).

e-mail: thelowenfamily@sbcglobal.net

Peter Lowen, Editor

Celebrate America's Wilderness Heritage

Forever Wild 2006

with

Walkin' Jim Stoltz

At the Monte Cassino Performing Arts Center

2206 S. Lewis, Tulsa

March 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Presented by Tulsa Audubon & other local organizations

Free to the Public

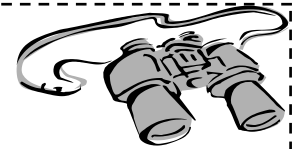


20 Years of Sharing the Beauty & Wonders
of Our Natural Environment!

26,000 Miles of Walking the Backcountry
of North America!

Walkin' Jim Stoltz: Helping Protect our Planet
One Song At A Time.

Recorder's Report



Recorder: Amy Lambert
lambert.a@sbcglobal.net

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

November 2005 through February 2006

Amy Lambert 272-4794 or Pat Seibert 747-4202

| Species | Date | Count | Location | Observer |
|--|-----------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| R Cackling Goose | 24-Nov-05 | 8 | Mohawk Park | B.Carrell |
| R Cackling Goose | 12-Dec-05 | 1 | Lynn Lane Reservoir | J.Loyd |
| R Trumpeter Swan | 09-Jan-06 | 3 | North Tulsa County | D & R John |
| (Seen between 1/9/06 and 1/20/06 in north Tulsa County and southern Washington County) | | | | |
| R White-winged Scoter | 06-Dec-05 | 4 | Lynn Lane Reservoir | S.Metz |
| R White-winged Scoter | 10-Dec-05 | 4 | Lynn Lane Reservoir | P.Ribitzki |
| (Up to 8 birds seen, 7 females, one male) | | | | |
| R Black Scoter | 25-Nov-05 | 1 | Lynn Lane Reservoir | J.Arterburn |
| R Black Scoter | 02-Jan-06 | 1 | Lynn Lane Reservoir | J.Cox |
| (1 male, 1 female) | | | | |
| O Great Egret | 19-Nov-05 | 5 | Oxley Nature Center | B.Carrell |
| O Great Egret | 20-Nov-05 | 7 | Mhwk Pk, Ox., Lk Sherry | B. Carrell/T. Mitchell |
| O Great Egret | 26-Nov-05 | 7 | Mhwk Pk, Ox., Lk Sherry | B. Carrell/T. Mitchell |
| (7 Great Egrets still at Lake Sherry 6 days later) | | | | |
| O Great Egret | 16-Jan-06 | 1 | Keystone Dam | P.Ribitzki |
| R Black Vulture | 03-Dec-05 | 5 | Keystone Area | J.Loyd, et al |
| R Ferruginous Hawk | 05-Jan-06 | 1 | Bixby Sod Farm | J.Singletery |
| R Ferruginous Hawk | 31-Jan-06 | 1 | South Tulsa County | B.Scott |
| (Probably the same hawk, still being seen) | | | | |
| R Peregrine Falcon | 29-Nov-05 | 1 | Down Town Tulsa | J.Arterburn |
| R Peregrine Falcon | 30-Nov-05 | 1 | Lake Yahola | L.McRill |
| O American Avocet | 19-Nov-05 | 1 | Oxley Nature Center | B.Carrell |
| O American Avocet | 20-Nov-05 | 1 | Mhwk Pr, Ox., Lk Sherry | B. Carrell/T. Mitchell |
| R Lesser Black-backed Gull | 25-Nov-05 | 1 | Lake Yahola | J.Arterburn |
| R Glaucous Gull | 15-Jan-06 | 1 | Keystone Dam | P.Ribitzki |
| R Eurasian Collared-Dove | 03-Dec-05 | 5 | Keystone Area | J.Loyd, et al |
| R Eurasian Collared-Dove | 28-Dec-05 | 2 | Eagle Roost | J.Fisher |
| Short-eared Owl | 21-Nov-05 | 2 | North Tulsa County | P&V Seibert |
| Fish Crow | 16-Feb-06 | 1 | Owasso | A.Lambert |
| Hermit Thrush | 05-Nov-05 | 2 | Oxley Nature Center | B.Carrell |
| Hermit Thrush | 20-Dec-05 | 1 | North Tulsa County | J.Loyd, et al |

Report does not include Christmas Bird Count data.

O = Out of Date R = Rare

Tulsa CBC Count List cont'd

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Barred Owl, 9 | Carolina Chickadee, 430 | Cedar Waxwing, 112 | Red-wng. Blackbird, 54102 |
| Short-eared Owl, 7 | Tufted Titmouse, 141 | Yellow-rumped Warbler, 141 | Eastern Meadowlark, 832 |
| Belted Kingfisher, 14 | White-br. Nuthatch, 31 | Spotted Towhee, 4 | Rusty Blackbird, 89 |
| Red-head. Woodpecker, 50 | Brown Creeper, 23 | Eastern Towhee, 7 | Brewer's Blackbird, 14 |
| Red-bel. Woodpecker, 100 | Carolina Wren, 118 | Am. Tree Sparrow, 1414 | Common Grackle, 20946 |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 27 | Bewick's Wren, 1 | Chipping Sparrow, 6 | Great-tailed Grackle, 531 |
| Downy Woodpecker, 133 | House Wren, 2 | Field Sparrow, 49 | Brown-headed Cowbird, 206 |
| Hairy Woodpecker, 5 | Winter Wren, 8 | Savannah Sparrow, 156 | BLACKBIRD SP, 62970 |
| Northern Flicker, 235 | Marsh Wren, 2 | Fox Sparrow, 33 | House Finch, 107 |
| Pileated Woodpecker, 14 | Golden-crowned Kinglet, 31 | Song Sparrow, 261 | Pine Siskin, 1 |
| Eastern Phoebe, 13 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 30 | Lincoln's Sparrow, 13 | American Goldfinch, 154 |
| Loggerhead Shrike, 28 | Eastern Bluebird, 167 | Swamp Sparrow, 54 | House Sparrow, 956 |
| Blue Jay, 206 | Hermit Thrush, 17 | White-throated Sparrow, 410 | |
| American Crow, 1818 | American Robin, 1605 | Harris's Sparrow, 296 | Tot. Individual Birds 190,231 |
| Fish Crow, 2 | Northern Mockingbird, 233 | White-crowned Sparrow, 283 | |
| Horned Lark, 11 | Brown Thrasher, 17 | Dark-eyed Junco, 1537 | Total Species 105 |
| | European Starling, 29260 | SPARROW SP, 2 | |
| | American Pipit, 15 | Northern Cardinal, 497 | |

Tallgrass Prairie - TAS Field Trip

by Cyndie Browning

On January 21st, I led a motley crew of about 15-16 birders up to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County. Some of us are members of Tulsa Audubon Society and the rest were "special guests" from all around the country and other Tulsa area birders I hadn't met before. We were blessed with bright, clear, and windless sunshine, even tho' it was colder than a witch-digger's brass monkey (somewhere around freezing) when we started out.

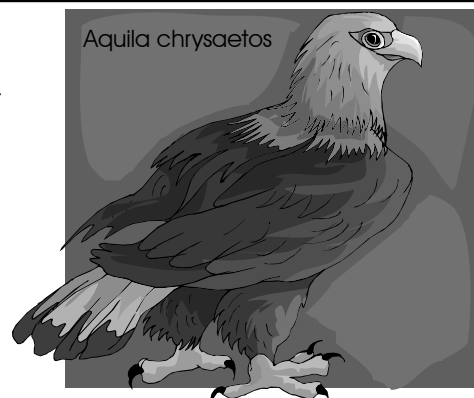
Our first stop was for sparrows and other little brown jobs flittin' back-and-forth along the road in a recently burned-out area. American Tree, Savannah, Field, Song, and Harris's Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos mostly, but also a few Chickadees, Titmice, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, at least one Carolina Wren, Meadowlarks (all facing east so we decided they were probably Easterns), Blue Jays, Cardinals, and Goldfinches, not to mention the first of what would all too soon be recognized as "just another Harrier." As I said 3 weeks ago, if Northern Harrier would be a life bird for you, then the Tallgrass Prairie should be your next birding destination.

At the top of the plateau, we broke out of the roadside bushes and trees next to a field that's NOT fenced in by barbed wire so I suggested that we spread ourselves out across the field and walk down some distance (facing away from the sun), to see if we could scare up any longspurs. Well, scare 'em up, we did!! All Smith's, according to Bill Carrell (thanks, Bill, for your expertise), and we scared up a mess of 'em, at least 40-50. To date, I have never actually SEEN a Smith's Longspur clearly, but I did see the buffy bellies on these guys and noticed the white feathers in their tails and now that I've heard it so often, I'd know that flight call anywhere. Some of the

group got much better looks at the birds than I did and I was pleased for them, especially since longspurs are a winter specialty much sought-after at the Tallgrass Prairie. Well, after I'd ruined my loafers (forgot to change into my hiking boots) and we'd traipsed all the way down the field, we trudged back uphill to the cars and continued our tour.

We found a Loggerhead Shrike that had the decency to remain on the powerline next to the road so the group (strung out in 10 cars!!) got to see him. At a small pond, we found Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks, Green-winged Teal, and No. Shovelers before they spooked and flew off. On down the road, we found Amer. Kestrels and the first of maybe a half-dozen Rough-legged Hawks that we saw all day. I learned later that the Rough-leggeds were life birds for some of our group so that was a good feeling, too. We definitely saw enough of them that everyone in the group agreed: if I ever see one of those again, I'll definitely know what it is.

We pulled into a turnout after seeing several large hawks apparently squabbling in the air so we could get out of the cars and take a closer look. One was obviously a mature Bald Eagle, but we were thrilled when we realized that THE OTHER TWO WERE GOLDEN EAGLES!!!! and they were really giving that Bald Eagle a bad time!!!! I managed to latch onto one of the Golden's with my scope, getting a kick-a-- look at his golden mantle, the dark wing linings (underside) with whiter feathers showing behind them out near the wingtips, and the whitish tail with broad dark band at the tip--- this was an immature bird. Of course, we never figured out why the young Goldies were chasin' after that Baldie, but the whole encounter was SOOO exciting to watch!! I usually tell people



that I've watched Golden Eagles fly over the picnic table area (near the Refuge HQ/gift shop) while I'm eating my lunch, but I've never seen TWO Goldies at the same time, let alone mixin' it up with a Baldie. What a treat! and definitely the highlight of the morning.

Then someone noticed a small flock of Horned Larks fly into the field just beyond where our cars were parked, another life bird for some of our group. We had about 8-10 scopes on 'em so everyone got terrific looks at these dainty, dapper little birds.

Our next stop was the indoor toilets at the Refuge HQ (MO-O-OST welcome!!) followed by a leisure lunch break at the picnic tables where we were entertained by the antics of 4-6 Red-headed Woodpeckers, chickadees, Carolina Wren, and at least one Downy Woodpecker. Bill Carrell said he heard a Hairy Woodpecker in a nearby tree but we were unable to locate it. After lunch, we drove into Fouracre, didn't see much on the way, and now I never have to go there again. And then after circling around the Bison Loop, everyone headed for home. It was a perfect day to be out on the Prairie, especially with no wind anywhere, and all the Longspurs and Hawks and Eagles!! (and Horned Larks). O My!!

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:

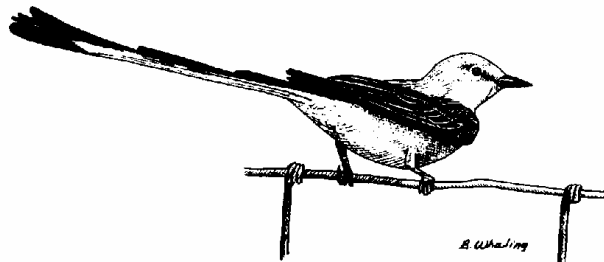
Tulsa Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2476
Tulsa, OK 74101

Bird Seed Clearance Sale

There's not much left – Call John Kennington at 809-6325 . Here is what's on hand as of Feb 28th.

| LBS | DESCRIPTION | PRICE |
|-------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 16 | Birder's Blend Mix (1 left) | \$5.00 |
| 14 | Songbird Mix (2 left) | \$5.00 |
| 35 | Songbird Mix (2 left) | \$14.00 |
| 50 | Cracked Corn (1 left) | \$9.00 |
| 5 | Peanut Hearts (6 left) | \$4.00 |
| 14 oz | Never Melt Insect Suet Cake (10 left) | \$1.00 |
| 3 | Hi-Energy Large Suet Cake (12 left) | \$5.00 |
| | Large Cake Basket w/ Copper Roof | \$15.00 |
| | Wire Suet Rack | \$4.00 |
| 10oz | Gourmet Bird Bar (1 left) | \$2.75 |
| 5 | Corn on the Cob (15 ears) (3 left) | \$3.00 |

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Tulsa, OK 74101



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Please share your "Scissortail" with friends and encourage them to join!