

# TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
VOL. LXVIII, NO. 3

SPRING 2007

EDITOR: PETER LOWEN

## *From the President*

To start this message on a positive note, the Oklahoma Audubon Council has continued to meet, and has begun an IBA (Important Bird Area) program for Oklahoma. An upcoming issue of this newsletter will include an article by Martin Brown who is our leading our IBA efforts for the Council. This article will outline where we are and how we got here, and describe the IBA program. You will be hearing much more about this exciting program in the coming months. Please be sure to visit [www.okaudubon.org](http://www.okaudubon.org) for more information.

Unfortunately there are a number of negative issues to report. First, you are probably aware of the impending de-listing of the Bald Eagle as a threatened species. There are valid arguments on both sides, but as is the case in so many situations with animal recovery projects involving land use, it is mainly political.

Second, in January, the city of Dallas sued Oklahoma in federal court to force Oklahoma to provide water for Dallas. The long term consequences of this action, if successful, are very scary. Bob Jackman, from the Indian Nations Audubon Society,

is working very hard to raise awareness of this, and has provided an article on page 3 of this issue. Be sure to check [www.tulsaaudubon.org](http://www.tulsaaudubon.org) in the coming weeks for more information on this issue.

Finally, I would encourage you to sign up for the TAS email alerts, which will have the latest info on these and other issues. Just send your email to my address at [johnkennington@cox.net](mailto:johnkennington@cox.net) and ask to be added to the TAS email list.

*John Kennington*

## TAS Upcoming Events

**Tuesday Morning Birders.** The Tuesday Morning Birders meet at 8:00 am at the Tulsa Garden Center from September through March and at 7:30 a.m. April through October during Daylight Savings Time. Join us!

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

**Second Saturday, March to October.** Oxley Nature Center Butterfly Walk, 10:30-12:00. Call 669-6644 for details.

**Third Saturday, March to October.** Oxley Nature Center Wildflower Walk, 10:00-11:00. Call 669-6644 for details.

### March

20 Tue 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting. Birds of Bosque del Apache with Ron Day. A celebrated wildlife photographer will share his images of cranes, geese, ducks, and other birds of the beautiful Refuge in southern New Mexico. Be sure to visit his web site at [www.rondayphotography.com](http://www.rondayphotography.com)

31 Sat Field Trip. Tallgrass Prairie for Gr. Prairie-Chickens. Rendezvous point to be announced. For more info, contact Jana Singletary, 918-808-5554.

### April

17 Tue 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting. Migratory Birds with Mark Howery. The speaker, a biologist with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, will discuss the mysteries and challenges of migration.

21-22 Sat.-Sun. Field Trip. Red Slough/McCurtain County for spring migrants and early nesters. Meet at 7:00am Saturday in the McDonalds parking lot in Broken Bow. From there, our first stop will be the Little River NWR with Mia Revels. And we'll tour Red Slough with Dave Arbour on Sunday morning. For more info, contact Cyndie Browning 918-492-5622.

24 Tue Afternoon Outing. A short after-work visit to a local birding area. Meet 6:00 p.m. at the Tulsa Garden Center. Contact John Kennington, 918-809-6325.

*cont'd on page 2*

## Upcoming Events

from page 1

### May

- 9 Wed Afternoon Outing. A short after-work visit to a local birding area. Meet 6:00 p.m. at the Tulsa Garden Center. Contact John Kennington, 918-809-6325.
- 12 Sat Field Trip. Tulsa Birds and Butterflies. Meet at 9:00am at the Tulsa Garden Center parking lot. For more info, contact Dave Edwards, 918-865-7398 or Bob Gard, 918-241-4273.
- 15 Tue 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting. Wildflowers with Kim Shannon. Experience the beauties of our native flora with an enthusiastic and recognized expert from Sutton Avian Research Center.
- 19 Sat Field Trip. Atoka WMA (southwest of McAlester, north of Atoka) for spring migrants. Rendezvous point to be announced. For more info, contact Colin Davy, 918-743-8161.
- 20 Sun Afternoon Outing. A short visit to a local birding area. Meet 6:00 p.m. at the Tulsa Garden Center. Contact John Kennington, 918-809-6325.

## Birding by Ear

Many of us know TAS member Cyndie Browning as one of our more colorful birders. Her outgoing social style and frequent contributions to any discussion make her a stranger to none. After a good day of birding she is always happy to share her experiences in a folksy, entertaining e-mail for the benefit of the subscribers to the Oklahoma Birding Listserv, OK-BIRDS.

Cyndie does love to tell stories and some years ago got onto National Public Radio affiliate High Plains Public Radio (HPPR) to relate one of her own tales to the listening public on "Learning the Birds," a bi-weekly segment by Ruth Beasley. She has now recorded several segments for the show, which airs on HPPR Tuesdays at 10:30 am and Saturdays at 11:45 am. (They are available also at [www.hppr.org/features/learningbirds.html](http://www.hppr.org/features/learningbirds.html).) These are delightful stories, made all the more entertaining by hearing Cyndie's own voice telling them. I listened to one segment "Chasin' Sparrows" a few weeks ago about the comic aspects of rustling up sparrows in a weedy field, an activity best left to trained professionals. It was a very entertaining piece and she ended it with a statement that sums up birding for me pretty well: "Birdwatching - the pursuit of what is elusive yet attainable, an endless series of occasions for hope."  
*editor*

## Whooping Crane Thoughts

You have no doubt already heard of the tragic loss of 18 juvenile Whooping Cranes in a fierce storm in Florida the night of February 1-2. This disaster is a huge loss for the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, a group dedicated to returning a viable population of the cranes back to their former range along the eastern United States. (There is already a wild flock that winters at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge along the Texas coast.)

Started several years ago, the inaugural group of cranes was raised in captivity with a minimum of human contact to prevent imprinting. This "Class of

2001" was trained to follow an ultralight aircraft to migrate from Necedah NWR in Wisconsin down to Chasahowitzka NWR in Florida for the winter.

The strategy of this repopulation is to safeguard the species against extinction should a storm or other natural disaster wipe out a single flock. So, although the death of all but one of this year's chicks is a tragedy, it does serve a purpose. By illustrating that a flock can indeed be destroyed by a single storm, this event reinforces the need for just such a program to succeed in the first place. Thankfully, about fifty of the Wisconsin-Florida birds did survive.

(To make a donation to this worthy project, visit [www.bringbackthecranes.org/involved/index.htm](http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/involved/index.htm))

### TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: John Kennington 809-6325

Vice-President: Gail Storey 742-2684

Secretary: Anita Mitchell

Treasurer: Mary Jackson 254-1350

Recorder: Amy Lambert 272-4794, 747-4202

Directors: Martin Brown, Carol Eames, John Fisher, Jim Mitchell, Brandon Scott, and Gary Siftar

TAS Website: [www.tulsaaudubon.org](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 2007, that will be May 10 or so).

e-mail: [thelowenfamily@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thelowenfamily@sbcglobal.net)

Peter Lowen, Editor

# Oklahoma Land-, Woods- and Water-Huggers & Fish, Bird and Wildlife Lovers - Listen Up: Texans are Trying to Become Owners and Overseers of Oklahoma Public Water Plantations!

Seriously, this is true. Tarrant Regional Water District, a North Texas governmental entity is attempting a hostile take over of huge amounts of Oklahoma public water resources owned by you. They filed in Federal Court to try to force Oklahoma to sell enormous quantities of water from Southeast & South Oklahoma to North Texas State Water Suppliers. Texans are smart, rich, well organized, aggressive and using our home grown lobbyists, adversarial lawyers and certain State elected officials. Together they wrongfully defined Oklahoma as having huge surpluses of water going to waste! This is a myth like "Weapons of Mass Destruction" or Storks bring babies.

Please read the March-April 2007 issue of Audubon magazine. On page 92, there is an excellent article entitled, "Las Vegas Water Grab," where 20 federal threatened or endangered species may be affected. Substitute "Tarrant County/Texans" for "Las Vegas" and "Southeast & South Oklahoma" for "Nevada's 78 basins" in the article. Now you'll see the scary similarity to Texas' Water Grab. Then, rent the movie "China Town".

This is not only of grave concerns to conservationists, bird species and habitat protectors like Audubon Chapters in Oklahoma, but also to farmers, ranchers and small communities in Southeast & South Oklahoma. All of these groups will be damaged by the Tarrant County proposal in Federal Court of water takings of 460,000 acre feet per year from IBA [Important Bird Areas] in Kiamichi River Basin, Cashe and Beaver Creeks below Lawton, plus all related underlying aquifers. (This is on top of our current drought conditions.)

This is Round 2, after the 'Water Compact' attempts in 2001. Texans will not stop fighting for our water until the many dangers of their threats are understood. If they are successful then Appalachia (SE) Oklahoma will be a poverty-doomed catch basin of origin, forced to sell their water exclusively and in perpetuity for North Texas' future prosperity.

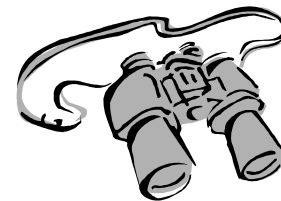
Is Oklahoma to become a third world State by allowing a powerful neighboring State to extract our natural resources at will? If this drama played out in a Third World country with Texas being the outside grabbing foreign power, international press would scream "Colonial Extractors!" Certain Oklahoma officials first cut taxes and then support wholesaling our future by building natural water resources for sale to raise revenues, while we have men and women in Iraq.

Oklahoma's Indian Nation Audubon Society has taken positions against Tarrant County's attempts, and are announcing more in the future. Encourage Governor Henry and your State legislators to say "No outside-of-Court settlements," and show support for Oklahoma Attorney General to vigorously defend against this water grab. Tell Dallas-Ft. Worth water suppliers to "get your excessive lawn watering, swimming pool and golf course water from your own [East Texas] back yards." It is a fact that many undeveloped large water sources are available to Dallas-Ft. Worth from East Texas.

Bob Jackman, Tulsa & Indian Nation Audubon Society Member

# Recorder's Report

December 2006 - February 2006



Recorder: Amy Lambert  
Mail: 12006 E. 80th Street North  
Owasso, OK 74055  
lambert.a@sbcglobal.net  
Amy Lambert 272-4794 or Pat Seibert 747-4202

Species	Date	Count	Location	Observer
R Surf Scoter	19-Oct-06	1	Lake Yahola	B.Carrell
R Surf Scoter	04-Nov-06	1	Lynn Lane Reservoir	J.Arterburn
R White-winged Scoter	10-Feb-07	1	Lake Yahola	S.Metz & J.Hoffman
R Black Scoter	12-Nov-06	1	Lynn Lane Reservoir	J.Arterburn
R Black Scoter	14-Nov-06	1	Lynn Lane Reservoir	J.Loyd, et al
R Black Scoter	20-Nov-06	2	Lake Yahola	T.Curtis
R Black Scoter	10-Feb-07	1	Keystone Dam	T.Curtis
R Long-tailed Duck	25-Jan-07	1	Lake Yahola	J.Loyd
O Horned Grebe	19-Sep-06	2	Mohawk Park	J.Loyd, et al
R Western Grebe	23-Oct-06	1	Keystone, Cowskin Bay*	T.Curtis
R Black Vulture	10-Dec-06	3	River Road to Keystone Dam	P.Ribitzki
A Bald Eagle	30-Jan-07	5	Eagle Roost	J.Fisher
I Bald Eagle	30-Jan-07	8	Eagle Roost	J.Fisher
(The most Bald Eagles seen at the roost this season. There were 12 2/17 and only 1 by 2/23)				
O Swainson's Hawk	13-Dec-06	1	41st St & SW Blvd	W.Whaling
Ferruginous Hawk	26-Oct-06	1	South Tulsa County	L.McRill
Ferruginous Hawk	13-Nov-06	1	Hwy51/Keystone	T.Curtis
Merlin	03-Nov-06	1	Residence, Sand Springs	F.Sanford
R Peregrine Falcon	03-Nov-06	1	Arkansas River	T.Curtis
R Prairie Falcon	27-Nov-06	2	176th N & Lewis	J.Loyd
O Sanderling	27-Oct-06	2	Keystone, Cowskin Bay*	J.Arterburn
R Little Gull	23-Oct-06	1	Keystone, Cowskin Bay*	T.Curtis
O Bonaparte's Gull	13-Oct-06	1	Keystone, Cowskin Bay*	T.Curtis
O Bonaparte's Gull	19-Oct-06	30	Keystone, Cowskin Bay*	T.Curtis
R California Gull	25-Jan-07	1	Lake Yahola	J.Loyd
R Thayer's Gull	28-Jan-07	2	Lake Yahola	T.Curtis
Short-eared Owl	19-Oct-06	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
Short-eared Owl	09-Nov-06	1	136th St N	J.Loyd
Short-eared Owl	27-Nov-06	3	176th N & Lewis	J.Loyd
Short-eared Owl	24-Dec-06	1	136th St N & Yale	M&G Kamp
Short-eared Owl	02-Jan-07	1	Oxley Nature Center	F.Sanford
O Purple Martin	21-Feb-07	1	Owasso	P.Detrick
O Winter Wren	19-Sep-06	1	Mohawk Park	J.Loyd, et al
O Marsh Wren	19-Sep-06	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
O Nashville Warbler	02-Nov-06	1	Williams Center Green	J.Arterburn
O Magnolia Warbler	09-Sep-06	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
O Vesper Sparrow	20-Jan-07	1	Lynn Lane Reservoir	G.Kamp
O Song Sparrow	18-Jul-06	2	Mohawk Park	J.Loyd, et al
O Song Sparrow	23-Sep-06	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
O Lincoln's Sparrow	19-Sep-06	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
O Swamp Sparrow	23-Sep-06	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
Smith's Longspur	27-Nov-06	6	176th N & Lewis	J.Loyd

**O = Out of Date R = Rare A = Adult I = Immature**

# TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 2006

Fifty-five Tulsa Audubon members and friends spent December 16 participating in the National Audubon Society's 107<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bird Count. With everyone's efforts totaled, the miles and hours are remarkable. If you wish to view the details, go to NAS website [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc). The number of species for the day was 109. Another 4 species observed during count week brought the final number to 113 species and 42,693 individual birds. This is 7 more species but far fewer individual birds compared to the 2005 count totals of 106 species and 183,946 birds. A special thanks to the Clarks who hosted the gathering at the end of the day and thanks to all who gave their time to this event. The following list is the result of the 2006 count:

Canada Goose, 2,244	FALCON SPECIES, 1	American Robin, 649
Wood Duck, 42	American Coot, 22	Northern Mockingbird, 167
Gadwall, 659	Killdeer, 17	Brown Thrasher, 14
American Wigeon, 10	Wilson's Snipe, 6	European Starling, 6,755
Mallard, 1,377	California Gull, cw, 1	American Pipit, 3
Blue-winged Teal, 12	Bonaparte's Gull, 21	Cedar Waxwing, 54
Northern Shoveler, 219	Ring-billed Gull, 2,647	Yellow-rumped Warbler, 31
Northern Pintail, 1	Herring Gull, 5	Spotted Towhee, 5
Green-winged Teal, 11	Glaucous Gull, cw, 1	Eastern Towhee, 6
Canvasback, cw, 3	Great Black-backed Gull, 1	American Tree Sparrow, 57
Redhead, 1	GULL SPECIES, 6	Chipping Sparrow, 12
Ring-necked Duck, 276	Rock Pigeon, 520	Field Sparrow, 10
Greater Scaup, cw, 3	Mourning Dove, 81	Savannah Sparrow, 21
Lesser Scaup, 158	Eurasian Collared-Dove, 7	Fox Sparrow, 9
Long-tailed Duck, 2	Barn Owl, 3	Song Sparrow, 88
Bufflehead, 60	Eastern Screech Owl, 3	Lincoln's Sparrow, 4
Common Goldeneye, 235	Great Horned Owl, 6	Swamp Sparrow, 15
Hooded Merganser, 52	Barred Owl, 7	White-throated Sparrow, 238
Common Merganser, 12	Short-eared Owl, 4	Harris's Sparrow, 294
Red-breasted Merganser, 60	Belted Kingfisher, 10	White-crowned Sparrow, 98
DUCK SPECIES, 26	Red-headed Woodpecker, 157	Dark-eyed Junco, 764
Northern Bobwhite, 6	Red-bellied Woodpecker, 105	Smith's Longspur, 6
Common Loon, 2	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 14	LONGSPUR SPECIES, 38
Pied-billed Grebe, 8	Downy Woodpecker, 108	Northern Cardinal, 456
Horned Grebe, 3	Hairy Woodpecker, 7	Red-winged Blackbird, 18,349
Eared Grebe, 2	Northern Flicker (Yellow), 147	Eastern Meadowlark, 292
American White Pelican, 1	Pileated Woodpecker, 11	Rusty Blackbird, 31
Double-crested Cormorant, 86	Eastern Phoebe, 1	Brewer's Blackbird, 28
Great Blue Heron, 36	Loggerhead Shrike, 22	Common Grackle, 366
Great Egret, 1	Blue Jay, 254	Great-tailed Grackle, 83
Turkey Vulture, 3	American Crow, 561	Brown-headed Cowbird, 15
Bald Eagle, 4	Horned Lark, 75	BLACKBIRD SPECIES, 250
Northern Harrier, 32	Carolina Chickadee, 361	Purple Finch, 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3	Tufted Titmouse, 222	House Finch, 132
Cooper's Hawk, 2	White-breasted Nuthatch, 43	Pine Siskin, 2
Red-shouldered Hawk, 60	Brown Creeper, 25	American Goldfinch, 238
Red-tailed Hawk, 116	Carolina Wren, 140	House Sparrow, 1,232
Harlan's Hawk, 1	Winter Wren, 6	
ACCIPITER SPECIES, 1	Golden-crowned Kinglet, 27	Total Individual Birds 42,666
HAWK SPECIES, 3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 13	
American Kestrel, 84	Eastern Bluebird, 273	Total Species 113
Prairie Falcon, 1	Hermit Thrush, 2	

**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

**Oklahoma Alert!**

Enclosed is a letter from Bob Jackman of the Indian Nations Audubon Society outlining current attempts by Texas water interests to have perpetual and undervalued access to Oklahoma's water supplies.

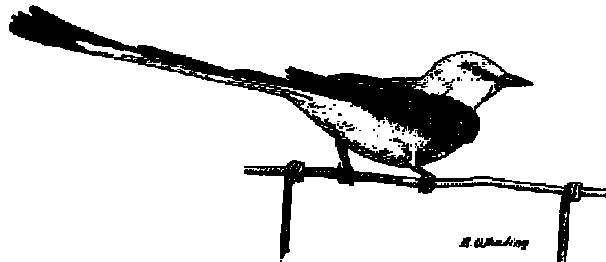
This is a situation that begs involvement and at a minimum I would encourage you to contact your Governor and State Representatives.

You can write to the governor at:

Governor Brad Henry  
State Capitol Building  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 212  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Or, you can e-mail him through [www.state.ok.us/governor/contact.php](http://www.state.ok.us/governor/contact.php), contact your state senator through [www.oksenate.gov/senators.htm](http://www.oksenate.gov/senators.htm), or any state legislator by visiting [www.state.ok.us/](http://www.state.ok.us/) and under "Get Involved" clicking on "Find Your Legislator".

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



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