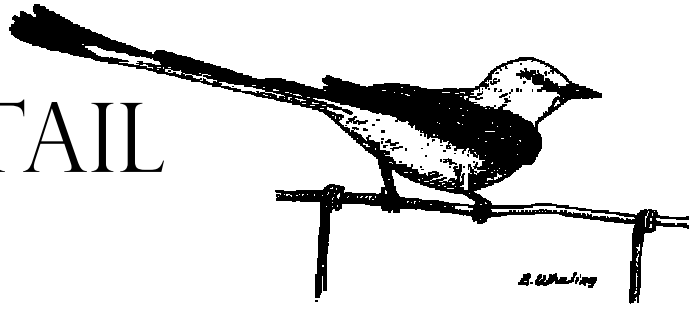


TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
VOL. LXX, NO. 1

FALL 2008

LAURIE RIBITZKI
EDITOR

From the President

TogetherGreen Volunteer Days. I would like to announce that we were selected for a \$7000 TogetherGreen Volunteer Days grant through National Audubon. This grant provides funds to increase volunteerism in conservation projects. The TAS Board met several times and decided on seven projects. Watch www.tulsaaudubon.org for project details and opportunities to volunteer for fun and meaningful projects. Our goal is to involve at least 150 new volunteers in our projects.

The first event is Sunday, Oct. 12, a Big Sit and Habitat Improvement Day at the Deep Fork NWR. See page 5 for the details.

Purple Martins. I hope everyone heard about the Purple Martin Roost Watches TAS held in downtown Tulsa. The Doubletree Hotel was very accommodating to our group where their rooftop parking garage held the best vantage point. Look for this fun "happening" next summer. Check the web site for some great photographs, links to the media coverage we had, and a history of the martins in Tulsa by Dick Sherry.

Birds & Wine. We're trying a new idea this year, a morning of birding followed by a visit to a winery. The first event is Nov. 15 to Grand Lake and Vinita.

Garden Tour. This year's tour was another great success with over 600

participants and six beautiful gardens. Thank you to the homeowners for sharing their yards and to the entire Audubon at Home committee who plan all year for this unique fundraiser.

Bird Seed Sale. Our annual bird seed sale will be held on October 18 with an order deadline of October 5. The order forms will be mailed to previous customers about September 15. You can place your order on-line.

Board Member Resigns. I am sad to report Linda Clark is moving to the Austin, Texas area. She knew this was a possibility when she agreed to serve, but we had hoped she wouldn't leave. We will all miss her sweet spirit. Good Luck and Best Wishes!

TAS Upcoming Events

Sept. 16, Tue. 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting, Tulsa Garden Center. "Wildcat Glades Audubon Center in Joplin, MO" with Dave Henness. Dave is a volunteer at the new center, featuring some of the last remaining chert glades.

Sept. 20, Sat. Field Trip - Salt Plains NWR. C. Contact Bob Germany, trip leader, at 493-2726 or bgerm1@cox.net.

Oct. 21, Tue. 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting, Tulsa Garden Center. "Pontotoc Ridge Preserve and Blue River Conservation District" with Jona Tucker. Jona is director of this Nature Conservancy preserve and will discuss this premier crosstimbers property, an excellent example of Oklahoma's ruggedly beautiful lands

Oct. 4, Sat. Field Trip - Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Gardens. Visit the site of this new facility northwest of downtown Tulsa still under development and help TAS develop a bird list for the Gardens as we walk the grounds viewing birds and other wildlife. Contact John Kennington, 918-809-6325.

Oct. 11, Sat. Field Trip - Wildcat Glades Audubon Center in Joplin MO. Contact Cyndie Browning 918-492-5622 to RSVP.

Oct. 12, Sun. Together Green Event - Sittin' Green Together, Deep Fork NWR Habitat Improvement & Big Sit. See page 5 for details.

Nov. 8, Sat. Field Trip - Tallgrass Prairie Preserve for winter birds. RSVP and more information: Contact Cyndie Browning 918-492-5622 to RSVP.

Nov. 15, Sat. Birds & Wine - Grand Lake & Summerside Vineyards. We will begin the day looking for Pelicans and other birds on Grand Lake, and then visit Summerside Vineyards in Vinita for lunch and a winery tour. We have invited Grand Lake Audubon members to join us. Contact John Kennington at 918-809-6325.

Nov. 18, Tue. 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting, Tulsa Garden Center. "Fall Warblers and a Christmas Bird Count Refresher" with Dr. Chris Butler. Dr. Butler, an ornithologist and professor of biology at the University of Central Oklahoma, will help us sharpen our bird identification skills.

This year, please contact the trip leaders for field trip details. Once in a blue moon, a meeting location or time may change due to unforeseen circumstances. By reserving your place in the group, the trip leader will be able to contact you in the event of a change.

We hope this will eliminate any confusion and serve to only enhance your birding experience.

See the enclosed pamphlet of the Tulsa Audubon Society's yearly trips and events. Keep it handy and mark you calendars for an exciting year of good birding!

Birding Etiquette

If you are new to bird watching or an old hand at it, there are a few things to remember while communing with nature:

- Be clear about time and place to meet.
- Be punctual. The group is waiting to leave and should not be expected to wait on stragglers. Most birds are seen early in the day and will be missed if time is taken to wait for latecomers. If you expect to be late, get the directions and proceed to the site. Get a cell number if possible.
- Shhh! Talking loudly and laughing will scare the birds away. This may seem obvious but it is the number one thing to remember while with a group. Wait until break time to visit with each other.
- Wear appropriate clothing. No one wants to watch you freeze, sweat, get wet or get sunburned.
- If going to a desolate place like Black Mesa, bring everything you need like food, enough gas and make room reservations if needed. Remember to bring cash as some remote places don't take credit cards.
- Break up a large group into manageable, smaller groups. Include an experienced birder in each group if possible to help the newer birders learn the different species.
- Have fun ! Respect nature, bring your bug spray, binocs, water and unbridled enthusiasm.

Thank You 2008-2009 Program & Field Trip Committees

This year's Program and Field Trip Committees worked tirelessly to seek out top-notch speakers and arrange interesting field trips for Tulsa Audubon.

They met, brainstormed for good ideas then contacted the speakers and leaders.

Program Committee members are Mary Jackson, Jim Mitchell, Anita Mitchell, Jo Loyd, John Fisher, Laurie McGrouty, Renee McGrouty, Martin Brown, Jean Brown and Gail Storey, committee chairperson.

Field Trip Committee members are Jo Loyd, Gail Storey, Jim and Anita Mitchell and Cyndie Browning, committee chairperson.

During the course of the year, take a moment to thank these folks who have worked so hard to provide us with a great program and field trip schedule.

WE NEED A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

Photographers Needed: Take digital photos of TAS events to document our stewardship of the Toyota Together-Green grant. Looking for candid, fun photos of this year's activities. Need not be present at every event. Email photos to johnkennington@cox.net.

Historian Helper: Collector of newspaper articles of publicized TAS events. Must have scissors. Bring clippings to meetings or mail to P.O Box 2476, Tulsa OK 74101.

Surfer: Google Internet for free places for TAS to publicize society events on websites, TV calendars and other state and local sites. Existing leads are available.



TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: John Kennington 809-6325

Vice-President: Gail Storey 742-2684

Secretary: Anita Mitchell 272-6755

Treasurer: Mary Jackson 254-1350

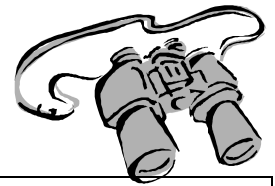
Recorder: Paul Ribitzki 243-5515

Directors: Carol Eames, John Fisher, Jim Mitchell, Laurie Ribitzki, and Gary Siftar

TAS Website: 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, the editor needs items for that issue at least a week before going to press (For Winter 2008, that will be November 7th or so). We are always looking for a good nature story.

Recorder's Report



March 2008 through May 2008

Recorder: Paul Ribitzki, e-mail: lribitzki@juno.com
 Paul Ribitzki 243-5515 or Pat Seibert 747-4202

| RARITY | SPECIES | DATE | COUNT | LOCATION/ COUNTY | PLACE | OBSERVER(S) | |
|--------|---------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| R | Teal | Cinnamon | 04/21/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Glenpool, 151st St 1.5 mi E of Hwy 75 | G Troop |
| R | Anhinga | | 04/15/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Mohawk Park | J Fisher |
| | Bittern | American | 03/30/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Hwy 169 & 41st St | B Carrell |
| R | Ibis | Glossy | 05/27/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, 56th St N sod farms | B Carrell |
| R | Ibis | White-faced | 04/08/08 | 4 | Tulsa | Bixby area | J Loyd, et al |
| R | Ibis | White-faced | 05/26/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Wagoner sod farms | J Arterburn |
| R | Ibis | White-faced | 05/27/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, 56th St N sod farms | B Carrell |
| O | Night-Heron | Yellow-crowned | 03/16/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center | B Carrell |
| O | Night-Heron | Yellow-crowned | 03/22/08 | 2 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center | T Mitchell |
| O | Osprey | | 03/25/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Mohawk Park | J Loyd, et al |
| O | Osprey | | 05/30/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Lake Yahola | B Carrell |
| R,O | Falcon | Peregrine | 05/28/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, 46th St N W of Mingo | T Mitchell |
| O | Golden-Plover | American | 03/15/08 | 10 | Tulsa | 56th St N sod farms | B Carrell |
| O | Plover | Black-bellied | 04/06/08 | 2 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Lake Yahola | T Mitchell |
| R,O | Plover | Piping | 04/11/08 | 4 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Lake Yahola | B Carrell |
| O | Dunlin | | 04/08/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Bixby area | J Loyd, et al |
| O | Godwit | Hudsonian | 04/10/08 | 19 | Wagoner | Green Acre Sod farms | P VanEls, S Radstaak |
| O | Sandpiper | Buff-breasted | 04/11/08 | 1 | Tulsa | 56th St N sod farms | T Mitchell |
| O | Sandpiper | Buff-breasted | 05/26/08 | 6 | Tulsa | Leonard sod farms | J Arterburn |
| O | Sandpiper | Semipalmated | 03/28/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, 56th St N & Yale | B Carrell |
| O | Sandpiper | Semipalmated | 04/01/08 | 3 | Tulsa | 56th St N sod farms | T Mitchell |
| R,O | Whimbrel | | 05/27/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Bixby sod farms | B Carrell |
| R,O | Phalarope | Red-necked | 05/26/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Leonard sod farms | J Arterburn |
| O | Gull | Bonaparte's | 05/03/08 | 5 | Tulsa | Big Day Count Area 7 | F Sanford, Et. Al. |
| R | Gull | Lesser Black-backed | 04/13/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Lake Yahola | B Carrell |
| R | Dove | White-winged | 05/24/08 | 2 | Tulsa | Tulsa residence | S Tramel |
| O | Sapsucker | Yellow-bellied | 05/03/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Big Day Count Area 8 | M Jackson, Et. Al. |
| O | Kingbird | Western | 04/05/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, 71st & Yale | C Browning |
| O | Vireo | Blue-headed | 04/18/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley North Woods | B Carrell |
| O | Vireo | Philadelphia | 04/26/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Sand Springs residence | S Metz |
| O | Vireo | White-eyed | 03/22/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center | L McRill |
| O | Swallow | Bank | 04/18/08 | 2 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Lake Yahola | B Carrell |
| O | Swallow | Cliff | 03/28/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Lake Yahola | B Carrell |
| O | Swallow | Northern Rough-winged | 03/11/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Mohawk Park & Lake Yahola | J Loyd, et al |
| O | Creepers | Brown | 05/11/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, 31st St & Riverside Dr | C Browning, Et. Al. |
| O | Warbler | Blackpoll | 04/25/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley North Woods | B Carrell |
| R | Warbler | Cerulean | 05/08/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Bixby, Washington Irving Park | J Singletary, Et. Al. |
| R | Warbler | Hooded | 04/23/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Broken Arrow, Haikey Creek Park | N Pfannenstiel |
| R | Warbler | Hooded | 04/24/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Woodward Park | T Mitchell |
| O | Warbler | Mourning | 05/03/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Big Day Count Area 10 | T Mitchell |
| O | Warbler | Nashville | 05/22/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, 31st St & Riverside Dr | M Mutzig |
| O | Warbler | Orange-crowned | 05/22/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, 31st St & Riverside Dr | M Mutzig |

March 2008 through May 2008 Recorder's Report continued

| RARITY | SPECIES | DATE | COUNT | LOCATION/ COUNTY | PLACE | OBSERVER(S) | |
|--------|--------------|---------------|----------|---------------------|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| R | Warbler | Palm | 04/27/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Woodward Park | T Mitchell |
| R | Warbler | Palm | 05/03/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Big Day Count Area 10 | T Mitchell |
| R | Warbler | Pine | 03/22/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Keystone Dam | T Mitchell |
| R | Warbler | Pine | 04/13/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley North Woods | M Jung |
| R | Warbler | Pine | 05/03/08 | 4 | Tulsa | Big Day Count Area 7 | F Sanford, Et. Al. |
| R | Warbler | Prairie | 04/21/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Woodward Park | T Mitchell |
| R | Warbler | Worm-eating | 05/07/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, 31st St & Riverside Dr | T Mitchell, Et. Al. |
| O | Waterthrush | Louisiana | 03/18/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Leonard sod farms | J Loyd, J Singletary, J Driskill |
| O | Yellowthroat | Common | 03/09/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley Blackbird Marsh | T Mitchell |
| O | Sparrow | American Tree | 04/16/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Woodward Park | T Mitchell |
| R | Sparrow | Bachman's | 04/15/08 | 2 | Osage | Zink Ranch | J Loyd, et al |
| O | Sparrow | Chipping | 03/05/08 | 1 | Wagoner | Broken Arrow residence | S Raley |
| O | Sparrow | Chipping | 03/16/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Keystone Dam | B Carrell |
| O | Sparrow | Lark | 03/20/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa residence | G Troop |
| R | Bunting | Lazuli | 04/28/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Keystone Lake area | T Curtis |
| O | Grosbeak | Rose-breasted | 04/21/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa residence | J Wilson |
| O | Blackbird | Brewer's | 05/03/08 | 2 | Tulsa | Big Day Count Area 8 | M Jackson, Et. Al. |
| O | Blackbird | Yellow-headed | 05/27/08 | 2 | Tulsa | Bixby sod farms | T Mitchell |
| O | Oriole | Baltimore | 04/15/08 | 2 | Osage | Zink Ranch | J Loyd, et al |

June 2008 through August 2008 Recorder's Report



| RARITY | SPECIES | DATE | COUNT | LOCATION/ COUNTY | PLACE | OBSERVER(S) | |
|--------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|---|
| R | Bittern | Least | 08/02/08 | 3 | Tulsa | Tulsa County residence | L Redding |
| O | Hawk | Swainson's | 07/08/08 | 1 | Tulsa | 56th St North Sod Farm | J Loyd, T Mainer, J Barto |
| O | Plover | Semipalmated | 07/13/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Bixby & Leonard sod farms | J Arterburn |
| R | Tern | Common | 08/19/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Lake Keystone area | T Mainer, J Loyd, J Singletary, J Barto |
| R | Dove | Inca | 08/16/08 | 2 | Pawnee | Lake Keystone residence | P Ribitzki |
| R | Dove | Inca | 08/26/08 | 2 | Tulsa | Sand Springs residence | J Fisher |
| O | Flycatcher | Acadian | 08/28/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center | N Pfannenstiel |
| O | Flycatcher | Alder | 08/10/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center | T Mitchell |
| O | Flycatcher | Alder | 08/16/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center | T Mitchell |
| R | Warbler | Pine | 07/01/08 | 1 | Tulsa | Keystone River Road | J Loyd, T Mainer |
| R | Warbler | Prairie | 06/03/08 | 2 | Osage | Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden | J Loyd, Et. Al. |
| O | Siskin | Pine | 06/22/08 | 3 | Pawnee | Lake Keystone residence | P Ribitzki |

Record Your Sighting for the Record

The migration is almost upon us here in Oklahoma and I'm sure everyone will be out and about in their favorite spots. If that happens to be in the Tulsa County area in Northeast Oklahoma, the Tulsa Audubon Society would like for your sightings to become part of our historical records. They do not have to be rare or unusual, they all count.

We need the species and quantity of your avian sightings. "Many", "lots", or "several" won't "fly" and cannot be included. If there is a large flock, your best estimate would be appreciated. Next, we need the general area or location, i.e. Lake Yahola, Woodward Park, 31st & Riverside Drive, etc. We would prefer that you not give the exact address of a personal residence, just the neighborhood or street block. Finally, submit the names of the observers. Digital photos of all rare birds would be appreciated.

TAS records sightings from all of Tulsa County, a five mile buffer zone into all of the bordering counties, and Lake Keystone. If you are interested in supporting us in this endeavor, there are a couple of ways to report your findings. Send an email directly to the TAS Recorder at libitzki@juno.com or a post to OKBIRDS that includes all of the pertinent information. If you choose email, please include "bird report" or something similar in the subject so that I won't delete an unknown sender by accident.

Good birding,
Paul Ribitzki
Tulsa Audubon Society Recorder

What is *TogetherGreen*?

5



It's all about helping you get involved in creating a brighter, healthier future. It's a dynamic and innovative Audubon program funded by Toyota that aims to provide inspiration, leadership and opportunities that inspire people everywhere to take action at home, in their communities and beyond to improve the health of our environment.

- Fund and support innovative conservation projects, leadership development and volunteerism to engage people in land, water, and energy conservation;
- Work to produce and report real results for the health of our communities and our planet.

Announced on March 26, 2008 *TogetherGreen* also represents an important alliance between Audubon and Toyota. It's built on our shared belief that we must all work together if we hope to confront the tremendous environmental challenges and opportunities of today and the years ahead. Together, we can make a difference. We invite everyone to get involved through *TogetherGreen*. Act Today. Shape Tomorrow.

Tulsa Audubon and *TogetherGreen*

Tulsa Audubon is one of about 60 Audubon entities chosen to participate in *TogetherGreen* which includes a grant to help fund program. The TAS Board has selected seven projects as our *TogetherGreen* commitment. Some of these are new projects and others are existing programs we will enhance through *TogetherGreen*:

Our First Event is Sunday, Oct. 12

***Sittin' Green Together* - Deep Fork NWR Habitat Improvement & Big Sit**

In conjunction with the Friends of the Deep Fork NWR we will be planting native wildflowers, doing trail maintenance, nature walks, and participating in a Big Sit bird count. Please join us for any part of the day, or all day! All volunteers will receive a Together Green/TAS T-Shirt and supper, provided the Friends of Deep Fork. For more information, contact Gail Storey at 918-742-2684.

5:30 a.m. to 5:30 - Big Sit A Big Sit is a bird count conducted entirely from a circle of about 17' in diameter. Birders sit in it all day and record everything that they see and hear. Teams will rotate in and out of the Big Sit circle. It will be down at the Cussetah Bottoms area where the Deep Fork board walk is located.

1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - Nature Walks Guided walks in the Cussetah Bottoms area

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Wildflower Planting, Trail Work, Cedar Removal Volunteers will be planting wildflowers, cleaning up the trails and removing cedars and other invasive plants (with loppers not chain saws!) Bring a shovel and gloves if you have them.

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Supper, provided by the Friends of Deep Fork Relax after a productive day on the refuge!

Dec. 13, Sat. Oxley Nature Center Habitat Improvement. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Oxley parking lot. Join us to help remove invasive species from Oxley's habitats, and perform other work to improve Oxley's trails and ecosystems. Lunch will be provided, and participants will receive a Together Green/TAS T-Shirt. For more information, contact John Kennington, 918-809-6325.

Jan. 3, Sat. Eagle Day Festival. This particular Eagle Day will be part of our *Together Green* program. Besides eagle viewing, we will feature multiple activities including children's and educational programs.

Jan. 31, Sat. Oxley Nature Center Bluebird Trail. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Oxley parking lot. Join us to help build and install a new Bluebird Trail at Oxley Nature Center, and perform other habitat improvements. Lunch will be provided, and participants will receive a Together Green/TAS T-Shirt.

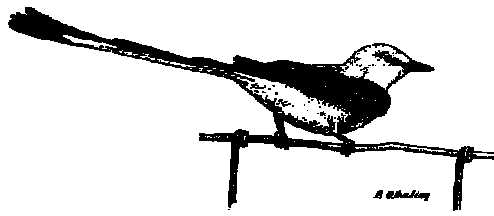
Apr. 18-19 Field Trip - Fence Marking at the Selman Ranch for Lesser Prairie-Chicken Protection. The Selman Ranch is located north of Woodward Oklahoma, and this event will be part of the Oklahoma Audubon Council's Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival that same weekend. This is rather far from Tulsa, but we anticipate a large contingent from Tulsa to participate. Fence marking is a very simple activity and is the most important action we can take to protect this species, which will likely be classified as an endangered species in the very near future.

Late March - Recycling/Sustainability Event. Exact date and details to be announced.

May 30-31 Sat.-Sun. Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale. This is an existing event, and we plan to use the *TogetherGreen* program to greatly enhance it. We are still working out the details, but plan to offer new children's activities and educational opportunities at each home.

FALL 2008

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



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Permit No. 2195

NAS/TAS Introductory Membership Form

Membership in the National Audubon Society provides membership in the Tulsa Audubon Society. Members receive six issues each of **Audubon** magazine and four issues of the **Tulsa Scissortail**.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Please check:

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

\$15 1 yr Student/Senior School/Grade: _____

Check enclosed, payable to: **National Audubon Society**
Please write T01/7XCH on your check

Please bill me

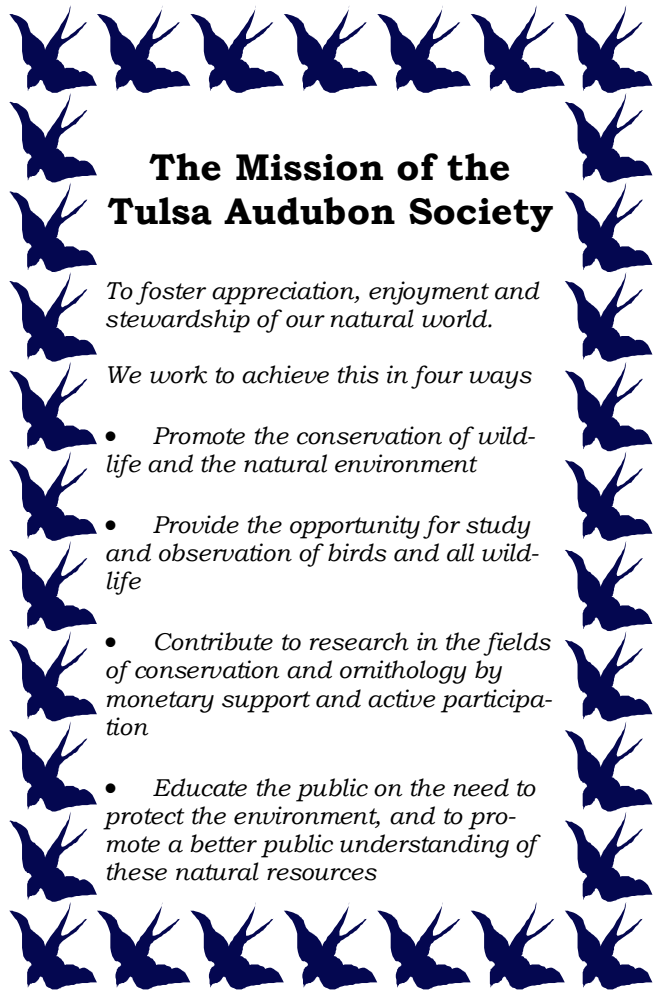
OR

TAS Local Membership

Local membership in the Tulsa Audubon Society includes four issues of the **Tulsa Scissortail**.

\$10 Local membership, check enclosed
payable to: **Tulsa Audubon Society**

Mail either to: Tulsa Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2476
Tulsa, OK 74101



**The Mission of the
Tulsa Audubon Society**

*To foster appreciation, enjoyment and
stewardship of our natural world.*

We work to achieve this in four ways

- *Promote the conservation of wild-
life and the natural environment*
- *Provide the opportunity for study
and observation of birds and all wild-
life*
- *Contribute to research in the fields
of conservation and ornithology by
monetary support and active participa-
tion*
- *Educate the public on the need to
protect the environment, and to pro-
mote a better public understanding of
these natural resources*