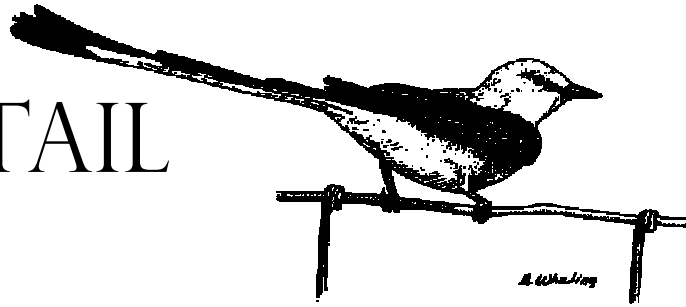


TULSA SCISSORTAIL

WINTER 2008



TULSA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
VOL. LXX, NO. 2

LAURIE RIBITZKI
EDITOR

From the President

TogetherGreen Volunteer Days.

Thank you to all who made a first Together Green a great success! We began the day at 5:30 A.M. when our Big Sit began. (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.) When the final team left the circle at 5:30 p.m. we had tallied 41 species.

At 1:00 Lori Jones from the Deep Fork NWR led a wonderful nature walk along the Cussetah Bottoms board walk. The highlight was a baby Pygmy Rattlesnake! We then began our work, cleaning the trail and planting the wildlife friendly plants and shrubs. The plants were provided by TAS through the Toyota TogetherGreen grant. The Schuller Fire Department provided a water truck for watering everything we had just

planted. The day ended with grilled burgers and dogs provided by the Friends of Deep Fork.

Our second **TogetherGreen Volunteer Days** event is at Oxley Nature Center on December 13 to remove invasive species and make other habitat improvements. Other upcoming events are a special Eagle Days at Keystone Dam on January 11 and construction of a bluebird trail at Oxley on January 31st.

Another grant award of the TogetherGreen program is called Conservation Fellowships. I am very happy to announce that Eric Beck of Lawton, who is the Important Bird Area Coordinator for the Oklahoma Audubon Council, has received one of these forty fellowships. Eric will receive professional development training and networking opportunities, plus \$10,000 to support a Conservation Action Project, which is the IBA

program's fence marking initiative to protect Lesser Prairie Chickens.

Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival. Most of my time the last few months has been devoted to organizing a new Lesser Prairie Chicken Birding Festival sponsored by the Audubon Council, to be held April 17-22 in Woodward. This is rather far afield from Tulsa, but most of the TAS board members are closely involved in the Council and the festival planning. The festival brochure and registration form will be ready for release in early December. Please watch www.tulsaaudubon.org and your email for the announcement. This is going to be a first class birding festival, with lots of activities besides the chance to see the chickens. The keynote speaker will be Sharon Stiteler, also known as "The Birdchick". Be sure to check out her web site at www.birdchick.com.

TAS Upcoming Events

Dec. 13, Sat. TogetherGreen Event, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM. Meet in parking lot for habitat and trail improvement at Oxley Nature Center. Lots of volunteers needed! Food and tee-shirts for volunteers. Bring the kids, grandkids or friends to help and have fun.

Dec 16, Tue. Society Meeting Annual Christmas show and Tell Meeting Bring your stories, digital slide shows (10-15 images on CD or flash drive) or artifacts on any nature subject you enjoy like birds, butterflies or wildflowers. Members bring treats to share. Contact Gail Storey for more info (918) 742-2684.

Dec 20, Sat. Christmas Bird Count Tulsa Audubon participates in the 109th consecutive count. Join a team this year for an enjoyable day. Contact Jo Loyd (918) 835-2946 or jo.loyd@sbcglobal.net to sign up.

Jan. 3, Sat. and Sun. Jan, 11 Eagle Days We meet at the Watchable Wildlife Area east of the Corps of Engineers office on the north side of Keystone Dam from 8:00 A.M.-10:00 A.M. Follow the signs to see our national bird. Contact Dave Edwards at 918-865-7398, dafydd@cimtel.net.

Jan 20, Tue. Society Meeting "Red Cockaded Woodpecker" with John Skeen John is a biologist and the manager of the McCurtain County Wilderness area, the only habitat in Oklahoma for this endangered species. Contact Gail Storey for more info (918) 742-2684.

Feb. 7, Sat. Field Trip Hackberry Flat for winter waterfowl and southwest Oklahoma birds. Contact Cyndie Browning, 918-492-5622 or buteoswainsoni@yahoo.com

Feb 17, Tue. Society Meeting "Landscaping for Wildlife" with Steve Owens. Steve owns Bustani Plant Farm and has appeared as the host on the Oklahoma Gardening television show. He will discuss how to make your yard wildlife friendly.

Feb 22, Sun. Afternoon Outing Meet at the Tulsa Garden Center for local birding.. Call John Kennington at 918-809-6325 for more information.

Mary K. Oxley Nature Center is New Again!

Visit the Mary K. Oxley Nature Center's newly remodeled Interpretive Building over the holidays for a pleasant, inexpensive, educational nature outing.

The Vision 2025 funds enabled Oxley to revitalize their exhibits which were almost 30 years old! A unique learning experience awaits you with on site naturalists, great birding and it's wheelchair accessible! Oxley is at the Mohawk Park complex.

From the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

- If you know any homeschoolers or just want to share your love of birding with children you know, here's a neat project. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has just released its newly revised, FREE Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch. For more than 20 years, Project FeederWatch has been an easy, fun way for children to learn about birds and strengthen their skills in observation, identification, research, computation, writing, creativity, and more. FeederWatchers keep track of the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders through the winter and report what they see to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch will guide you through bird-related activities that promote learning across many disciplines, including science, math, history, and the arts. Examples of these activities include:

- Natural history: Observe and research a bird's behavior and life cycle
- Math: Calculate average seed consumption rate and graph data
- Writing: Keep a nature journal to write stories and poetry
- Geography: Research the geographic ranges of birds
- Art: Keep a feeder-bird sketch book or create a papier mache mask
- To download the Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch, visit www.FeederWatch.org and click on the "Education/ Home School" button. You'll be able to download the PDF in low (2.2MB) or high (6.7MB) resolutions. You may choose to use the free guide as a stand-alone resource, or sign up for Project FeederWatch to submit the data you gather. If you would like to be a project participant, the signup fee is \$12 for members of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, \$15 for non-members. There are discounts for group participation.

If you have any questions, please let us know how we can help by emailing feederwatch@cornell.edu.

Sincerely,

David Bonter

Project Leader, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

November 8 Tallgrass Field Trip Report

I led 9 other birders around the loop at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve yesterday. We didn't see a lot of birds, but we did see a Rough-legged Hawk and a mature Bald Eagle, two of the 3 hawks I always hope to see up there this time of year. (Golden Eagle is the third, but although I almost always see one up there in winter, I missed it this time.) Later in the morning, we found a few ponds with Lesser Scaup, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Ducks, Green-winged Teal, and Gadwall. The plains seemed strangely empty, no bison at all and we learned later that they had been rounded up and were being held in pens north of the Preserve. It was sunny, a little windy, and cold, my favorite birding weather.

After a pit stop at the Preserve headquarters and browsing and shopping at the gift shop which was open for a change. We hiked the trail that loops along the creek, up the hill onto the plains, and then back down the hill to the parking lot. A flock of American Goldfinches perched for a few minutes in a tree right beside the trailhead next to us. We also found Fox, Field, Song, White-throated, and Harris's Sparrows, Juncos, Titmice, Chickadees, Cardinal, Bewick's Wren, E. Bluebirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, and both Kinglets near the creek.

Read Bernd Heinrich's "Winter World: the Ingenuity of Animal Survival" and you'll never look at a tiny Golden-crowned Kinglet the same again! We watched a Red-headed Woodpecker try to cache a burr oak acorn in a crevice in a tree, then fly off with it. I'd never hiked all the way around that trail before and was very surprised to find the buffalo statue up at the peak of the trail. Adrian Monroe and his two friends from OSU decided to hike the 2-mile plains trail that led away from that statue (of course, they're much younger than we are) while the rest of us returned to our cars, completed the Bison Loop, and then headed over to Bad Brad's Barbecue in Pawhuska for lunch. Mmmm good! Cyndie Browning, Tulsa Audubon Field Trip Coordinator

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

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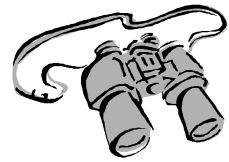
"Tulsa Scissortail" is the quarterly newsletter of the Tulsa Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2476, Tulsa, OK 74101. As the "Scissortail" newsletter goes to the printer two weeks before the date of issue, the editor needs items for that issue at least a week before going to press (For Spring 2009, that will be March 7th or so). We are always looking for a good nature story.

e-mail: lribitzki@juno.com

Laurie Ribitzki, Editor

Recorder's Report

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



September through November 2008

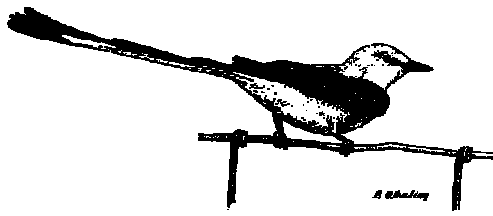
R = rare, O = out-of-date range

RARITY	SPECIES		DATE	COUNT	LOCATION/ COUNTY	PLACE	OBSERVER(S)
O	Merganser	Hooded	10/18/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	B Carrell
R	Grebe	Western	11/27/08	1	Tulsa	Lake Keystone @ Dam	P Ribitzki
O	Egret	Snowy	10/21/08	2	Tulsa	Tulsa, Mohawk Park	L Loyd, T Mainer, J Barto
R	Falcon	Peregrine	10/13/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, 81st & Lewis residence	B Carrell
R	Falcon	Peregrine	10/16/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley North Woods	B Carrell
O	Sandpiper	Sempalmated	10/21/08	3	Tulsa	Tulsa, Mohawk Park	L Loyd, T Mainer, J Barto
R	Tern	Common	10/11/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	T Mitchell
R	Dove	Inca	09/07/08	5	Pawnee	Lake Keystone, peninsula area residence	P Ribitzki
R	Hummingbird	Selasphorus sp.	09/05/08	1	Osage	TNC Keystone Ancient Forest Preserve	J Fisher
O	Empidonax Sp.		10/07/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Mohawk Park	L Loyd, J Singletary, B Scott
O	Flycatcher	Acadian	09/01/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	T Mitchell
O	Flycatcher	Acadian	09/07/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	J Loyd
O	Wood-Pewee	Eastern	10/04/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	R Renfro, et al
O	Wood-Pewee	Eastern	10/07/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Mohawk Park	L Loyd, J Singletary, B Scott
O	Vireo	Blue-headed	11/21/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, 81st & Lewis residence	B Carrell
O	Vireo	Yellow-throated	10/21/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Mohawk Park	L Loyd, T Mainer, J Barto
O	Wren	Marsh	09/07/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	B Carrell
O	Thrush	Swainson's	10/21/08	2	Tulsa	Tulsa, Mohawk Park	L Loyd, T Mainer, J Barto
O	Parula	Northern	10/14/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, 81st & Lewis residence	B Carrell
O	Parula	Northern	11/01/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, 81st & Lewis residence	B Carrell
R,O	Warbler	Chestnut-sided	09/07/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	T Mitchell, T Curtis
R	Warbler	Golden-winged	09/05/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	B Carrell
R	Warbler	Golden-winged	09/13/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	B Carrell
R	Warbler	Golden-winged	09/28/08	2	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	T Mitchell
R	Warbler	Golden-winged	09/28/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	B Carrell
R	Warbler	Golden-winged	10/04/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	R Renfro, et al
O	Warbler	Orange-crowned	09/08/08	2	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	J Singletary, J Barto
O	Warbler	Wilson's	10/14/08	1	Tulsa	Keystone dam & S River Rd	L Loyd, B Scott, J Cramton
O	Warbler	Yellow	09/28/08	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	T Mitchell
O	Bunting	Painted	09/28/08	1	Pawnee	Keystone Lake, peninsula area residence	L Ribitzki
O	Oriole	Baltimore	10/14/08	1	Tulsa	Keystone dam & S River Rd	L Loyd, B Scott, J Cramton

Don't forget to feed and water the birds this winter! Debra at Wildbirds Unlimited, 61st and Yale, has just about every kind of feeder and seeds a bird lover could want!

WINTER 2008

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



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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 wildlife and the natural environment*
- *Provide the opportunity for study and observation of birds and all wildlife*
- *Contribute to research in the fields of conservation and ornithology by monetary support and active participation*
- *Educate the public on the need to protect the environment, and to promote a better public understanding of these natural resources*