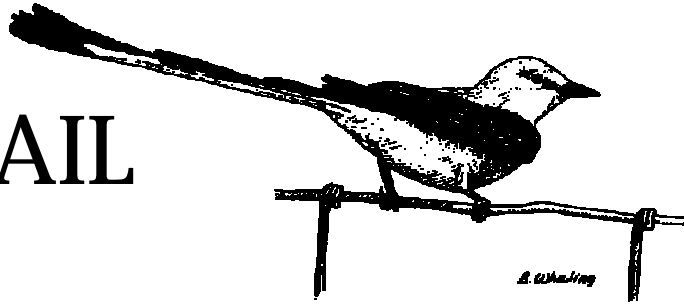


TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
VOL. LXX, NO. 3

SPRING 2009

Laurie Ribitzki
editor

From the President

. It has been another busy time for TAS. Some highlights were a huge turnout of hundreds of people for our Eagle Days, another great Christmas Bird Count, and big turnouts for our TogetherGreen Volunteer Days. We had some excellent media coverage from the Tulsa World and several TV stations. Kelly Bostian, the new Tulsa World outdoor editor, has covered all of our recent events, so be sure to check out his column in the Tulsa World.

Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival. Enclosed is a short flyer about the upcoming Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival to be held April 17-22 in Woodward. Although this event is rather far afield from Tulsa, TAS is a sponsor. Please look it over and consider attending, **especially** if you have never seen Lesser Prairie Chickens. The full festival brochure and registration are at www.okaudubon.org. The deadline for a discounted early registration was March 1st, but as the coordinator, I will continue to honor the early registration price for TAS members up until March 31st!

Festival Scholarships. The TAS board has also decided to offer two scholarships of \$350 each to the Festival for students, ages 12-18. We have a number of young birders who have been attending TAS field trips, and we want to encourage their interest in birds. The winners will be announced on the TAS website

Eagle Reward Fund. The Tulsa Zoo and Zoo Friends, the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, Oxley Nature Center, Friends of Oxley and the Tulsa Audubon Society are joining forces to offer a \$2,000.00 reward to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons harming or killing a bald or golden eagle anywhere in the state of Oklahoma. The money and tip line will be operated through the Oklahoma Wildlife conservation department's "Stop Game Thief" tip line. TAS has pledged \$500 to this fund.

There was a special fund-raising event on Jan 29th at Lola's at the Bowery in downtown Tulsa. Lola graciously donated food and the use of her restaurant/bar. The live music was by The Frank Brown Trio. We had a great turnout and significantly fattened the reward pot. You might thank Lola by visiting her establishment!

Email Update. The scholarship announcement and the event at Lola's demonstrate two good reasons to sign up for the TAS Email Update. Both of these came up in between newsletters. To sign up, send an email to johnkennington@gmail.com

Eagle Brochure. TAS has also published a new brochure about Eagles in Oklahoma, updating the flyer we first produced back in the 1980s. It can be viewed at www.tulsaaudubon.org/eagle-brochure.pdf

TogetherGreen Volunteer Days. We had our best event yet on January 31st at Oxley Nature Center with 105 people volunteering! We installed 25 Bluebird boxes, with lots of assistance from Veda Beck of the Bluebird Society and several Girl Scout troops. A group of students from Jenks High School removed a large patch of Wisteria which was killing off the native vegetation. A group from AmeriCorps helped removed Liriope (Monkey Grass) that was taking over a section of the North Woods.

Garden Tour. This year's tour will be May 30-31, earlier than previous years, so mark your calendars now. See www.tulsaaudubon.org for more info and to view pictures from previous years.

Monthly Meetings Staying at Garden Center. Please note that our April and May general meetings will be held at the Garden Center, and **not** at the Hardesty Library, as indicated on annual calendar. We have resolved the scheduling conflicts and are pleased to be staying at the Garden Center.

Scissortail Editor. As you'll see elsewhere, Laurie Ribitzki is stepping down as editor. I want to thank Laurie for doing a great job and putting up with my always late president's messages! Of course, that means we need a new editor. We hope someone reading this will consider volunteering for this position. If you have any questions on what is involved, contact Laurie or myself.

Thank You Volunteers!

The TogetherGreen events have been involving new volunteers from far and wide. A BIG "Thank You!" to these groups who have made these "dirty jobs" fun and fruitful! The groups who volunteered are: Girl Scout Troop 932 lead by Amy Duncan, Brownie Troop 2732 lead by Stephanie Rainwater, Mr. Todd Humphrey's science class at Jenks Freshman Academy, Veda Beck and the members of the Bluebird Society, The Friends of Deep Fork, Leonard Thomas, Claude and Phyllis Stanke, Lori Jones, The Friends of Oxley (lunch and drinks), The management of Oxley, Vinnie Robinson and Eddie Reese, and The AmeriCorp volunteers lead by Sara-Jo Fegley. Our habitat is better because of you! Thanks again!

TAS Upcoming Events

- ★ **Mar. 17, 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting “Ecology and Status of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken” with Dr. Dwayne Elmore** Dr. Elmore is a Biologist with the OSU Extension Service. He will discuss the ecology, habitat needs, and status of this threatened prairie species.
- ★ **Apr. 18-19 Field Trip - Selman Ranch for Lesser Prairie-Chickens.** The Selman Ranch is located north of Woodward, Oklahoma. This will be part of the Oklahoma Audubon Council's Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival. A fence marking event to protect Prairie Chickens, is being organized by TAS as one of our TogetherGreen events. Contact Jim and Anita Mitchell, 918-272-6755 to RSVP and for more information. Also see the Tulsa Audubon TogetherGreen page
- ★ **Apr. 21, Tue. 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting. “Feather Connections in Migratory Birds” with Dr. Jeff Kelly** Dr. Kelly is an assistant professor of zoology at OU and serves with the Oklahoma Biological Survey. He will share his scientific insights into the wonder of migration.
- ★ **Apr. 25, Sat. Birds & Wine - Washington Irving Memorial Park, Bixby sod farms for Spring migrants and Stonebluff Winery** This is an event with the Audubon Society of Central Oklahoma. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Washington Irving. At 9:00 a.m. ASCO will join us there and we will then bird the sod farms. At noon, those who want to go, will travel to Stonebluff Cellars for lunch and a winery tour. If you are planning to visit the winery, please contact [John Kennington](mailto:John.Kennington@tulaaudubon.org), 918-809-6325 so we can get an accurate head count.
- ★ **May 2, Sat. Big Day Count** Tulsa Audubon Society annual day-long, county-wide census of migrant and resident species. For information contact Jo Loyd, 918-835-2946.
- ★ **May 6, 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.

Birds Movements Reveal Global Warming Threat in Action Species Wintering Farther North Show Need for Policy Change

The northward and inland movement of North American birds, confirmed by thousands of citizen-observations, provides new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems, according to new analyses by Audubon scientists released on Feb. 10, 2009. The findings signal the need for dramatic policy changes to combat pervasive ecological disruption.

Analyses of citizen-gathered data from the past 40 years of Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) reveal that 58 percent of the 305 wide-spread species that winter on the continent shifted significantly north since 1968, some by hundreds of miles. Movement was detected among species of every type, including more than 70 percent of highly adaptable forest and feeder birds. Only 38 percent of grassland species mirrored the trend, reflecting the constraints of their severely-depleted habitat and suggesting that they now face a double threat from the combined stresses of habitat loss and climate adaptation.

Population shifts among individual species are common, fluctuate, and can have many causes. However, Audubon scientists say the ongoing trend of movement by some 177 species—closely correlated to long-term winter temperature increases—reveals an undeniable link to the changing climate.

“Birds are showing us how the heavy hand of humanity is tipping the balance of nature and causing ecological disruption in ways we are just beginning to predict and comprehend,” said report co-author and Audubon Director of Bird Conservation, Greg Butcher, Ph.D. “Common sense dictates that we act now to curb the causes and impacts of global warming to the extent we can, and shape our policies to better cope with the disruptions we cannot avoid.”

Movements across all species—including those not reflecting the 40 year trend—averaged approximately 35 miles during the period. However, it is the complete picture of widespread movement and the failure of some species to move at all that illustrates the potential for problems.

For more information on the study, and specific examples from Oklahoma, visit www.tulsaaudubon.org.

TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

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Recorder: Paul Ribitzki 243-5515
Directors: Carol Eames, John Fisher, Jim Mitchell, Laurie Ribitzki and Gary Siftar

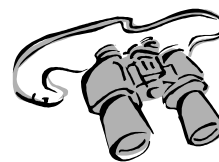
“*Tulsa Scissortail*” is the quarterly newsletter of the Tulsa Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2476, Tulsa, OK 74101. As the “Scissortail” newsletter goes to the printer two weeks before the date of issue, the editor needs items for that issue at least a week before going to press (For Summer 2009, that will be early June). 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



December 2008 through February 2009

| <u>Rarity</u> | <u>Species</u> | <u>Date #</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Observer(s)</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| R | Long-tailed Duck | 12/12/08 | 1 Tulsa | Lake Yahola | B Carrell |
| R | Golden Eagle | 12/20/08 | 1 Tulsa | CBC: WC Area | B Carrell, et al |
| O | Greater Yellowlegs | 12/20/08 | 1 Tulsa | CBC: Mohawk Park | J Thayer, et al |
| O | Franklin's Gull | 12/02/08 | 1 Tulsa | North Tulsa County | J Loyd, et al |
| O | Franklin's Gull | 1/02/09 | 1 Tulsa | Lake Yahola | T Curtis |
| R | Kumlien's Iceland Gull | 1/31/09 | 1 Tulsa | Lake Yahola | B Carrell |
| R | Lesser Black-backed Gull | 12/06/08 | 1 Tulsa | Lake Yahola | T Curtis |
| R | Thayer's Gull | 12/24/08 | 1 Tulsa | Lake Yahola | B Carrell |
| O | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | 1/02/09 | 1 Tulsa | Lake Yahola | T Curtis |
| R | Pine Warbler | 12/20/08 | 2 Tulsa | CBC: EC Area | M Jackson, et al |
| R | Pine Warbler | 1/04/09 | 1 Pawnee | Lake Keystone area | P Ribitzki |
| O | Chipping Sparrow | 1/04/09 | 4 Pawnee | Lake Keystone area | P Ribitzki |
| | Rusty Blackbird | 12/20/08 | 2 Tulsa | CBC: SE Area | J Kennington, et al |
| | Rusty Blackbird | 12/20/08 | 4 Tulsa | CBC: NW Area | J Loyd, et al |
| | Rusty Blackbird | 02/09/09 | 40 Tulsa | Haikey Creek Park | B Germany |
| | Rusty Blackbird | 02/13/09 | 17 Tulsa | Mohawk Park | B Carrell |
| | Rusty Blackbird | 02/13/09 | 12 Tulsa | 56th St N & Memorial | B Carrell |
| | Rusty Blackbird | 02/14/09 | 15 Tulsa | 66th St N & Memorial | T Mitchell |
| | Rusty Blackbird | 02/14/09 | 30 Tulsa | 66th St N & Yale | T Mitchell |

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



Scissortail Editor Needed

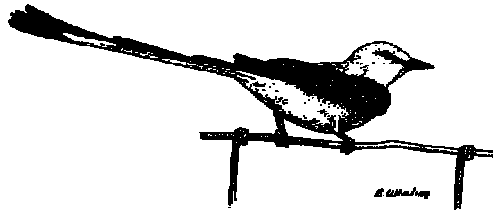
**Garden Tour Earlier This Year
Mark Your Calendars!**

If you can cut and paste on a computer and like to blast bad grammar, have I got a job for YOU. This editor is regretfully resigning after the summer newsletter and the new editor will begin his/her duties in the fall. Experience with Microsoft Publisher would be advantageous, but not necessary. It's an easy program to learn. Only 4 editions a year are printed. Please contact John Kennington if you are interested.

May 30-31 Sat.-Sun. [Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale](#). Contact [Carol Eames](#), 918-446-2720. This event is also part of **Tulsa Audubon's Together Green program**. Volunteers helping present this event will receive a Together Green/TAS T-Shirt and have refreshments. See the [Tulsa Audubon TogetherGreen page](#) for more info or Contact [Carol Eames](#), 918-446-2720.

SPRING 2009

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