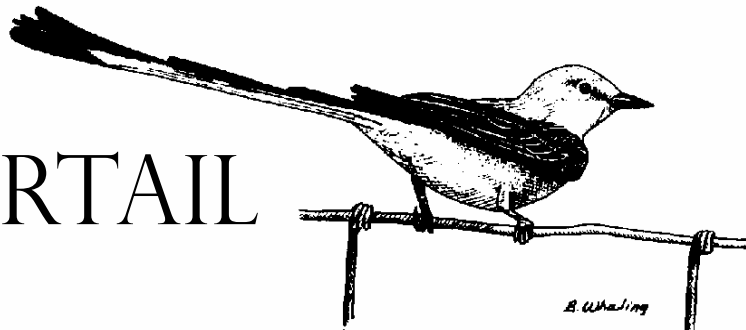


TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
VOL. LXVI, NO. 3

SPRING 2005

EDITOR: PETER LOWEN

From the President

I first need to talk about the threat to Mohawk Park. As many of you know, a master plan has been proposed for Mohawk that includes developing a number of recreational facilities, most notably a soccer complex. Some of these proposals are linked to the Vision 2025 program.

If the proposals in this plan are all implemented, the nature of the park would fundamentally change. The text of a statement I sent the Parks Department on behalf of TAS is included elsewhere in The Scissortail. A public meeting was held in December and we filled the Aaronson Auditorium with supporters of Mohawk, and made a big impression with the Parks Department.

The good news is that all of the bad proposals involving Oxley Nature Center have apparently been scrapped. And the city is looking for alternate locations for the soccer complex. But we can't assume everything will work out. A group of concerned citizens from a number of groups has been meeting to respond to the proposal. If you would like to be involved in the group, contact me at 809-6325 or johnkennington@cox.net. For the latest news and what you can do to help, visit www.tulsaaudubon.org.

Swainson's Warbler Research. After Mia Revels very informative and entertaining program on her research of the Swainson's Warbler distribution in Oklahoma the TAS board has voted to donate \$300 to support her research.

Eagles. Thanks again to everyone who came out to Keystone for our Eagle Days – Both our members who shared their knowledge (and spotting scopes!) and everyone else who came out to enjoy the eagles. We were glad to have you there!

Bird Seed Clearance Sale. We still have a few bags of bird seed left, which we need to get sold (and out of the back of my vehicle!) Elsewhere in the newsletter is a list of the items we still have and the reduced sale price. Give me a call at 809-6325 to place your order.

John Kennington

TAS Upcoming Events

Tuesday Morning Birders. The Tuesday Morning Birders meet at 8:00am every Tuesday morning in March, and at 7:30am beginning in April (through October), at the Tulsa Garden Center. It was announced in the last newsletter that these are now even less formal outings, and those who show up will decide the morning's itinerary.

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

15 Tue. **Society Meeting** 7:30 p.m. - "Butterfly Gardening" by long time TAS member and butterfly expert Jim Thayer.

26 Sat. **Field Trip** Redbud Valley Nature Preserve for early wildflowers and birds. Leader: Donna Horton, 587-0522.

April

19 Tue. **Society Meeting** 7:30 p.m. - "Kansas Birding and Natural Heritage Trails" by Ron Klataske. Ron is the Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas, and for many years prior was West Central Regional Vice President of the Nat'l Audubon Society.

23 Sat. **Field Trip** Choleta Bottoms and Lake Spavinaw area for early spring warblers and migrants. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Reasor's parking lot at the intersection of SH28 & 82. Leader: Pat Seibert 747-4202.

30 Sat. **Field Trip** Keystone Ancient Forest Preserve for Scarlet Tanagers and summer residents. Contact: John Fisher 245-8662.

May

7 Sat.

Big Day Count Tulsa Audubon Society annual day-long, county-wide census of migrant and resident species. Organizer: Jo Loyd 835-2946.

13-15

Field Trip (Fri - Sun) Rich Mountain and Mena, AR area. Leaders Bruce & Lana Ewing. Contact Jo Loyd 835-2946.

17 Tue

Society Meeting 7:30 p.m. "Nature Quiz" by the staff of Oxley Nature Center.

June

25-26

Field Trip Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge for Black-capped Vireos with Joe Grzybowski and Hackberry Flats. Contact Cyndie Browning 492-5622, or Patty Moser, 252-2824.

July

8-10

Field Trip Bats and Birds. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation leads evening tours to the Selman Bat Caves near Freedom, OK. Advance registration required. See Information page 2. Contact Peter Lowen 296-3093.

Y'all Come on Down

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society's spring meeting will be held April 15-17 in Broken Bow, OK. This is in McCurtain County in the far SE corner of the state, home to some great birding areas. This year's meeting is about **2 weeks earlier** than last year's meeting, in order to take advantage of spring migrations in the area.

There will be field trips to Red Slough Wildlife Management Area and Little River National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday. Informal groups can bird Beavers Bend State Park on Friday and/or Sunday. Don't miss

the ever popular bird trivia game on Friday evening! There will be a program or some type of activity on Saturday evening, to be announced at a later date. Look for additional information and registration forms in the spring edition of *The Scissortail*. (not to be confused with the *Tulsa Scissortail* - Ed.)

For those who are not members of OOS (but surely no one on this list-serve isn't!), registration will be available at the meeting; or look for a registration form to be posted on-line at www.okbirds.org/meeting.html.

I hope to see all of you there!

Suzy Harris, OOS President

Attention Oklahoma Birders

Pat Velte has created a searchable migration date database for Oklahoma, based on the information in the Date Guide to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma. You can type in a bird name (such as Eastern Kingbird), and it will show you the arrival and departure dates for that species in Oklahoma. You can also type in a month (such as March) and it will show you the species that arrive in that month.

You can get to the database from the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee web page at www.okbirds.org and then click on the link that says "Searchable Migration Date Database". Special thanks to Pat for developing this useful tool!

Dan Reinking
Oklahoma Bird Records Committee

Bats and Birds!!



Your editor is coordinating a field trip for the weekend of July 8-10 to see the bats of the Selman Bat Caves near Freedom, OK. It will likely be a 2-day trip within the 3-day window, depending on which evening we get registered for with the ODWC. Of course we'll be birding for the remainder of the trip.

Want to come along for the fun? As the OK Dept. of Wildlife Conservation requires advance registration (and advance payment: \$10/adult & \$5/youth), I need to know who's interested so I can put you on The List. Contact me at 296-3093 or thelowenfamily@aol.com.

TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: John Kennington 809-6325 Vice-President: Lynda Fritts 669-6644
Secretary: Cyndie Browning 492-5622 Treasurer: Mary Jackson 254-1350
Recorder: Amy Lambert 272-4794, 747-4202

Directors: Martin Brown, Carol Eames, David Edwards, Bob Gard, Tomye Mainer, Patty Moser

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 2005, that will be May 12th or so).

e-mail: thelowenfamily@aol.com

Peter Lowen, Editor

TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Jo Loyd

Tulsa Audubon Society conducted its Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 18, 2004, in conjunction with the National Audubon Society count. A total of 42 in 11 teams participated, resulting in 117 species and 57,596 individual birds being counted. A big THANK YOU! To all who made this count possible.

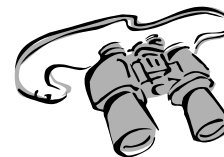
Common Loon 6	Northern Bobwhite 26	Eastern Bluebird 139
Pied-billed Grebe 27	American Coot 6	Hermit Thrush 12
Horned Grebe 1	Killdeer 120	American Robin 380
Double-crested Cormorant 59	Least Sandpiper 24	Northern Mockingbird 223
Great Blue Heron 57	Wilson's Snipe 60	Brown Thrasher 6
Black Vulture 3	Bonaparte's Gull 254	European Starling 11,163
Greater White-fronted Goose 120	Ring-billed Gull 1,499	American Pipit 11
Snow Goose 100	Herring Gull 1	Cedar Waxwing 215
Canada Goose 1,152	Glaucous Gull 1	Orange-crowned Warbler 2
Wood Duck 1	Rock Pigeon 456	Yellow-rumped Warbler 78
Gadwall 536	Mourning Dove 51	Spotted Towhee 4
American Wigeon 2	Eurasian Collared-Dove 5	Eastern Towhee 5
Mallard 1,031	Barn Owl 5	American Tree Sparrow 14
Blue-winged Teal 13	Great Horned Owl 5	Chipping Sparrow 3
Northern Shoveler 132	Barred Owl 6	Field Sparrow 18
Green-winged Teal 5	Short-eared Owl 3	Savannah Sparrow 64
Canvasback 1	Belted Kingfisher 15	Fox Sparrow 45
Redhead 6	Red-headed Woodpecker 244	Song Sparrow 111
Ring-necked Duck 346	Red-bellied Woodpecker 107	Lincoln's Sparrow 5
Greater Scaup 10	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 23	Swamp Sparrow 29
Lesser Scaup 152	Downy Woodpecker 141	White-throated Sparrow 559
Long-tailed Duck 3	Hairy Woodpecker 3	Harris's Sparrow 190
Bufflehead 206	Northern Flicker (Yellow) 130	White-crowned Sparrow 90
Common Goldeneye 223	Pileated Woodpecker 11	Dark-eyed Junco 544
Hooded Merganser 37	Eastern Phoebe 5	Lapland Longspur 5
Common Merganser 25	Loggerhead Shrike 17	Smith's Longspur 25
Red-breasted Merganser 86	Blue Jay 354	SPARROW SPECIES 7
Ruddy Duck 11	American Crow 771	Northern Cardinal 423
DUCK SPECIES 12	Horned Lark 30	Red-winged Blackbird 19,927
Osprey 1	Carolina Chickadee 391	Eastern Meadowlark 435
Bald Eagle 3	Tufted Titmouse 149	Rusty Blackbird 338
Northern Harrier 39	Red-breasted Nuthatch 11	Brewer's Blackbird 62
Sharp-shinned Hawk 7	White-breasted Nuthatch 21	Common Grackle 7,504
Cooper's Hawk 6	Brown Creeper 12	Great-tailed Grackle 322
Red-shouldered Hawk 50	Carolina Wren 124	Brown-headed Cowbird 226
Red-tailed Hawk 145	Winter Wren 5	BLACKBIRD SPECIES 3,665
Harlan's Hawk 1	Sedge Wren 1	House Finch 58
Rough-legged Hawk 1	Golden-crowned Kinglet 6	American Goldfinch 177
HAWK SPECIES 2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 48	House Sparrow 573
American Kestrel 80		

Additional birds seen in the Count Circle during Count Week:
Greater Yellowlegs 2
American Woodcock 1
Franklin's Gull 1
Marsh Wren 1



Recorder's Report

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



	Species	Date	Count	Location	Observer
R	Red-throated Loon	05-Jan-05	1	Lake Yahola	C. Cox
R	Western Grebe	01-Jan-05	1	Lake Yahola	J. P. Valentik
	Cackling Goose	16-Jan-05	3	Mohawk Park Golf Course	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
	Cackling Goose	07-Feb-05	12	Feyodi Park, Pawnee Cty	P. Ribitzki
O	Green Heron	12-Nov-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell
R	Surf Scoter	09-Jan-05	1	Salt Creek Cove	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
R	Long-tailed Duck	21-Dec-04	2	Skiatook Sewage Pond	J. Loyd, et al
R	Long-tailed Duck	01-Jan-05	1	Lake Yahola	J. P. Valentik
R	Long-tailed Duck	02-Jan-05	1	Lake Yahola	F. Sanford
	Prairie Falcon	26-Dec-04	1	136th St N	B. Carrell
	Prairie Falcon	15-Jan-05	1	North Tulsa County	B. Carrell
O	Lesser Yellowlegs	09-Jan-05	4	Residence, Tulsa	T. Mitchell
R	Lesser Black-backed Gull	19-Jan-05	1	Lake Yahola	Peterson
	Glaucous Gull	26-Dec-04	1	Lake Yahola	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
R	Eurasian Collared-Dove	14-Jan-05	2	36th St N & Harvard	T. Mitchell
	Eastern Screech-Owl	23-Dec-04	1	Res Lake Keystone	P. Ribitzki
	Short-eared Owl	18-Nov-04	2	186th St N & Memorial	J. Loyd/P. Seibert
O	Common Nighthawk	06-Dec-04	1	Woodward Park	J. Cox
O	Blue-headed Vireo	06-Nov-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell
	Hermit Thrush	21-Dec-04	1	Skiatook Sewage Pond	J. Loyd, et al
	Hermit Thrush	08-Jan-05	3	Oxley North Woods	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
O	Wood Thrush	19-Nov-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
R	Pine Warbler	09-Jan-05	1	Keystone Area	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
R	Palm Warbler	02-Oct-04	2	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell
O	Black-and-white Warbler	16-Oct-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell
O	Fox Sparrow	16-Oct-04	1	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell
	Lapland Longspur	29-Jan-05	2	North Tulsa County	B. Carrell
	Smith's Longspur	31-Jan-05	1	Lynn Lane Reservoir	B. Carrell/T. Mitchell
	Pine Siskin	16-Oct-04	4	Oxley Nature Center	B. Carrell

O = Out of Date **R = Rare**

The following link will take you to the update from sibleyguides.com for information on the Canada Goose/Cackling Goose split. The short story is in this quote from the site: "This means that the English name Cackling Goose, which has in the past been more or less restricted to the smallest subspecies (the far western B. c. minima) is now the species name for all four of the small subspecies." www.sibleyguides.com/canada_cackling.htm

“Lights Out” Program Saves Birds

Audubon Newswire

Chicago, February 7, - Audubon has developed a guide for cities across the country to form partnerships to save birds' lives. A new website provides tools to replicate Chicago's "Lights Out" Program - a cooperative venture between Audubon, the City of Chicago, and the Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago, in which Chicago's tall buildings all turn off their decorative lights during spring and fall bird migration. The new national effort has the support of the International Building Owners and Managers Association, Audubon, and Partners in Flight, and funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The how-to website, www.lightsout.audubon.org provides sample communications and recognition ideas, links to partner organizations, and research findings. "This program

is a win-win for buildings, cities, and birds," explained Audubon President John Flicker. "Buildings can keep lights on in the evenings when the city is bustling, and then can save energy costs as well as birds' lives by turning out the lights after 11 p.m."

In some cities, thousands of birds perish because the lights on tall buildings confuse their navigation systems. These tiny creatures make exhausting all night journeys. Many of them fly hundreds of miles in one night, on their way from Canada to South America. They find their way by a complex set of instincts and signals that can become confused by the lights. When this happens, they may circle the buildings until they weaken and become susceptible to predation or collision.

To view pictures of the "Lights Out" program in other cities visit www.lightsout.audubon.org.

Tulsa Audubon Society Letter to the Tulsa Parks Department concerning development of Mohawk Park

December 2, 2004

On behalf of the Tulsa Audubon Society I want to thank you for the opportunity to present our feedback on the Mohawk Park Master Plan. We certainly support enhancing the park by providing new activities for people to enjoy, and are glad to hear you are still listening to the public as the Master Plan evolves. We are very concerned about some of the specific proposals, however I first want to mention a concern we have with the plan in general.

Mohawk Park is certainly the crown jewel of Tulsa's parks, and many people come to Mohawk to visit the Zoo or play a round of Golf. But besides those two "destinations" people visit Mohawk to get away from their city or suburban surroundings and enjoy a place that is specifically not heavily developed. At Mohawk people can enjoy a walk down a nature trail, go bird watching, take their families for a picnic, with wide open areas and woods their kids can run around in, go for a bike ride, spend some quiet time on a bank fishing, and many other similar activities. The greatest value of Mohawk Park is the fact that it preserves a large natural, undeveloped area. On a nice spring or summer afternoon it can be difficult to find an unused area for a picnic.

Mohawk Park meets these needs perfectly now. Nowhere are the values of natural, undeveloped space mentioned. Mohawk Park is a refuge from the suburban sprawl that we live with every day. Not understanding this aspect of the Park is the biggest problem we see with this plan.

We also need to remember that Oxley Nature Center is another key destination within Mohawk Park, and activities within the Park can have direct and indirect impacts on both the wildlife and habitat within the nature center. The wildlife in Mohawk park does not understand fences. Oxley enjoys national prominence as a birding destination because of its unique habitat and ease of access. The habitats present a microcosm of the Oklahoma environment providing excellent and accessible educational and research opportunities, enhanced by the avail-

ability of historical records from naturalists and birders. Our database of bird sightings shows 250 different bird species have been found in Mohawk Park over the last 4 years.

In addition to those general concerns, we have specific concerns with two of the projects.

The plans for Lake Sherry completely fail to understand that the lake is a part of Oxley Nature Center. Water Lilies are supposed to be growing there - it does not need to be dredged to allow the use of paddle boats! Its purpose is to provide a haven for Wildlife and thousands of Tulsans visit the Lake for that very purpose. Paddle Boats are not a compatible use. The dam certainly does need to be repaired, but Lake Sherry must be preserved from development. Lake Sherry is named after someone who was instrumental in the founding of Oxley Nature Center, and it would be ironic to essentially remove it from the Nature Center.

We are also concerned with the plans for developing a soccer complex. I myself have spent hundreds of hours at soccer fields with my son, and one of our members who birds in Mohawk several times a week is a long-time youth soccer referee, so we understand the need to provide places for this wonderful sport. But we strongly feel that Mohawk Park is definitely not the place for a soccer complex. The traffic, noise and commotion associated with a busy Saturday afternoon of soccer games or a weekend tournament are not compatible with a family going out for a picnic to enjoy a few hours with nature. The Tulsa area already has a large soccer complex, Valley Park, about 10 minutes east of Mohawk Park. Valley Park represents the kind of place that is appropriate for a soccer complex and it should be supported. But it has been experiencing severe financial problems in recent years, and does not need a publicly financed facility competing with it.

In conclusion, we must be careful when developing plans for Mohawk that we do not over-develop it, with structures and facilities that detract from its greatest value to Tulsa – its natural, undeveloped open spaces.

John Kennington
President, Tulsa Audubon Society

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

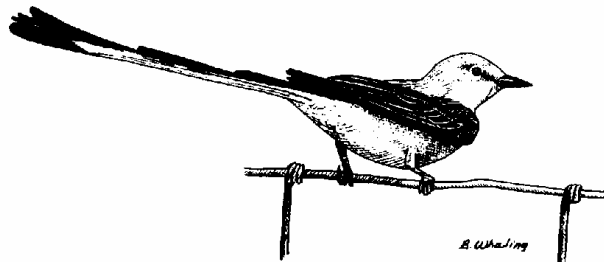
To order, call John Kennington at 809-6325.

Black Oil Sunflower, 20 lbs	\$6.00
Birder's Blend, 16 lbs	\$6.00
Songbird Mix, 14 lbs	\$6.50
Nyjer (Thistle), 10 lbs	\$9.50
Safflower, 75 lbs	\$4.50
Peanut Hearts, 5 lbs	\$5.00
White Millet, 7.5 lbs	\$2.00
Suet & Seed Cake	\$1.25
Raisin Suet Cake	\$1.25
Pine Tree Farms Suet Cake (28 oz)	
(with mesh bag, like the discontinued Maine Manna we used to sell)	\$4.00
Cherry Suet Cake	\$1.25
Gourmet Bird Bar	\$2.00
Woodpecker Bird Bar	\$2.00

(For most of these we only have 2 or 3 left. Let's all work together and clean out John's van.)



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!