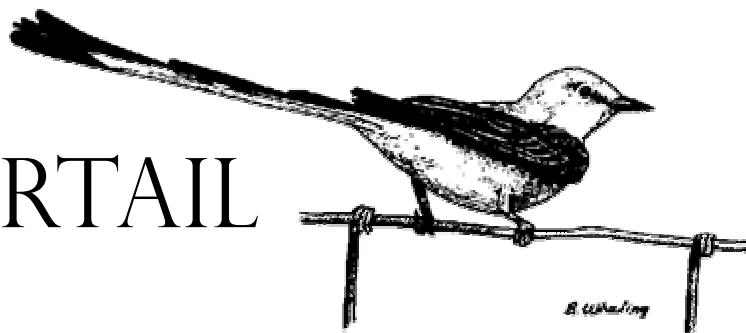


TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
VOL. LXVII, NO. 3

FALL 2005

EDITOR: PETER LOWEN

From the President

I don't know about you, but I've been enjoying my air conditioning this summer, unlike last year's unusually cool and wet summer. As usual, our Tulsa Audubon Board members and committees have again put together an exciting schedule of meetings, field trips and other activities for the coming year. Be sure look for your 2005-2006 event guide enclosed in this Scissortail, and pick up some extra guides at a meeting, the Gar-

den Center or at Oxley Nature Center and give them to your family, friends and co-workers. We're hoping to have activities geared towards beginning birders, so be sure to invite anyone who shows an interest in birds or nature.

This year I am enclosing your 2005 Bird Seed Sale order form with the newsletter rather than mailing it separately. We've got another excellent lineup of bird feeding products, so get your order in early.

I hope you are all enjoying your Tulsa Scissortail newsletter, which has been coming to you quarterly for the last year. Our editor Peter Lowen has done a wonderful job guiding us through this change, so thank him when you see him out on the birding trail!

As always, please contact me at 809-6325 or johnkennington@cox.net with any questions of concerns about Tulsa Audubon.

John Kennington

TAS Upcoming Events

Tuesday Morning Birders. The Tuesday Morning Birders meet at 7:30am through October, at the Tulsa Garden Center. From November through March, meet at 8am.

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.

September

9-10 **Bioblitz.** Oxley Nature Center and Mohawk Park. Fri.-Sat. For details, see the last page of this publication

9-12 **Oklahoma Ornithological Society.** Stillwater, OK, OSU Campus, contact Marty Kamp 918-494-8978, e-mail, mkamp@worldnet.att.net.

20 Tue. **Society Meeting.** 7:30pm *Management of Bosque del Apache NWR* with Mike Oldham, Operations Specialist at the Deep Fort NWR.

October

15 Sat. **Field Trip.** Tulsa reservoirs for waterfowl and migrants. Meet 8:30 a.m. at southeast corner of Lynn Lane Reservoir. Leader: Terry Mitchell 918-697-3198, Terry@pecot.com

18 Tue. **Society Meeting.** 7:30pm *Great Plains Trail of Oklahoma* with Trapper Heglin, Coordinator for the Oklahoma Wildlife and Prairie Heritage Alliance. Presentation on the formation of this road-based wildlife viewing trail located in western Oklahoma.

November

12 Sat. **Field Trip.** Sequoyah NWR for geese and waterfowl. Meet 8:30 a.m. at refuge headquarters Leader: Cyndie Browning, 918-492-5622, Buteoswainsoni@AOL.com.

15 Tue. **Society Meeting.** 7:30pm *Raptor Rehabilitation* by Gary and Kathy Siftar of the Oklahoma Raptor Center in Broken Arrow. Presentation on their work with orphaned and injured raptors, including eagles.

December

3 Sat. **Field Trip.** Keystone Lake for waterfowl and gulls. Meet at 8 a.m. in the camp ground parking lot east of the dam on the north side of the Arkansas River. Contact Jo Loyd 918-835-2946, jo.loyd@sbcglobal.net

17 Sat. **Christmas Bird Count.** Tulsa Audubon Society will be participating in the 106th count by the National Audubon Society. For information contact Jo Loyd 918-835-2946, jo.loyd@sbcglobal.net.

Have you Heard... ... of the Cougar Network?

Editors Note: The following introduction (an oxymoron?) is excerpted from the inaugural issue of Wild Cat News, the publication of the Cougar Network. Its authors are Dr. Clay Nielsen, Mark Dowling, Ken Miller, and Bob Wilson. The Cougar Network is dedicated to scientific research of North American cats, including cougars, jaguars, lynx, bobcats, ocelots, jaguarundis, and margays. The Cougar Network uses science to further understand cougar ecology. Visit the website at www.cougarnet.org to learn more about North American wild cats and the Network.

The cougar is ecologically important as a top carnivore and of interest to humans as a symbol of wilderness. Similar to many other large predators, cougar numbers have fluctuated dramatically during the past few centuries. Cougars were one of the most widespread carnivore species in North America prior to European settlement, but by the early 1900s, their populations had been decimated by predator removal programs. At this time, cougars were restricted primarily to the western states and provinces, where rough topography and wilderness precluded their elimination. Wildlife managers in western states and provinces began to protect cougars in the late 1960s and early 1970s, with some states allowing only small harvests or no harvest at all. In response, western cougar populations have rebounded considerably.

Cougar populations now appear to be expanding from rugged, undeveloped areas into more human-dominated landscapes. Since 1990, increasing cougar presence has been especially evident in the Midwest. Cougar sightings, tracks, feces, and vehicle-caused mortalities have been confirmed wildlife biologists in most Midwestern states. Dr. Maurice Hornocker, world-renowned cougar biologist, predicts that, "lions will hit the Mississippi in the next decade. The East and Midwest is beautiful cat country, full of deer and cover."

For these reasons, the Cougar Network was formed in August 2002 by Mark Dowling, Ken Miller, and Bob Wilson; Dr. Clay Nielsen became affiliated as the Director of Scientific Research in August 2003. The Cougar Network is a non-profit research organization dedicated to studying cougar-habitat relationships and the role of cougars in ecosystems. Although the Network conducts work throughout the entire range of the cougar, it is especially interested in the phenomenon of expanding cougar populations into their former habitat.

The Cougar Network does not take advocacy positions regarding the cougar issue; its only advocacy is for good science. The organization strives to maintain credibility with wildlife professionals and is therefore guided by seven scientific advisors and 42 state, federal, and provincial conservation agency contacts, as well as private-sector biologists. The Cougar Network adamantly believes that maintaining credibility with state and provincial wildlife agencies will be an integral part in documenting the eastward spread of cougars. By cooperating with wildlife agencies, the Cougar Network hopes to bridge the information gap between the public, the academic realm, and wildlife biologists, regarding the cougar phenomenon.

TAS Holiday Party

The Annual Christmas Show and Tell Party will be held on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:30pm at the Tulsa Garden Center. Attendees are invited to bring

stories, slides, or PowerPoint presentations on any subject of general interest (travel, birds, wildflowers, etc.) to share with the group. Members bring treats to share after the meeting. Gail Storey, 742-2684, will coordinate the program.

TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: John Kennington 809-6325 Vice-President: Gail Storey 742-2684
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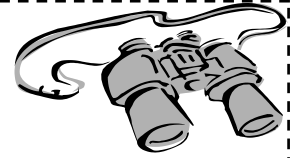
TAS Website: <http://www.tulsaaudubon.org>

"*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 Winter 2006, that will be December 9th or so).

e-mail: thelowenfamily@aol.com

Peter Lowen, Editor

Recorder's Report



Recorder: Amy Lambert
lambert.a@sbcglobal.net

Mail: 12006 E. 80th Street North
Owasso, OK 74055

Amy Lambert 272-4794 or Pat Seibert 747-4202

| Species | Date | Count | Location | Observer |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| O Horned Grebe | 30-Apr-05 | 1 | Lake Yahola | B.Carrell |
| Least Bittern | 02-Jul-05 | 2 | Sperry Lake | Loyd/Seibert |
| Black-cr. Night-Heron | 10-May-05 | 1 | Oxley Nature Center | B.Carrell |
| R Black Vulture | 07-May-05 | 2 | Big Day Count Area #7 | B.Gard, et al |
| R Black Vulture | 11-Aug-05 | 7 | Lake Keystone, Osage Point | J.Arterburn |
| O Hooded Merganser | 14-May-05 | 1 | Apache Sewage Pond | C.Browning |
| O Hooded Merganser | 26-Jun-05 | 1 | Mingo Creek I244 & Pine | L.McRill |
| O Common Merganser | 11-Aug-05 | 1 | Keystone Area | J.Arterburn |
| O Swainson's Hawk | 17-Jun-05 | 2 | Lake Yahola | T.Mitchell |
| R Black-necked Stilt | 07-May-05 | 1 | Big Day Count Area #10 | T.Mitchell, et al |
| R Black-necked Stilt | 19-May-05 | 1 | Mingo Creek Pine St Bridge | L.McRill |
| Willet | 11-Aug-05 | 1 | Keystone Area | J.Arterburn |
| R Whimbrel | 14-May-05 | 15 | Bixby Sod Farm | J.Arterburn |
| Marbled Godwit | 11-Aug-05 | 1 | Keystone Area | J.Arterburn |
| Stilt Sandpiper | 06-Aug-05 | 8 | Mohawk Park | T.Mitchell |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | 11-Aug-05 | 11 | Keystone Area | J.Arterburn |
| R Red-necked Phalarope | 14-May-05 | 1 | Bixby Sod Farm | J.Arterburn |
| Least Tern | 11-Aug-05 | 72 | Keystone Area | J.Arterburn |
| Black Tern | 11-Aug-05 | 185 | Keystone Area | J.Arterburn |
| R Eurasian Collared-Dove | 07-May-05 | 2 | Big Day Count Area #7 | B.Gard, et al |
| R Eurasian Collared-Dove | 06-Aug-05 | 2 | Bixby Sod Farm | Loyd/Seibert |
| O Red-breasted Nuthatch | 09-May-05 | 1 | Woodward Park | M&G Kamp |
| R Pine Warbler | 11-May-05 | 1 | Mohawk Park Golf Course | B.Carrell |
| R Palm Warbler | 07-May-05 | 1 | Big Day Count Area #5 | B.Carrell, et al |
| R Bachman's Sparrow | 16-May-05 | 1 | Midland Valley Trail | E.Edgar |
| R Bachman's Sparrow | 21-Jun-05 | 3 | Zink Ranch, Osage Cty | J.Loyd, et al |
| Henslow's Sparrow | 21-Jun-05 | 3 | Zink Ranch, Osage Cty | J.Loyd, et al |
| O White-throated Sparrow | 30-Jun-05 | 1 | Woodward & Zink Parks | B.Germany, et al |
| O Blue Grosbeak | 19-Apr-05 | 1 | Tulsa County | J.Loyd, et al |
| R Lazuli Bunting | 23-May-05 | 1 | Residence, Coweta | S.Raley |

O = Out of Date R = Rare C = Chicks F = First L = Last N = Notable

Conservation Groups Call for Endangered Listing for Red Knot

Washington, DC, August 5, 2005 - In response to the 80 percent decline in the Red Knot population over the past ten years, leading conservation groups filed an emergency petition asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Red Knot as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The listing request comes from an alliance of wildlife groups including Defenders of Wildlife, New Jersey Audubon Society, American Bird Conservancy, the National Audubon Society, Delaware Audubon Society, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Audubon New York, Audubon Maryland-DC and Virginia Audubon Council.

"The Red Knot features one of the longest migrations of any bird species and is a valuable part of the coastal web of life from the Arctic to the southern tip of South America," said Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society. "Our willingness to act quickly and decisively to save this icon of global connectedness is a powerful test of our stewardship of Earth's vital resources."

"The science is clear and compelling that emergency listing is desperately needed to protect the Red Knot," according to Thomas J. Gilmore, President of New Jersey Audubon Society. "Only by listing the Red Knot can we safeguard New Jersey's Serengeti - the Delaware Bay - for future generations."

The petition can be found on line at www.defenders.org/wildlife/redknots/petition.pdf.

Birding the Old Country - Israel

by Peter Lowen

Early this summer my family had the good fortune to travel to Israel on semi-business, and I could not miss the opportunity for overseas birding. We spent a week near Tulsa's sister city Tiberias in northern Israel, with a couple of days at the end of the trip in Jerusalem. Tiberias sits on the western side of the Sea of Galilee, which is a major migration stop-over for birds. The Jordan River feeds into the sea from the north, and drains it as well to the south. Although much of the original swampland surrounding the sea has been drained, there is a good portion of this bird-friendly habitat remaining at the mouth of the Jordan. Surrounding the sea are numerous kibbutzim (the plural of kibbutz), most of which draw water from it for irrigating crops and supporting fish farms, thus making them bird magnets as well.

In preparation for this birdwatching smorgasbord, I located the requisite field guide *Birds of the Middle East*, published by Princeton Field Guides. As ABA Sales didn't have any copies, I found mine at Buteo Books, an on-line birding bookstore that has a great selection of hard-to-find books. From a different website, I downloaded a list of Israeli birds broken down by season and coded by frequency, and spent a good chunk of the plane ride cross-referencing page numbers from the book to my list. I studied the pictures and felt reasonably confident in my abilities.

Then we arrived. As this was my first real experience in foreign birding I suddenly realized the inherent difficulty of birding a different country unguided – preparation is great, but everything really *is* foreign. Although the House Sparrows were as thick as they are here, the crows aren't our crows, the finches aren't our finches, and the warblers surely aren't our warblers. The first bird I could confidently identify was a Spur-winged Plover, a striking black and white bird more common there than Killdeer here.



Spur-winged Plover. Copyright Princeton Field Guides. Used with permission

more history and historical artifacts per acre than any other place on the planet. I can't speak for the most rabid of birders, but birding exclusively there was not an option. Sight-seeing is mandatory and truly rewarding. (Having said all that, I did spot numerous life birds like White Stork and Pied Kingfisher while touring historical sites.)

After we arrived at our lodging, I spent inordinate amounts of time tracking down and identifying to my satisfaction all the local trash birds. With no one to point them out and identify them, it was not a simple task. I recalled the bewilderment I felt years ago when, as a beginning birder, I would spot a towhee or shrike and have no starting point for identification.

Another factor hampering my birdwatching success was the country itself. Israel has

When I finally found some locals to talk with about birds, I realized the most significant problem. They went on and on about fabulous migration in spring and fall, and told near-mythic stories about birding in winter, and then concluded I had no business trying to bird at the outset of summer. Without much choice in the matter, I had to make do with the birds at hand.

The birding was not without some fine rewards, however. It became a fun family activity, and we were all on the lookout for new species. My wife and son got a lot of thrills watching the multicolored Bee Eaters patrolling the meadows. We also got a big kick from the Hoopoe, immortalized for me in James Michener's book *The Source*. This bird I can only describe as a cross between a Flicker and a Jay, with a big loopy crest that is raised upon landing, like a Roman centurion's helmet.



Hoopoe. Copyright Princeton Field Guides. Used with permission

Also, one of the joys of unguided birding is the discovery aspect. Finding the unexpected bird, an unseasonal bird, or a rare bird is truly delightful. It's a great feeling to see a bird that looks like a Purple Martin with a white rump, and then find the House Martin matching the description in the field guide all by myself. (Granted, when I came across the devilish Reed-Warblers, which are harder to separate than Empids, I quickly threw in the towel.)

Several kibbutzim are birder-friendly. They have published driving tours and checklists and some even boast birding offices on their grounds. The most famous in northern Israel is K'far Rupin, about 50 km south of the Sea of Galilee. We had a productive morning there, but of course were told things are better in the winter, so please come back again.

The biggest surprise was seeing some unanticipated behavior. Along the Sea of Galilee is the occasional Purple Heron, an analog of our Great Blue. There are also plenty of Little Egrets (think Snowies). We American birders know that herons and egrets will stand in the shallows patiently waiting for unsuspecting prey to enter within their fatal strike zone. We also know that terns (i.e., *not* herons and egrets) will flutter down to the water's surface, snatch a minnow, and wing away with a snack. I was therefore unprepared to see a huge Purple Heron lower itself to the water, shoot down its neck to catch prey, and then take off in the air with it. With its wingtips smacking the water, I couldn't help but wonder how often they lose flight and wind up in the drink (especially juveniles). I assume they can float, but can't imagine them swimming well with those long legs and non-webbed feet. To my great surprise, the herons and egrets successfully struck at the surface again and again while on the wing. I was amused and amazed.

As my first experience in foreign birding, I learned there's more to overcome than the language. A guided trip in the right season would have undoubtedly netted more life birds, but hacking around was great fun as well. And, as I'm sure every birder says, I gotta go back someday.

Book Review

Birds of the Great Plains

Jennings, Cable, and Burrows

I received a copy of Bob Jennings' book, *Birds of the Great Plains*, to review for this publication. Actually, the three authors are Jennings, Kansas State professor Ted T. Cable, and naturalist Roger Burrows. For the purposes of this review, I'll take the liberty of referring to it as Jennings' book. This review follows up the introduction to the book in the Summer 2005 issue of this publication by Kelly Jennings. The intelligent planning that supports this book is evident from the beginning; the book jacket, like some of the older Peterson guides, is weather-resistant. Additionally, it's textured so as not to slip easily from the hand. This kind of foresight is found throughout the book.

For a beginning birder the most daunting task can be trying to locate a bird in the book after having seen it in the field. I well remember flip, flip, flip as I tried to hunt down a small passerine in my first field guides. (I cut my birding teeth on Peterson, Golden, and National Geographic guides and faced the same problem with each.) This guide simplifies the search greatly with its Quick Reference Guide. There is a representative thumbnail picture of each of 23 bird groups on the back cover itself, with the name of the group in a color-coded box (e.g., Flycatchers, Shrikes & Vireos). On the edge of the cover is a corresponding box with the page number and even better, at the same height of the edge boxes the individual pages are *also* colored. So when a woodpecker is encountered, you would look on the back cover for the woodpecker, note the group color (red) and page number (p. 184), and then look on the page edging for red. That's it!

Another organizational coup is the reference guide at the front of the book. Over a mere 11 pages, thumbnail sketches of 324 birds are presented for easy scanning. The novice birder now need only scratch his head and curse, without having to also flip pages incessantly to narrow down the search.

Also in the opening pages is a numbered map with the top 91 birding sites in the Great Plains, and thorough descriptions for the top 20 birding sites. (The two sites in Oklahoma are the Wichita Mountains and, drum roll please... Oxley Nature Center and Mohawk Park!)

After successfully finding the bird of interest in the book, things get even better. Each species is given a full page with lots of information. Range maps show the distribution of the species throughout the year, as well as migratory pathways. There are full descriptions of habitat, nesting, feeding, voice, and similar species.

The real character of the book is evident in the artistic renderings and the accompanying text. Where David Sibley's thrust tends towards minimalist sketches for purely identification purposes, the birds on these pages are beautiful works of art. The level of detail is



impressive, down to the eyeballs and the shading of individual feathers. Where appropriate, a smaller bird in flight accompanies the typical standing model. Also, males and females are both shown where plumages differ.

Beginner and expert birders will enjoy reading the general paragraph accompanying each species. There are enjoyable introductions such as, "Commonly seen dashing along and across roadways traversing its brushy habitat, the celebrated Greater Roadrunner lives up to its reputation for spirit and speed." These are often followed by more informative passages, leaving me frequently saying to myself, "I never knew that." Often included are the historical effects of human interaction and the pressures due to development or hunting. Each page makes for a good read.

In summary, this book aims to give a broad introduction to each of the birds of the Great Plains in an easy-to-use format. At this, it does an excellent job. The key to this book's success is the accessibility of the information. Where other guides may have more information on subspecies and variability that the experienced birder can suss out, Jennings' book willingly tells everything the amateur needs to know. With the beautiful artwork and accurate information, it is enjoyable and rewarding to use. For any novice birder in the Great Plains, this new book is incredibly helpful and easy to use.

TAS Field Trip

The Selman Bat Caves

by Peter Lowen

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) operates summertime tours to the Selman Ranch to allow viewing of an enormous colony of Mexican Free-tailed Bats. The roughly one million bats use a large cave as a daily roost, and the nightly show for us humans is seeing the bats leave the cave in unimaginable quantities. The Selman Ranch is private, located near the town of Freedom, OK. The tour leaves from nearby Alabaster Caverns State Park, taking registered participants by school bus a couple of miles to a viewing site near the cave. The Bat Watch director for the ODWC, Melynda Hicks, does a great job advertising, coordinating, and organizing the event. She works very hard ensuring everyone enjoys the experience as much as possible. This natural wonder was the impetus for the First Annual Bat Cave Audubon Field Trip.

On July 7th, all participants in the field trip to the Selman Bat Caves and parts west left Tulsa. Led by yours truly, we did a little local birding at Oxley and Keystone. A Yellow-throated Warbler was singing his heart out near the Corps of Engineers HQ and after some traipsing around, everybody got a good look at him. I was trying out a new digital camera, and everyone was patient while I snapped shots of Western Kingbirds, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and multiple herons and egrets.

On, on we went, further westward until we came to the Glass Mountains in Major County. The mesas all lined up north to south were car-stoppingly, picture-takingly magnificent. I had never seen them before, so we stopped in the parking lot and took in the view. Turkey Vultures lazily rode the thermals up the face of the mesa and then disappeared on the other side. The mesas definitely demarcate the entrance to western Oklahoma, and next time I might even hike up to the top. Shortly thereafter, a Greater Roadrunner performed its famous act of running across the road.

We arrived at Alabaster Caverns State Park in the late afternoon, where park employees took us on a tour through the caverns. After a hot day of birding, the 56 degree caverns were positively delightful. After the non-bat cave tour, there was an hour's delay until the Bat Watch, so we hiked down into the canyon and found a singing juvenile Painted Bunting and some extremely pale Chipping Sparrows.

We joined the rest of the bat-watching group assembled in the picnic area and were given an up-close introduction to animals of the area, including an orphaned Bobcat kitten, a Prairie Dog pup, and a live Diamondback Rattlesnake. We boarded a school bus and traveled a couple of miles to the caves. Watching for rattlesnakes, we walked to the viewing areas about 200 yards from the cave entrance, sat on the benches, and quickly applied bug spray. (The distance from the cave was understandable after we were informed that a bat cave reeks of ammonia from their droppings and no one in his right mind would want to be near one.)

While we waited for the bats, another park employee taught us a great deal about bats. I absolutely have to include a few bat facts here to edify you, Good Reader.

- There are 21 species of bats that live in Oklahoma. Some species migrate south for the winter and the rest hibernate through the winter.
- They eat 1.5 to 2 times their body weight each night!
- Different from birds' flapping their wings, bats fly with a breast stroke about 12 times a second.
- Bats have the lowest incidence of rabies in wild mammals, but 86% of the grounded bats that people come into contact with are rabid. (Like loons, if a bat is grounded it can't take off, and sick bats are more likely to get grounded.)
- 500 bats can roost on a square foot of cave ceiling.
- Bats use sonar in three different modes – roaming (a couple of chirps per second), investigating (50-80 per second), and attacking (up to 200 per second).
- The mothers carry their pups on their chests for the first few weeks, and the added weight can make their nightly flights of up to 50 miles from the cave mighty difficult.
- After the pups are old enough to fly, the bats come out in two waves: first come the adults in an organized flight and then come the juveniles in a random, dispersed flight.
- And, although most bats have skin connected to not only their "fingers" but also to their tails, the Mexican Free-tails do not, so their tails are free to waggle around.

While our extremely informative park employee's spiel was winding down, someone called out, "There are the bats." A thin spiral column of bats exited the cave, rose up 50 feet or so and flew right over us! After the first bats flew past us, the column of bats got thicker and darker. Within seconds, the adult bats formed into a river, an aerial highway, and they kept coming. For six or seven minutes this absolute torrent of animals flew over-

head and once past us, separated into groups of a thousand or so heading off to feed.

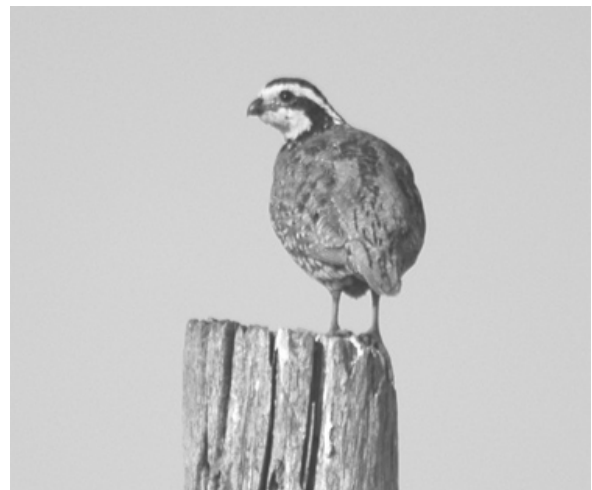
After the adults had completed their exit and we were all thoroughly dumbfounded, we waited for the pups' departure some 20 minutes later. This time there was no organization, no highway in the sky. They simply shot out of the cave in random directions, like skeet throwing on fast forward. A resident pair of savvy Great-horned Owls that had waited patiently through the adults' flight, then flew into the fray and grabbed some young bats for dinner. We also got to hear Common Poorwills and Chuck-wills-widows calling. It was all absolutely exhilarating. To cap off the evening, back on the highway we surprised a ferret who was feeding on road kill.

The next morning, acting on an OKBirds listserv tip, we headed west and north to Elkhart, KS, slap dab on the border of Oklahoma, not too far from Guymon. The Cimarron River runs through the southern edge of the Cimarron National Grasslands at Elkhart, and a Three-toed Woodpecker, the first State Record in Kansas for this alpine species, was reported at a picnic area along the river. Specifically, he had been seen in a cottonwood tree near the bottom of a playground slide. (For the record, I normally despise chasing other people's rare birds as they can be so very impossible to find.) We found the picnic area with little trouble and enjoyed seeing first Bullock's and Orchard Orioles, then Downy, Red-bellied, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. In the playground area, we stood at the base of The Tree and waited. I suggested we split up and canvas the whole area, but just then we heard a tap, tap, tap from up in the tree. Sure enough, there was the Three-toed Woodpecker with his barred back, black sides, and yellow head patch! It was a lifer for everyone in the group and we were all thrilled.

Quite satisfied, we zoomed back into Oklahoma and drove out to Black Mesa State Park, spotting a couple of Burrowing Owls along the way. By now it was afternoon and although we were happy to find Black-chinned Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Curve-billed Thrasher, we missed many

of the local specialties. On the way back through Boise City we drove the dirt roads northeast of town. After calling John Shackford for directions, we found a few Lark Buntings and then startled a Pronghorn Antelope. He sprinted away from us and didn't stop until he reached his mate and three young. We headed east through the evening and picked up a lone American Avocet before we got to Alva.

The next morning we continued east to Great Salt Plains, and promptly found a Snowy Plover by the crystal digging area. Heading back out, we were very surprised to see a Northern Bobwhite calmly sitting atop a fencepost. He stayed there for all to see for quite some time, and we drove away with him still in the rear-view mirror. (And no, he was not stuffed.)



Northern Bobwhite by Peter Lowen. All rights reserved.

We drove around to the Eagle Roost Trail and walked the long way around, picking up hordes of mosquitoes, a White-faced Ibis, and plenty of herons and egrets. At the observation platform we scanned with scopes and picked up a lone White Pelican (odd – no pun intended), 25-30 Avocets feeding on the far shore, and a Least Tern. Hot and tired, happy and satisfied, we headed for Tulsa. All told, we drove 1,200 miles, identified 93 bird species and 8 terrestrial mammals, and enjoyed a million Mexican Free-tailed Bats.

Lights, Camera... Puffins! Puffin Cam Live

Matinicus Rock, Maine, August 5, 2005 - Today, Audubon announced that researchers, students, and bird lovers worldwide will have the chance to get intimate views of puffins and other Maine seabirds. The Project Puffin seabird camera is now beaming live-streaming video from Matinicus Rock-Maine's largest colony of Atlantic Puffins and Razorbills. Matinicus Rock is located 22 miles south of Rockland, Maine. This is the first year that that Matinicus Rock seabirds will appear on the web at www.projectpuffin.org.

The robotic camera was funded by grants from MBNA Foundation and the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund. The video signal is beamed to Rockland where it is linked to an Internet connection at the site of the future Project Puffin Visitor Center.

When the Center opens, a unique camera feature will allow visitors to pan all directions, zooming in and out for closer views. The camera is an invention of Daniel Zatz of SeeMore Wildlife Systems of Homer, Alaska.

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
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OR, for only Tulsa Audubon Society
\$10 Local membership - includes

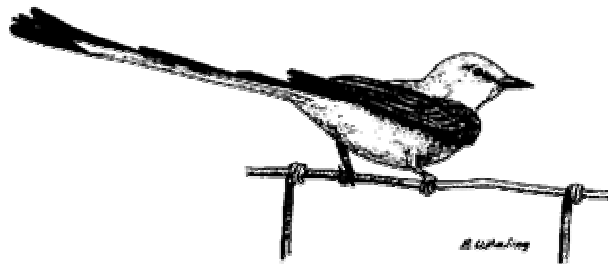
Tulsa Scissortail. Mail check to:
Tulsa Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2476
Tulsa, OK 74101

BioBlitz! 2005 - It's Gone Local!

BioBlitz! is a 24-hour rapid inventory of the biological diversity of a specific area conducted by biologists from around the state and other volunteers. On September 9 and 10, the Oklahoma Biological Survey will sponsor its fifth annual BioBlitz! at Oxley Nature Center/Mohawk Park in Tulsa. A special guest will be state chancellor of higher education, Dr. Paul Risser, a former director of the Survey and an excellent field biologist.

Everyone is welcome to participate in BioBlitz! In addition to helping with surveys, the public can join in interpretive activities, view displays, talk with biologists, and see the final tally of plants and animals that were discovered during the 24-hour inventory. For more information including registration information, contact the Oxley staff 918-669-6644, or check out our website at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz.html>

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