

# TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
VOL. LXVIII, NO. 4

SUMMER 2007

EDITOR: PETER LOWEN

## *From the President*

As I do each summer, I want to again thank all our members, committee members and officers for another outstanding year. We had an excellent series of monthly programs, routinely drawing 40 or more people. Our new format of offering refreshments at 7:00 has been a success, thanks in large part to the efforts of the McGrouty family, who provide a festive atmosphere every month.

Our Board of Directors has been wonderful to work with, and the reason I have agreed to continue as President. We do have a few changes, and I want to welcome Laurie Ribitzki to the board. Amy Lambert is retiring as Recorder after 10 years of service in this important position, and we thank her for an excellent job keeping up with the birds of Tulsa County. Our records have been computerized for many years, beginning with Jo Loyd and using some of the earliest PCs. Amy developed a Windows-based database that makes the records even more accessible. Fortunately, we are welcoming Paul Ribitzki as our new Recorder, and Amy will be transitioning the job to Paul this summer.

I don't have room to mention individually all the other wonderful folks who helped make this a great year, but I want you all to know you have the thanks of myself and all TAS members. (But I will thank our editor Peter Lowen, who does an excellent job putting out this newsletter, despite having to deal with a president who is habitually late with his report for the newsletter!)

Be sure to look for the Important Bird Area update that did not make it into the last issue.

Finally, I need to thank my employer, EDS, for a \$1,000 donation to Tulsa Audubon. EDS offered employees a chance to record their volunteer hours in the community. At the end of the year we could apply for one of ten \$1,000 donations, based on total hours and a description of our service. I don't know how many applied, but EDS has over 100,000 employees worldwide. I had over 600 hours between Audubon, Oxley, Cub Scouts and Pax Christi and picked TAS for the donation.

*John Kennington*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

*You are cordially invited to  
The 14th Annual  
Tulsa Audubon Society  
Backyard Habitat Garden Tour  
and Plant Sale*

*Saturday, June 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sunday, June 10, 12 noon -5 p.m.*

*\$5 per person  
(Under 13, no charge)*

Tickets are available at any of the following  
addresses on the day of the tour

5215 E. 88th St.  
2610 S. Vandalia Ave.  
5842 E. 63rd St.  
1748 S. Gary  
5420 S. Marion Pl.

*Plant vendors will include:  
Clear Creek Farm and Garden  
Wild Things Nursery  
Missouri Wildflower Nursery  
Pine Ridge Gardens*

*In addition there will be  
Bird Houses by Mark  
Fossil Forge Garden Art  
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation*

**LOOK FOR THE SIGNS WITH THE RED  
BALLOONS!**

*(Casual Attire)*

# TAS Upcoming Events

**Tuesday Morning Birders.** The Tuesday Morning Birders meet at 8:00 am at the Tulsa Garden Center from September through March and at 7:30 a.m. April through October during Daylight Savings Time. Join us!

**First Saturday of every month.** Bird with Oxley Nature Center Staff in Mohawk Park. Meet at 8:00 am at parking lot. Call 669-6644 for details.

**Second Saturday, March to October.** Oxley Nature Center Butterfly Walk, 10:30-12:00. Call 669-6644 for details.

**Third Saturday, March to October.** Oxley Nature Center Wildflower Walk, 10:00-11:00. Call 669-6644 for details.

## May

15 Tue 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting. Wildflowers with Kim Shannon. Experience the beauties of our native flora with an enthusiastic and recognized expert from Sutton Avian Research Center.

19 Sat Field Trip. Atoka WMA (southwest of McAlester, north of Atoka) for spring migrants. Rendezvous point to be announced. For more info, contact Colin Davy, 918-743-8161.

20 Sun Afternoon Outing. A short visit to a local birding area. Meet 6:00 p.m. at the Tulsa Garden Center. Contact John Kennington, 918-809-6325.

## June

9-10 Sat.-Sun. Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale. Contact Carol Eames, 918-446-2720.

June 16, Sat. Field Trip. Mohawk Park for summer nesters. Meet at 8:00am in Zoo parking lot nearest the Zoo entrance. For more info, contact Susie Ruby.

June 26, Tue. 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.

June 30, Sat. Summer Potluck Picnic. Bring the family for some summertime fellowship and relaxation. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at Washington Irving Park, located in Bixby on Memorial Drive, just before crossing the River. TAS will provide beverages, cups, plates, and eating utensils. Contact John Kennington, 918-809-6325.

## Congratulations!!

At the April 2007 meeting, the new Society officers and three members of the Board of Directors were voted into office. They will begin serving their terms in May. If and when you see them, let them know you appreciate all their efforts and while you're at it, you can get more involved!

### Officers and Board for 2007-2008

President - John Kennington  
Vice-President - Gail Storey  
Secretary - Anita Mitchell  
Treasurer - Mary Jackson  
Recorder - Paul Ribitzki

### Directors

Carol Eames (2007-2009)  
John Fisher (2007-2009)  
Laurie Ribitzki (2007-2009)  
Martin Brown (2006-2008)  
Jim Mitchell (2006-2008)  
Gary Siftar (2006-2008)

### TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS (worth repeating)

President: John Kennington 809-6325  
Secretary: Anita Mitchell 272-6755  
Recorder: Paul Ribitzki

Vice-President: Gail Storey 742-2684  
Treasurer: Mary Jackson 254-1350

Directors: Martin Brown, Carol Eames, John Fisher, Jim Mitchell, Laura Ribitzki, and Gary Siftar

**TAS Website: [www.tulsaaudubon.org](http://www.tulsaaudubon.org)**

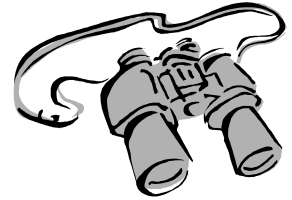
*"Tulsa Scissortail"* is the quarterly newsletter of the Tulsa Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2476, Tulsa, OK 74101. As the "Scissortail" newsletter goes to the printer two weeks before the date of issue, your editor needs items for that issue at least a week prior to that (For Fall 2007, that will be August 10th or so).

e-mail: [thelowenfamily@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thelowenfamily@sbcglobal.net)

Peter Lowen, Editor

# Recorder's Report

February 2007 - April 2007



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

	Species	Date	Count	Location	Observer
O	Ross's Goose	11-Apr-07	1	Bixby Sod Farm	L.McRill
R	White-winged Scoter	15-Feb-07	1	Keystone Dam	M.Peterson
R	Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)	05-Mar-07	1	Keystone Dam	K.Williams
	Pied-billed Grebe	14-Apr-07	60	Mohawk Park, Oxley, Lake Sherry	T.Mitchell
	Pied-billed Grebe	14-Apr-07	50	Oxley Nature Center	T.Mitchell
	American Bittern	16-Apr-07	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
R	Tricolored Heron	29-Apr-07	1	Oxley North Woods	B.Carrell
R	Black Vulture	11-Feb-07	3	Hwy412 & Hwy 97	B.Carrell
R	Black Vulture	26-Feb-07	5	Res Lake Keystone	P.Ribitzki
	Osprey	19-Apr-07	1	Oxley Nature Center	M.&G.Kamp, S.Ruby
O	Mississippi Kite	22-Mar-07	1	Hwy 75 & Apache	T.Mitchell
	Swainson's Hawk	23-Apr-07	24	129th E Ave and 141st St	J.Singletary
	Sora	19-Apr-07	1	Apache Sewage Pond	B.Carrell
R	Sandhill Crane	07-Mar-07	2	Oxley Nature Center	S.Knutie
O	Solitary Sandpiper	23-Mar-07	1	Tulsa County	B.Carrell
	American Woodcock	28-Feb-07	3	Residence, Tulsa	T.Mitchell
	American Woodcock	28-Feb-07	5	Residence, Tulsa	T.Mitchell
	Eurasian Collared-Dove	28-Feb-07	1	Residence, Tulsa	B.Carrell
	Eurasian Collared-Dove	01-Apr-07	2	Leonard Sod Farms	G.Kamp
	Eurasian Collared-Dove	22-Apr-07	6	Residence, Tulsa	T.Mitchell
O	Chimney Swift	20-Mar-07	3	Avery Drive	T.Curtis
	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	25-Mar-07	1	Sapulpa, Creek Cty	F.Sanford
	Purple Martin	07-Mar-07	1	Zink Lake	C.Browning
O	Northern Parula	21-Mar-07	1	Oxley Nature Center	A.Riddle
R	Pine Warbler	25-Feb-07	1	Keystone Dam	B.Carrell
R	Pine Warbler	10-Mar-07	3	Keystone Dam	T.Mitchell
R	Pine Warbler	24-Mar-07	1	Mohawk Park Golf Course	B.Carrell
O	Louisiana Waterthrush	18-Mar-07	1	Redbud Valley, Rogers Cty	T.Mitchell
	Summer Tanager	15-Apr-07	1	Ancient Forrest	J.Fisher
	Scarlet Tanager	22-Apr-07	1	Turkey Mountain Park	T.Mitchell
	Le Conte's Sparrow	18-Mar-07	1	Oxley Nature Center	B.Carrell
	Lapland Longspur	04-Feb-07	180	North Tulsa County	B.Carrell
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	28-Apr-07	1	Woodward Park	J.Woodward, et al
R	Black-headed Grosbeak	28-Apr-07	2	Skiatook Area	D & R John
	Dickcissel	28-Apr-07	1	Lenard Sod Farms	J.Woodward, et al
	Yellow-headed Blackbird	19-Apr-07	2	Bixby Sod Farm	B.Carrell

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

\*Note: After about 47 years of dedicated recording for the Tulsa Audubon Society, Amy Lambert is looking forward to retirement. She plans to make the most of her TAS pension and hopefully get some birding in. Amy, thanks for all your hard work and patience over the years—we all appreciate it.

## The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program

**Program is: Proactive, not reactive; Voluntary, not regulatory; Participatory, not just for professionals; Science-based and credible.**

### AUDUBON - IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS PROGRAM

Audubon, as the Partner for BirdLife International, is working to identify a network of sites that provide critical habitat for birds. This effort known as the Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) recognizes that habitat loss and fragmentation are the most serious threats facing populations of birds across America and around the world. By working through partnerships, principally the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, to identify those places that are critical to birds during some part of their life cycle (breeding, wintering, feeding, migrating) we hope to minimize the effects that habitat loss, and degradation have on bird populations. Unless we can slow the rapid destruction and degradation of habitat, populations of many birds may decline to dangerously low levels. The IBA program is a global effort to identify areas that are most important for maintaining bird populations, and focus conservation efforts at protecting these sites. In the U.S. the IBA program has become a key component of many bird conservation efforts, for example: Partners in Flight, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan.

### What is an Important Bird Area?

Important Bird Areas, or IBAs, are sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of bird. IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. IBAs may be a few acres or thousands of acres, but usually they are discrete sites that stand out from the surrounding landscape. IBAs may include public or private lands, or both, and they may be protected or unprotected.

To qualify as an IBA, sites must satisfy at least one of the following criteria. The site must support:

- Species of conservation concern (e.g. threatened and endangered species)
- Restricted-ranges species (species vulnerable because they are not widely distributed)
- Species that are vulnerable because their populations are concentrated in one general habitat type or biome
- Species, or groups of similar species (such as waterfowl or shorebirds), that are vulnerable because they occur at high densities due to their congregatory behavior

Identification of a site as an IBA indicates its unique importance for birds. Nonetheless, some IBAs are of greater significance than others. A site may be important at the global, continental, or state level. The IBA identification process provides a data-driven means for cataloging the most important sites for birds throughout the country and the world.

## Oklahoma IBA Program

### History of OK IBA Program:

- March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – **OK IBA Program Proposed.** The Audubon chapters in Oklahoma meet to reactivate the state-wide Oklahoma Audubon Council. As its first major project, the Council decides to pursue the formation of an Oklahoma IBA program.
- July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 – **OK IBA Steering Committee Formed.** Oklahoma Audubon Council meeting was attended by Lynn Tenefoss, from Audubon Society Members Services office and John Cecil, coordinator of the Audubon Important Bird Areas program. John Cecil discussed the IBA program and agreed to assist in the organization of the Oklahoma IBA program.
- October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 – **OK IBA Coordinator Selected.** At the Fall OOS meeting, it was announced that Eric Beck had been selected by the Oklahoma Audubon Council as the coordinator for the Oklahoma IBA program. This is currently a volunteer position as we do not yet have funds to pay a salary.
- November 2006 ~ February 2007 – **Technical committee members recruited.**
- February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – **First joint meeting of the OK IBA Technical and Steering committees.** Potential IBA sites were discussed and the plan for the year was laid out.

### OK IBA Technical Committee Members

Dan Reinking - GMSARC, OU Biological Survey  
Michael Patten - GMSARC, OU Biological Survey  
Mia Revels - Prof. NE State (Swainson's Warbler research)  
Chris Wilson - TNC Nickel Preserve Director  
Doug Wood - Prof at SEOSU, research around the Tish NWR  
Michael Husak - Prof at Cameron Univ.  
Donald Winslow - Prof at St. Gregory's in Central OK  
Mark Howery - ODWC  
Berlin Heck - Past Dir. at Little River NWR/ Expert in SE region  
Tim O'connell - Prof at OSU, OOS President  
Laurie Gillum – Biologist, Teacher  
Steve Hodge – Wichita Mountains NWR  
Julianne Hoagland - ODWC

### Major goals for 2007 are:

- Identify a minimum of four Global IBA's.
  - Obtain funding for the program.
  - Increase knowledge and awareness of the OK IBA program.
- Increase participation in the OK IBA program.

Martin Brown  
Chair - OK IBA Steering Committee  
Oklahoma Audubon Council  
martin1420@sbcglobal.net  
www.okaudubon.org

# The Limpkin

Newsletter of the  
Space Coast Audubon Society of Brevard County, Florida



TAS Editor's Note:  
This nifty piece is reprinted with permission from the March 2007 issue of The Limpkin, the newsletter I grew up with in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

## Refusing to Harass: Why the Very Bad Birder Will Retain Her Crown

By Dee Fairbanks Simpson

(Editors note: The author has submitted this piece as a personal commentary; it does not represent the thoughts and feelings of the [Space Coast Audubon Society] SCAS board.)

Picture yourself sitting at home in the kitchen. You are just about to sit down with a PB&J and a nice glass of juice, when suddenly you hear a voice yelling, "WHAT'S THAT? WHAT'S THAT? WHAT'S THAT?" Quickly, you get up from the table, you don't know what the problem is, but you dart around the house from room to room, checking the windows and door locks and looking for the source of the trouble. Eventually you realize that there is nothing wrong, and sooner or later your heart rate returns to normal, but by now you are stressed out, your sandwich is soggy, and you don't feel much like having a snack anymore.

This doesn't sound like a fun time now does it? Well, I am giving up group birding because to be blunt, I am tired of birding with people who do this to the birds. Most people call it "just pishing" or "just playing an owl tape" but I call it harassing the birds. I realize that I am in the vast minority, if not completely alone in my having a problem with pishing. According to Ryan Ryan Zimmerling, in the article, "Calling in the Birds" printed in the fall 2005 issue of Birdwatch Canada, "[some people] suggest that pishing does not cause distress in birds for the simple reason that birds are fairly intelligent creatures and, while they may be initially drawn to the pishing source, they are more than capable of telling a human from a predator." I have heard this same argument from birders before; to me it sounds like justification for rude behavior. "Initially drawn" is a euphemism, they are not so much drawn as "obviously disturbed" by pishing. It is easy to say that the birds are not disturbed by it, but the birds were off minding their own business, and they responded to the sound. They feel the need to drop what they are doing and investigate the sound; how is that not being disturbed? The

"birds are fairly intelligent creatures" line doesn't excuse it for me either; I am a fairly intelligent creature too, yet if someone tells me to look out for something, at the very least I am going to stop to find out if there is really something to be concerned about.

And don't even get me started on owl tapes. To take the analogy at the beginning of this article a bit further, if pishing is someone yelling "WHAT'S THAT!", an owl tape is someone yelling, "I'M GONNA KILL YOU!"

I enjoy hanging out with other birders and experiencing the camaraderie, however, I really cannot see myself attending group birding trips in the future, as this is where I have seen some of the worst behavior. On almost every trip I have been on over the years, people begin pishing from the second the bus doors open; I have literally seen people pish from the bottom step of a bus. On one trip I attended, I watched the trip leaders harass a single bird with an owl tape for at least 15 solid minutes. Yes, perhaps for someone on the trip it was a life bird, but at what cost to the bird?

Aside from my own personal moral qualms with this behavior, what I really worry about is the message that we are sending to beginning birders. How many beginners come away from group outings thinking that harassing birds is an appropriate way to increase their life list?

Note that I do understand that in some cases such as the quarterly bird counts, pishing and tapes are a necessary evil as it is important to see what is really there for scientific purposes. What I have trouble with is harrasing the birds for personal entertainment value (e.g., getting it on a personal list.) What I would like to do is start my own little anti-harassment movement. I would like to lead trips where we would walk quietly, and if we see a bird, we see it. If we don't, we don't. My life list might never get above 100, and I will probably always retain my Very Bad Birder crown, but at least I can sleep at night knowing that a bird got to enjoy his day with out being disturbed by me. If anyone is with me, drop me an email and we can plan some gentle birding field trips together!

**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

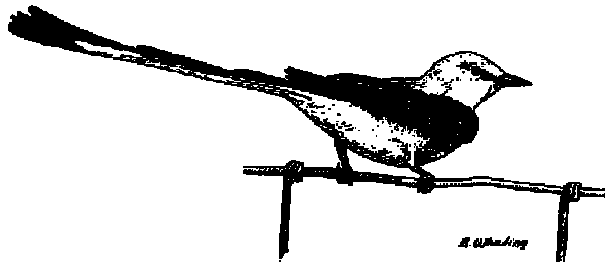
# Yesssss!!!!!!

As the result of a statewide vote, Gov. Brad Henry announced on April, 30, 2007 that Oklahoma's commemorative quarter to be issued in 2008 will feature the state bird and state wildflower: the scissor-tailed flycatcher and the Indian blanket.



More than 148,000 votes were cast in selecting the design for the quarter, part of a special series launched by the U.S. Mint in 1999. There were 76,643 votes for the Scissortail Quarter, more than half of all votes cast. Thank you all who participated in the democratic process and asked friends and family members to do the same, and a special thanks to those who voted for the scissortail quarter.

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!*