

TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
VOL. LXIX, NO. 1

FALL 2007

EDITOR: PETER LOWEN

From the President

Be sure to check out the excellent schedule of meetings, field trips and other events our committees have put together over the summer. Thanks to everyone for the good work! As usual, your annual event guide is enclosed in this Scissortail. Be sure to pick up some extra guides at a meeting, the Garden Center or at Oxley Nature Center and take a few to put up on the bulletin board at work, and share some family, friends and neighbors.

Newsletter Editor. I regret to inform everyone that Peter Lowen is stepping down as editor of the TAS Scissortail. He has a new addition to his family and needs to spend time being daddy!

So Peter, congratulations! And you will be missed. Peter has done a wonderful job editing this newsletter, especially dealing with the president not sending in his message by the deadline! So thank you Peter for your years of service.

Of course, this means we need a new newsletter editor. We've been using Microsoft Publisher, and Peter will provide all the templates he has been using, so the new editor will not start from scratch. And if the new editor does not have Publisher we will provide a copy. If you think you might be interested, please contact me or Peter to learn more. And ignore my comments about late submissions by the president!

Birding Guide. Also be sure to check out the on-line version of the TAS Guide to Birding in Oklahoma. If you've got high speed Internet access, be sure to try out the Google Earth option. It is really cool! There are more details on this elsewhere in this issue.

Garden Tour. This year's tour was another great success with over 700 participants and five beautiful homes and garden homes. Thank you to the homeowners for sharing their yards, and the entire Audubon at Home committee for all the year-round work involved in making this event a success.

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TAS Upcoming Events

Tuesday Morning Birders. The Tuesday Morning Birders meet at 8:00 am at the Tulsa Garden Center from October through March and at 7:30 a.m. April through September 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.

September

18 Tue **Society Meeting** "Birds and Beasts of Tanzania and South Africa" with Jim and Anita Mitchell. The Mitchells will share images of birds and other wildlife taken during their visit to these two amazing African countries.

22 Sat **Field Trip** The Reserve at Rogers State University in Claremore. Meet at 8:00am at the Claremore Expo Center, 400 Veterans

Pkwy, Claremore. Contact person: Mike Ludewig, 343-4823 (a local call from Tulsa), m.b.ludewig@netzero.com

October

16 Tue **Society Meeting** "An Overview of The Nature Conservancy's Four Canyon Preserve" with Chris Hise. Oklahoma's newest nature preserve encompasses 4,000 acres of scenic mixed-grass prairie, wooded canyons, and riverine habitats along the Canadian River and protects a diversity of plant and animal life.

27 Sat **Field Trip** The Nature Conservancy's new Four Canyons Preserve in Ellis County. Meet at 8:00am at The General Store on West Broadway in Vici, OK, crossroads of Hwys. 60 and 34 (south of Woodward), and from there, we'll follow John Fisher to the Preserve. Bring plenty of water and snacks, and dress appropriately for the weather. Contact person: John Fisher, 245-8662, rgs455@cox.net

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**A special invitation to the
Tulsa Audubon Society
Oklahoma Centennial
Botanical Garden
Centennial Celebration**

9-5 Saturday September 8
Noon-5 Sunday September 9

This will be the first opportunity for the public to be on the site of the future \$40 million garden, which will be developed just seven miles northwest of downtown Tulsa. There will be **more than 100** events, activities, demonstrations, programs and fun for all! Check www.ocbg.org news & events for details and updates.

Post Oak Lodge and Conference Center, Tulsa
Park at Central High School, 3101 W. Edison. Free shuttle bus service.

Tulsa Closing Trash to Energy Plant

Tulsa's trash to energy plant is lower disposal rate than the trash-to-closing. Twenty years ago Tulsa energy plant."

made an investment in the future, doing something to ensure Tulsa would be able to handle its trash far into the future. But now, after paying of the debt to build it, the city has made the short-sighted decision to not use it, because the landfills offer a slightly lower rate.

But how long will that lower rate last? We will eventually run out of landfill space, even in wide-open Oklahoma. And what about all the talk about making Tulsa a "green" city?

City Public Works Department Director Charles Hardt said, "In the end, I could not justify asking ratepayers to continue subsidizing a private business at a time when we have an existing agreement to take our refuse to the landfill, which charges a substantially

This is **NOT** subsidizing a private company. It **IS** about making decisions in the best long-term interest of the city. It is a classic case of being penny-wise and pound foolish.

Please visit www.tulsaaudubon.org for a link to the Tulsa World article about the closing. Please contact Mayor Taylor, the City Council and Governor Henry to let them know you want Tulsa to do the right thing and make a decision for Tulsa's long-term future. You may contact Mayor Taylor at 200 Civic Center Tulsa, OK 74103, or call the Mayor's Action Center at (918) 596-2100 or send an email to MAC@cityoftulsa.org. And if you live in Tulsa, write your City Councilor, at 200 Civic Center Tulsa, OK 74103.

John Kennington

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November

10 Sat **Field Trip** Tulsa Lakes: Lynn Lane Reservoir, Lake Yahola, and Skiatook and Collinsville sewage lagoons. Meet at the southeast corner of Lynn Lane Reservoir at 8:00am. Contact person: Terry Mitchell, 697-3198, terry@PECOT.COM.

20 Tue **Society Meeting** "Name that Hawk" with Joe Grzybowski. Hawks can be confusing in the field. Get some tips on identification from a respected birder and researcher.

December

1 Sat **Field Trip** Keystone Ancient Forest Preserve and TAS

Eagle Property. Meet at 12:30pm at the Preserve entrance which is approx. 2 miles North of US 412 at Ancient Forest Dr & 209th W Ave. Contact: John Fisher, 245-8662, rgs455@cox.net

15 Sat **Tulsa Christmas Bird Count**. Jo Loyd, 835-2946, jo.loyd@sbcglobal.net

18 Tue **Society Meeting** *Annual Christmas Show and Tell Party*. Bring stories, slides, artifacts, or digital images (up to about 10) on any subject of general interest (birds, animals, travel, wildflowers, etc.) to share with the group. Members bring treats to share after the meeting. Contact Gail Storey, 742-2684 or gailstorey@sbcglobal.net about your presentation. Please

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

"**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 2008, that will be November 10th or so). As the out-going editor with no incoming editor, please send your stuff to me and I'll see that it gets properly re-directed.

e-mail: thelowenfamily@sbcglobal.net

Peter Lowen, Editor

George Miksch Sutton

Artist, Scientist, and Teacher

By Jerome A. Jackson

The first biography of the distinguished ornithologist

George Miksch Sutton (1898–1982) is revered by bird lovers everywhere for his beautiful paintings. A Victorian gentleman, adventurer, and raconteur, he was trained in the sciences but felt equally at home in the arts.

Jerome Jackson, a friend and colleague of Sutton, draws on extant correspondence, interviews, and personal knowledge to offer a portrait of the artist that will surprise those who knew him only in his later years. Capturing a superb ornithologist who worked under the most inhospitable conditions, from the arctic to the tropics, Jackson shows us a person who guarded his privacy and struggled with uncertainty.

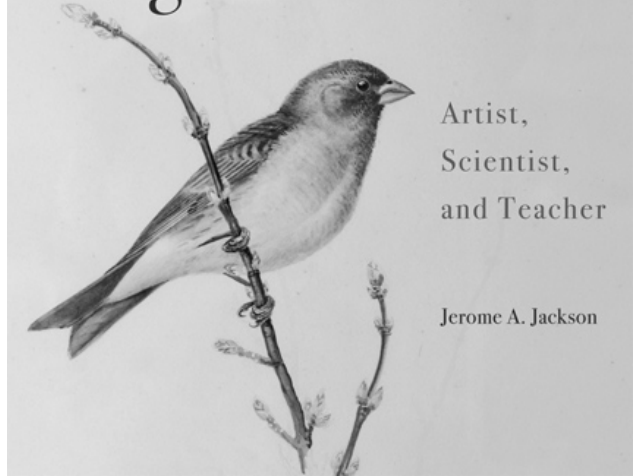
Jackson depicts a Renaissance man whose life was, more than a search for birds, a quest for knowledge through science and art in the service of humanity.

Tracing Sutton's roots through two generations, Jackson reveals what set him apart from other ornithologists and bird artists. Focusing on Sutton's formative years—how he acquired his love of birds at an early age and how that love guided his life—Jackson then relates Sutton's adventures in the Arctic, Mexico, Oklahoma, and elsewhere.

Jackson's account fills in details missing from Sutton's autobiography, *Bird Student*. Gracing the book are fifty reproductions of Sutton's art—twenty-eight in full color—including early, unpublished, or obscure works along with non-avian subjects.



George Miksch Sutton



Jerome A. Jackson, Professor of Biology and former Whitaker Eminent Scholar in Science at Florida Gulf Coast University, has been editor of *The Wilson Bulletin*, *Journal of Field Ornithology*, and other scholarly journals in addition to writing numerous articles and books. He worked closely with George Miksch Sutton through the Wilson Ornithological Society.

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Bird Seed Sale. Also enclosed with this newsletter is your 2007 Bird Seed Sale order form. You can again place your order on-line at www.tulsaaudubon.org

Monthly Meetings. I also want to thank Laurie & Renee McGrouty and Geraldine Rouk for the beautiful job they did our hospitality committee. Regrettably they are also stepping down, but Pam Edwards has agreed to serve as our new hospitality chair. We're not expecting Pam to decorate like the McGroutys, but she will be coordinating the snacks, names tags etc.

Our new schedule last year seemed to work out well, and we will continue meeting at 7:00 for refreshment with the program beginning at 7:30. We will also be meeting at 5:15 p.m for dinner with the speaker every month at Peppers Grill in Utica Square (on 21st Street across the street from Goldies). Everyone is welcome to join us.

Late Afternoon Outings. Last year we tried something new, scheduling a series of late afternoon, 1-2 hours field trips. Some were on a Sunday afternoon, and others during the week, for those who want a quick birding fix after work. The October outing had a large turnout, but the Feb outing was frozen

out during our cold snap, and ALL four spring outings were rained out! So we are trying again, and this year hoping for good weather! Check the schedule for this year's dates.

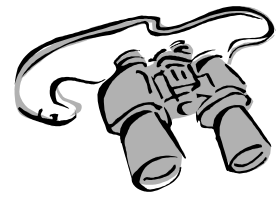
Keystone for Kids. We're again offering a family-oriented outing to the Keystone Dam on Sunday, Oct. 7. This should be a good time to see some easy to observe birds that everyone in the family will enjoy seeing. Meet anytime from 1-3 p.m. in the parking lot of the Watchable Wildlife Area, the same spot we meet for our Eagle Days.

John Kennington

Recorder's Report

June 2007 - August 2007

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



	SPECIES		DATE	COUNT	LOCATION		OBSERVER(S)
					COUNTY	PLACE	
	Turkey	Wild	06/02/07	1	Tulsa	S Sheridan & 107th St S	J Arterburn
O	Loon	Common	06/03/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	B Carrell
	Eagle	Bald	06/19/07	1	Tulsa	Osage Trail @ 86th St N	J Loyd, et al
	Eagle	Bald	07/18/07	1	Tulsa	Hwy 412, E of 177 W Ave	P Ribitzki, L Ribitzki
	Plover	Semipalmated	08/05/07	5	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	T Mitchell
O	Sandpiper	Bairds	06/15/07	2	Tulsa	Sod Farms, 56th St N	T Mitchell
O	Sandpiper	Pectoral	07/08/07	4	Tulsa	56th St North Sod farms	T Mitchell
	Sandpiper	Solitary	07/29/07	2	Tulsa	Oxley, Lake Sherry	B Carrell
	Sandpiper	Solitary	08/04/07	1	Tulsa	Bixby Sod Farms	C Browning, P Floyd
	Sandpiper	Solitary	08/05/07	3	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	T Mitchell
O	Sandpiper	Spotted	06/03/07	2	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	B Carrell
O	Sandpiper	White-rumped	08/05/07	6	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	T Mitchell
	Gull	Franklin's	06/03/07	11	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	B Carrell
	Tern	Black	06/03/07	12	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	B Carrell
	Tern	Black	08/05/07	3	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	T Mitchell
O, R	Tern	Common	08/14/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	G Kamp
O	Tern	Forster's	06/30/07	2	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	T Mitchell
R	Cuckoo	Black-billed	06/12/07	1	Osage	TNC K eystone AFP	J Fisher, K Williams, et al
	Whip-poor-will		08/10/07	2	Osage	TNC Keystone Ancient Forest	J Fisher, P Ribitzki
	Vireo	Bell's	07/17/07	2	Osage	John Zink Ranch	J Loyd, T Mainer, et al
	Vireo	Red-eyed	06/19/07	2	Tulsa	Osage Trail @ 86th St N	J Loyd, T Mainer, et al
	Vireo	Yellow-throated	06/19/07	1	Tulsa	Osage Trail @ 86th St N	J Loyd, T Mainer, et al
	Crow	Fish	06/19/07	1	Tulsa	Osage Trail @ 86th St N	J Loyd, T Mainer, et al
	Crow	Fish	08/04/07	1	Tulsa	Bixby Sod Farms	C Browning, P Floyd
	Thrush	Wood	07/07/07	1	Tulsa	Oxley Nature Center	B Carrell
	Catbird	Gray	08/03/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, S. 80th St & Yale	P Floyd
	Waxwing	Cedar	06/03/07	lots	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	B Carrell
R	Warbler	Pine	06/11/07	1	Tulsa	Lake Keystone dam	T Mitchell
	Warbler	Prothonotary	06/19/07	2	Tulsa	Osage Trail @ 86th St N	J Loyd, T Mainer, et al
	Yellowthroat	Common	06/19/07	5	Tulsa	Osage Trail @ 86th St N	J Loyd, T Mainer, et al
	Yellowthroat	Common	07/17/07	9	Osage	John Zink Ranch	J Loyd, T Mainer, et al
R	Sparrow	Bachman's	07/17/07	2	Osage	John Zink Ranch	J Loyd, T Mainer, et al

Big Website News!

I'm writing to announce (after two years of hard work) the availability of a new on-line edition of Tulsa Audubon's "A Guide to Birding in Oklahoma" at www.tulsaaudubon.org. One of the best parts is the custom maps I have created for Google Maps and Google Earth (high speed Internet access required).

Some old-timers may remember TAS published the first edition of "A Guide to Birding in Oklahoma", edited by Lois Rod-

gers in 1973, and a second edition in 1986, edited by Elizabeth Hayes.

Each was a collaborative effort of many birders throughout the state, a veritable "Who's Who?" of Oklahoma birding and ornithology. Only a few of the existing or new areas have someone "assigned" to update them! So please look at the accounts for your favorite birding areas and send me an update if it is out of date. You may either rewrite it or send me new info to incorporate. Any accounts I get will be credited

to the author.

I also plan to add more about the Nature Conservancy preserves around the state, as well as some of the routes from the Great Plains Trail. As this is a first edition, please email me any corrections, updates or additions. Thank you for your help!

John Kennington — Editor, Online Edition
A Guide to Birding in Oklahoma
johnkennington@cox.net

Oklahoma Important Bird Areas July/August 2007 Update



What's Happened and What's Going On?

- **Technical Committee Meeting held in Stroud, OK on July 6th.**
- **Technical Committee currently reviewing seven proposed Global Level IBA's**
- **Funding opportunities for a full time paid coordinator position still being pursued.**
- **A presentation was given at the spring meeting of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society at the Black Mesa State Park.**
- **Presentation to be given at Jan 08' meeting of the Tulsa Audubon Society.**
- **Presentation in Stillwater for the Pane County Audubon Society in February 08'**



Meet The Project's Technical Committee

Fortunately Oklahoma's IBA project is in good hands, its Technical Committee is composed of a who's who in Oklahoma Ornithology.

Dr. Mia Revels- Northeastern OK State

Berlin Heck- Past Director of the Little River NWR

Dr. Michael Patten- Univ. of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Biological Survey and Research Director of the Sutton Avian Research Center (GMSARC)

Dan Reinking- Senior Biologist at GMSARC

Jay Pruett- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)-Tallgrass Prairie

Chris Wilson- TNC, Nickel Preserve

Dr. Michael Husak- Cameron University

Dr. Doug Wood- Southeastern OK State

Dr. Donald Winslow- St. Gregory's University

Jona Reasor- Biologist at the Tishomingo NWR

Steve Hodge- Biologist at the Wichita Mtns. NWR

Mark Howery- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Martin Brown- IBA Steering Committee Chairman

John Kennington- Oklahoma Audubon Council Chairman

Eric Beck- Oklahoma IBA Coordinator

If you would like to support the Oklahoma Important Bird Areas Program please visit the Oklahoma Audubon Council Website at www.okaudubon.org/support.htm

Coordinator's Statement

Things are really moving at the moment for the Oklahoma IBA project. The Technical Committee has started reviewing site descriptions for seven proposed Global IBA's. In a short time this review process will be complete and then we can begin to send data to the National Audubon Society and Birdlife International for their review process. I must say that the Technical Com. is taking this task very seriously, Oklahoma is sure to stand out for the quality of data that they are writing and finding (should we expect anything less?). Everyone is very excited to be a part of

this project and we will begin to see some great things happening in the near future after this first review process is finished. I'm excited, the Technical Committee is excited, its time to ask yourself—Are you excited about the Oklahoma Important Bird Areas Project? If you're not, it might be time! You can email me with your questions at brdbrn1979@yahoo.com

Cheers, Eric Beck



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

Dear Faithful Reader,

Regrettably, this is my last issue as editor of the Tulsa Scissortail. My family has been trying to adopt a child for several years now, and in July we brought home Ariela Rose. Coupled with teaching precalculus at Jenks High School, I must let this part of my life go.

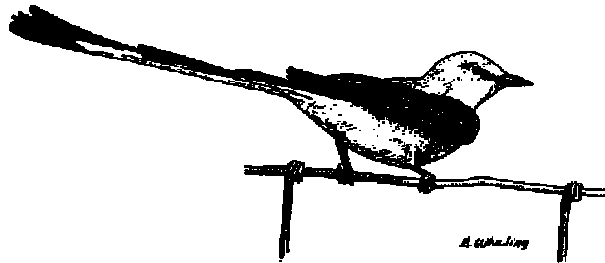
I do want to personally thank John Kennington for not only his tireless work for Audubon and the TAS website but also for providing me with many pages of good stuff for this newsletter. Also, a big thank you to Amy Lambert for her efforts as recorder, and to Jo Loyd and Cyndie Browning for their help as well.



Although I've always had the best of intentions regarding getting out and birding more often, I can now say for sure that I'll be cutting back for a while. I do hope when I am out and about with my binoculars that I run into new and old birding friends.

Good Birding,
Peter Lowen

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!