

TULSA SCISSORTAIL



TULSA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
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WINTER 2007/08

ACTING EDITOR:
JOHN KENNINGTON

From the President

I apologize for this late newsletter, but as you know we are searching for a new editor, and I am filling in for this issue. I want to thank Peter one final time for the wonderful job he has done.

IBA Update. I've included in this issue the latest update on the Oklahoma Audubon Council's Important Bird Area (IBA) program. We have announced the first two IBAs, the Selman Ranch and Salt Plains NWR. It is an exciting time as this program is finally taking off in Oklahoma.

Oxley Nature Center. As you may know, the interpretive building is

closed for remodeling, being done by the city, and will reopen later this year. As remodeling approaches completion, the Friends of Oxley will be installing new exhibits. The cost of the exhibits is \$350,000, and we are supporting the Friends of Oxley in their fund raising efforts. If it has not already arrived, you soon will be receiving with more details on the project, and describing Tulsa Audubon's long relationship with Oxley. Please visit the Oxley web site at www.oxleynaturecenter.org to see the exhibit plans and learn how you can help.

Bird Seed. Thanks you to everyone for a great sale—TAS has earned about \$800 this year. I have just a few

bird bars, suet cakes, nyjer-filled feeder socks, and a few Birdie Wreaths lefts. I will also be ordering more of the freeze-dried mealworms. If you need any of those items, give me a call or email (my contact info is on page 2).

Field Trips. Cyndie Browning has agreed to share her account of the recent Kerr/Sequoyah field trip. You will note that only one person showed up! Fortunately for Cyndie she had a wonderful day birding. But I feel bad she almost went down there for nothing. The board is going to discuss possibly asking folks to RSVP so our great leaders don't make a long drive for nothing. If you have any thoughts on this, please send them to me.

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.

February

16 Sat **Field Trip** Hulah and Copan Lakes for winter gulls, hawks, and waterfowl. Meet at 8:00am at the McDonalds parking lot on Hwy 75 in Bartlesville (west side of the highway).

19 Tue **Society Meeting.** "A Nest of Eagles" with raptor rehabilitators Gary and Kathy Siftar, John Fisher, Dave Edwards, and other participants. Inspiring

story about the many people involved in the rescue of two young eagles from a nest blown down on the Arkansas River near Sand Springs on April 23, 2004. Also discussed will be the building of a replacement nest by Sutton Avian Research Center, the watchful eyes of Audubon members, and the eagles' successful fledging. 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Center.

24 Sun **Afternoon Outing** A short visit to a local birding area. Meet 4:00 p.m. at the Tulsa Garden Center. Contact John Kennington, 918-809-6325.

March

8 Sat **Field Trip** The North Woods and/or east of Lake Sherry at Mohawk Park. Meet at 8:00am at the Zoo parking lot. For more info contact Terry Mitchell, 697-3198.

18 Tue **Society Meeting** Biodiversity and Germplasm Conservation with Angela Davis. The speaker, a research geneticist at the USDA's South Central Agricultural Research Lab, will share her unique perspective on protecting our natural resources. 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Center.

What if we scheduled a field trip and nobody came??

Cyndie Browning

That's what I was thinking about yesterday as I waited at the Kerr Dam for 30 minutes in the bitter cold and nobody came. I'd just decided to get back in the car and go look for birds on my own when Jana Singletary drove up, bless her heart. Nobody else showed.

Well, you missed out, big time!

Jana got out of her car, donned a couple more layers of clothing, and helped me scan gulls below the dam. I had seen two Herring Gulls before Jana arrived, one obviously an adult with vertical streaks around the back and sides of its neck and a bright red dot on its lower mandible, and the other a 1st winter bird whose bill appeared to be all black (given that the birds were rafting on the other side of the spillway from where I was standing) and it looked sorta coffee-with-a-little-cream brown all over, lighter on the face between the bill and eyes, with some darker feathers right around the eyes (almost like a mask or smudgy eyeline). Jana found a second young Herring Gull as we scanned all the birds there, but other than those 3, the rest looked to be all Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, plus 3-4 Great Blue Herons along the "shore," several hundred Amer. White Pelicans rafting together in the middle of the water, and several thousand Double-crested Cormorants perched on every available horizontal surface around the spillway.

We drove over to Applegate Cove, stopping along the way whenever we noticed movement in the trees and bushes along the road. At two small ponds lining the road, we found a couple Mallards and Ring-necked Ducks, a Pied-billed Grebe, a Red-headed Woodpecker, a No. Mockingbird, a couple of Blue Jays, and the first of what would eventually be thousands of Red-winged Blackbirds for the day. We stopped another time after noticing several Black Vultures kettling with Turkey Vultures overhead. The marina at Applegate Cove yielded plenty o' Coot ("Ivory-billed Rails") and a few Gadwall, while in the camping/picnic circle drive, we stopped to study a lone Song Sparrow perched on a rock right next to the water. On our way back to the highway, we picked up E. Bluebirds, at least one Carolina Wren, White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, a flock of Canada Geese, and a few Killdeers.

Sometime after 10:00 o'clock, as we turned back onto the highway after a pit stop at the Sinclair station, Jana spotted a Cooper's Hawk perched by the road. We drove north to Sallisaw and then west to Sequoyah NWR, each and both of us stopping now and then along the road into the Refuge whenever we noticed something "interesting," like the Amer. Kestrel hunting from the powerlines overhead. As we approached the sign welcoming us to the Refuge, Jana called my attention (over the radio) to the large eagle nest in the tall trees off to the west, so we stopped our cars and got out to have a look, and sure enough, an adult Bald Eagle was sitting on the nest, not doin' nuttin', just sittin'-n-lookin' around.

We parked my car at the Refuge HQ and I rode with Jana for the rest of our tour. I suggested that since the air temperature wasn't quite UP to freezing yet(!), we oughta take the auto tour first and let the air warm up a bit before we attempted to hike the nature trail---especially since the water in the slough on both sides of the road was still frozen!! So we rode south to Tuff Ramp where we endured the rap music emanating from the pickup of two young fishermen with questionable taste in music while we studied the Song and Savannah Sparrows feeding in the dirt nearby and admired the Forster's Terns fishing out over the water. There was an awesome raft of Snow Geese out on the lake, and later we saw clouds of them in flight, but we never got close enough to pull any Ross's Geese or anything else out of the multitudes

Heading west along the main road, we stopped frequently, enjoying all the dapper little White-crowned Sparrows, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers and No. Flickers (all Yellow-shafted), and "Butterbutts" (Yellow-rumped Warblers) and No. Cardinals that seemed to be everywhere we looked. I found a Ruby-crowned Kinglet but Jana missed it except for the movement (altho' she did get to see them later in the day). We got a quick look at a brown Northern Harrier, the only one we saw all day. When we got to the main 4-way crossroads, we elected to head north toward Sally Jones Lake, running "the Loop" counter-clockwise. Jana soon spotted an E. Phoebe near the road. At one stop, we flushed first another Mocking-

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TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS (worth repeating)

President: John Kennington 809-6325

Vice-President: Gail Storey 742-2684

Secretary: Anita Mitchell 272-6755

Treasurer: Mary Jackson 254-1350

Recorder: Paul Ribitzki

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

e-mail: johnkennington@cox.net

John Kennington, Acting Editor

Oklahoma's Important Bird Areas



Volume I, Issue IV
Winter 2007/08

Announcing...

**OK's First State Important Bird Areas!
The Selman Ranch, Harper County**

and

**The Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge,
Alfalfa County**

The Selman Ranch, Harper County: A Sanctuary for the Lesser Prairie Chicken

Eric Beck, Oklahoma State IBA Coordinator

The Selman Ranch was first settled in the late 1800's by J.O. Selman the great-grandfather of the current occupants Sue Selman and her two sons. The ranch has never left the family and has been placed in a trust for the protection of the property for future Selman generations. The ranch itself sits along the Cimarron River in eastern Harper County in northwestern Oklahoma just east of the town Selman (named for the family) and contains over 14,000 acres of land.

The ranch was settled for the purpose of grazing cattle on the abundant grassland in the area. Cattle have grazed there since the first days of settlement, but it has been the practice of the family to never over graze and that tradition continues and can be observed when compared to other ranch properties in the region. Large swaths of mixed grass prairie containing little bluestem, buffalo

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Photo by Eric Beck

About the IBA Program

The National Audubon Society in partnership with BirdLife International began this program in 2000 to recognize and conserve those sites that provide critical habitat for bird species of concern all over the world.

This effort, known as the Important Bird Areas Program, or 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.

The Selman Ranch *cont'd*

grass and other natives are abundant. Sandsage brush is also abundant, which is why Lesser Prairie Chickens can be found booming here in the early spring. With the increasingly encroaching wind farms in the region as well as other sources of habitat fragmentation it is necessary to identify large swaths of native prairie that will support the LPCH, the Selman Ranch is exactly this. Fence marking conducted by the Sutton Avian Research Center was performed in order to protect the prairie chickens from fence collisions, which was shown to be a significant contributor to mortality. With the Selman's continued cooperation this land will serve as foothold for the eastern limits of this critically threatened species these grasses also provide ample habitat and cover for a large population of Northern Bobwhites, a species in decline across much of its range, which speaks for the quality of the habitat.

Not only does the ranch contain large tracts of native grasses, but it is also divided by a number of spring fed streams and creeks. Sleeping Bear, Buffalo, and Sand Creeks all intersect the ranch land. Along these streams are large stands of old cottonwoods that harbor Warbling Vireos, three species of orioles, numerous sparrows, Eastern Screech-Owls and various other species throughout the year. These streams meander through the ranch and eventually flow into the Cimarron River. Other habitats on the ranch include beaver ponds and cattail marshes, as well as small mesquite stands that attract species such as Ladder-backed Woodpecker and Ash-throated Flycatchers at their north-eastern distributional limits.

The Cimarron River and its floodplain add another significant habitat type to this lands repertoire. There is a large salt flat that encompasses approximately a mile and a half of river bottom. These flats are consistently home to large breeding populations of the federally endangered Interior Least Tern and an Oklahoma Category II species the Snowy Plover. During the spring and fall migration, shorebirds are also abundant with sightings of Dunlin, Western Sandpipers, and Baird's Sandpipers. Research is being conducted on nearly the entire ranch. The Selman's continually provide support to researchers so there property is well surveyed. Most species of concern (LPCH, LETE) are being monitored and a substantial amount of habitat work is continually being

performed.

What is an Important Bird Area?

IBAs are sites that provide essential habitat (breeding, wintering, and/or migrating) for one or more species of 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)
- Restricted-ranges species (those 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 it's 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.



Photo by Jeff Rich

OK IBA 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 University

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 Pruet– The Nature Conservancy, Director of Conservation

Chris Wilson– The Nature Conservancy, Nickel Preserve

Dr. Michael Husak– Cameron University

Dr. Doug Wood– Southeastern OK State

Dr. Donald Winslow– St. Gregory's University

Jona Tucker– The Nature Conservancy, Pontotoc Ridge Preserve

Steve Hodge– Biologist, Wichita Mtns. NWR

Mark Hower– Biologist, OK Department of Wildlife Conservation

Martin Brown– IBA Steering Committee Chair

John Kennington– Oklahoma Audubon Council Chair

Eric Beck– Oklahoma IBA Coordinator

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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

**Coming next issue:
Salt Plains NWR Profile**

Coordinator's Statement

This is an exciting time for the Oklahoma IBA program. The volunteer work and dedication of the Technical Committee, members of the Audubon council, and the patient staff at the national office has and is paying off. I am overwhelmingly happy to announce that Oklahoma can finally say that we officially have a state recognized IBA! Yes, it's been a year and over that year many good things have happened. We have an outstanding, dedicated, and enthusiastic team of top notch ornithologists working as our Technical Committee. Our Chairman (John Kennington), and our Steering Committee Chairman (Martin Brown) have kept their sights on the goal and have seen the program move from a dream that they themselves imagined, to a working program that is sure to pave the way for many great things. The Audubon Council has seen fit to keep supporting the program with the only amount of funding we have procured, making sure that this machine that is in motion continues on its path. Most importantly we continue to raise awareness and solicit interest from a concerned and caring public, thank you!

These are really just our baby steps, but they should be celebrated. However, there is still much to be done. In fact so much so, that there really is no end in sight. This is not a bad thing; it only means that great things are to come for the Oklahoma IBA program. Opportunities to raise public awareness, chances to identify and help to preserve Oklahoma's native heritage, and a lot of good natured fun are ahead! Please, as you read this think of what you can do to help this program continue on its path to success, be it through an in-kind contribution, help in one of our volunteer opportunities, or simply sharing in our successes, every little bit counts. Pass the word. The Oklahoma Important Bird Area Program is on the move, and it doesn't appear to be slowing!

OKLAHOMA IBA STEERING COMMITTEE*Martin Brown, Chair – OK IBA Steering Committee*

The Oklahoma Important Bird Area program has made some great progress since the Steering Committee was formed a year and a half ago. 2008 has brought the announcement of the state's first Global IBA sites.

The OK IBA program is seeking a few concerned volunteers to serve on the OK IBA Steering Committee. Many of the original members of the Steering Committee that helped get this program off the ground are now serving as members of the Technical Committee. Unlike the Technical Committee, members of the Steering Committee do not need a scientific training or degrees, although it doesn't hurt. Following are some details about the Steering Committee.

Purpose

- To ensure the cooperation and greatest degree of participation among all groups (e.g., state and federal agencies, conservation organizations) in the IBA process.
- Provide assistance and advice to the State Coordinator.

Functions

- Review the goals, policies, procedures, and outcomes of the state IBA Program and make recommendations on how these can be improved.
- Assist in seeking funding for the state IBA program.
- Review the state list of IBAs in order to help determine which areas should be a priority for conservation planning and actions.
- Assist in determining the most appropriate course of action to ensure conservation of selected IBAs.
- Identify the agencies and groups that should be involved in conservation planning for a particular IBA and facilitate their participation.
- Advocate for the conservation of IBAs in the state, both as a group by issuing recommendations, and separately by promoting the IBA Program to their memberships.

Composition

Open to representatives of all interested groups -- state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, land trusts and conservancies, planning commissions, private organizations, etc.

Requirements

We will have a couple of meetings a year but will try to handle most of our business via email and phone. Commitment to spend sufficient time for conducting a review of IBAs, conservation plans, program policies, etc. (exact time is difficult to estimate, but could involve approx. three hours per month).

If you are interested and concerned about habitat in our state and feel you have something to offer, please contact me at 918-446-8667 or martin1420@sbcglobal.net

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bird and then two more sparrows: Fox and Swamp, who perched briefly in the same small tree. Out at SJ Lake, we found Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, one Pied-billed Grebe, a lone Amer. White Pelican (looking rather pitiful to be all alone), and more Mallards and Double-crested Cormorants.

Circling around to the west, we stopped briefly to scope out a HUGE flock of hundreds (thousands?) of male Red-winged Blackbirds. Try as we might, all we could see were red shoulders so we trudged back to the car (and the heater!) and moved on. We saw several Red-tailed Hawks as we drove south, one of them a dark morph, nearly black like a Harlan's Hawk but with a full rusty red tail.... a stunningly beautiful bird.

Several times during the afternoon, we heard gunshots not too far away, and as we drove south from our last stop at

"10,000 Blackbird Corner," we watched a hunter and his dog walking back toward the road (and our car), the dog carrying a dead Mallard in his mouth. Said dog brought the Mallard to Jana and me and dropped it beside the car, then jumped up on Jana's side of the car to have a look at the both of us. It was hard to know whether to scold the hunter for killing our birds or praise the dog for being such "a good boy." I elected the latter, and in fact, said dog and hunter succeeded in flushing 7-8 Wilson's Snipe from the bogs near the road that we might've missed otherwise.

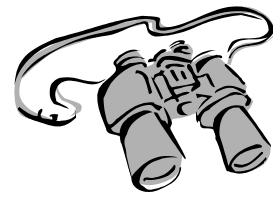
Heading west on the Sandtown Woods road, we tried to pull a Loggerhead Shrike out of the trees but only found a Mockingbird and another Red-tailed Hawk. At the lake, we found 5-6 male American Wigeons and their accompanying females, and a couple more Snipe. While driving back to the main

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Recorder's Report

September 2007 - November 2007

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



RARITY	SPECIES	DATE	COUN T	LOCATION		OBSERVER(S)	
				COUNTY	PLACE		
ACC	Swan	Mute	10/28/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	T Mitchell, G Kamp, B Carrell
R	Scoter	Black	11/17/07	5	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	J Arterburn
R	Ibis	Glossy	09/08/07	1	Tulsa	Bixby & Leonard sod farms	J Arterburn
R	Ibis	White-faced	09/26/07	37	Tulsa	Tulsa, 121st St & S Sheridan	L McRill, N Pfannenstiel
R	Vulture	Black	09/20/07	4	Tulsa	Keystone Dam	T Curtis
R	Kite	Swallow-tailed	08/27/07	1	Tulsa	Broken Arrow, 81st St & 129th E Ave	J Kennington, et al
R	Falcon	Peregrine	10/23/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, William Center Green	J Cox
R	Crane	Sandhill	09/22/07	1	Osage	Walnut Creek State Park	R Seaman
O	Dunlin		08/25/07	1	Tulsa	Bixby Sod Farms	T Mitchell
O	Willet		09/21/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	B Carrell
O	Gull	Bonaparte's	09/22/07	4	Tulsa	Tulsa, Lake Yahola	C Browning
R	Gull	Laughing	08/28/07	1	Tulsa	Keystone Dam	G Kamp
R,O	Gull	Little	09/18/07	1	Tulsa	Keystone Dam	J Loyd, J Singletary, J Driskill
R	Gull	Sabine's	10/06/07	1	Pawnee	Keystone Lake, Cowskin Bay	T Curtis
R,O	Gull	Sabine's	09/05/07	1	Tulsa	Keystone Dam	G Kamp
R	Kittiwake	Black-legged	09/19/07	1	Pawnee	Cowskin Bay	G Kamp
R	Tern	Common	10/07/07	1	Pawnee	Keystone Lake, Westport Marina	B Carrell
R	Tern	Common	08/25/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, 121st St & S Sheridan	J Arterburn, J Thayer, T Mitchell
O	Flycatcher	Alder	08/11/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley North Woods	B Carrell
O	Vireo	Blue-headed	11/17/07	1	Tulsa	So. Tulsa residence	J Singletary
O	Vireo	Philadelphia	09/10/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	T Mitchell
O	Nuthatch	Red-breasted	09/15/07	2	Tulsa	Bixby residence	B Carroll
O	Wren	Marsh	09/17/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley North Woods	B Carrell
R	Wren	Rock	10/09/07	1	Tulsa	Skiatook residence	F Sandford
R	Thrush	Swainson's	09/22/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, residence	B Carrell
O	Thrush	Wood	10/07/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa residence	B Carrell
R,O	Warbler	Chestnut-sided	10/12/07	1	Tulsa	Bixby residence	B Carroll
R,O	Warbler	Magnolia	09/30/07	1	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oxley Nature Center	B Carrell
R,O	Sparrow	Nelson's Sharp-tailed	11/13/07	1	Tulsa	Bixby, rural area	G Troop
O	Blackbird	Yellow-headed	10/14/07	50	Tulsa	Sand Springs, Hwy 51 W of 145th E Ave	J Fisher

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road, we found a boggy "sweet spot" where we slowed down and then stopped when I noticed a Carolina Chickadee---the first we'd seen or heard all day!---in the trees with all the Butterbutts, and then in short order, Jana noticed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker low down on a tree at the same time I spotted a Brown Creeper bug-hunting on the tree right next to it. (For a moment there, I'm sure Jana thought I'd lost my mind confusing a Creeper with a Sapsucker, because I was thinking the same thing about her, in reverse!! [hahaha!]) We got out and spent the next 15-20 minutes in the midst of a swirl of

small birds and quickly added 2 Winter Wrens, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a second Creeper, one female Rusty Blackbird, and untold numbers of Butterbutts to our trip list.

Continuing along, we had stopped briefly to turn back onto the main road when we noticed TWO Pileated Woodpeckers working the trees before they flew off. They're always a treat!!

On the road south to Moody Ramp, we found another of those boggy sweet spots where Butterbutts virtually swarmed

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NAS/TAS Introductory Membership Form

Membership in the National Audubon Society provides membership in the Tulsa Audubon Society. Members receive four issues each of **Audubon** magazine and the **Tulsa Scissortail**.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Please check:

\$20 1 yr Introductory \$30 2 yr Introductory
 \$15 1 yr Student/Senior School/Grade: _____

Check enclosed, payable to: **National Audubon Society**
Please write T01/7XCH on your check
 Please bill me

OR
TAS Local Membership

Local membership in the Tulsa Audubon Society includes four issues of the **Tulsa Scissortail**.

\$10 Local membership, check enclosed payable to: **Tulsa Audubon Society**

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

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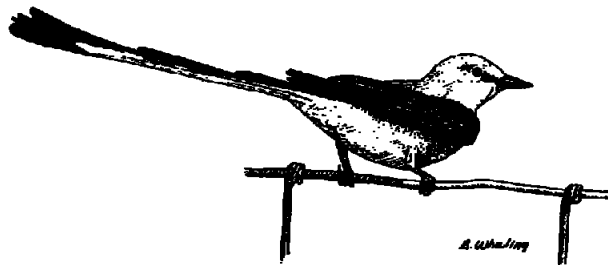
over the icy-muddy ground, picking up seeds(?), and then all of a sudden, one of what I thought was "just another Butterbutt" turned out to be a Common Yellowthroat (the best and most unexpected bird of the day!! in my book), and then a White-breasted Nuthatch made a brief appearance. At Moody Ramp, I watched a Harris's Sparrow stand up real tall and peek at us over the rocks before he disappeared into the brush, where White-throated Sparrows were also skulking about. We also found 4 Least Sandpipers out on a sandbar across the water.

Clouds of Snow Geese (both blue and white) buzzed some of the corn fields as we headed back to the Refuge HQ but apparently they weren't ready to set down for the night so we missed another chance to get a better look at them. However, our "consolation prize" for that loss was the flock of about 40 Wild Turkeys on the road ahead of the car, between us and the headquarters, and we laughed watching them turn and run off in a panic and then fly into the trees as a school bus from Van Buren, Arkansas approached us on the road.

Back at my car, I begged off hiking the nature trail and headed for home while Jana stayed and added Hermit Thrush, Belted Kingfisher, and 2 Great Horned Owls calling to each other to our trip list. I had started the day with 15 yearbirds and finished it with 63, so I had a terrific day and really enjoyed birding with Jana---and the rest of y'all missed it!! Thanks for showing up, Jana, and for sharing a really fun birdin' day with me.

WINTER 2007/08

Tulsa Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2476
Tulsa, OK 74101



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Permit No. 2195

Please share your "Scissortail" with friends and encourage them to join!