

# Audubon Society of Central Oklahoma

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Jane Cunningham, President  
Mary Lynne Cunningham, Vice President  
Carole Straughn, Secretary  
Dr. David Elmendorf, Hefner Project Coordinator

## KITE FLIGHT NEWSLETTER



### Letter from the President

#### DEAR MEMBER:

The purpose of this newsletter is to let you know that your local chapter of National Audubon Society is trying to rally more active member participation, and gain support from more members. When you joined National Audubon Society you were automatically a member of this chapter, the Audubon Society of Central Oklahoma, (ASCO).

I realize that some of you only join and support National Audubon, and don't have the time, or the inclination to participate at a local level. Yet, I want you to know that your continued membership does help us at a local level because National Audubon shares a percentage of your membership funds with us. We do appreciate your continued membership.

Just so you know, we have over 500 members on our roster, and less than 5% active member participation.

This is the first newsletter that we have been able to publish for quite some time. I hope that you will read it and enjoy it. And if you get an urge to "Think Globally, and Act Locally", I hope that you will contact one of us to help in our local projects to support conservation, increase awareness of the need for protected habitat for all wildlife, educate and develop appreciation of nature and all it's great wonders, and of course appreciate birds, and go birding with us now and then.

Also, if you have ideas for local projects, or any input on what you would like to see your chapter doing, I would love to hear from you. Feel free to call me at 405-721-5711. I work full time, so please call in the evenings or weekends.

I hope, through time, that I can meet many more of you.

Best Regards,

**Jane Cunningham**

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Editor: Jane Cunningham

We're on the Web!  
[www.oklahomaaudubon.org](http://www.oklahomaaudubon.org)

### Future Birding Trips or Meetings?

- Where?
- When?

See inside

for more

information.

### Past Events

This year we started off with donating funds to Girl Scout troop #222 so they could fund the purchase of a presentation cart to hold various items for the Naturalists for Martin Park Nature Center, at 5000 West Memorial. Our past president, Donna Mackiewicz, arranged this with the Girl Scouts. We hear that Neil Garrison and his employees at the park really love the cart.

And this year, we attended the Edmond Arbor Day Festival. At the festival, we had drawings for art donated by Dr. David Elmendorf, and drawings for bird feeders.

And, during this event, we also promoted

support for our proposed South Lake Hefner habitat enhancement project. We raised funds through this activity to be used for this project. Many thanks to Dr. Elmendorf for his generous contribution.

And most recently, some board members donated their time to join forces with the OK Dept. of Environmental Quality and other local volunteers to help in a trash pick up day at Lake Overholser.

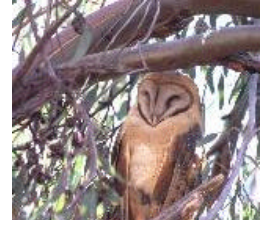
Many Thanks to All Who Helped and  
Volunteered!!!

## Martin Park Nature Center

### NATURE CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Martin Park Nature Center needs some people to volunteer their time to help out with some bird research projects at the park. Birds such as the Cooper's Hawk, Barn Owl and Belted Kingfisher probably nest in Martin Park.....but

there is no definitive data on the basic questions such as "how many?" ... and ... "where?" If you would be interested in volunteering to do some bird research at Martin Park, contact Neil Garrison, Park Naturalist, at 755-0676.



*Barn Owl.*

## Local Birding/Future Birding Outings?

If you would like to go with us when our group goes on local birding outings, please contact us. We do not have any pre-arranged outings, but go as we have interest and participation. This year we have birded at Lake Hefner, and at Lake Arcadia. Our most recent outing to Lake Arcadia proved to be a visual treat with some very colorful species seen and heard. Species were: Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Great Blue Heron, Small heron species, probable Green, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Northern rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Eastern

Phoebe, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (juvenile), Eastern Kingbird, Bell's Vireo, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, Field Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, European Starling.

Present were Dr. David Elmendorf, Carole Straughn, Dr. Bill Radke, Dr. Donald Winslow, Jan Chapel, and Jane Cunningham.

## 2007 Oklahoma Wildlife Expo

The 2007 Wildlife Expo is scheduled for **September 28, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>** at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie. Come discover new and exciting ways to enjoy your outdoor Oklahoma. It's an outdoor experience where visitors fish, shoot, kayak, mountain bike, see and touch wildlife, learn about recreation in the great outdoors. We will have an outdoor bird watching area. Many thanks to the Oklahoma Master Naturalists for providing a bird watching blind. The Lazy E Arena will be transformed into the state's largest indoor and outdoor recreation event - Oklahoma Wildlife Expo. In 2006, over the three day event more than 35,000 people from across Oklahoma and even some from neighboring states converged at the Lazy E for three days of outdoor and indoor fun!

### Wildlife Expo Times:

Friday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### 2007 Chapter Meeting Schedule

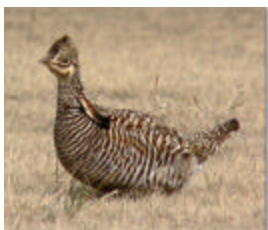
**October 9th** - Johnson Bridgwater presenting the Lake Hefner Project, and open chat time.  
Please come meet us!!!

**November 13th** - presenter to be established

**December 11th** - presenter to be established

**Place:** Mayflower Church, located at 3901 NW 63rd,  
(West of Portland Avenue)

**Time:** 7 PM - refreshments, 7:30 PM - start  
(Call 721-5711 for directions)



President: Jane Cunningham [hanenhark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hanenhark@sbcglobal.net) 405-721-5711

Vice President: Mary Lynne Cunningham [mlcs@netscape.com](mailto:mlcs@netscape.com)

Secretary: Carole Straughn [carolefs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolefs@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer: Open

Director/Coordinator for Hefner Project: Dr. David Elmendorf

Education/Events Chairman: Donna Mackiewicz [asco2004@cox.net](mailto:asco2004@cox.net)

Chapter Photographer: Duane Angles [dangles1@cox.net](mailto:dangles1@cox.net)

**More positions are available - we need more active members!**

## Federal News - House Increases funds for the environment

The House of Representatives has recently passed what is largely viewed as the best funding bill for the Department of the Interior, the EPA, and the Forest Service in over 15 years. Not only does the bill restrict building new timber roads in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, it also funds many programs and agencies at their highest levels in years. The National Wildlife Refuge System will receive \$451 million for Fiscal Year 2008, an

amount that will help keep the Refuge System open and fully functioning. The House also provided more than \$200 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program that has received little to no support from previous congresses. One of the more interesting initiatives in the House bill is a \$50 million fund for a two year commission to study the impacts of global warming on public lands and suggest solutions to some of the identified problems.

The Senate has passed their bill out of the committee process, but has yet to bring it to the floor. It is expected that they will complete their work either in late July or early September.

## Our Lake Hefner Project- a beneficial conservation project

Our Audubon chapter has a wonderful new project located at the South end of Lake Hefner.

This project now has the approval of the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust and the City Parks and Recreation Dept. and we plan to break ground this Fall.

The goal is to re-establish native habitat, and bring in more birds and wildlife. Attractive signage will provide educational information about the native birds, plant species, and migratory wildlife that one may expect to find there.

We are extremely lucky to have Johnson Bridgwater volunteering to design this project. Johnson is the owner-operator of Earthworks, and Director of Conservation Outreach for WildShare International, Inc. He has 18 years of landscape management, and design experience which includes residential, commercial, and ecological design.

Should you wish to volunteer your time in helping us develop and maintain this area please contact Jane Cunningham via e-mail at [hanenhark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hanenhark@sbcglobal.net) or call 721-5711.

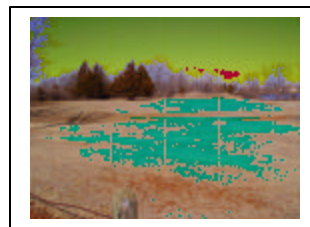
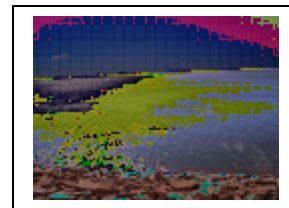
***Our hopes are to leave something permanent and meaningful for future generations.***

***We need help in accomplishing this goal.***

This project will be funded through grants and donations. We are a federally listed 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, so any donations will be tax deductible.

For monetary donations please mail them to Audubon Society of Central Oklahoma, 5505 NW 66<sup>th</sup>, Okla. City, OK 73132

We send many thanks to **Friends of Lake Hefner** for their continued support in our mutual pursuit of this project, and for the pursuit of the natural preservation of this Lake. <http://lakehefner.org/>  
President: John Robison




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**The Oklahoma IBA Program:** 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. Martin Brown, Chair - OK IBA Steering Committee, Oklahoma Audubon Council, [martin1420@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martin1420@sbcglobal.net). In the Fall of 2006 the Oklahoma Audubon Council selected Eric Beck as our State's Important Bird Areas Coordinator, [brdbrn1979@yahoo.com](mailto:brdbrn1979@yahoo.com). <http://www.okaudubon.org/iba.htm>

## It's Easy Being Green, by Carole Straughn

I consider myself a self-confessed tree-hugger and a card-carrying member of the Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited and Sierra Club. But hey, that's not a special interest group. It's about making things better for myself, my family, my city and all humanity. After all, this is the only planet we've got. (No, Mars is not going to work out for at least several hundred years.) I'm on a mission to get my own personal habits in line with my values here. With a little effort, I'm finding that it's easy being green.

The first issue I'm tackling is those plastic shopping bags we all get so many of every week. They're convenient, but consider the downside--they're made out of crude oil, which is getting more expensive and increases our dependence on imports. They take up space in landfills and spoil the landscape, ending up in rivers, fields and trees. This came home to me on Earth Day when I joined our Audubon Club in picking up trash from a local water reservoir and nature preserve. You know, they say it takes a million years for many plastic to degrade in the environment. So one thing I'm doing is to reuse them. I line trash cans with them instead of buying new ones. I give the rest of them to my church food pantry to bag food gifts for clients. Then, I am trying to stop getting them in the first place. In this I am joining people like the ones in New York who lined up to buy cloth shopping bags imprinted with "This is not a plastic bag", and the City of San Francisco who banned plastic bags altogether.

I first encountered "bring your own bag" in Germany in 1969, when I arrived at a checkout counter with a full shopping basket, only to learn that the first thing I had to buy was my own cotton or nylon string bags. These bags are awesome. They take up almost no room in your purse, but can hold three times as much as a plastic bag without breaking.

After moving back to the states in 1972, I lost the string bag habit, but I'm picking it up again now. I bought some from a supplier in Public Citizen's Green Pages, and am keeping them in purse and car. I found a great new supplier on line and have ordered a dozen more because my husband is also showing a willingness to utilize our own shopping bags. My new supplier is **ecobags.com**. Here you have your choice of cotton or nylon, organic or not, string or canvas. They even have produce bags so you don't have to use those filmy plastics bags at the produce counter that hasten rotting of fruits and vegetables in the refrigerator. They have a variety of cool colors as well as the natural white. They even have that coveted bag printed with "This is not a plastic bag". Google lists a lot of other suppliers, too. If anyone has tried BYOB (bring your own bag) or any have any other Green ideas or experiences, will you let us hear about it

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