

# Audubon Society of Central Oklahoma

2008, Volume 3  
Date: September, 2008

## KITE FLIGHT NEWSLETTER



### Letter from the President

#### DEAR MEMBER:

Times are changing again. With the higher costs of fuel and other related commodities, I sure hope all of you are doing OK. Surviving at the level we are used to, may become a greater challenge for some, as the rising cost of transportation also reflects on the cost of so many other things that we need and use in our daily lives.

Some board members from our chapter (including myself), recently went to an Audubon Oklahoma State Council meeting, and many current issues were discussed including our energy crisis. One excellent point was brought out which was that we must all pay closer attention to what we consume.

Now I won't take a stand on alternative energy because I really don't know enough about the positive and negative short and long-term effects of each alternative energy option. Everyone has their own opinion. But I will say that I believe that all of us can make a difference by using less energy in our daily lives. I encourage you to be an **energy aware** consumer. There are so many things one can do to save energy. Even simple things like shopping at your local farmers market. The energy used to produce food sold at

### Past Events

Our Vice President, Adrienne Holmes, arranged an outing to Drumright in early August. The event was co-sponsored by our local Sierra Club. Birding at The Quail Valley Ranch, was first and word has it that it was just too hot.

At the Tidal School Winery, attendees had a catered lunch, a winery tour and later that evening The Winery

Jane Cunningham - President/Treasurer  
Adrienne Holmes - Vice President  
Carole Straughn - Secretary  
Dr. Chris Butler - Director  
Mark Sherwin - Director  
Erica Judd - Director  
Eric Judd - Director  
Dale Birchett - Director  
Jim Orebaugh - Director  
Dr. David Elmendorf - Project Advisor

The Farmers Market is so much less than the energy it takes to ship foods in from so many far away locations.

Our Fall General Meeting Program looks to be a very interesting one. Carole Straughn, our chapter Secretary and Program Chair, (among other functions), has worked hard to arrange some interesting lectures and programs for us. I hope you can come to some or all of these meetings. (The meeting schedule is on page 4 of this newsletter and is listed on our website.)

Also this year, our Vice President, Adrienne Holmes, has come up with a new idea for some field trips. She has arranged combo events visiting Oklahoma Wineries and birding at the winery. So far we have had 2 of these field trips in conjunction with the Local Sierra Club, and the attendees had a great time.

We would like to sponsor a late October or November field trip to the Great Salt Plains Refuge to see Sandhill Cranes. We will rent a van, carpool, or caravan depending on how many people would like to go. This promises to be a relaxing day-outing. Interested? Please contact me. 405-721-5711.

All the Best,  
*Jane Cunningham*



held a Rock & Roll party. The Rock & Roll party was a fun time.

Our chapter also recently attended a Fair for Non-Profit Organizations at Chesapeake Energy and gained a few new members.

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Editor: Jane Cunningham

**We're on the Web!**

[www.oklahomaaudubon.org](http://www.oklahomaaudubon.org)

#### ANN SHERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Ann's photography reflects a style as unique as she is. Combining the vision of an artist with the skills of professional image making, her prints have earned her assignments across the nation.

Her images have appeared in dozens of publications, with assignments ranging from the elegant setting of exclusive country clubs to the gritty background of desolate oil fields. She specializes in architectural photography -- the greater the challenge, the more likely it will be that her name is on the photo credit. Assignments around the globe!

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## Household Environmental Impact Calculator....

LowImpactLiving.com, the largest green home improvement site online, has launched a groundbreaking new Household Impact Calculator and rating system. When used, this will help individuals understand their environmental impact and chart a course to a more eco-friendly home and lifestyle.

The online calculator allows you to input information about their dwelling, consumption habits, (e.g., dwelling square footage, power use, miles driven, etc.), and the

results are a full picture of your environmental impact. It calculates not only carbon emissions, (or "carbon footprint as it is called), but ALL environmental impacts – including energy use, water consumption, trash production, urban run-off production and more. It is the most comprehensive environmental impact calculator available online according to the latest environmental news.

*This info was in our last newsletter and I'm leaving it in this one. This is just plain good information!!!!*

## October 4th and 5th Outing.....for information contact **Adrienne Holmes**

Leroy and Rosalie Usury have invited us to go birding on their property in Tishomingo on October 4th and 5th. The couple said they have spent about ten years improving their property to sustain all wildlife there. They have over 600 acres with open fields, woods, ponds, and a three bedroom guest ranch house, so we can have all the comforts of home. The weather should be nice and it is migration season for many

birds. If you would like to attend please contact Adrienne at [Adrienne.holmes@chk.com](mailto:Adrienne.holmes@chk.com)



*Photo by Ann Sherman*

## Recent New Members AND New Board Members

It seems our chapter is attracting more people to join and become active either in our chapter functions, or our Lake Hefner project or both. Some new members are emailing me right away to say that they want to be involved. This alone gives our chapter more momentum to continue our mission spreading the word about conservation, and seeking local opportunities to make a difference in our environment and our community.

**Eric and Erica Judd** recently joined our chapter, and accepted positions as Directors within our board. Both are attending college at University of Central Oklahoma with majors in Biology and Meteorology, and a future Masters in Restoration Ecological. We are very fortunate to have this young couple with us as active board members, and hope that through the years our legacy will continue with them. Erica has also accepted a position with us as our new Conservation chair.

Another new member is **Tim Ryan**. Tim is a writer, photographer and recently returned native Oklahoman. He has been a traveler by trade for the last twenty years. Tim uses his special events career as the means to travel and work in more than 85 countries. His passions are photography and conservation. Tim's blog titled "From The Faraway, Nearby - A Celebration of Travel, Nature, and The Poetry of Place" has been seen on various nationwide TV stations and travel websites.

And, retired **Judge Rocklin D. Lyons** recently joined. He is also a bird photographer. With his permission, and copyright, [here is one of his photos.](#)



Welcome to all new members....is this a great Mississippi Kite face or what? Wide-eyed... like he just won the Publisher's Clearinghouse sweepstakes.

## Our Lake Hefner Conservation Project.....UPDATE

Some changes have taken place!

OMG - the 100 degree weather we had, made it tough to get out there and water the 24 trees and shrubs we planted last spring. We went out to the project around 5:30PM to 6:30PM weekly and had to fill our 325 gallon tank twice to water all the trees. We are required to use water we get from a meter attached to a fire hydrant to fill our tank, then we drive it over to the lake project area. Dale Birchett designed a pallet with our tank, our pump and a four-hose system to speed up our watering process. It now takes about 1.5 hours to water our existing trees. Thanks to members like Dale Birchett, Jim Orebaugh, Dr. Dave Elmendorf, Dawn Holt, Jan Chapel, John Robison from Friends of Lake Hefner, Carole Straughn, and a member from The Sierra Club, and any others I may have left off the list for helping with the watering challenges.

Some changes have occurred that will help us with our long-term goals of completing native habitat installation in our 8.5+ acre project. Dawn Holt is now our Project Area Manager responsible for tracking and monitoring project conditions, and making decisions on maintenance requirements among other things. Jane Cunningham is the Project Operations Manager and will make the arrangements to get various things done behind the scenes.

Our original project planning and watering team remains strong. We hope to plant the same amount of trees this fall and will need a second watering/maintenance team. Recently, Chesapeake Energy has allowed us to ask for project volunteers to develop our project even further. We had a great response giving us new project momentum.

An Eagle Scout, Andrew Middleton, has done a study on Kildeer nesting sites and the viability of constructing one on our project land. Once the location at the project is selected, Andrew will help us estimate costs and help us find contractors to do the work. Some of you may know that Kildeers are found nesting in graveled parking lots and open areas. Nesting attrition may increase for the species as man continues to fragment their habitat, so we're going to try to help them in our small way.

With the approval from The City of Oklahoma City to begin removing small Red Cedars from a very densely wooded area on the northern edge of our project, we plan to develop a soft birding trail through the area disturbing as little habitat as possible. Additional Eagle Scouts will probably be helping with this project.

We are still considering adding a labyrinth, and more native landscaping to make the project area a better place for wildlife and a fun and educational place for people to learn about conservation.

Thanks continually go to Chesapeake Energy and The Oklahoma City Community Foundation Margaret Annis Boys Trust for their grants towards this project!



## Bald Eaglet Release in the Smokey Mountains and other News

Two 14-week old bald eaglets named "Hope" and "Tennessee" by Hannah Montana TV stars Miley Cyrus and her father Billy Ray were recently released by the non-profit American Eagle Foundation (AEF) from an artificial nesting tower located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. The eaglets were hatched from non-releasable rescued parent birds.

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Building owners in New York City who install green rooftops will now receive a significant tax credit under a new bill that passed the state legislature recently. Under this law, building owners in New York City who install green roofs on at least 50 percent of available rooftop space can apply for a one-year property tax credit of up to \$100,000. The credit would be equal to \$4.50 per square-foot of roof area that is planted with vegetation, or approximately 25 percent of the typical costs associated with the materials, labor, installation and design of the green roof. We hope tall building owners in Oklahoma City may get this same type of incentive to "Go Green" on top.



A Carolina Wren  
Photo copyright and compliments of  
Judge Rocklin D. Lyons

## Fall 2008 Chapter Meeting Program and Schedule

### Presentations:

**Sept. 9th - Dr. Chris Butler** - Dr. Butler will talk about some of his research on the effects of habitat fragmentation on the bird communities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

**Oct. 14th - Jacob Moore** - How the non-profit land trust Land Legacy helps landowners dedicate their agricultural land and open space for food production & wildlife habitat forever, while getting a tax break.

**Nov. 11th - Jona Tucker** - Biologist & Preserve Manager for Nature Conservancy shows how conserving diverse Oklahoma habitat saves birds & other wildlife at preserves like Pontotoc Ridge, Boehler Seeps and Arbuckle Plains/Blue River.

**Dec 9th - Dr. Chris Butler/John Shackford** - Dr. Butler will sharpen our Oklahoma bird ID skills with photos and field hints first. Then Mr. Shackford will bring maps and teach us protocols for counting, recording and reporting birds for our 1st Christmas Bird Count in many years! We will concentrate our CBC participation on the Oklahoma River area, while also picking up some hotspots in parks and neighborhoods. We are hoping to gain more CBC volunteers to help.

**Please come meet with us! Non-members are welcome.**

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

**Time:** 7 PM - 7:30 PM - Meet n' Greet

Meeting begins at 7:30 PM

**Refreshments and snacks will be served.**



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