

We are pleased to assist the Society and join the fine list of editors who have served before us. Certainly, without the foresight, editorial expertise, and financial support of George M. Sutton, one of Oklahoma's pioneer ornithologist, and Jack Tyler, Editor for 22 years from 1975 to 1997, the *Bulletin* would not have achieved the wide appeal it enjoys. When "Doc" Sutton created the *Bulletin* in 1968, he wanted it to appeal to all "birders" in Oklahoma and encouraged contributions from everyone involved with birds, whether professional or lay. He felt that individual interest and involvement fostered an appreciation of birds in our State and elsewhere, and he wanted the *Bulletin* to be a cornerstone of that appreciation.

In that spirit and as new editors, we encourage all members of the Society and readers of the *Bulletin* to consider submitting, for example, your unusual records and observations of bird life in Oklahoma and results of specific studies on life history, ecology, and behavior. We have added a new section for Opinion pieces to draw attention to issues of concern and provide a forum for comments on previously published articles in the *Bulletin*. We would be happy to respond to any questions or concerns about publishing in the *Bulletin* and look forward to receiving your manuscripts. We will do our utmost to maintain both the high standards established by our predecessors and the breadth of contributions already published in the *Bulletin*.—Bryan R. Coppedge (bcoppedg@tulsacc.edu), Jeffrey F. Kelly (jkelly@ou.edu), and David M. Leslie, Jr. (cleslie@usgs.gov).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society* encourages submissions of original papers from lay and professional "birders" on species occurring in Oklahoma during some part of the year. Suitable topics for papers are not restricted to studies conducted in the State if they are judged to be of interest to the *Bulletin's* readers. The *Bulletin* seeks papers on all aspects of ornithology, such as the status of species in the State, unusual occurrence records, studies of behavior and ecology, population changes, conservation status, and history of ornithology in Oklahoma. Claims of "first records" of species in the State must be reviewed by the Society's Bird Records Committee for verification before acceptance and publication. "Possible sightings" of a species in the State without a first-record claim do not have to be reviewed by the Committee and will be considered for publication to encourage the ornithological community in Oklahoma to pursue further documentation of the record.

Three types of articles are published: Regular Articles that include multiple observations or syntheses of existing information, Notes that report single events, and Opinion contributions that highlight issues of particular relevance to ornithologists in Oklahoma or provide a counter viewpoint on a recently published article in the *Bulletin*. Regular Articles are relatively long submissions

that generally have the standard sections of a scientific publication (i.e., Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, and Literature Cited). Common problems in preparing such a paper include failure to concisely state the objectives and relevance of the contribution in the Introduction, vague or incomplete descriptions of methodology, duplication of material presented in tables and figures in the text of the Results, and citation of literature in the text without inclusion in the Literature Cited (and vice versa). Generally, only Regular Articles include tables and figures. Submission of high-quality photographs and original artwork (black-and-white preferred but color prints can be accommodated) that support unusual records and ornithological events is encouraged.

Notes and Opinion contributions have no internal headings, but if > 3 references are used, a Literature Cited section should follow the note. If ≤ 3 references are used, the complete citation of each should be given parenthetically in the text at first mention (e.g., Arterburn, J. W. 2002. First record of the Mew Gull for Oklahoma. *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society* 35:1–2); thereafter, only the author and year are given (e.g., Arterburn 2002). All reference citations, including journal titles, should be spelled out in full.

It is important to study a recent issue of the *Bulletin* for matters of format, manuscript organization, and style conventions. In brief, all measurements are metric; dates are given in the international style (e.g., 18 December 1987); use arabic for all numbers (e.g., 4 birds, 1630 h, 2.4 cm, and 3 g); and common names of birds are capitalized with the scientific name given in italics at first mention. Submissions will be peer-reviewed by the editors and outside reviewers. If a submission is judged to be acceptable after peer review, an editor will assist authors with the revision process; authors will have the opportunity to approve any final editorial changes before publication.

Manuscripts can be submitted either electronically (preferred) or in hard copy to Co-editor Bryan R. Coppedge at bcoppedg@tulsacc.edu or Science and Mathematics Division, Tulsa Community College, West Campus, 7505 West 41st Street, Tulsa, OK 74107-8633. For electronic submissions, attach manuscript files to an e-mail message, provide text (including tables) and figures in separate files, and indicate what software was used to prepare the files. Hard-copy submissions should be sent in triplicate and typed double-spaced with a font size of 12. Use 3-cm margins and no hyphenation at the end of lines for both means of submission.

The *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society* (ISSN 0474-0750) is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December in Norman, Oklahoma. Co-editors are Bryan R. Coppedge (to whom manuscripts should be directed), Science and Mathematics, Tulsa Community College, 7505 West 41st Street, Tulsa, OK 74107-8633; Jeffrey F. Kelly, Oklahoma Biological Survey and Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma; and David M. Leslie, Jr., United States Geological Survey, Oklahoma State University. Subscription is by membership in the Oklahoma Ornithological Society: \$5 student, \$10 regular, \$15 family, \$15 or more sustaining, per year; life membership, \$200. Direct questions regarding subscription, replacement copies, back issues, or payment of dues to Don Glass, OOS Membership/Circulation Chair, P.O. Box 2931, Claremore, OK 74018; e-mail: dglass@rsu.edu.