

# *Okatibbee Creek Audubon Society*

**October 2007**

## **OCAS OFFICERS**

R.L. Richardson: President

Howard Malone: Treasurer

Ed Brown: Field Trip Chairman

Nancy Donald: CBC Coordinator

Ruth Ann Rosamond: Refreshments Coordinator

Daniel Burns: Newsletter

***Be like the bird, who halting in his flight /  
On limb too slight, / Feels it give way  
beneath him, yet sings / Knowing he has  
wings.***

--Victor Hugo, writer (1802-1885)

--contributed by Nancy Donald

Note from Rich Richardson: Meetings are held at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Meridian every second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Trinity is located at 4223 Poplar Springs Drive. Please use the SOUTH driveway on the church property (the one nearer downtown Meridian) and proceed around through the parking lot to the back, where you may enter the building through the double doors.

**Next meeting: October 8, 2007**

Read OCAS' newsletter online at  
<http://home.comcast.net/~ocas/>

Opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Mississippi Audubon or of National Audubon but of individual writers. We view it as important to provide a forum for discussion and therefore we include articles from diverse sources where we can.

# Sightings

By **Bernard and Marilyn Linton**: For the second evening in a row, my husband and I witnessed a covey of Common Nighthawks swarming an area just south of Meridian, near the Hwy 45 Bypass. Last evening we discovered them too late, as darkness had set in. But this evening we were in place watching before dark, and I had my camera in hand. Of course, there's no identifying them from the photos I took; they are way too fast for that. But we stood in awe as they performed their aerial display. I'd guess there were from 25 - 50 of them on both nights.

By **Daniel Burns**: Goldfinch at feeder in summer plumage eating sunflower seeds.

By **Pam Burns**: Mother Turkey and five baby turkeys foraging.

**If you have any sightings or information you would like included in the newsletter, please e-mail me at [burnsh1@bellsouth.net](mailto:burnsh1@bellsouth.net)**



**Eastern Meadowlark**

## Species Profile: Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)

The Eastern Meadowlark is a well-known bird of pastures and farmlands. Anyone who spends time outdoors in the spring or summer hears their cheery song. The Eastern Meadowlark is a stocky, robin-sized bird approximately 8-11 inches long having a brown-streaked back and a yellow breast with a black V on it. Their diet is primarily insects although they occasionally come to bird feeders for seeds on the coldest days of winter. Eastern Meadowlarks nest on the ground in tall grass, frequently in hay fields. If hay fields are cut in the summer, the nest will be destroyed, but cutting hay in the fall allows meadowlarks to nest and raise a family. Meadowlarks are actually declining rapidly throughout most of their range because of habitat loss. It is of vital importance to the Meadowlark that we preserve hay fields and pasture land to halt their decline.