

# pinfeathers

*A print, play & learn page for future Payne County Audubon Chapter members*

## OKLAHOMA STATE BIRD THE SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER



Photo: Susan Walker

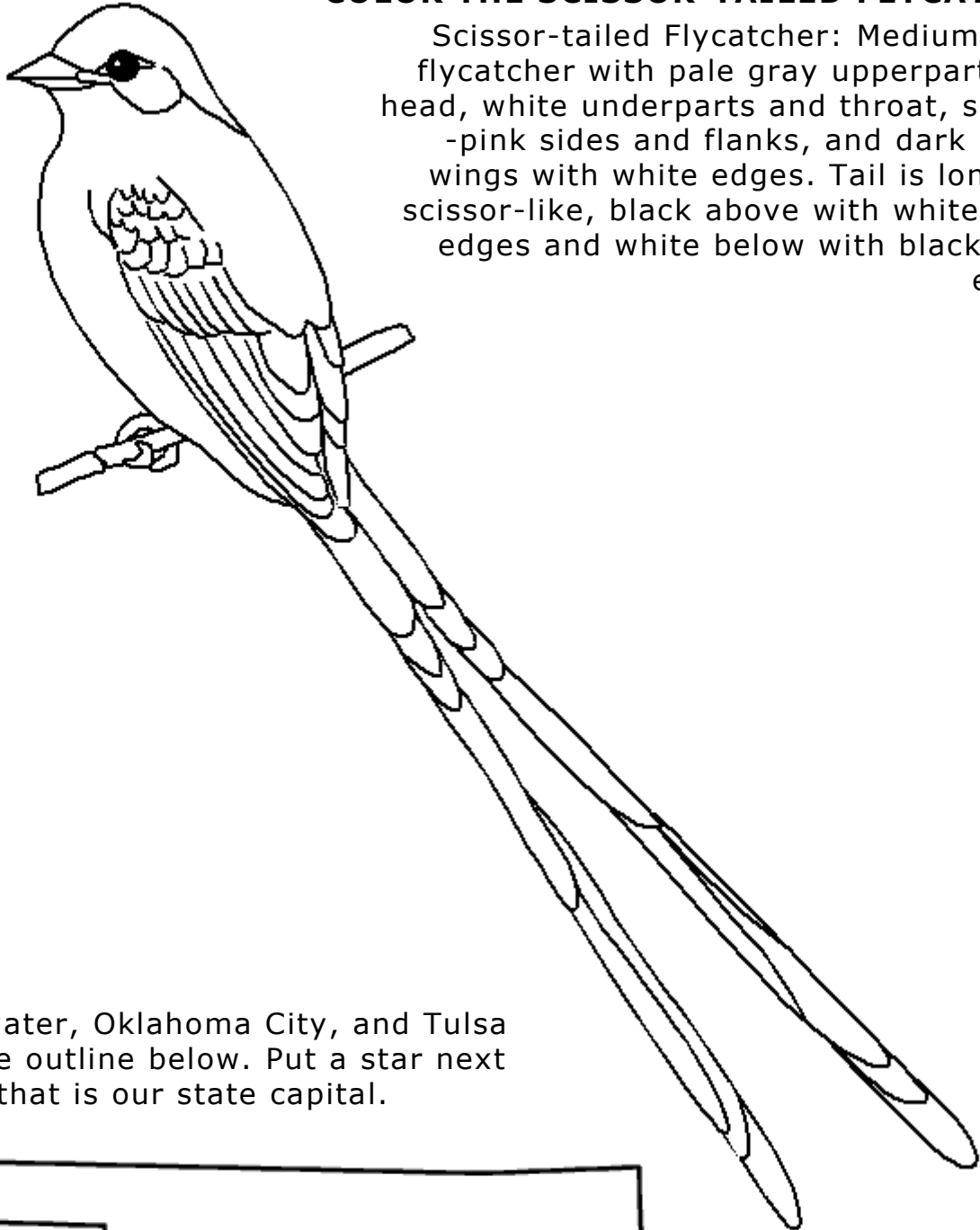
### Interesting facts about our state bird . . .

- Though Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nest in seven states Oklahoma is the only state to claim it as its state bird. It was adopted as the State bird May 26, 1951.
- Male Scissor-tailed Flycatchers perform a "sky dance" as part of their courtship ritual which includes acrobatics such as reverse somersaults.
- "Scissortails," as these birds are nicknamed, have tails twice the length of their bodies and are easy to see as they often perch on fence posts and utility wires.
- Scissortails consume large quantities of grasshoppers, crickets, and other insects that can be harmful to crops.
- A group of scissor-tailed flycatchers has many collective nouns, including a "pinking," a "snip," and a "zipper" of flycatchers.
- For the past few years, a snip of scissortails has gathered in Stillwater at Boomer Lake before heading south to Mexico and Central America (see story on page 4 of *Feathers*).
- The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher's song is a harsh sharp "bik" or "kew." Call is a dry, buzzing chattering "ka-quee-ka-quee" or repeated "ka-lup." Go to [Jungle Walk](#) and scroll down to listen to the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher's voice and to see it's Range Map.

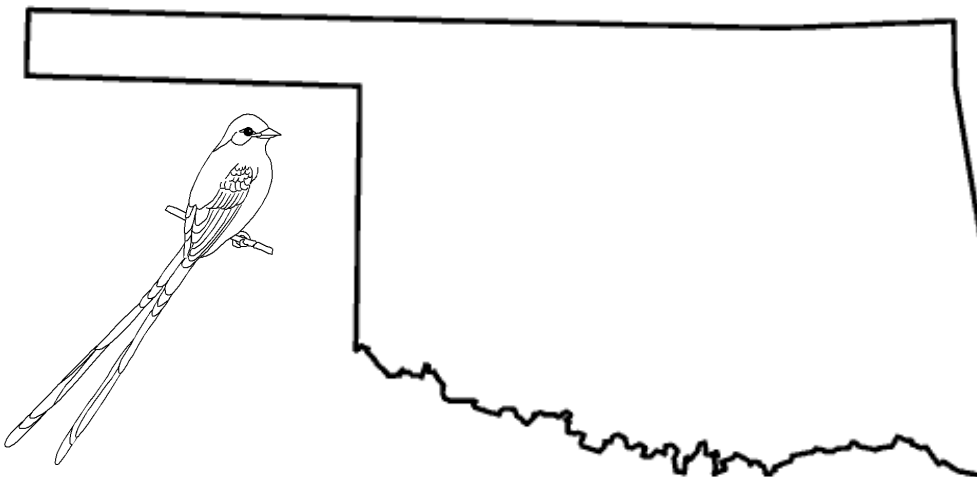


### COLOR THE SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Medium-sized flycatcher with pale gray upperparts and head, white underparts and throat, salmon-pink sides and flanks, and dark brown wings with white edges. Tail is long and scissor-like, black above with white outer edges and white below with black inner edges.



Label Stillwater, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa on the state outline below. Put a star next to the city that is our state capital.



*Flycatcher coloring picture from [www.kidzone.com](http://www.kidzone.com)*