



photo by Tom Whipple

The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter
Grove, OK

Grand Lake Audubon Society

June 2015 – Aug 2015

From the President's desk...

On February 9th Chris Pistole talked about the effects of climate change on the migration habits of numerous species of birds. The effects of increasing temperature has some species not going as far south in the winter and due to an expanding forest some of the habitat is changing. He did not address the issue of the deforestation that is occurring in the equatorial rain forest. The rain forest has been our main equalizer concerning carbon dioxide conversion. On March 9th Tony Crawford spoke to us about turkeys in northeast Oklahoma. There are 4 different species in the state with Eastern being the prevalent one for the northeast part of the state. He also talked about the reintroduction of native grasses and forbs to assist in the rebuilding of the once populous coveys of quail. The introduction of Bermuda and fescue grasses and the hard time baby birds have hiding in the grass. Dr. Doug Woods talked to us about the Galapagos Islands and the indigenous species found there. He also had some pictures of the trip from Ecuador where he landed prior to going to the Galapagos. He was in our meeting on 13 April. He brought his friend from Ada, Dr. Bill Carter. The pictures and dissertation was well received and they stayed for refreshments. On 21 April, 5 intrepid souls tackled the Spavinaw Creek adventure and several species were either seen or heard. On 11 May, Tom Whipple brought pictures he had taken

from Florida. His pictures were some of the best we have seen in quite some time. He started with a photograph of a sunrise and ended with a sunset over Grand Lake. The trip planned for 16 May was postponed until 30 May due to some conflicts with scheduling for our leader. The trip to George Washington Carver is always one of the best due to eating at Undercliff. We have a new slate of officers and Erin Lanway has agreed to be our new president. We have two opportunities to be seen in the community during the summer. The first one will be the Shoal Creek Water Festival on August 8th at Wildcat Glades in Joplin and the second will be Ecology and Environment Day August 22 at Harbor Village in Grove. At the present time we are still working on the logistics for these events. See you at the picnic on June 8th when we will be swearing in our new slate of officers. It has been my honor to have served as your president for the last two years. Remember to keep looking up, because you never know what you might see.

Frank

Hospitality Notes

June 8, 2015 at 6.p.m will be our annual picnic at "Honey Creek Park". Please bring a covered dish to share and serving spoon if needed. Setups and drinks will be furnished.

Thank you to all members hosting this past year.

Willie Hale 918-791-0926

Monthly meeting in April

There were 25 members and guests present at the meeting on April 13th. Our speaker was Dr. Doug Wood, professor of biology at Southeastern Oklahoma University in Durant, OK. He stated that his primary interest was in researching cavity nesting birds. He has authored or coauthored numerous



publications beginning in 1997 that were published both regionally and nationally. He has written many articles about the Prothonotary warbler and the nesting habitats of the Red-cockaded woodpecker. He has traveled extensively around the world studying birds in various habitats and eco regions. He spent two weeks in Ecuador in 2014 seeing a total of 121 species that included 44 life birds. He shared many of his photos taken at Galapagos Island. He spoke of the changing climate that seems to have produced a more frigid El Nino phenomenon and resultant changes in flyways. ♦

Har-ber Village "Ecology & Environment Day"

Mark this date on your calendar. On Saturday, August 22 from 9 AM to 5 PM, we will be in the "Bernice & Harvey"

Building. This will be our third year participating in this fun day. Call for more information. ♦

Willie Hale 918-791-0926

Summer Bird Feeding

"Summer bird feeding provides its own set of challenges and rewards. Depending on your location and your backyard habitat the traffic to your feeders may (or may not) slow down. This is a good time to try different kinds of seed including safflower (a cardinal favorite) and Nyjer (finches). Fruit, including raisins and grapefruit halves may prove popular and suet served as simply as imbedding it in tree bark can attract finches, native sparrows and woodpeckers. Offering different choices in different parts of your yard is often the key to success to summer feeding, and don't forget the water. When the weather gets really hot a shallow birdbath with a slow dripper can become an oasis.

Spend some time observing the birds in your yard more carefully and away from your feeders. You may see the males feeding the females, and later, both feeding the young. See what you can learn about the birds nesting in or near your yard. Bluebirds continue to feed their young for four weeks or so after they have left the nest and some young may even help feed the babies from a second brood. Hummingbirds are always popular in the summer months. They are best attracted by planting flowers and vines that attract hummers naturally. And did you know that hummingbirds are one of only three categories of birds that are capable of learning to repeat new sounds or songs and to improvise on those sounds? While you are starting your gardening think about planting flowers or shrubs that provide seed in the fall, when insect populations and other food sources start to diminish in

supply. They can prove to be a great attractant to fall migrants and will help your permanent residents prepare for winter. “ – *Birdzilla.com* ♦

Spavinaw Creek

On April 21, several members of GLAS visited the Spavinaw Creek area around the low water bridge. We observed 34 different species including a Great Blue Heron that the local residents call “Bob”. We saw “Bob” surveying his territory several times. An American Redstart was also a special treat. This is a favorite spring habitat for this bird. We were

Prothonotary warbler *Protonotaria citrea*



Photo by Laura Stanfill

invited to visit the Spring Creek Ranch to observe an eagle nest. Although the nest was unoccupied, we enjoyed a tour of the ranch and surrounding area. This ranch which began in the 1960’s can hold 225 people in the main lodge for weddings, family reunions, etc., and also can house 20 people overnight. They provide many activities including hunting guides. On May 4th, Laura Stanfill visited this area and observed 9 additional species which included Ovenbird, Spotted Sandpiper, Blue Grosbeak, and Northern Parula. ♦

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*



Photo by Laura Stanfill

40th Anniversary of Ozark Gateway Audubon Society

Two members of GLAS were present at the 40th anniversary of the founding of Ozark Gateway Audubon Society held at Wildcat Glades Conservancy and Audubon Center in Joplin. The group held its first meeting in a fire station. The guest speaker was Mark Glenshaw who has been observing a mating pair of Great Horned Owls for about 10 years in Forest Park in St. Louis, Missouri. He has studied the behavior of these two owls extensively and has a large collection of videos and photographs of the owls. He has named the owls Charles and Sarah. He conducts “owl prowls” for area students, residents and visitors. ♦

Great horned owl *Bubo virginianus*



Photo by Mark Glenshaw

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April 21st



April 22nd



April 28th



May 1st

This series of photos of an American Robin's nest was made by JoAnn Walkup with her phone. We are certainly blessed with many talented photographers in our Society.



May 4th