



photo by Tom Whipple

The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter
Grove, OK

Grand Lake Audubon Society

Dec. 2017-Feb. 2018

Frankly Speaking...

The year 2017-2018 is off to a good start. We enjoyed a good trip to Schermerhorn Park in Galena, KS on September 14, led by J. Beyer. There were four of us and we saw some good birds. The Pelican Festival was held on October 13-14. We had good participation from our members and the put up/take down of the booth was accomplished with a minimum of exasperation. This year we occupied two of the spaces and it worked to our benefit. One space was paid for by the Chapter and the other was done by donation from two GLAS members. Willie Hale was our leader and it was very well organized.

We have had an on-going presence at Har-Ber Village during the many local events sponsored by the Village. We have a room that has been put together by Paula Keefer with the help of Willie Hale and JoAnn Walkup. There have been other members manning the room at various times.

The Owl Watch was held on October 21 with five participants. We did not hear or see an owl, but on returning to our house, there was a Great-Horned Owl calling in the backyard.

We have had good programs put together by Tom Whipple. The one by representatives of GRDA was both timely and informative. The representative from ODWC talked about paddle fish and what is being done to keep a good, healthy stock in the Grand River system. Tom Whipple gave us a presentation of some of his photographs of this past year.

Our next meeting will be December 11 at the location on South Main. The CBC will be here December 17. If you would like to participate, please let me know, because there is a place for you on one of the teams.

The program for January will be presented by Bob Livesay.

~~Frank

Calendar of Events

Dec. 11 – Holiday Dinner, 6 p.m.; Trinity Baptist Church, 4th & Main, Grove. Bring a dish to share along with serving utensil.

Dec. 17 – Christmas Bird Count, F. Houck, 918-787-6532; dinner following at Cosby's.

Jan. 8 – Meeting, 7 p.m.; "Wildlife around Grand Lake", Bob Livesay, local professional photographer; Trinity Baptist Church, 4th & Main, Grove.

Jan. 20 – Eagle Trip into Arkansas; Depart Wal-Mart parking lot (behind Rib Crib) at 6:00 a.m.*; breakfast in Arkansas.

Feb 12 – Meeting, 7 p.m.; "Monarch Butterflies", Val Frankoski, Wildcat Glades & Audubon Center, Joplin, Mo.

***Caravan leaves on time so don't be late!!**

True or False?

- A. The Common Nighthawk is part of the hawk family.
- B. Birds of prey have superb eyesight.
- C. Red-Tailed Hawks can be spotted throughout North America.
- D. Peregrine Falcons fly only about 50 mph.

(Answers revealed on page 2.)

Our Sympathies...

are extended to Sharon Herhager whose husband, David, passed away at home on October 8, 2017. We are thinking of you, Sharon!

Wildcat Glades Nature Center

Recent news releases have indicated that National Audubon Society has passed off operations of the center to the Missouri Department of Conservation, tying its future to the state budget. No reason has been given for the transfer and officials have said that it is too soon to predict what will happen to the building and its programs.

Wildcat Glades opened 10 years ago with records showing 500,000 people have visited the nature center; 330,000 people have walked on the trails since counting began in 2010; 48,389 people have participated in 1,604 educational programs; 66,613 hours of work have been contributed by volunteers.

The funding for the center has not come from Audubon. Instead, the organization is supported by local donors, trusts and some federal grants, according to the development/volunteer coordinator for Wildcat Glades.

NAS leased the Wildcat Glades property from the Missouri Department of Conservation for a nominal amount and provided payroll and legal services to its employees at the center.

~~Joplin Globe, 11-3-2017

Birds...

Arctic Terns hold the record for the farthest migration. One trip from their breeding grounds in the Arctic to their winter territory in Antarctica is about 29,000 miles. That impressive zigzagging flight south is done at sea—they are rarely spotted from land.



Male snow buntings head to their breeding grounds in the high Arctic in early April. The area is still covered in snow, and temperatures are as low as 22 degrees below zero.

Masked Bob White Quail is found only in the Sonoran Desert and semi desert regions of southern Arizona, and northern Sonora, Mexico.

They are unique and an irreplaceable thread of nature that is in great need of intense conservation efforts to save it from outright extinction.

Females of both Northern Bobwhite and Masked Bobwhite appear similar; however, male Masked Bobwhite would never be mistaken for their Northern cousins.



Dozens of masked bobwhite chicks were recently hatched at the Sutton Research Center near Bartlesville after the Center was able to capture some breeding stock in Mexico. It is not a particularly fragile egg, but the chicks are incredibly small. When hatched, the chicks weigh less than a quarter ounce. So they are very fragile, especially in the wild. They are bite-sized for everything! (Check out www.suttoncenter.org)

The Secrets of Owls

Birds & Blooms, Oct./Nov. 2017

Head: can fully turn 270 degrees thanks to 14 neck vertebrae, twice as many as human.

Eyes: big and close together for binocular vision.

Ears: large and hidden on head for extreme hearing.

Beak: hooked for tearing flesh of oversized prey.

Wings: huge wings with softened edges allow for silent flight.

Talons: claws are less curved for better grip strength—owls suffocate prey trapped by their powerful talons.

Those “horns” on top of the great horned’s head aren’t ears at all, but feather tufts called plumicorns. Scientists theorize that owls use them to recognize each other.

Who Cooks for You? During the day, barred owls are quiet, but at night are recognized by their: who-cooks-for you.

- | |
|----------|
| A. False |
| B. True |
| C. True |
| D. False |

Be an Owl Landlord

Birds & Blooms, Oct./Nov. 2017

Owls are both popular and mysterious. They're so obscure that most people report they've never seen one in real life. But some kinds of owls come into suburban neighborhoods and city parks, and they might even call your backyard home when you follow these four tips:

1. Provide shelter. Most kinds of owls like to hide inside dense cover during the day and venture out only at night. Evergreen trees provide this kind of shelter year-round. Depending on where you live, ideal choices include pine, spruce or juniper. Eventually you may find barred owls, northern screech owls, or great horned owls nestled among the branches sleeping the day away.

2. Offer nest sites. Owls need cavities such as woodpecker holes or natural hollows in trees. Screech owls use nest boxes designed for wood ducks or American Kestrels, with an entrance hole at least 3 inches in diameter. Barred owls favor dense, swampy woods, and they like boxes that are high in trees.

3. Say no to insecticides. To successfully lure owls to your space, you have to also attract the creatures they hunt. Screech owls feed on large insects, such as moths and beetles, and small animals such as mice.

4. Keep cats indoors. Even if they're well fed, prowling house cats kill many small wild animals. Wiping out populations of mice, voles, lizards and other creatures may not leave enough to support a family of screech owls or other small owls.

Holiday Dinner – Dec. 11 – 6 p.m.



GLAS annual Holiday Dinner will be held at Trinity Baptist Church, Monday, December 11, 2017, at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share with serving utensil if one is needed and a guest(s) for an evening of good food and fellowship!

Do Birds have Ticks???

Has anyone ever thought about birds having ticks? We certainly hadn't until a message on OKBirds October 16, announced the program for Oklahoma City Audubon that evening was titled, "Are Birds Carriers of Ticks in Oklahoma City Parks?"

Being in Edmond overnight for another event on Tuesday gave us the opportunity to attend the meeting of OKC Audubon at Will Rogers Park Garden Exhibition Center in OKC. Megan Roselli presented an interesting and informative program. Megan began as a graduate student at OSU, Stillwater, in January 2017. She earned a BS degree in Biology from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and had previously worked at Smithsonian's Migratory Bird Center in Washington, D.C., and at the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Her OSU professor chose 12 parks in the OKC area for the study. There were three tick species she encountered – Rabbit Tick, Lone Star Tick, and Dog Tick. They collected 6,412 ticks during July and August of this year. One collection method was with a piece of white flannel-like cloth about 18"x18" attached to a broom stick which was dragged over grassy areas. Another was dry ice placed in the center of a piece of white plastic that had sticky tape placed around the outside edges. As the ice melts, it gives off CO₂, that attracts the ticks. Ninety-five percent of vector-borne diseases in the United States are caused by ticks; i.e., Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Heartland virus. She told us that Lyme disease does not originate in Oklahoma but is brought into the state by someone returning to Oklahoma from an area where the disease occurs. (There are those who may disagree with her statement.)

Using permitted mist nets to snare birds, they checked 286 birds of 26 species. They found 62 birds with ticks. After netting, the birds were banded for future identification. Ticks were found around eyes & ears and under wings & chins. Most of those found on birds were tiny, larvae-stage ticks.

Ticks have pierce-sucking mouthparts that are "barked" making extraction difficult. They attach themselves to a host by the tubular hypostome and a secreted cement or latex-like compound attaching the tick until feeding is complete. After feeding, the tick withdraws the mouthparts and drops to the ground to molt or deposit as many as 5,000 eggs in mulch or leaf litter. ~Evelyn & Frank Houck

(Google "anatomy of the lone star tick" or any species of tick, for lots more interesting info.)

Hospitality Duties

January 8 – Carole Chalupnik & Patsy Hagen

February 12 – Joan Walkup & Evelyn Houck

March 12 –

April 9 – Ann Whipple & Ellie Womack

May 14 – Deb Berry &

You will note there are three (3) vacant spots needing to be filled in on the above schedule. Contact Diana Smith at 918-257-1593 to have your name added to the hospitality duties. *Thanks so much!*

Eagle Watch

This year's Bald Eagle Tour is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2018. We will meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot behind Rib Crib to carpool and caravan east into Arkansas to find eagles.

The caravan will leave promptly at 6 a.m. so don't be late.

Breakfast/brunch will be at an Arkansas location, yet to be announced.

Pelican Festival

We had an awesome team of volunteers weathering the WIIND, donating their time &/or other items to sell. Best of all, the Pelicans showed up for the festival, reminding visitors what it was all about. The flow through the 10x20' space worked very well. Ken & Dave made this possible. Gross earnings this year was \$557.50 with the net of \$429.65. Thank you all for your hard work and generous donations. Sharon Herhager, Sandy Hendrickson, Sandy Sullins, Betsy Neel, Ann & Ken Spragins, Evelyn & Frank Houck, John Beyer, JoAnn Walkup, Patsy Hagen, Carole & Don Chalupnik, Ellie Womack, Ann & Tom Whipple, Sharon & Vincent Witt, Dave Hale. ~~Willie Hale

Raffle

Tickets were sold on a basket containing assorted bird items and a Walmart gift card. The winner of this year's raffle was Patty Bancenshift. Residing in Bartlesville, she drove to Grove November 16th to receive her basket. Patty is a bird lover and spoke of joining us, along with a friend on our eagle watch.

Congratulations, Patty. The gift card was a donation from Walmart. ~~ Willie Hale

Grand Lake Audubon Society

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*Happy
Holidays,
Everyone!*

