



photo by Tom Whipples

The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter
Grove, OK

Grand Lake Audubon Society

June - Aug 2019

Frankly Speaking...

We have come to the end of another year of Grand Lake Audubon Society's activities. All the activities left are the nomination of officers and the annual picnic.

The Annual picnic will be held at the Grand Lake Sailing Club meeting place, directions will follow later e-mails. We have had only one birding trip this spring due to inclement weather occurring on the days we had scheduled. The trip was to Spavinaw Creek and several different birds were seen. Not seen were eagles, redstarts and phoebes. Seen were: common loons, a merlin, and shoveler ducks. Our Spring program presenters have brought a diverse menu of subjects; from butterflies to bats to vultures. Our presenters were all well versed in their subject matter. Our last presenter was from Oklahoma Wildlife Department. Her subject was bats and a few days later she was on TV explaining something different to the public. She works for the public information group.

Tom Whipple has put together some very entertaining, as well informative programs this past year for which he should be commended. He has informed the Board he is going to relinquish his position. If anyone would like to take that position, he has names and numbers of many contacts that he would share. At this time a person has agreed to be our new president. The other members of our inner structure will come at a later date via e-mail or at the annual picnic.

It has been a pleasure serving as your president for the last two years. I can only hope you show as much support for our new president.

Just remember, keep looking up for you never know what you might see!!!

~ ~ *Frank*

Calendar of Events

June 10 – Annual Picnic, **6 p.m.**, Grand Lake Sailing Club facility. *(See additional information and photo on page 4.)*

Sept. 9 – Meeting, 7 p.m., Trinity Baptist Church, 4th & Main St., Grove; Program TBA.

“Nature Activity Building” (Har-Ber Village)

Grand Lake Audubon Society's logo and name is on the front door. Brochures & business cards are inside. Because of hands on items, for this room to be open there must be someone to monitor the room. Consider calling Har-Ber Village (918-786-6446) and volunteer a few hours of your time. Thank you!!

~~Willie Hale

36th Annual Pelican Festival

This year's event is scheduled for October 9-12, 2019, at Wolfe Creek State Park.

Willie Hale is again working on the venue Grand Lake Audubon Society has had each year at the Pelican Festival. **We appreciate you, Willie!**

More details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter, so mark your calendar and plan to donate your time, items for sale, or how ever you can help with this annual event.



Edible Butterflies, Anyone?

If you missed the March 11, 2019, meeting of Grand Lake Audubon Society, you missed the opportunity to have delicious carrot cake topped with edible butterflies!



AND....

If you missed the March 11, 2019, meeting of Grand Lake Audubon Society, you also missed an informative program by Jane Breckenridge. Jane gave lots of insights into butterflies, their food and sources of food.

Jane is pictured above with Tom Whipple, program coordinator, as they discuss her upcoming presentation to the GLAS meeting.

Meeting Notes... (Not official minutes)

The **March 11, 2019**, meeting had 21 persons in attendance, nine of which were visitors.

Jane Breckenridge, director of the Euchee Butterfly Farm, Bixby, Oklahoma, presented the program. The farm specializes in the rearing of butterflies native to Oklahoma, and is operated by citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The land has been in Jane's family for five generations.

All butterflies require specific "host plants" to complete their metamorphic life cycle; these are the plants that the caterpillars eat and the adults lay their eggs upon. In order to commercially raise the butterflies, they also cultivate the native plant species that is required as a host plant.

Once the caterpillar has become an adult butterfly, its primary source of nourishment is nectar flowers. Butterflies prefer a wide selection of flowers, and will nectar off of anything from peach blossoms to thistle. In addition to nectar, butterflies also drink from puddles for the salts and minerals they contain.

The **April 8, 2019**, meeting had 14 in attendance, including the speaker, Mike Davis, Missouri Master Naturalist, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Ozark Gateway Audubon Society member.

Lots of information was gained about the Turkey Vulture. It and the Black Vulture are New World Vultures.

Vultures are scavengers, do not kill prey but rely on carrion for food. Turkey Vultures do not build stick nests but lay their eggs on flat surfaces. They are 'scouts' when they circle and descend as a group on carrion with the Black Vulture following them down for leftovers. They wobble when flying and tail is narrow; Black Vultures' tail is flared and their legs are longer than the Turkey Vultures. Turkey Vultures mate for life; Black Vultures change. Turkey Vultures mature after two years.

Black Vultures arise later in the morning, relying on Turkey Vultures to find food. Black Vultures have very poor eyesight; excellent sense of smell.

At the **May 13, 2019**, meeting fifteen members and 2 guests were interested in the presentation of “Oklahoma Bats” by Jena Donnell, OK Dept. of Wildlife information specialist.

There are 20-22 species of bats in Oklahoma: Delaware County has 9 species, McCurtain County has 12 species. The Eastern Red-tailed Bat is the most common. There are three endangered species of bats in Oklahoma. The Mexican free-tailed Bat is Oklahoma’s state bat.

Bats can be found in caves, mines, culverts, under bridges and bat boxes. (It is rare to have bats in the bat boxes though). There are seven species that are known to use bat boxes. Bats are nocturnal, hibernators and migrators. They feed on insects on wing or glean them from plants.

There are four maternity caves in Oklahoma. Most bats live 12-15 years. Bat predators include owls, falcons, and snakes.

Selman Bat Watch (General Info.)

Each summer, hundreds of thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats pour from the Selman Bat Cave (located near Freedom, Ok.) to feed on insects, and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation’s Wildlife Diversity program offers the public the chance to watch.

Due to limited spacing, all Selman Bat Watch visitors must **pre-register**. (The area is closed to the public except during official events.) Each night’s viewing activities are limited to 75 visitors drawn from the pool of mailed-in registration forms. Admission to the Selman Bat Watch is \$14 for adults and \$8 for children ages 8-12. Children must be 8 years of age or older to attend.

For more information, please Google ‘Selman Bat Watch’ and click on general information.

Spavinaw Creek outing, April 24

The Spavinaw Creek outing was postponed until April 24 due to the weather conditions. Four members of GLAS enjoyed the outing despite foggy, coolish, overcast skies, and calm wind. Forty-nine (49) species were counted for the day; including Common Loon, Merlin, Cedar Waxwing, Louisiana Waterthrush, Indigo Bunting.

Har-Ber Village, Home School Days

**April 11,
2019**



(Photos by Ann Spragins)

Audubon Members,

“Thank you so much for sharing your time & talents to make our Ecology & Environment home school day a success! We love having you all at the Village and appreciate your willingness to share your bird knowledge with our visitors.”

~~Paula & Amelia

Where? The best places to see Belted Kingfishers in spring are along sandy banks, where they are busy digging nesting burrows.



These stocky, short-legged birds use their front claws—with two forward-pointing toes fused together for added strength—and their strong bills to dig holes. The holes typically reach three to six feet into the sandy bank, but some nesting holes can extend 15 feet!



Something to Think about.....

An article in the *Joplin Globe* recently contained this interesting information: Researchers have found Japanese beetles are attracted to four o'clock plants which are poisonous to them. After feasting on the plants, they are no longer living. Also noted as poisonous to the pests are geraniums and larkspur.

(Sandy Parrill, “*Speaking of gardens*”)

**Grand Lake Audubon Society Annual Picnic
June 10, 2019, 6 p.m.**

The photo to the left, provided by Patsy Hagen, is taken at the Grand Lake Sailing Club’s meeting venue, where GLAS has been given permission to hold their annual picnic.

Please bring a covered dish, or two, to share along with serving utensil, if one is required. Also, if your back requires, bring a lawn chair!

Please arrive no later than 5:30 p.m. at the Wal-Mart parking lot behind Rib Crib to car pool to location of picnic. Guests are always welcome!

(Persons in the photo are not identified.)



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