



photo by Tom Whipple

The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter
Grove, OK

Grand Lake Audubon Society

Jun-Aug 2016

From the President's desk...

Summertime already!

Our last meeting for the season will be our potluck picnic on June 13 at 6:00.

These last months, we enjoyed some good trips to the Oxley Nature Center, the George Washington Carver National Park and the Spavinaw Creek Wildlife Management Area (well...unluckily...I did not make the trip to Spavinaw Creek). Eight members went to the GW Carver National Park near Diamond, Missouri, and five went to Oxley, near Tulsa. At Oxley, I learned that the water from Lake Eucha and Lake Spavinaw is piped to Lake Yahola, which is adjacent to the Oxley Nature Center. There are nearly nine miles of nature trails on 800 acres at Oxley. No, our group did not take in all nine miles, but we certainly had a good hike on a wonderful day.

Our Audubon group is affiliated with the National Audubon Society. Our group is one of 463 chapters across the country. The National Audubon Society (Audubon) has an annual budget of more than 100 million dollars dedicated to conservation projects. Audubon is currently working to increase or stabilize 36 bird species. Audubon strives to work with landowners, lawmakers and other organizations to protect and restore the habitat and breeding grounds of birds across the country, including waterways, wetlands, forests, hills and plains. Audubon declares that two recent studies show ominous results. One

reports a decline of one-third of wintering birds in North America since 1966. The other study reports that one-third of North American birds are at risk of extinction in the absence of significant conservation actions. Be sure to be good to the birds.

Erin

Upcoming Events

Jun 11 Ecology & Environment Day, Har-Ber Village; contact Willie Hale at (918) 791-0926 for more information

Jun 13 Annual pot luck picnic; **6 pm** at Honey Creek State Park; bring covered dish with serving utensil to share and a lawn chair

Sept 12 Monthly meeting at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7 pm; program TBA

Ecology & Environment Day

Audubon will participate in the "Ecology & Environment Day" at "Har-ber Village"

Willie's Bird ID table



Photo by Sandy Sullins

Saturday June 11, 2016 in the "Harvey & Bernice" building 9 AM to 2 PM. Children will have a chance to identify

birds and learn the importance of the Turkey Vulture to the environment. If you would like to help with the booth or help prepare items to be given away. Please call me at 918-791-0926. Thank you. - Willie Hale ♦

Unusual Bird Sighting

Laura Stanfill has observed this leucistic robin since early March in the Sleepy Hollow RV Park in Cookson, OK. Leucism, or leukism, is an abnormal plumage condition caused by a genetic mutation that prevents pigment, particularly melanin, from being



Photo by Laura Stanfill

properly deposited on a bird's feathers. As a result, the birds do not have the normal, classic plumage colors listed in field guides. Albinism, on the other hand, affects all the pigments, and albino birds show no color whatsoever in their feathers. Furthermore, an albino mutation also affects the bird's other pigments in the skin and eyes, and albino birds show pale pink or reddish eyes, legs, feet and a pale bill, while leucistic birds often have normally colored eyes, legs, feet and bills. ♦

Birding Field Trips

On April 16th, GLAS members visited the

Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa. Forty-five species were observed. Not only were



Photo by Erin Lanway

birds observed, but also this deer spotted by Erin Lanway.

On April 26th, GLAS members visited the Spavinaw low water bridge area for a morning of birding. Thirty-six species were observed on a beautiful, clear morning.

On May 14th, eight members of GLAS visited the George Washington Carver National Park. It was a cold, windy day



Photo by Erin Lanway

with twenty-nine species observed. Each of these trips gave us different habitats for our spring birds. The cool, wet spring created thick vegetation that produced a challenge to our birders. Thank you,

Frank, for giving us many chances for great birding field trips. ♦

Who am I?



Photo by [Flipkeat](#) via [Birdshare](#)

Do you have trouble identifying those LBB's known as little brown birds? How about this bird? With all the prolific fledglings seen this spring, here is some help with identification of those new arrivals with vague characteristics. First, note all the general features such as shape, size, color, pattern and behavior. Then, try to determine what group it might belong to such as finch or sparrow, etc. The fledglings have adult size bones, but lack feather length. The bill and leg length are most reliable. Next, try to determine what species it belongs to. Again, look at the bill for clues and note the head and chest patterns. The streaking on this LBB extends from the chest to the belly and there are no well defined patterns on the head or around the eyes. Do you give up? The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has identified this LBB as a juvenile Brown-headed cowbird. ♦

Black-capped vireo

Vireo atricapilla

The black-capped vireo is a federally endangered, migratory bird whose largest breeding population in Oklahoma is found within the Wichita Mountains. Prior to being listed as endangered, less

than forty birds were found in the state of Oklahoma in 1985. It is thought to be extinct in the state of Kansas. It is a focus of extensive habitat restoration and other management decisions on which this species depends. Among the most influential factors contributing to its decline are: nest parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird, habitat deterioration through destruction, and natural changes resulting from fire suppression. After more than 30 years of recovery, the status of the black-capped vireo is more secure. Population estimates from recent black-capped vireo surveys have ranged from 3,572 to 5,260 nesting pairs residing on the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Ft. Sill has a biological agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service that is very similar to the efforts on the wildlife refuge and doesn't impact the Ft. Sill mission. Ft. Sill monitors Brown-headed cowbird traps



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to remove cowbirds, doesn't train with heavy equipment in the mountains where the vireo nests, and works to suppress excessive fires in the nesting area. Since heavy equipment doesn't do well in the rocky areas of the mountains, none of these really affect training. Ft. Sill has annually monitored the Black-capped Vireo on the post since 1989. ♦

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The National Park Service turns 100 on August 25, 2016. Everyone is invited to participate in a second century of caring for America's special places. Put one of the 411 areas covering more than 84 million acres that are in the National park system on your summer itinerary or bucket list. The George Washington Carver National Park in Diamond, MO, is one that is close by and a treasure for our four-state area. It has both walking trails and an excellent visitor center that tells of his life journey and accomplishments. It is well worth the short drive to visit this park.