



photo by Tom Whipple

# The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter  
Grove, OK

Grand Lake Audubon Society

Dec. – Feb. 2018

## Frankly Speaking...

Another Fall has come and is nearly gone, with the weather cooperating at times, and then not. The trip to Spavinaw was kind of sparse, but we also saw some pretty birds. The trip to Pensacola Dam was not completed due to the leader missing the connection. The booth at the Pelican Festival saw some success, but the weather had a large say in how many people attended. We took down our display at noon on Saturday due to rain that continued the entire afternoon.

Our November meeting was much abbreviated due to snow on the ground and our presenter from OU not wanting to drive in the inclement weather. Heather LePage will present her program later in the year. It was good to have Dr. Bland come to the November meeting. He wants to participate in the CBC. If you know anyone who would like to participate, please have them contact me and we will accommodate.

Our December meeting will be the 10<sup>th</sup> with a potluck meal at 6 p.m., and visiting. We will try to get the bills paid and have some discourse on upcoming programs.

Remember the Eagle Watch, 19 January. Open to anyone who wants to come, including the public.

Until next time, keep looking up because you never know what you might see. ~~*Frank*



## Holiday Dinner, December 10, 6 p.m.

GLAS annual Holiday Dinner will be held at Trinity Baptist Church, Monday, December 10, 2018, 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!

## Calendar of Events

**Dec. 10** – Holiday Dinner, 6 p.m., Trinity Baptist Church; Bring dish & utensil to share.

**Dec. 16** – Christmas Bird Count; F. Houck, 918-787-6532; Dinner at Cosby's.

**Jan. 14** – Meeting, 7 p.m.; "Introduction of the Condor", Mike Davis, Wildlife biologist.

**Jan. 19** – Eagle Watch, depart 6:00 am,\* F. Houck, 918-787-6532; Breakfast in Arkansas.

**Feb. 11** – Meeting, 7 p.m.; Brandon Brown, OKDWC; an ecology documentary focusing on pioneers in the field of ecology and the idea that "all things are connected".

**\*Meet at Wal-mart parking lot, north of wildlife area behind Rib Crib to car pool. We leave on time, so don't be late.**

## Meeting/Events reports (not official minutes)

**Sept. 10 meeting:** Josh Johnston, northeast regional supervisor with the OK Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, gave us interesting and informative facts about the Shovel nose Sturgeon in Oklahoma. There are 26 species of sturgeon in the world, eight are found in the US. The sturgeons are actual living fossils, and were first discovered in Oklahoma in the Arkansas River in 2012. A sturgeon caught by a fisherman near downtown Tulsa led to 30+ of the fish being found. Ones found near Tulsa weigh 2-1/2 to 3 pounds, 30" long +/- . Most are found over sand substrate; they are mostly sedentary and do not seek deepest water in winter. They spawn when 3-4 years old, and in 70 degree water (usually May-June). Shovel nose Sturgeon feed mostly on micro organism in sand.

Google "Shovel nose Sturgeon in Oklahoma" for more interesting information.

### Meeting/Events Report continued...

**Sept. 17 Spavinaw Creek outing:** Three members enjoyed the outing with mostly clear skies and 67 degrees, as they left Grove. Leaves were beginning to drift down and fall was in the air. Twenty-seven species were counted, including Osprey, Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, and White breasted Nuthatch. Lunch in the park was enjoyed prior to returning to Grove.

**Oct. 8 Meeting:** Fourteen members and two guests were present for Larry Shanks' presentation, "Introduction of Wolves in Yellowstone". Larry is a retired wildlife biologist. An Alpha male and female from a pack in Canada were brought into the United States and immediately established a den. To break the homing instinct, large enclosures were built and there was no contact with humans. Seven packs were established in 1998, 44 pups were born; Adult males weigh 200-250#, Females weigh about 185 pounds.

**Oct. 20 Owl Watch:** The sun was warm as 11 members and one guest gathered at the Har-Ber Village pavilion for the annual Owl Watch. Hot dogs and many side dishes were enjoyed prior to a walk down a nice, asphalt path taking the group on their quest for owls. Not to be disappointed, there were two Barred Owl sightings. One owl was nice enough to pose on a fairly open branch for a nice spell so everyone had a good observation point. Then, later in the distance, two Barred Owls held quite a "heated" discussion. It was an exciting conclusion to an enjoyable evening.

Prior to the quest for owls, the drawing for the Pelican Festival raffle prize was held. Amelia Chamberlain drew Harley Roberts' name from the ticket container.



~~Photo by E. Houck

### F. Y. I.

The Neosho River bridge at the south edge of Miami is closed now through late Spring 2019. Traffic is directed to use Hwy 125, US Hwy 60 and US Hwy 69 as a detour. *~~ Joplin Globe, 11-26-2018*

### Congratulations, Melynda!

Wildlife biologist Melynda Hickman with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife conservation was named 2018 Wildlife Biologist of the Year by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Hickman, who works in the Department's Wildlife Diversity Program, received the award at the group's annual meeting in Mobile, Alabama.

Hickman is the Department's Watchable Wildlife Program leader. She has started and continues to lead several important conservation education efforts. She began her career with the department 28 years ago. *~~Tulsa World*

Note: Melynda has presented information programs for GLAS a number of times.

### Figure Out the Finches

*Birds & Bloom, Oct./Nov. 2018*

The house finch is commonly found throughout much of the Lower 48. The range of the purple finch is restricted to the dense forests of the West Coast, southern Canada and the northeastern U.S during breeding season. And Purple Finches may be seen anywhere in the southeastern states during fall, winter and spring.

The difference between these birds becomes clear when you compare the adult males. Purple finches are a deep cranberry or raspberry color on most of their body. Male house finches are more orange and red with the color concentrated on their heads and chests. Females are difficult to tell apart, so look closely at their faces: Purple finches have a bolder face pattern, with two white stripes stretching from their beaks to the nape of their necks.

The nesting habits of these two birds are completely different. House finches nest on the edges of open areas sometimes on street lamps or in ivy on the sides of buildings. Purple finches nest primarily in forest conifers or dense shrubs, and at times in landscaped areas with trees. Neither species uses birdhouses.

The house finch is a very social bird and nests in colonies or groups. Purple finches, however, often nest on their own. In the winter, they join flocks with pine siskins and goldfinches.

Both species enjoy sunflower seeds in the winter. During summer, they eat fruits and seeds from native plants, along with bugs.

## Pelican Festival - 2018



~~photo by E. Houck

Even after closing our booth early on Saturday due to weather, we had a total sales of \$457.00. Thank You to all who worked and donated items to sell. I appreciate your willingness to help make this another good year. Those of you not working this year, please consider helping next year.

Raffle winner, Harley Roberts, generously donated the grocery basket back to us for next year. Thank you, Harley!

Merry Christmas to you all!

Willie & Dave Hale, 918-791-0926



Harley Roberts

~~photo by E. Houck

### Hospitality Responsibilities

**Dec. 10** – Holiday Dinner, bring a dish to share

**Jan. 14** – Patsy Hagen, Betsey Neel

**Feb. 11** – 2 *Volunteers needed here*

**Mar. 11** – 2 *Volunteers needed here*

If you would like to volunteer for hostess duties, Diana Smith would love to hear from you! See her at the meeting, or call her at: 918-257-1593.

## Do Sparrows Invade Your Bluebird Box?

The photo at right shows a way to discourage sparrows from entering the box! You will notice a length of fishing string on either side of the box with two split shot sinkers toward the bottom and held up by pushpins on the roof.



Sparrows will land on the top of the box, but **not** enter.

~~photo by E. Houck

## Did You Know.....

.....that northeastern Oklahoma was once the core breeding range of Henslow's Sparrow? ....that Northern Rough-winged Swallows and Bank Swallows are breeding without apparent ill effect in the contaminated chat piles at the Tar Creek Superfund site in far northeastern Oklahoma? ...that increases in light levels due to cutting giant trees in the Amazon is correlated with drastic changes in bird species occurrence in the rain forest? Or that Oklahoma researchers are tracking migrating Bald Eagles to gauge their exposure to dangerous encounters with tall structures? Or that graduate students are using advanced methods to unravel the mystery of Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest site selection and Eastern Bluebird nestling success? Or that migration can be monitored by devices that count birds at night as they cross the face of the moon?

A compilation of the presentation abstracts can be seen or downloaded at:

[www.okbirds.org/OOSFall18Abstracts.pdf](http://www.okbirds.org/OOSFall18Abstracts.pdf).

## True or False

**A.** Sapsuckers get their name from the way they drill holes into trees to eat the sap.

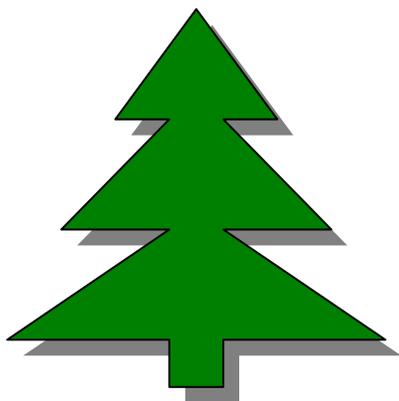
**B.** Up to 50,000 acorns have been found in a single tree—stored there by a family of acorn woodpeckers.

**C.** Red-bellied Woodpeckers have bright red bellies that are nearly impossible to miss.

~~ *Birds & Bloom*, Oct-Nov 2018  
(Answers on Page 4)

*Grand Lake Audubon Society*  
*P O Box 451813*  
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*Merry Christmas*  
*and Happy New Year,*  
*Everyone!*



**Guests are always welcome at any and all GLAS meetings, outings, or events!**

### **Answers from Page 3**

- A. True
- B. True
- C. False

