



photo by Tom Whipple

The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter
Grove, OK

Grand Lake Audubon Society

Dec - Feb 2016

From the President's desk...

Soon it will be Christmas. Among other things, it means that the bird census is up for the count. Laura Stanfill has graciously volunteered to be the coordinator for our local chapter's participation in the 116th annual Christmas Bird Count. Volunteers are needed!

The National Audubon Society has a fantastic "app" available, and it is absolutely free. The program will run on any iOS (Apple) or Android device. It covers 821 bird species of North America, with thousands of photos and many, many birdcalls and songs. More information, including how to download it is available at the following link: <http://www.audubon.org/apps>.

The National Audubon Society has 462 chapters altogether. There are 7 in Oklahoma, including the Grand Lake Audubon Society (GLAS). There is no Audubon center in Oklahoma, but there is one nearby in Joplin (Wildcat Glades) which boasts of having nearly 4 miles of wilderness trails, and which has a special event of some kind virtually every week. Incidentally, the colorful national Audubon magazine can be viewed online in the Audubon website. The cost? It is free!

Attendance at our monthly meetings has been good, and so have the guests who dazzle us with a special presentation every month. After Christmas, of course, is a new year. In January, our group will take the annual trek into the neighboring state of Arkansas, seeking the American Bald Eagle. This trip is for the same amazing price: free!

If you have any thoughts or ideas on other trips or events that our group should enjoy, please feel free to make the suggestion. I will not be at our next meeting, because I will be gone for a good part of December. Happy holidays

Erin

Upcoming Events

Dec 14 "The Red-cockaded Woodpecker", Clay Barnes, Wildlife Biologist Technician, McCurtain County Wilderness Area

Dec 20 Christmas Bird Count, Spavinaw Wildlife area near Grove, OK; to volunteer contact Laura Stanfill at 918 589-4140

Jan 11 Winter Holiday dinner, **6 pm**; Grace Presbyterian Church, bring covered dish to share

Jan 23 Eagle Watch, depart **6 am** from Wal Mart parking lot behind Rib Crib; breakfast in Arkansas; F. Houck 918 787-6532

Feb 8 "Migratory Studies of the Purple Martin"; Jeff Kelly, PhD, Assoc. Professor of Biology & Heritage Zoologist, OU

Hospitality Schedule

Dec 14 Diana Smith, Kathy Bixler

Jan 11 Winter Holiday covered dish dinner

Feb 8 Lyanna McKinney, Carole Chalupnik

Pelican Festival

The 32nd Pelican Festival was held at Wolf Creek Park Oct. 9th & 10th, 2015. Thank you to the members stepping up to the many challenges of this fund raiser. Kathy Bixler, Carolyn & Tim Burr, Judith Deneen, David & Willie Hale, Evelyn & Frank Houck, Sharon Herhager, Erin Lanway, Margaret Long, Betsey Neel, Ann & Ken Spragins, Sandy Sullins, Jo Ann Walkup, Ann & Tom Whipple, and Ellie Womack.

Coordinator - Willie Hale ♦



Thanks to JoAnn Walkup's able leadership, our GLAS Jail Birds are again on display at the Har Ber Village Christmas on Main Street. Har Ber Village has many activities for the whole family. The public votes for their favorite displays created by area organizations with the one dollar admission ticket. Voting with this ticket could help the Jail Birds win this season. During the holiday event, area performers sing or play Christmas carols at the bandstand, and the



Photo by JoAnn Walkup

Country Store will be open to offer a wide array of seasonal gifts. Build your own gingerbread house on Saturday or Sunday, December 5 or December 6, starting at 2:30pm. FEE: \$17 for non-members; \$14 for members. Reservations and prepayment required! On Saturday, December 12 ONLY, find out who has been naughty or nice when Santa and Mrs. Claus visit from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. For more information visit: <http://www.har-bervillage.com/christmasonmainstreeteventpage1.html> . ♦

Christmas Bird count

This is the 116th annual count of the number of species and total bird count for specific areas of the U.S. and Canada. The circle for Grand Lake Audubon is in the Spavinaw area. The circle is divided into six sections with wooded, open field or shoreline areas.

Some are filled with participants, but we need more birders to help remaining sections. Most sections start at 8am. We brown bag for lunch and share findings over dinner. We have usually completed our count by 5pm. Please join us as we are a small group of local birders. Contact Laura Stanfill at(918) 589-4140 or laurastanfill@live.com. ♦

Grey Snow Eagle Rehab House

Eagles are treasured by the Iowa tribe because they feel that they are a direct communication link to the Creator. The Grey Snow Eagle Rehab House near Perkins, OK, was toured by 16 members of the Grand Lake Audubon Society on September 26th. What an exceptional facility it is! It was opened in 2006 and has rehabilitated 17 Bald and Golden eagles as of 2015. The injured birds are from many different areas of North America. Their buildings and viewing cages of eagles that are unsuitable for release are clean and very well designed. They also house other avian species such as a Mississippi Kite, Barred owl, Red-tailed hawk and a Harlan's hawk. Some of these are also used for educational programs. They have quarantine buildings for new arrivals and a food source facility. They receive food donations from a local rabbit farm, deer from hunters that have used lead free ammunition, a fish hatchery, and onsite

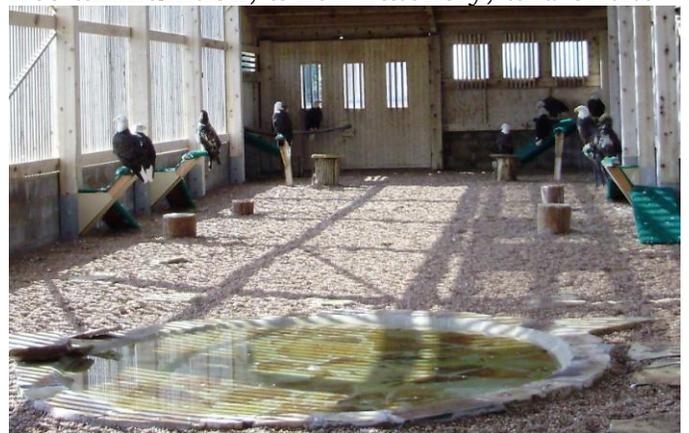


Photo by Sandy Sullins

rodent production. They are fed daily with occasional fasting days. The health care is provided by a Tulsa veterinarian, Dr. Paul Welch. One of our guides, Megan Trope,



Photo by Ellie Womack

is pursuing her doctorate on sequencing the genome of Bald and Golden eagles to ultimately determine breeding sites in North America. This is in cooperation with Van Den Bussche Lab at Oklahoma State University. She is also the assistant manager of the Grey Snow Eagle House. Tours of the facility are by reservation on Saturdays and Sundays with an approximately three week advance notice. See <http://eagles.iowanation.org/tour-information/> for more information. ♦

Lendonwood Gardens

One of the highlights of Grove is the Lendonwood Gardens. It is an eight acre botanical garden with more than 1,200



Photo by Ellie Womack

varieties of plants including an amazing collection of rhododendrons and daylilies.

Near the Oklahoma Garden that features Oklahoma Proven plantings, is a gliding bench donated to the garden by past president Carole Chalupnik in the name of GLAS. It was donated in 2010 and is now displayed nearby the wooden sculpture by Richard Quick of a crane. The crane is created from the stump of a tree that was damaged by a storm in 2014. Look for this area in your next visit and let Carole know how much we appreciate this gift to the



Photo by Ellie Womack

garden. For more information about the garden visit: <http://lendonwood.com/> . ♦

17th Annual National Environmental Conference on Tar Creek

“This year’s L.E.A.D. conference, organized by Rebecca Jim and attended by Sandy Sullins, was held September 29-30 in The Coleman Theater’s conference rooms. Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency, Inc. (L.E.A.D. Agency) was formed in 1997 to study the environmental and health issues in Northeastern Oklahoma. This is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) agency that has collaborated with EPA, Harvard School of Public Health, local tribes and many others to assess the Tar Creek Superfund site. The lead level assessment of Ottawa county school children now shows levels below the national average. They are continuing to monitor the Tar Creek watershed and fish contamination as well as the asbestos and benzene plumes from the Goodrich Tire plant site. See <http://leadagencyredirect.weebly.com/> to learn more. ♦

Grand Lake Audubon Society
PO Box 451813
Grove, OK 74345-1813



Helping Winter birds

“It might seem as if you can’t do much for birds facing extreme conditions, but here are a few things you can tackle.

Keep feeders filled. Before and after a big storm or other severe weather hits, it’s important to provide plenty of food for your feathered friends. During the storm, they’ll probably be taking cover. So give them food to stock up on beforehand and for refueling after.

Keep birdbaths fresh. Water often is forgotten, but clean, fresh water is essential for survival. This is especially important to remember during times of drought and in the heat of summer.

Offer shelter. We know birds take cover when bad weather is on the way. You can offer extra roosting spots by putting up another birdhouse or two. Another way to offer shelter is to plant dense trees or shrubs.

Help preserve habitat. This might be the most essential of all. We must provide birds with plenty of habitat so they have space to recover. You can do this on a small scale in your backyard, but I would encourage you to support larger habitat restoration and conservation efforts in your area as well. “

Read more: <http://www.birdsandblooms.com/birding/birding-basics/helping-birds-in-winter/#ixzz3rmfgI89p>