



photo by Tom Whipple

The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter
Grove, OK

Grand Lake Audubon Society

Dec 2019 – Feb 2020

From the President's desk..

Starting January 2020, we will meet in a new place. The First United Methodist Church of Grove, at 1005 Leisure Road. As I understand it, we will park in the back, and the entrance will be in the back near the southwest corner of the building. Apparently, this is part of what is known as the West Wing of the church. (Editor's note: Check page 4 for footprint of the West Wing.)

Our next meeting will be our last meeting at the current place. When we started meeting at the current place, it was a Presbyterian church. It is now the Trinity Baptist Church. I bring this up to point out that the same church was originally a Methodist church! We will have our Winter Holiday Dinner at the next (and final) meeting at the Trinity Baptist Church, at 4th and Main in Grove. This is set for December 9, 2019 at 6 p.m. Another important date for December is the Christmas Bird Count on December 15, 2019.

Recently, we had our annual appearance at the Pelican Festival. The weather was strange, and the turnout at the festival was less than optimal. Willie and David Hale have been the organizers for the event for a considerable time. As everyone surely knows by now, David was seriously stricken with what turned out to be his last illness, and neither David nor Willie could participate in the festival. As a result, some members had to step up to help get the canopies up, and the tables set up with all of the merchandise for the festival. We soon learned how much effort Willie and Dave have exerted to make it all work every year. I thank everyone for stepping up and contributing to the festival booth.

As stated, we will have the annual Christmas Bird Count in December. In January, we will have the annual Bald Eagle "Tour" in Arkansas.

It is imperative that we continue to brainstorm for recruiting new members for our group, which continues to shrink in size.

For anyone not yet having paid their dues this year, our illustrious treasurer, Patsy Hagen, will graciously accept payment.

It is not too early to start thinking about awarding our annual Cy Seibert award, presented to a member or members who have made significant contributions to the Grand Lake Audubon Society. ~ ~ Erin

Calendar of Events

Dec. 9 -- Christmas Dinner, **6 p.m.**, Trinity Baptist Church; Bring dish to share w/serving utensil if needed AND bring a friend.

Dec. 15 – **Christmas Bird Count**, F. Houck, 918-787-6532; dinner at Cosby's.

Jan. 13 – TBA

Jan. 18 – **Eagle Watch**, Depart 6: 00 a.m.*, F. Houck, 918-787-6532. Breakfast in Arkansas.

Feb. 10 – **Topic TBA**, Melinda Hickman, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, OK DOWildlife.

Mar 9 – "Nichols Preserve Update, Jeremy Buxby (See page 3)

April 13 – "**Birds of South Texas**", Bill Petrunich, a nature photographer of nearly 6 decades living in Bentonville, Arkansas.

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!

Melinda Hickman will travel a distance from southwest Oklahoma (Hackberry Flats) to present the program on February 10. Please mark your calendar and make the effort to attend this, and all, meetings. Melinda, as in the past, will have an informative presentation for all to enjoy.

Bring a friend, or two, too!!!!

Thank you....

To all members stepping up and taking charge during the Pelican Festival, thank you. Because of you, we were able to participate for the 36th time. I appreciate each of you!

~~Willie Hale

36th Annual Pelican Festival



Proceeds from items sold were \$388 with a serious bidding war for additional donations increased the amount to \$500. Many appreciated items were donated as part of the event, including bird houses & feeders, and books. Pelican ornaments were a popular item. Anthony Hale was the winner of the shopping cart basket of items donated by various businesses and individuals. There were 12 individuals who donated their time to setting up the booth, manning the booth, and dismantling the booth during the event.

Pelicans soared over the site several times. A strong wind caused some excitement as people scurried to restore the canopies and some of the contents to their original positions.

Christmas Bird Count

This oldest ongoing U.S. annual bird count is a winter census and predictor of migratory trends. The area canvassed by Grand Lake Audubon is south of Grand Lake through Spavinaw Wildlife Management Area.



This year's event is scheduled for Dec. 15 with Frank Houck coordinating.

Contact him at 918-787-6532, if you would like to participate. The group will meet at Cosby's for dinner that evening and to tabulate their counts.

Hospitality Responsibilities

Noone has signed up for the February meeting refreshments!

Please contact Diana Smith at 918-714-0742, if you would contribute to the February meeting, or other upcoming meetings of GLAS. *Thank you!!*

OOS Date Guide

The OOS Date Guide to the Occurrences of Birds in Oklahoma, Seventh Edition, 2019, is available for \$5/copy. I was able to order multiple copies and for that, the copies were \$2 less than when ordering only a single copy. There are four copies still available so if you are interested in receiving a copy, let me know and arrangements can be made for delivery.

The Date Guide contains times of species occurrences in Oklahoma by areas of the state.

~~Evelyn Houck, 918-787-6532

Our sympathy is extended to our Willie Hale with the recent loss of her husband, David. David contributed much to GLAS projects behind the scenes when called upon, and will be greatly missed.

Monthly Meeting Reports

(Not official minutes)

The October 14, 2019, meeting held at Trinity Baptist Church, Grove, was attended by 13 GLAS members and the speaker, Bill Mausbach. Bill is a limnologist for GRDA and spoke about the water quality at Grand Lake. Many things affect the quality especially heavy precipitation and the resultant flooding that has been experienced recently. These include turbidity, decrease in algae and consequent decrease in oxygen, and increase in bacterial levels including E. coli. Blue Green algae toxins are always present in low numbers, but any observation should be reported to GRDA for sampling. GRDA is initialing the program, "Guard the Grand", through an EPA grant, to educate the public for best management practices of the watershed. The mission of GRDA is to help residents and businesses implement best management practices throughout the Grand Lake Watershed to reduce storm water runoff into Grand Lake.

The November 11, 2019, meeting, held at Trinity Baptist Church, Grove, was attended by 10 members and one guest, Piper Beyer. Frank Houck shared photos of his trip taken in 2006 to China. Refreshments and visiting followed the meeting.

J. T. Nickel Family Nature & Wildlife Preserve

The Nickel Family Preserve is located in the forested and rocky Cookson Hills region of eastern Oklahoma, containing 17,000 acres.

Elevations on the refuge range from 850 feet to 1,250 feet. Most of the Preserve is forested with oak and pine trees mixed with tallgrass prairie. Vegetation zones include dry & moist forests; floodplains, glades, tall grass prairie, wetlands, and disturbed areas. A total of 597 plant species have been found on the Preserve, including 15 rare, endangered or threatened plant species.

GLAS Bird outings

Spavinaw, 9-16-2019: Today's outing was a disappointment in the bird sighting department, but the drive through the country was a pretty one. The sun was shining brightly when the group left Grove at 8 a.m., temperature was 72 degrees. Upon returning to Grove about 11:15, the temperature was 86. The bird count was 22 species, including Chimney Swift, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Purple Martin, and Eastern Bluebird.

Owl Watch, 10-19-2019: The weather cooperated for this evening's outing at Har-Ber Village. Good food was enjoyed prior to hitting the trail in a quest to see owls. There was no disappointment in that a Barred Owl sat in plain view on a tree branch for all to have a nice sighting and listen to the insistent call letting the recorded owl know that the group was in someone else's territory.

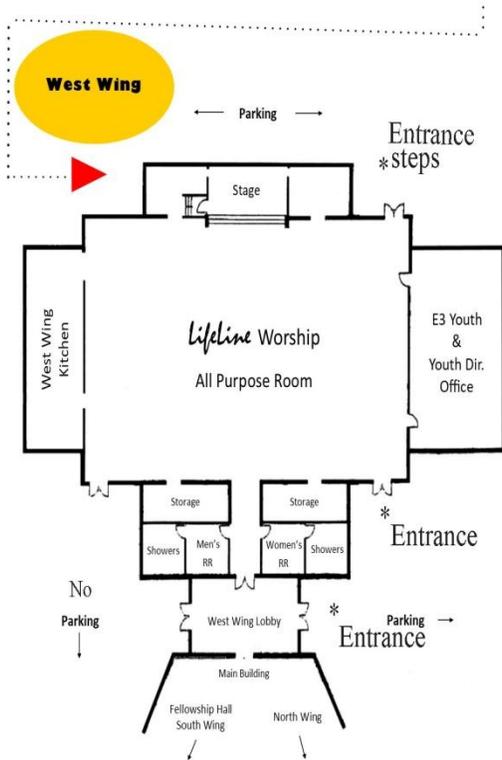


Pensacola, 11-5-2019: It was 44 degrees when the caravan departed for the outing to see birds. Many White Pelicans and Great Blue Herons were observed; Snow Geese, high in the sky hurrying south; Osprey with fish; Bald Eagles, mature and immature; dark-eyed Junco and several warblers of unidentifiable species. ~-Photo by Tom Whipple

Christmas Dinner

Grand Lake Audubon Society's annual Christmas Dinner is scheduled for December 9, 2019, beginning at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share, with serving utensil if necessary. And bring a friend or two, as guests are welcome at any and all events of GLAS.

You might want to note that this will be the last meeting held at Trinity Baptist Church. A map is provided elsewhere in the newsletter to help you navigate and find parking spaces.



Directions for GLAS meetings at First United Methodist Church, 1005 Leisure Road, Grove.

It is suggested that we **NOT** use the front entrance to the church, which will save walking outside and around the building.

Please note there are three entrances to the West Wing that are shown with stars (*). The west entrance has a few steps to climb.

It is advisable to use the larger parking lot on the north side of the building, but there are several spaces on the west side by the steps.

'West' is the top of the footprint; 'North' is to the right.

REMEMBER to check the GLAS web site for information and schedule changes that may occur from time to time.

www.grandlakeaudubonsociety.com.

