



photo by Tom Whipple

The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter
Grove, OK

Grand Lake Audubon Society

March - May 2014

From the President's desk...

It has been a topsy-turvy Winter. Some days very cold and some days above average warm. We haven't seen any appreciable amount of moisture. Keeping this in mind we should be affording our feathered friends a ready source of clean water. Since we last visited Christmas has come and gone and we have celebrated a New Year. Our annual Christmas pot-luck meal was postponed until January due to inclement weather. Our Club also participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count. At the evening meal Paul Wilson told us he had participated in the first CBC in NE Oklahoma as a student while attending college in Tahlequah in 1976. We made our annual trip to Arkansas to observe eagles in the wild. Did we ever. A conservative estimate would be 150+. We were advised of a roost spot and arriving early in the morning we saw eagles in different stages of maturity dispersing for the day. Several days previous Evelyn and I had been at that location watching as they flew in to roost. It is an experience not soon forgotten. Our annual dinner was held on the 14th of January and the food was good. Thanks to Willie Hale for keeping us in refreshments.

Our February meeting was well attended with 7 guests and 26 members present. We gained 4 new members prior to the start of the meeting. Two of these new members were visitors at our booth at the Grove Home and Garden show. The meeting program was presented by Paul Wilson, a retired school teacher, U. S. Navy officer, EMT and he has several other titles to go with his credentials. His program concerned owls and how little we as individuals really know about their habits. Paul is always interesting and will talk about owls and nature with very little prompting. This is the second time I've listened and it was as informative this time as it was the last time. On February 12th KOAMTV and their Fox Network had an interview at Twin Bridges concerning bald eagles. Amanda Wylie and I were invited to participate. The interviewer was Liz Holliday and the result was shown that night on Channel #7 and Channel #14. If you haven't seen it, it is on their website. Our next meeting will be 11th of March at The Grace Presbyterian Church in Grove at 7:00 p.m. The program will be presented by Amanda Wylie the naturalist at Bernice State Park. Come and enjoy another informative gathering. Remember to look up, because you never know what you will see!!

Frank

Upcoming events

Mar 6 Ladies Luncheon, The Parrot, 12:00 noon, RSVP to Judith Deneen, 918.314.0268, jkdall@groveemail.com

Mar 11 Monthly meeting at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7 pm; "Mimicry: When Wildlife goes beyond camouflage", Amanda Wiley, Park Naturalist at Bernice State Park

Apr 3 Ladies luncheon, The Parrot, 12:00 noon, RSVP to Judith Deneen, 918.314.0268, jkdall@groveemail.com

Apr 8 Monthly meeting at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7 pm; "Turtles, Tortoises and Amphibians of the Grand Lake Ecosystem", Danny Overstreet, PhD and Professor of Science Education at MSSU

Apr 16 Tall Grass Prairie field trip; departure TBA, Laura Stanfill, 918.589.4140

Apr 22 Spavinaw Creek field trip; depart 8 am, bring sack lunch; Sandy Sullins, 918.786.2638

May 1 Ladies Luncheon, 12 noon at The Parrot, RSVP to Judith Deneen, 918.314.0268, jkdall@groveemail.com

May 13 Monthly meeting at Grace Presbyterian Church at 7 pm; "Birds of Tanzania", Bill S Petrunich, Nature Photographer

May 17 Birding Field trip to GW Carver National Park; depart 7 am, lunch at Undercliff restaurant: John Bever 918.786.5188



Photo by John Beyer

Orange crowned warbler (*Vermivora celata*).

“A small, rather drab warbler of shrubs and low vegetation, the Orange-crowned Warbler is common and widespread in the

West, but is much less common in most of the East. It can be one of the most numerous migrant warblers in the western and central United States, but its numbers decrease to the east.

The Orange-crowned Warbler is divided into four subspecies that differ in plumage color, size, and molt patterns. The one named *celata* is found in Alaska and across Canada, and it is the duller and grayest. The Pacific Coast form, *lutescens*, is the brightest yellow. Found throughout the Rocky Mountains and Great Basin, *orestera* is intermediate in appearance. The form *sordida* is the darkest green and is found only on the Channel Islands and locally along the coast of southern California and northern Baja California.

It is likely that most, if not all of the early fall (August and early September) reports of Orange-crowned Warblers from the eastern United States and southeastern Canada are actually dull Tennessee Warblers.”

Sogge, M. K., W. M. Gilbert, and C. v. Riper III. 1994. [The Birds of North America](#)

This species has been noted by John Beyer on his Grove property this year from Christmas time up to the present on several occasions. Keep your eyes out for this bird in your area. ♦

Eagle watch

It was still dark, 38 degrees and a wind that became very strong during the day, when six vehicles carrying 20 people left Grove to find Bald Eagles. Did we ever!!



Photo by Sandy Sullins

The Eagles were more concentrated in two areas today, both places that we had not been before! The first was a roosting area east of Gravette where they had already begun to leave the roost. They were still visible in the trees across the pasture when we departed. The second area had Eagles in trees, on the ground, and in the air! It was impossible to count the number but a conservative count was 153 for the day.

Another exciting find was two trees on either side of the road FULL of black vultures! There had to be close to 100 birds. They were soaking up rays, as vultures do early in the day. Other birds of interest included Kestrel - 3; Eurasian Collared Dove - 3; Loggerhead Shrike; Mergansers 15-20 (at Sweptco); Red-shouldered Hawk, and other



Photo by Evelyn Houck

common species. It really was a great day, with the thermometer registering in the upper 50s when we returned to Grove about 1 p.m.

-Evelyn Houck, Trip recorder

[Editor’s note: To meet strict new EPA regulations, SWEPCO and Flint Creek co-owner Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), must upgrade Flint Creek or close the plant by 2015 and replace the essential power it provides. According to their website, www.swepco.com/info/projects/FlintCreekPlant/, the most economical and reliable choice for the company is retrofitting the coal-fueled Flint Creek plant. Hopefully, there will be minimal impact on the eagle habitat.] ♦

Bernice Nature Center

Do you have any children in your life that would enjoy a nature event close to Grove? Check out The Bernice Nature Center at 54101 E Highway 85A near the Bernice bridge. Amanda Wiley, Park Naturalist, has organized a series of events for people of all ages. Beginning March 19 to March 22, it will be “Spring Break Out” with activities covering birds, insects, reptiles and

wildlife and will wrap up with a fun scavenger hunt. On April 19th at 1pm there will be an Easter Egg Hunt. Peter Cottontail will be there to be photographed. Bring your camera. Over 3,000 candy and toy filled eggs will be available for the searching. On May 24 to May 26 at 10 am, 1 pm and 3 pm, “Summer Kick Off” will include hikes and adventures all weekend long. Every Saturday the staff feeds the park’s animals at 1 pm. This is a great time to learn about how and what the animals eat. For More information contact Amanda Wiley at 918.257.8330 or Amanda.Wiley@travelok.com. ♦

Many thanks go out to all those who helped with the HarBer Village Christmas on Main Street Event. We won a third place award. Those creative workers included Carole Chalupnik, Willie Hale, Sharon Witt, Judith Deneen, Carolyn Burr, Sharon Herhager, and Sandy Sullins. Also help and equipment from Frank Houck and Don Chalupnik made this possible. Good Work, Team !!



The State of the Birds

“Roughly 60 percent of the land area of the United States is privately owned, and those 1.43 billion acres include farmlands, ranchlands, and timberlands that harbor some of our nation’s most important bird habitat, particularly for grassland, wetland, and eastern forest birds. So says the [State of the Birds 2013](#) report—published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and partners and delivered to the U.S. Department of Interior—in a 46-page analysis of bird distribution and conservation opportunities on private lands. The report cites several examples where working lands

are also accommodating the needs of breeding, migrating, and wintering birds, and explains why habitat on private lands will become even more crucial as food, fiber, and energy production pressures increase sharply to supply a global population of 9 billion people by 2050.” *Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Living Magazine* ♦

Hospitality Schedule

- March 11 Evelyn Houck & Judy Beyer
- April 8 Anne Whipple & Ellie Womack
- May 13 Laura Stanfill & Marie Burns

Coordinator Willie Hale 918-791-0926

2013 Bat Blitz

Shea Hammond of Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge organized the 12th Annual Bat Blitz that was held in Tahlequah in July of 2013. Eleven researchers led teams of 10 to sample the bat population in 7 different areas of Ottawa, Delaware and Adair counties. 735 individual bats were captured through extensive mist net sampling and tested for the fungus that causes White Nose Syndrome in bats. 107 of these bats were banded for further study. Bat-to-bat transmission is believed to be the primary vector for the spread of the fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*). None of the samples showed the presence of *P. destructans*. Samples from Northeast and North Central Arkansas have been positive for the fungus. Click the “2013Bat Blitz” at http://www.sbdn.org/past_blitzes.html for the full study report. ♦

Did You Know?

During the nesting season most birds must develop a bare patch of skin--a brood patch--to allow the eggs to come in direct contact with their bellies. The brood patch also has extra blood vessels close to the skin to heat the eggs. In species where only the female incubates, the male doesn't develop a brooding patch. Male and female peregrines both have patches because they share incubation. Incubating parent or parents

rock side-to-side as they settle on the nest. This rocking opens the feathers that have curled over the brood patch and puts their skin in contact with the eggs or chicks. At the end of the nesting season the blood vessels recede and the feathers grow back to keep the adults warm. *Willie Hale, reporter* ♦

Regional Owls

On Tuesday, February 11, thirty-three members and guests of GLAS were treated to another great discussion of regional owls by Paul Wilson. He has decades of experience



and teaching in this fascinating field of ornithology. He described the habitats, nesting preferences, number of owlets, and different manmade owl boxes. Owls eat small rodents and may eat insects such as grasshoppers during drought periods. The skeletal remains are found in their pellets which are the regurgitation of the day's meals. The number of eggs produced ranges from two to three in most species with up to 7 eggs in the long-eared owls. The eggs are hatched on consecutive days. Owls frequently use hawk or bald eagle nests. The short-eared owl is a winter visitor while the burrowing owl is usually seen in the summer. Mr. Wilson was part of the original Christmas Bird Count in Northeast Oklahoma when it began in 1976. ♦

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