



photo by Tom Whipple

# The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter  
Grove, OK

**Grand Lake Audubon Society**

**June - August. 2018**

## Frankly Speaking...

### Greetings!

The year has been very eventful for GLAS. We have had some very knowledgeable people present programs, thanks to Tom Whipple's expert scheduling. The February program, "Wildflowers – the good, the bad, the invasive", was presented by Amy Buthod, Botanical Specialist at OU; the March program was presented by Val Frankoski, Wildcat Glades Conserv. & Audubon Ctr.; "Monarch Butterflies"; the April presentation was done by Heather Lepage, "Song Birds & Tar Creek" sharing her findings in studying the effects of 'heavy metals' on birds. Heather works alone and GLAS has agreed to assist her if called upon. The May program was "Dragonflies" by Michael Patton, PhD, Professor, OK Biological Survey, at OU. There are 62 species of dragonflies in Oklahoma.

The Nominations Committee has made their selections for the fiscal year 2018-19. The officers will remain the same except the new Treasurer will be Patsy Hagen and the new Secretary will be Sandy Sullins.

The field trips have not enjoyed the usual response from our members. The trip to Oxley was cancelled due to lack of participants. The trip to Devil's Den was also cancelled due to some family conflicts. The trip to Spavinaw Creek was successful and we had a surprise when Laura Stanfill joined the group unannounced. The trip to George Washington Carver was attended by 2 members and a guest.. Forty different species were counted, including a pair of Bob-white Quail walking across the lawn.

The "Art in the Garden" in Lendonwood Gardens was well attended and thanks to our volunteers, we received some good exposure.

There have been reports of members having birdhouses with different species utilizing the offerings. Bluebirds, purple martins, several wren species and prothonotary warblers in particular were reported using members' boxes.

The next meeting will be the Annual Picnic at Trinity Baptist Church, 6 p.m., June 11. ~ ~ *Frank*

## Calendar of Events

- June 11 – Annual Picnic, 6 p.m., Trinity Baptist Church;** bring covered dish to share w/serving utensil & guest(s).
- Sept. 10 – Meeting, 7 p.m.,** Trinity Baptist Church, 4<sup>th</sup> & Main; Program TBA.
- Oct. 10 – 13 – Pelican Festival,** Wolf Creek Park, see page 4.



## Something to Consider

The Annual Picnic scheduled for June 11 this year is the perfect time to invite friends and family to share good food and fellowship with Grand Lake Audubon Society members. They can also be invited to our meetings.

All events/meetings/outings of GLAS are always open to the public, too!

## Suggestions Desired

Being program chair this last chapter year has had a few challenges but all has worked out. I am getting ready to schedule our next year's programs and need your help. I need suggestions on programs that you would like. Patsy Hagen has asked for a program on bats. If you would please give me names of individuals and how to contact them, I will see what I can do.

~ ~ Tom Whipple, 918-314-1489

## ONAR Field Day

The Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry is hosting a free Field Day on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Copperhead Ridge Registered Natural Area – 162 acres on the western edge of Pawnee County.

This is a great opportunity to visit private property that is being managed for wildlife diversity – including grassland and woodland birds, herps, and inverts. Featuring an excellent example of tallgrass prairie with an abundance of native wildflowers and grasses. Crosstimbers cover the slopes down to the Arkansas River floodplain. Springs and seeps can be found also on the hillsides creating microhabitats that are refuge for uncommon native plants. Parcels of bottomland along Red Rock Creek had been cropland, but are currently undergoing restoration to remove invasive plants and to reestablish native bottomland hardwoods.

June 16, 2018, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Registration is required. Field day is subject to postponement due to inclement weather

~Priscilla Crawford,

Conservation Biologist

Oklahoma Biological Survey, Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry, University of Oklahoma.

Contact: 405-325-7658; [prill@ou.edu](mailto:prill@ou.edu) for more info.

## Copperhead Ridge

Copperhead Ridge has been in Larry Andrews's family since the 1930s when his great aunt ran cattle. Larry has been managing the land for the last 25 years using a combination of traditional grazing, prescribed burning, and plant restoration to improve wildlife habitat and native plant diversity.

The upland features an excellent example of tallgrass prairie with an abundance of native wildflowers and grasses.

Crosstimbers cover the slopes down to the Arkansas River floodplain. This habitat is dominated by large chinkapin and blackjack Oaks with a variety of understory trees. Springs and seeps can be found along the hillsides creating microhabitats that are refuge for uncommon native plants.



*Copperhead Ridge, Pawnee County, Oklahoma*

## True or False

- A. PRAYING MANTISES eat only live prey, like moths, butterflies and other bugs.
- B. ALL SPIDERS HAVE SUPER SHARP VISION thanks to their eight eyes.
- C. ALTHOUGH WASPS ARE KNOWN for large hives and stingers, most of the 30,000 species are solitary and don't sting.

(Answers found on page 4.)

## GW Carver Field Trip

Three dedicated birders visited George Washington Carver National Park on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful, cool day for birding and for many Girl Scouts that were also visiting the park. We birded along the roads on the way to the park and also in the picnic area, identifying 35 different species. We heard and saw many Dickcissels, as well as Eastern Meadowlarks. We did not see any Painted Buntings this trip, probably due to very thick vegetation along the road. There were Scissor-tailed Flycatchers everywhere we looked. Two Bob-white Quail made a brief appearance.

This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the park. They have activities planned for the entire year for young and old. Visit their website for more information and take advantage of this nature trail and visitor center.

~~Sandy Sullins, reporter

## Birders to Know

- 1934** -- With his popular Peterson Field Guides, the first volume was published in 1934 – Roger Tory Peterson brought bird knowledge to the average person. Today, the 50-plus guides also educate people on plants, insects, fish and even weather.
- 435** – John James Audubon painted all 435 bird species then known in the U.S. and published them in *The Birds of America*, a four-volume work he finished in 1838. He was the first person to band birds, tying yarn to the legs of migrating phoebes.
- 1** – Florence Augusta Merriam Bailey, author of many birding books and popular field guides, became the first female associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1885.
- 11** – Before studying birds with her mentor, renowned ornithologist John Cassin, Graceanna Lewis was an abolitionist. Her home was part of the Underground Railroad, sheltering up to 11 escaping slaves at a time.
- 50** – Just before she turned 50, Phoebe Snetsinger was diagnosed with melanoma and told she would not survive. In response, she traveled the world and became the first person to list 8,000 bird species.
- 1886** – George Bird Grinnell founded the Audubon Society of New York, one of the earliest bird conservation organizations, in 1886. He launched *Audubon* magazine a year later.

~ ~Jan. 2018 *Birds & Bloom*

## Wild Eats at Bernice Nature Center

Every Saturday from April through October (1 – 2 PM), the park staff at Bernice Nature Center takes the time to feed the park's animals for the community. Visitors will learn how each animal eats its food, what each animal eats, and why a proper diet is required for all living things.

More information: 918-257-8330.

## Art in the Garden

Art in the Garden (Lendonwood) May 5, 2018, went very well reported JoAnn Walkup.

Tables and bird houses were provided by Don & Carol Chalupnik, Ken Spragins delivered chairs and wooden hanger, Willie Hale delivered sale items and brochures, Patsy Hagen and Sharon Herhager also donated items. Ellie Womack and JoAnn Walkup manned the booth.

Everyone's participation, time and donations were greatly appreciated!



## Spavinaw Creek Area field trip

(photo by Laura Stanfill)

Eight members  
and guests of  
Grand Lake

Audubon Society visited the Spavinaw Creek area April 23, 2018. Last year, this area was severely inundated with debris from a recent flooding. We could not cross the low water bridge due to trees blocking the way. This year we could finally cross the bridge and visit one of our favorite areas. Further in were mounds of river rock that apparently had to be bulldozed to make a road way. Piles of river rock were close to five feet high on the river side of the road. Last year, one lonely Eastern Phoebe was calling to us from the top tree limb on the bridge. This year, we were able to identify 34 different bird species including an American Redstart and Yellow-rumped warbler. The final bird was a Bald Eagle. We were pleasantly surprised to see that Laura Stanfill could join us before her move to Bartlesville.

~ ~ Sandy Sullins, reporter



## Eastern Amberwing

Photo taken by Tom Whipple  
During Red Slough Convention,  
May 2018

Shell below the dragonfly is the shell  
where one had hatched.

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*ANSWERS for page 2*

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

## **Pelican Festival**

October 10-13, 2018

Keeping you



informed! An approved Audubon purchase of a 10x10 canopy was made in April. For the second year, we will have a 10x20 space at the 2018 Pelican Festival. With your donations to sell & continued participation working our booth, it should be another fun and profitable year. I will have a sign up sheet and more information at our September 10<sup>th</sup> Audubon meeting. Have a safe, healthy and fun-filled summer. Willie Hale, 918-791-0926

PS: Dave & I are proud to announce the hatching of 3 big mouthed, fuzz balls. We are helping mom & pop Eastern Bluebird fill those tiny tummies with mealworms. Yum, Yum!



**Painted Bunting**

Tom Whipple at Red Slough Convention.

The convention is an annual event that is held in early May in Idabel, Oklahoma. You will see birds and dragonflies that are not seen here. Tours consist of the Red Slough, Little River, Wildflowers, McCurtain County wilderness area, Dragonflies and champion trees. For more details go to [www.redsloughconvention.com](http://www.redsloughconvention.com). T.Whipple

