



# The Pileated Post

A National Audubon Society Chapter

photo by Tom Whipple

**Grand Lake Audubon Society**

**Sept. – Nov. 2020**

## From the President's desk..

The last time I wrote a message in this newsletter, the perils of COVID-19 were present, inflicting complete havoc on Grand Lake Audubon Society's schedule of meetings and field trips.

The plan was for a fresh start this coming fall. New nature hikes, and new "presenters" of various vocations and professions for each of our monthly meetings, telling us about their research and adventures in fields of birds and nature.

Unluckily, the dratted virus is very much a threat—still.

But our group must continue forth, as best as we can do. Someday, we will return to something resembling normalcy. When that day will arrive I can't tell you, but I can tell you that our group intends to function as best as we can.

We have secured a meeting place at the Methodist Church for our meetings. I had to sign a pledge that our group will not indulge in drinking, doing drugs, gambling, etc. I exaggerate.

Actually, I did have to sign a pledge that we will not bring food or beverages into the facility. So, this will cripm our tradition of having sncks at each meeting. We can have bottled water, and apparently snacks, if each portion is individually wrapped.

Willie Hale has been working on plans for our group having a booth at the year 2020 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Pelican Festival. This far, it appears that the festival will run in October (9-11), and our group will be ready for it.

Last June, we actually did have our annual "picnic". We met at the Grove Wolf Creek Park, near where the Pelican Festival occurs. Everyone brought their own lawn chair and their own picnic basket, and we kept our social distances as we sat in a circle. We socialized and shared bird sightings. Most important of all, the "picnic" had a nice turnout, and I believe everyone was pleased that we could get together.

So I hope we have a good turnout at our upcoming meeting at the church in September, and for each month thereafter.

~~Erin

## Calendar of Events

Sept. 14 – 7 p.m., meeting at First United Methodist Church West Wing. Church requirements are that no food be served at events; only bottled water may be consumed. Sandra Sullins will present the program, "Galapagos".

Oct. 9 & 10 – Pelican Festival, Wolf Creek Park

Oct. 12 – 7 p.m., meeting at First United Methodist Church, West Wing.

Nov. 9 – 7 p.m., meeting at First Methodist Church, West Wing.

It is vital at this time to check the website for updates and changes necessary to events.

[www.grandlakeaudubonsociety.com](http://www.grandlakeaudubonsociety.com)

## 37<sup>th</sup> Pelican Festival

### **Wolf Creek Park–October 9 & 10, 2020**

**Show hours – Friday, October 9, Noon to 8 p.m.**

**Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

With approval, I registered Audubon and paid \$100.00 booth & \$25.00 electric fees. I requested the same space as last year and will ask to set up the canopy Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup>. To help with the distancing, there will be 2 exits in the back of the booth allowing us to sit on the sidewalk out of the booth. Wear MASKS please that I will supply, or wear your own. Having our schedule completed early and on our calendar would be ideal. I will not be at the September 14 meeting. Please contact me by phone with your choice of work days and time.  
*Thank you!* Willie – 918-791-0926

## [Pelican Festival Work Schedule](#)

Canopy set up – Thursday, October 8.

Booth set up – Friday, October 9, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Booth hours, Friday, October 9:

Noon to 2:30 p.m.

2:30 to 5:00 p.m.

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Booth hours, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>:

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Booth tear down 8: p.m.

Looking forward to your sign up calls, Willie Hale, 918-791-0926!

P.S. Walmart has donated a \$50.00 gift card for our raffle.

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

[www.grandlakeaudubonsociety.com](http://www.grandlakeaudubonsociety.com)

### **Chapter Only Dues**

Chapter Only dues are now due and payable to Grand Lake Audubon Society, by contacting the Treasurer, Membership Chair or mail to the GLAS post office box #451813.

### **Annual Picnic, June 18, 2020**

Thirteen was a lucky number the evening of June 8, when 13 people enjoyed the ‘brown bag picnic’ at Wolf Creek Park. Social distancing was observed.

The weather was quite enjoyable with overcast skies and a nice breeze. Stories were shared, birding was discussed and even obtaining of absentee ballots was a topic, along with catching an o’possum!

Bird sightings in the trees overhead included Barn Swallows, Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers, American Crow, Scissortail Flycatchers, Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Bluebirds, Bluejay, American Robin, and European Starlings.

Sprinkles of rain brought an end to the gathering!

## **A Trout with Feathers**

North Americas only Aquatic Songbird

American Dippers dip a lot – around 50 times per minute during courtship, feeding, and when they are excited or disturbed. They don’t, however, dip while preening.

Dippers dive for their dinner or swim or walk along the riverbed in search of insect larva, fish eggs, and fry. Adults start hunting early in the morning, delivering myriad meals to hungry chicks. Dippers build their nests on boulders, cliffs, or bridges adjacent to water, sometimes even behind waterfalls. While perching, the birds will defecate. A splatter of whitewash on a midstream rock clues that a dipper was nearby.

Female dippers choose the nest site, though the male may help construct the structure itself.



When foraging, American Dippers perch on boulders or fallen logs. The birds are named for the repetitive up-and-down bobbing motion they, and the world’s other four species of dippers, display. Dippers’ dense feathering and nostril flaps equip them to dive and swim in frigid waters.

Whatever the season, dippers require clean, fast-flowing water. Pollution and damming of waterways pose threats, as does flooding and drought, both of which climate change exacerbates.~~ Alisa Opar, *National Geographic*

### **True or False?**

- A. Leave spider webs alone—hummingbirds use the silk to securely build and anchor their nests.
- B. Black-chinned hummingbirds migrate the farthest of the North American species.
- C. During Torpor, a hummingbird may slow its metabolism by up to 95%.

(Answers on page 3)

## Tent Caterpillars

This is the time of year that tent caterpillars begin to show up in host trees. Inevitably, the public and some birders will get a bur under their blanket because they do not like the looks of them. These caterpillars are bird food and if you are going to have the moths, you have to have caterpillars. The arrival of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo and its nesting is in sync with this event. They have the specialized bill for tearing into the tents to get the caterpillars and when the caterpillar's defense tent is breached, the caterpillars are also available to other birds. Some do not like the tents but this does have a benefit to the plants as well. The large amount of fecal pellets deposited by the caterpillars makes nutrients for the trees more rapidly available versus the decomposition of leaves over a long period of time.

So when you see the tents of the Tent Caterpillars and the fall webworms, remember that these are bird food in the caterpillar and adult moth stages. They are a beneficial part of the ecological process. Be more tolerant and understanding of what you are seeing. Our birds need them and the plants do also. (6-22, 2020)~ *OKBirds*, Jerry Wayne Davis, Hot Springs, AR

## Something to think about....

1. Ibex horns weigh 33 pounds.
2. Eagle's wings are stronger pound for pound than an airplane wing.
3. People use bug lights to kill biting insects.

Research shows that bug lights do very little to eliminate mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are not attracted to ultraviolet light like other insects. Male mosquitoes are plant pollinators. The female mosquito needs blood to mature her eggs. Eliminating beneficial insects that provide food for birds bats, reptiles, amphibians and fish and is eliminating pollinators essential for the human food supply. (#3 from *OKBirds*, by Jerry W. Davis)

**Answers** (from page 2):

- A. True
- B. False
- C. True (Torpor is inactivity, lethargy)

## Tiny Birds, Big Wings

By Kelly Bostian, *Tulsa World*, July 2020

Masked bobwhite quail are a distinct subspecies of the northern bobwhite that inhabits Oklahoma and other parts of North America. It is found only in the Sonora Desert and semi-desert regions of extreme southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico.

In mid-July a group of little birds got a big lift from a volunteer pilot program. A 3-1/2 hour flight on a pressurized turboprop airplane from Bartlesville to Tucson, Arizona, means an easier start for endangered masked bobwhite quail hatched at the George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville. It beats a 22 hour drive, counting stopping every two hours to water the birds.



PHOTOARK  
JOEL LAMBONE

There were 115 chicks and three adult male quail for this trip. The next flights will have 50 to 400 birds each for a projected total of 1,200 birds this season.

## Notes

Hummingbirds seem to be abundant this summer. At least at our house where sugar seems to disappear quickly when it becomes nectar for the feeders.

Bluebirds fledged 20 birds out of our bluebird house in four clutches. They were very busy for several months!

And Baltimore Orioles have been reported to be beginning their fall migration after visiting cooler climate up north for a short while.

## Limpkin



A Limpkin was seen at Lotus Lake by Steve Metz during the summer – first record of the bird in Oklahoma!

Limpkins are large, long-legged, long necked brown birds with bright white spots and have long, slight decurved bills.

Limpkins are the only member of their taxonomic family and are closely related to rails and cranes.

Limpkins can be found in South and Central America, the Caribbean and Florida.

Their preferred habitat includes brushy and wooded freshwater swamps and marshes.

The main prey items of Limpkin are apple snails but they will also consume frogs, other mollusks and insects.

Limpkins lay 3 to 8 eggs which hatch in 27 days. Both sexes incubate and they are monogamous.

Limpkins are a Species of Special Concern in Florida due to habitat destruction and drainage of the marshes.

A group of limpkins is known as a “hobbling” of limpkins.

Limpkins can live up to 12 years.  
(Photo from Internet)

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## Monarch Butterflies

There are three other butterflies that look very similar to monarchs: soldiers, queens and viceroys.

During fall migration, they travel farther than any other tropical butterfly—up to 3,000 miles.

In order for them to fly, their wing muscles must stay above 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

The travelers flap their wings up to 12 times a second when flying at their fastest.

Male and female monarchs look very similar but males have two dark spots on their hind wings that females don't.

A female monarch in the wild can lay up to 500 eggs through her lifetime, and in captivity female butterflies are able to lay even more.

Monarch butterflies are native to North and South America, but they've spread to other warm places where milkweed grows.

No longer found in South America, monarchs in North America are divided into two main groups: The western monarchs, which breed west of the Rocky Mountains and overwinter in southern California; and the eastern monarchs, which breed in the Great Plains and Canada, and overwinter in Central Mexico.

There are also populations in Hawaii; Portugal and Spain; and Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere in Oceania.

(It is nearing time for the Monarchs to begin fall migration so watch for them.)

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