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American Goldfinch | Greg Silva

March is the time for spotting some early bird migrants who will be traveling through and to Oxley Nature Center. Try to come out and see who you can find! Some early migrants are: Fish crows, Northern Parulas, Yellow-throated warblers, Tree swallows, and Phoebe.



Our Volunteers are the Best!

Meet Jacob and Jeff!

Jacob is working towards earning his Eagle Scout rank. For his project, Jacob came out to Oxley over the weekend to install several new Eastern bluebird nest boxes for us. We had a strip of land that was lacking boxes and this project was a perfect fit. Thank you, Jacob!

Jeff is an Oxley volunteer naturalist and spent the day roving the trails, helping hikers, and picking up trash. Jeff achieved his Eagle Scout rank when he was a young adult. Jeff installed duck boxes along the lake at Oxley for his project back when he was working towards his Eagle Scout rank. Thanks Jeff!

At the end of the day, Jacob and Jeff started talking and discovered they are both from Troop 26. They also had the same scout master years apart. How incredible!

Oxley has a long history of wonderful people offering their time and skills to create and maintain great habitats and shelter for wildlife. It's so great to see this work continue from one generation to the next.



Braiding Sweetgrass Author Zoom Presentation co-sponsored by Oxley Nature Center

We are proud to co-sponsor this wonderful author event with Tulsa Community College and Magic City Books! If you haven't read "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, we highly recommend this book. Registration is now open for this special Zoom Webinar on March 21st.



During February, we used a display loaned to us by Oklahoma Blue Thumb to show the benefits of wetlands like Oxley in preventing flooding and pollution. In the picture, Lisa is doing the demonstration for a family from France. For the month, we have shown this to over 60 people.

Book Review Corner

from the *All About Nature Oxley Book Club*

PILGRIM AT TINKER CREEK by Annie Dillard
Review of February's Nature Book Club Book

..."If you cultivate a healthy poverty and simplicity, so that finding a penny will literally make your day, then, since the world is in fact planted in pennies, you have with your poverty bought a lifetime of days. It is that simple."

Dillard wrote *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* while in her twenties. It is the work of a young, well-read, keen and curious observer of the natural world with an understanding of basic biology and metaphysics, prone, as one critic said, "to fits of rapture." As such, I found the book in turns delightful, frustrating, and magical. I loved the passages where she described her treks along the creek searching for "pennies," her close observations of a praying mantis laying eggs, a giant water bug sucking the life out of a frog, the blood circulating in a fish's tail, a green heron catching minnows, a muskrat feeding close enough to her that she could have touched it, children and newts, and the young copperhead four feet away. What patience (and bravery) she demonstrated!

Her musings on *The Present* (Chapter 6) sent me reeling from her descriptions of petting a puppy, watching shadows crossing the mountains, memories of a lover, self-

ends with "The present... is the live water and light that bears from undisclosed sources the freshest news, renewed and renewing, world without end!" There is her magic.

I encourage you to read Pilgrim at Tinker Creek. You may want to skip over the flight of ideas or you may enjoy them, but I guarantee that, if you read it through, you will delight in the musings of one of our greatest nature writers. Her love and sense of wonder of the natural world will enrapture you and send you to the woods to look for "pennies" for yourself. It did that for me.



Whose tracks are these? Junior Naturalists on the trails

Mary K. Oxley Nature Center - March Programs

Saturday, March 4 - Saturday Morning Birding
8:00 - 9:45 a.m.
All ages welcome.; Free! Registration not required.
Join us for birding at Oxley. All skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Tuesday, March 7th - Full Worm Moon Walk
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
All ages welcome.; Registration required.; Cost: \$3 ONCA members, \$5 non-members.
Please bring exact change.
As the temperatures rise, the earth softens and worms emerge from the soil, heralding the return of birds, which will feed on them. The Osage call this moon "Just-Doing-That-Moon" because of the uncertainty and restlessness of early spring. Join us for a magical walk along the moonlit trails! Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.

Monday, March 13 - Oxley Seedlings
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Ages: 1-5 + caregiver; Registration is required.; Free for ONCA members/ \$5 for nonmembers
This month marks the beginning of spring. We will go on a walk to listen for birds calling and singing love songs to each other and make a sweet spring-themed craft.

Saturday, March 18 - Wildflower Walk
10:30 a.m. - noon
All ages welcome.; Free! Registration not required.
Spring is showing up in a variety of places. Plum and cherry trees sprout flowers, while at ground level the little wildflowers are blooming. They are hurrying to complete their purpose before the tree leaves take the sunlight.

Friday, March 24 - All About Nature Book Club
Ages: Adult; 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.
Join us for a discussion of books related to nature, conservation, and the environment. March's selection: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Please bring your own book (book club titles are also available for purchase in the nature center gift store).





Eastern Bluebirds investigating a nest box | Bryan Tapp

OXLEY NATURE CENTER HOURS

Please note: Beginning March 20th, Oxley Nature Center will be closed on Mondays.

10-4:30PM Tuesday through Saturday

Noon - 4:30PM on Sunday



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