



NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry– Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2011-2013

President:

Meagan Duffee

Vice President:

Martha Price

Secretary

Barb Robins

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

Newsletter Editor

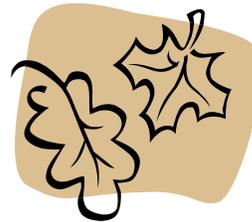
Cindy Ford

cford@pittstate.edu

September 2011

VOLUME 2011 ISSUE 6

Get Outdoors this Fall for Good Birding



Field trips are free, and people of any age or level of experience are welcome to participate. In the event of inclement weather, please contact the fieldtrip chairman, Carolyn Chips, at toto68@ckt.net or 620-249-7348 to see if the trip has been changed or canceled. Any trip may involve walking on dirt and/or paved trails, but some trips will be more strenuous than others. Carolyn can advise you of the amount of physical activity involved. For all field trips, bring comfortable footwear, binoculars, water, snacks, sunscreen, and FRS radios, if you have them. Remember, you don't have to be an expert to go birding and have fun with Sperry-Galligar Audubon!

August 27, 2011: Early fall migrants. Neosho Wildlife Area, St. Paul, KS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Highway Inn in Girard to carpool to the east gate of the NWA on Wallace Road. Return to Highway Inn by 10:30 a.m. for breakfast. Mostly driving tour but a little walking also.

September 11, 2011: A Swift Night Out. Meet at 8:00 p.m. at Braum's in Pittsburg for ice cream. We will then disperse to various locations to count the swifts as they enter the chimneys to roost.

October 1, 2011: Later Fall migrants and early winter residents. SEK Nature Center, Galena, KS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at North McDonald's, 3008 N. Broadway, Pittsburg, for breakfast. Leave by 7:30 a.m. for trip to Galena. Driving and walking involved, but it is possible to remain at the nature center while the rest of the group walks some of the trails.

October 29, 2011: Wetland restoration. Jim & Sherri Hughes farm, Cherokee, KS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Applebee's, 2802 N. Broadway, Pittsburg, to travel to the Hughes farm on west Highway 126 to view restored wetlands and native grasses on his property. Mostly walking tour.

November 12, 2011: Owls, Longspurs & water birds. Lyon, Coffey, & Osage Counties. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Applebee's in Pittsburg. Carpool to Melvern Lake, Lyon Co. Lake and John Redmond Lake to see shorebirds, water birds, long-eared owls, and Smith's longspurs (possible greater prairie chickens). Bring sack lunch and drinks. This will be an all day outing as it is a 2 hour drive to get there, but it is well worth the drive to see some unusual species. Driving and walking tour. May be coordinated with Burroughs Audubon out of Kansas City.

December 2011: Various Christmas bird counts. Neosho County\Parsons & Cherokee County in Kansas, and Joplin & Prairie State Park in Missouri. Dates to be announced.

Calendar of Meetings

Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

Sept 26: *Archeology* by Dean Stites, Agric. Agent, Crawford Co., KS

Oct 27: *Amazon Adventure* by Delia Lister, Director, PSU Nature Reach, Pittsburg, KS

Dec 1: *Dog Agility is a Team Event* by Bethany Schifferdecker, Bone Creek 4-H Club, Girard, KS

Board Meeting Highlights Barb Robins, Secretary

Attending: Mavis Benner, Meagan Duffee, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Martha Price, Barb Robins.

Committee Reports:

President (Meagan): Called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Past President (Delia): She received good reports from parents and the children who attended the summer camp in July. The golden eagle at the Milford Nature Center in all probability will not be releasable, but Delia will keep in contact.

Vice President (Martha): She has scheduled all programs for the year except January, which is tentative.

Bob will post the programs on the SGAS website.

Speaking for the absent Chipses, Martha announced that our next field trip will be Saturday at the Neosho Wildlife Refuge.

Treasurer (Liz): She distributed copies of her annual report and announced that we have \$3,291.42 in checking and \$6,238.12 in two CDs.

Secretary (Barb): She has duly recorded and distributed minutes for each meeting.

Membership (Diane): There are 113 members in the national organization and 41 in the local chapter.

Publicity (Bob): He has performed his usual duties: notifying the media, mailing the newsletter, maintaining the website and PO box, collecting bluebird trail data, awarding pins and certificates, and taking photos at meetings and events.

Conservation (Steve): Last year, he led the investigation of the recycling center land for potential nature trails, but the project had to be scrapped due to the hazards of railroad lines through the property.

Newsletter (Cindy): She began distributing the e-mail newsletter in April; we possibly need to work on the method of e-distribution. She needs material for the next issue.

Website (Bob): He has investigated possibilities and is going to try a new location. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and approved that we will pay for and try Blue Host for one month to see if it works to our satisfaction; we will subscribe to it for a year if it does.

Refreshments: We will ask Carol to provide them again this year.

Meeting Time and Place: We will continue with the same times and places: general, last Thursday of the month in Yates Hall 102 at 7:00 p.m.; board, 3rd floor of Heckert Wells immediately before at 5:45 pm.

Bird Seed Sale (Bob): Sunflower seed prices have skyrocketed. We will rent a truck again, and Delia will book space in the mall for the first Saturday in December.

From my Nest Meagan Duffee, President



As your new president I would like to introduce myself to those who may not know who I am. I am a 24-year-old senior attending Pittsburg State with a major in biology, an emphasis in Pre-Fisheries and Wildlife. After this semester I will have my Bachelor's Degree and am thinking about working on my Master's. I am from Dallas, TX. I graduated in 2005 and went to Cottey College for my first two years. I had heard great things about PSU and decided to get my Bachelor's from here. I love it! Many of you may know me from working with the raptors at Nature Reach. My main job is to feed and train our birds and get them ready to go for our educational programs. There is no better job! In my free time I love to watch movies with my boyfriend of 6 years, Eric Yates. We have two cats, Katie (pronounced Katie) and Alex. I am also a four year falconer, hunting with both a red-tailed hawk named Autumn and a little female kestrel named Annie. I have been an avid birder now for about four years, though I still have A LOT of learning to do. I look forward to serving as your new president and know that it is going to be a great year!

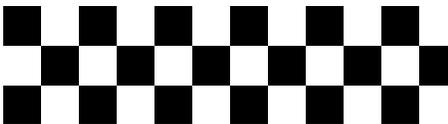


Photo Contest (Steve): Submissions decreased dramatically last year; should we try it again?

After discussion, we decided to try instead encouraging members to e-mail photos to Cindy, who will place an "editor's choice" feature in each issue.

Community Project: Chimney Swift Tower (Mavis): Discussion ensued concerning possibilities of acquiring grants and building a tower in a location to be determined. Meagan will gather grant information and possibly appoint a committee.

Spring Picnic Location: We'll have it again at the Homer Cole Center; Bob will book it.

Other

Memberships Through National Audubon

(Bob): Since our local chapter doesn't get a percentage of dues for national memberships (except for new members), we decided to change the information in the newsletter to urge current members to send their national dues directly to the organization, and to have our new members submit directly to us.

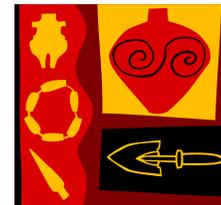
September Featured Speaker: Dean Stites

They Walked the Land Before Us

Dean Stites, Agricultural Agent for the newly formed Wildcat Extension District - Crawford County, will be the program presenter for our September meeting.

Native Americans lived in Crawford county for well over 10,000 years. During this time they made tools from chert, granite, sandstone and bone. These tools are, for the most part, the only evidence left showing that they were ever here. Dean will talk about these native Americans and show some of the tools they used to survive in the American wilderness.

The public is invited to attend this September 29, 2011 meeting of Sperry-Galligar Audubon to learn more about native Americans who walked across Crawford County thousands of years ago. Meeting will start at 7:00 p.m., Yates Hall, PSU. Refreshments will be served and Door Prize awarded.



Financial Statement Liz Mangile, Treasurer

September, 2011

Beginning Balance----- \$3484.53

Credits

Local Dues 75.00
Local Dues, 1 shirt & donation 35.00
Direct Deposit from National 40.01

Debits

Newsletter \$ 18.46
Photo Contest 65.00
Food for Picnic 78.16
P.O. Box Rental (1 year) 70.00
Bird Pins 111.00
Homer Cole Rental for Picnic 60.00
Refreshments for Meetings 27.32

Total----- \$ 429.94

Ending balance----- \$3204.60

** Critter Connections by Bob Mangile **

As I approached my pigeon cage for the morning check-up in early August a full-grown ornate box turtle, *Terrapena ornata*, was on the walkway all drawn into its shell. So I found a mealworm - which is the larva of a darkling beetle - under a water crock where they usually gather in numbers, and dropped it in front of the turtle. The mealworm remained idle for a few seconds and then began to crawl away. That was too much temptation for the turtle and she stuck out her head and grabbed the larva. (The turtle's dark eyes indicated she was a female - males have red eyes.) With some patience on my part she became increasingly brave and ate several mealworms before we parted company. The next day she was on the walk again so I offered her more mealworms, which she readily accepted without much hesitation. And we parted company.

By now the reader is probably anticipating that she would be there again on the third morning - and she was! And she ate more mealworms, but was reluctant to take them from my fingers but snapped them up the moment I dropped them in front of her. And so the saga continued for weeks. Every morning she was on the walkway waiting for breakfast! She eventually started taking the larva from my fingertips and even ate them while resting in my lap. She was getting her hooks in me pretty good!

I could never spend enough time trying to figure out where she stayed but one morning I patiently followed her at some distance away and learned she crossed the chick-tight fence and went into my neighbor's field of high weeds. She struggled to get through the narrow wires at the bottom of the fence, trying to get through in various places but apparently she had been doing that all along. After learning where she lived I would go out in the morning and wait for her and reminiscent of an old western movie she would appear on the horizon - moving at a turtle's pace in my direction, stopping periodically to stretch her neck upwards and look around. When she saw me she would increase the tempo a bit and approach in anticipation of breakfast. By now she had acquired the name "Boxie" and has become a member of the family. I refuse to leave the premises until Boxie gets her breakfast. It saddens me to think that one day she will fail to appear for breakfast but it will eventually happen. (Box turtles can live up to 30+ years.)



2011 Summer Camp Fun for Local Youth

Once again, the Nature Reach and Sperry-Galligar Audubon Summer Day Camp was a big success! All ten campers braved the heat every day to chase insects, look at animal scat, take a "herp" hike, look at birds, and many other exciting activities. These third graders proved to be great budding naturalists, and many have already requested a camp for next year.

Thanks again to all of my helpers for the week: Bob & Liz Mangile, Emmett Sullivan, Sally Imhof and grandson, Meagan Duffee, and Johnna Foster.

Delia Lister
Nature Reach



A Good Feeder Watch Season

This fall and winter may be an especially good "feeder watch" season. I am just guessing but I would imagine that the very warm summer may not have been so good for the wild food crop for birds. I have not read any data on this; it is just my guess. I do recall that the very warm and dry summer of either 1981 or '82 was followed by the feeders being very busy that winter. For example it was a pine siskin invasion that winter.

I feed just black oil sunflower seed and also thistle seed. I have a hopper-style feeder and also a tray on the ground with a roof for the sunflower seed. I have a couple of nyger seed feeder tubes for the thistle seed. I also have a couple of shallow concrete bird baths. One is on a three-foot pedestal and the other is right beside it on the ground. Often—both in the winter and summer—there is just as much activity at the bird baths as there is at the feeders!

And don't forget the hummingbirds. I keep a couple of hummingbird feeders out until the first hard freeze in January. Joplin has enjoyed three hummingbird winter visitors that I know of, in the 22 years that we have lived here.

If you enjoy feeding birds and come up with a rarity then please e-mail me. We'll talk birds.

Lawrence Herbert
certhiaATatt.net

Bird Sightings



With the heat of summer letting up, birds have begun to be active again. Watch for fall migrations to begin soon.

.....
Active birds include:

Hummingbirds
Visiting flowers before migration
Shorebirds
Feeding in marshes
Raptors
Calling at night
Chimney swifts
Swooping into chimneys
"Blackbirds"
Gathering in their huge fall flocks
Turkey vultures
Catching the thermals
American goldfinches
Grabbing sunflower seeds

Send your newsletter articles, bird sightings, and nature notes to C. Ford by Oct 10.

**Application for Membership
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society**

For first-time membership, send \$20.00 and you will become a member of both organizations, receive 4 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and the Sperry-Galligar Newsletter. *Please make your check to: National Audubon Society*

To renew your membership, send \$15.00 and you will become a member of Sperry-Galligar Audubon and receive the regular 8 newsletters per year informing you of all our local activities. *Please make your check to: Sperry-Galligar Audubon*

Renewals: Contact National directly for Audubon Magazine.

Mail to:

**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
P.O. Box 205
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-0205**

- YES I wish to become a FIRST-TIME member of both organizations (\$20.00).
- YES I wish to become a RENEWING member of the local chapter (\$15.00).

Name _____

Please Print

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Chapter Code: C I Z J 1 0 0 Z



New Sperry-Galligar Web Site

<http://sperry-galligar.com>

Make note of our new website for the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter. Thank you, Bob, for setting up our new site and for providing all of the information for us.

Cookie Hostess Needed

Thank you so much, Carol Newcomb, for setting beautiful tables of food for the meetings each month! We have enjoyed all of your efforts.

Carol is stepping out of this job, so we are looking for a another person to coordinate the refreshments for each meeting. You will be reimbursed for the purchases. Please contact one of the officers if you are interested in helping out.

Want the Newsletter in Color?

The newsletter can be sent to you by e-mail and in color. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting. The Xeroxed black-and-white copy of the newsletter will still be printed and sent to you, unless you indicate otherwise.

Looking to Increase our Membership

Invite a friend to attend our interesting meetings. Encourage someone to join the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter.



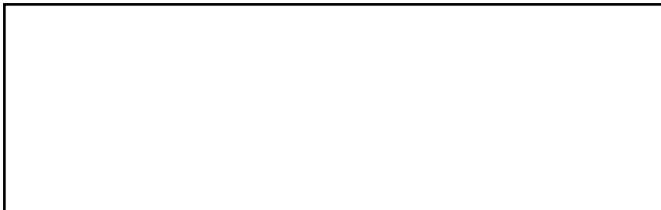
**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
Newsletter
P.O. Box 205
Pittsburg, KS 66762**

Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month. No meetings in June July, or August. (Nov/Dec meeting date to be announced) From 7:00 pm to 9 pm, in Room 102, Yates Hall. PSU Campus, Pittsburg, KS. Refreshments served and Guests Welcome.



Visit our website:

<http://sperry-galligar.com>



Attention All Members

If this box is checked, our records indicate that your membership has expired. Please consider paying local membership dues. Our chapter receives 100% of the local dues only. HOWEVER, you can subscribe to both. Either way you get the newsletter.

