

# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2011-2013

**President:**

Meagan Duffee

**Vice President:**

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**Secretary**

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Liz Mangile

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October 2011

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## Opportunities for Involvement Southeast Kansas Nature Center

Long-time Sperry-Galligar Audubon friend, Linda Phipps, is asking for assistance with the beautiful nature center south of Galena. You will be helping greatly—AND—you will have fun!

### Did you know...

65% of all people volunteer because someone asked them? Well I am now asking... I need your help. I know many of you and know how busy you are. If you can't help at this time or if you are already helping perhaps you know someone else that would be interested. The best volunteers are the ones recommended by other volunteers.

### The Southeast Kansas Nature Center is now recruiting volunteers to be:

#### Center workers-We need help with the following things:

Greeting visitors and answering questions, answering phone and taking messages, helping to organize school programs and events, paper work and record keeping and more. You wouldn't be asked to do all of the above. Pick one or two things and jump in. It is fun! This would be on a regular schedule, perhaps once a week, once a month or for special occasions.

#### Program presenters:

People that would be willing to present a program on a particular subject in nature, environmental issues or even historical facts about our area. You don't have to be a "professional." We are looking for people who loves nature and would like to share what they know with others. This could be an open to the public setting or with special groups or school classes.

#### Center and trail maintenance:

Often there are things in and around the Nature Center and trails that need to be taken care of. Some of these things include: changing light bulbs, cleaning floors and windows, painting, tending outdoor plants and pond maintenance.

The trails need to be monitored. Sometimes a problem will arise with a trail such as logs across the trail, tall weeds, etc. We need someone to take care of the problem or arrange for it to be taken care of. Again, these jobs would need to be managed on a regular basis...Once a week, once a month or even just every other month.

If you see something on this list that you would like to help with please give me a call. If you see something that you think a friend or relative would be great at please give them a call.

**Linda Phipps**  
Southeast Kansas Nature Center  
(417) 439-3234



Photo by Linda Baker

### Calendar of Meetings

Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**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

More great programs to come in the new year!!

## Board Meeting Highlights Barb Robins, Secretary

**Meagan Duffee:** New refreshments host-ess needed; pot luck reception at Christmas.

**Carolyn Chips:** Reported on field trips  
**Delia Lister:** Westar building cages

11/18. Please volunteer to provide food.

**Cindy Ford:** e-newsletter option more

colorful. A sign-up sheet will be offered.

**Liz Mangile:** Checking account balance of \$3,144.99. Renewed one CD for two years.

**Bob Mangile/Delia Lister:** Reserved mall for bird seed sale; purchased suet cakes.

## Catch the October Program:

If you have ever wondered what it was like to take a trip down the Amazon River then this is the program for you! There will be a little bit of something for everyone.....medicinal plants, rainforest wildlife, and everyday life and culture of the people living along the river. Delia Lister will take you on an arm-chair trip to the Amazon!



## Financial Statement Liz Mangile, Treasurer

### September, 2011

Beginning Balance----- \$3204.60

#### Credits

Local Dues 105.00  
Bird pins sold to Joplin Audubon 73.00

Total..... \$ 178.00

#### Debits

Newsletter \$ 18.21  
Stamps for Newsletter 114.40  
Labels for Newsletter 8.14  
Door Prizes for Year 38.75  
Suet Cakes for Feed Sale 33.12  
Website 83.40

Total----- \$ 296.02

Ending balance----- \$3086.58

## From my Nest Meagan Duffee, President

I am writing this in excitement as fall is officially here! The leaves are turning their bright, beautiful colors and its fun to walk through the woods with my hawk and enjoy the cool autumn air. With autumn comes fall migration of bird species of all kinds. I have been spotting large flocks of Canada geese over head, and have seen several flocks of dykes to plowed corn fields to reveal a lone male Ruby-throated hummingbird that is still at my feeder, but I assume he will be gone soon enough. Large flocks of red-winged black birds are beginning to make their way through the open fields and the starlings are starting to come out in droves. With the arrival of autumn comes a great time to view wildlife and provides a great time for birding.

Speaking of migration and birding, keep your eyes open for the opportunity to spot a bird wearing a federal bird band. These bands are seamless and are metal, with a series of numbers and sometimes letters. The birds that are more than likely to be spotted sporting these pieces of "jewelry" are usually birds of prey. Federal bands are a great help in studying migration habits of all bird species. Information is gathered on the bird when trapped, information regarding: sex, age (if known), location of where trapped, weight, species, and the bander. This information is put into the federal system which is then available to any person who finds a band or who spots a bird with a band. It is of great importance to turn in band information, it gives researchers valuable information about migration and the length a bird can live. Major airports also band birds of prey and re-locate, to help keep wildlife off of runways and prevent an accident. A friend of mine recently trapped a passage (juvenile) red-tailed hawk who was sporting a black and yellow band with "MO 452" on it. Turns out this bird was trapped in Chicago and relocated to Missouri. The study is being done to see what percentage of birds return back to the airport and at what distance they traveled back. Banding is of great help to everyone and is fun to spot. I spotted a swan two years again with a red neck band. Turned out he was 8 years old! Enjoy the outdoors and keep your eyes open.

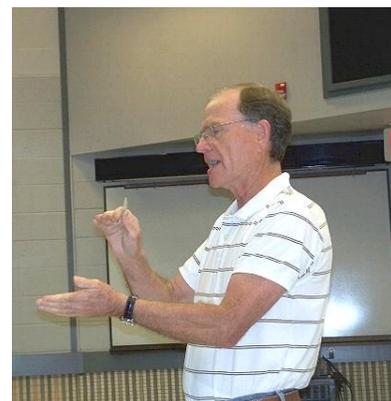
## September Featured Speaker: Dean Stites

Most local residents are unaware that their corner of the state has been inhabited by humans for almost 15,000 years. Dean Stites, Agricultural Agent for the new Wildcat Extension District, proceeded to illuminate us on that fact and many other concerning native Americans who lived, hunted, and cultivated crops here. The only information left to us about them is in the durable relics remaining—spear and arrow points, bones, seeds, and pottery shards. Dean was captivated by the science of archaeology at the age of six or seven when his father would point out pieces he spotted while driving the tractor. Although Dean is considered an amateur collector, he has always taken care to document his findings in a professional manner and has been approached by the Kansas State Historical Society to donate his collection.

Dean led us through the centuries of pre-historic humans hunting big game (now extinct), then bison, and later gathering and farming. Spear points changed with the prey hunted and by contact with other peoples; and he showed us different eras of points he has found, including the rare 13,000-year-old Clovis point. We saw examples made from materials that were traded and brought here and atlatl reproductions he and his son have made.

When agriculture appeared ca. 500-1,000 A.D., the people became less nomadic and more sedentary, and pottery was made until contact with the Europeans in the 1500s.

Many of us from now on will keep our heads down when walking in fields and streambeds.



**DOOR PRIZE WINNER**  
A. O. Brown won suet cakes.

## **\*\* Critter Connections by Bob Mangile \*\***

It was March 2011 when Liz summoned me to look at an injured Fox Squirrel at the base of our Basswood tree. She had apparently had her back legs crushed by an automobile and was unable to get to her nest of babies that were in the Wood Duck box. So with her demise Liz made it clear that I was to inspect the nest box and check on her babies. The three young males in the box had their eyes open so I allowed them to stay, hoping they were old enough to fend for themselves. Four days later, after a cold snowy night, a young squirrel walked across our drive, over my shoe and into our garage. Again, I received orders to find the squirrel in the garage, which I did, and then retrieved the other two from the Wood Duck box. So now we are stuck with hungry babies - something had to be done. Using an old barrel syringe with a plastic tube extension we started feeding the young canned milk. They ate several times a day and were kept in a grass filled box on the back porch. As they grew older they were moved to a larger wire cage in the garage. It had a wooden nest box full of hay and they soon accepted the new accommodations.

By mid April they were eating sunflower seeds and getting feisty. Planning for their release we moved the wire cage close to a large tree near our house that had offered hiding places in its cavities. After a couple days the door was opened and with some trepidation they were out of the cage and on the tree. They never returned to sleep in the box but they always came down for a dish of sunflower seeds. They acclimated to being wild in good fashion but still came around for some handouts. About mid summer I found a dead squirrel out back and felt that it was one of the three. It wasn't dismembered or injured so I made a guess that it was West Nile Virus that killed it.

Jump forward to 2011 – the two remaining squirrels survived the snow and cold of winter on bird feeder rations, hedge balls (fruit of the Osage Orange tree) and acorns. As of September 2011 they are still roaming the back yard. One male, I call Moochie, approaches me for handouts from time to time when he can't find much to eat. I carry pecans in my pocket so I will be ready when he comes begging! Other times he when sees me out back he will pause and study my attitude to see if I'm paying attention to him. When I call him he will wobble towards me like a drunken sailor and stand on his hind legs, or he will hop on the tree nearest to me and lean towards me waiting for a pecan. He gently takes the offering from my fingertips and climbs on a limb or hangs upside down on the trunk to eat the nut, then returns for another - usually three is the limit! The other male is tame and will take food from my hand but not as readily as Moochie. (See photo below.)

## **West Star Green Team to Build Raptor Pens**

Nature Reach is once again happy to announce that Westar Energy's Green Team has agreed to help build another set of raptor enclosures at the Natural History Reserve. On Saturday, November 19, a group of volunteers from Westar will bring supplies, tools, and some muscle to build an enclosure that will eventually house an eagle as well as our newest bird, a female barn owl. Nature Reach is looking for volunteers to help with the build as well as help prepare a hamburger/hot dog lunch for the volunteers. I will be sending around a signup sheet at the October meeting for those that are interested in either building, cooking and/or eating. If it is anything like our last build in 2007, a good time will be had by all!



Brad Loveless and Jim Triplett working on raptor cages in 2008.

## **Field Trip to Southeast Kansas Nature Center**

On Saturday, October 1st, Mavis, Donna, Martha, Bob, Liz, Charlie, and Carolyn met at the North McDonald's for breakfast, then carpooled to the SEK Nature Center in Galena. Just south of Quincy on the bypass, we were treated to a fly-over of 2 pileated woodpeckers. We also stopped at Empire Lake south of Riverton to view several species, including least sandpipers, ring-billed gulls, and double-crested cormorants. After meeting Diane and Emmett at the center, we walked several trails and watched quite a few red-headed woodpeckers frolicking in the trees. A walk along Shoal Creek provided a pair of belted kingfishers, osprey, bald eagle, and first-of-season pair of pied-billed grebes. Also viewed were two species of turtles: a red-eared slider and a Missouri river cooter. After viewing the exhibits in the Nature Center and watching the antics of the gray squirrels and eastern chipmunks through the one-way window at the feeding station, we reluctantly departed for home. Approximately 40 species of birds were seen

## **Sightings .....**



### *A Sight to See*

*A' paddlin' through the cypress knees  
What you 'sposin' Delia sees?  
Ol' otter, skinny as you please.  
(You just don't see a lot of these.)*

*The otter spotter sees that he's  
A' fishin' (as he otter be's)  
But watchin' not his Q's and P's,  
Not seein' see-ers in the trees.*

Steve Ford

.....  
Last Sunday, Delia Lister was lucky enough to see a river otter while kayaking at the PSU Natural History Reserve. The animal swam quite close to her kayak so that she could get a good look at it. This is the first sighting here, but otters are becoming more common throughout the local strip pits.



**Send your newsletter articles, bird sightings, and nature notes to C. Ford by Nov 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



**Chapter Field Trip Calendar**

October 22, 2011: Wilderness Park, Frontenac. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Wilderness Park, West McKay, Frontenac, KS. 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. Coordinated with Kansas City Burroughs Audubon chapter.

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

January 28, 2012: Wildcat Glades Nature Center. Joplin, MO. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at North McDonald's, 3008 N. Broadway in Pittsburg for breakfast. Leave by 8:00 to carpool to the nature center and chert glades. Driving and walking tour, but it is possible to remain in the nature while the rest of the group walks some of the trails.

February 25, 2012: Ponds & Pits of Crawford County. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Applebee's, 2802 N. Broadway in Pittsburg, then travel to various locations to view migrating water birds, raptors, and winter residents. Mostly driving tour. If the weather cooperates, we will once again try to view the Jim Hughes wetland restoration on this same trip.



**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.

