



NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry– Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2011-2013

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Barb Robins

Treasurer

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April 2012

VOLUME 2012 ISSUE 4

Spring Serendipity

Animal Activity



Animals are at their best in spring.



N. Parula warbler



Prothonotary warbler

Many of us are enjoying the arrival of spring migratory birds...



Bob Mangile tempts his squirrel, Moochie, again this year with a tidbit...

...while Liz Mangile is watching eagles swim. (You can too by tuning into this youtube address.)

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/87xNpOYOIQ4?rel=0>

Steve Ford is musing about moles...

CREDIT DUE

While swans and swallows seek their soul
Where suns and rainbows roam,
For Mole a black embracing hole
Of loam is Heaven's home.

Such righteous form and function, he's
An agile powder puff,
With arms to please a Hercules—
So velvet, yet so buff!

For beauty high we search the skies
For swallows, swans, and dove;
Yet 'neath our soles in holes there lies
A mole a'wanting love.



Will the ospreys choose our Bone Creek Reservoir Audubon nest platform this year???

We would like to see something like the photo below...



Where are the hummers?



April Presentation
Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

Apr 26: Mike Davis, Ozark Gateway Audubon, Joplin

Mike is a Missouri Master Naturalist who will use photo images of birds combined with field guides and other ID information to present birds to viewers.

THANKS FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES!

**Board Meeting Highlights
Barb Robins, Secretary**

Attending: Mavis Benner, Carolyn & Charles Chips, Meagan Duffee, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Martha Price, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$3,802.80
Programs (Martha): Next month will be "Identifying the Birds Around You" by Mike Davis.

Field Trips (Emmett): There is no heron rookery at the site this year; we'll cancel Saturday's foray.

Nature Reach Bike Ride (Delia): On April 28, you may ride to the Reserve with others. Registration is at 9:00.

Coins in the Mall (Delia): All coins thrown in the mall fountain in April will go to Nature Reach.

Snowy Owl Taxidermy (Meagan): It has been determined that \$300 is a good price. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we donate \$300 to Linda Phipps to get the owl stuffed for SEK Nature Center display.

Picnic (Liz): She will hand around a sidesignup sheet tonight and at the next meeting. The picnic will be from 6:00 to 9:00.

National Audubon E-mails (Diane): She has been receiving these, urging support of bird-friendly wind farms. National Audubon will send a letter to the Department of Interior urging them to make certain that guidelines are followed. Does our chapter want to express support of NA's position? Everyone agreed that we do.

Diane will send an e-mail to NA.

**Financial Statement
Liz Mangile, Treasurer**

April 2012

Beginning Balance----- \$3803.16

Credits

Local Dues 106.25
 Total..... \$ 106.25

Debits

Newsletter \$ 15.36
 Year Coffee Supplies 14.45
 Taxidermy for snowy owl 300.00
 Total..... \$ 329.81

Ending balance----- \$3579.60

**From my Nest
Meagan Duffee, President**



See you at the April meeting.



**March Featured Speaker:
Sean Lynott**



Is yew or Osage orange the best wood for making a longbow? It depends on your country of origin, said Sean Lynott in his presentation on archery and the making of bows. Sean is the KDWP's regional fisheries supervisor in Chanute and has made bow construction and shooting his hobby for twenty years.

Sean's historical introduction was fascinating and surprising to many that humans have been making bows for almost 100,000 years. Although the bow's origin is uncertain, it appears to have begun in Africa and either spread to other continents or was invented coincidentally in many regions. The best-known masters of the bow were the English, who used their native yew, and the American Indians, using the locally-available Osage orange.

Sean makes his bows of Osage orange and was inspired by an 1878 publication, Maurice Thompson's "Witchery of Archery". He uses simple hand tools to create and shape a bow, and he explained how only certain pieces of wood following a single growth ring of the tree will work. All the steps involved in building and stringing a bow were given, and Sean's presentation sparked many questions afterward.



The cedar wren house was won by Mavis Benner.

Painted Turtles

Since moving to our current residence some 30+ years ago I've observed Painted Turtles, (*Chrysemys picta*), laying eggs near our little pond - which usually begins during the end of May. But only in the past several years have I marked where the eggs were laid and covered the nest with a wire box that is weighted down with a few bricks. If not weighted down properly night prowling critters, e.g., raccoons will turn over the wire box and dig up the eggs. Some literature states that the



eggs hatch and emerge in the fall but some late hatchlings remain in the ground until spring. In my observations I've never seen babies emerge from the nest! Assuming that they remained in the nest through the winter, about four inches below the surface, I decided to dig up a nest in October. And to my surprise I found new hatchling baby turtles encrusted in soil just below the surface. (See photos)

So now one might ask, don't they freeze during the winter? Well... yes, and no! Rather than to fall in error describing how they survive the winter I've taken the following information from this web site <http://www.sbaa.ca/projects.asp?cn=316>



“Even though Painted Turtles hatch from their egg in September, the turtle hatchlings do not emerge from the nest until the following spring. Baby Painted Turtles do not head to the water and spend the winter at the bottom of ponds as other young turtles do. Instead, they "freeze solid" withstanding temperatures as cold as -10°C [14 degrees Fahrenheit] under the layer of sand and snow. A special protein produced by the turtle's liver allows ice crystal to develop in a uniform manner within the baby turtle's body. They also produce natural antifreeze that prevents the cells from freezing and becoming damaged. Thus, only the water out outside of the cells is actually frozen.” “While in this frozen state baby turtles show no sign of muscle movement, no heartbeat, and no blood flow.”

So now you might ask, what did you do with the babies that were dug up? Well, rather than returning them to the nest and risk their demise I buried them in a bucket with some soil and put them in the coldest corner of my basement at a temperature of about 50 degrees. Through the winter I kept the soil moisten as they awaited their usual spring emergence and ready for the water.

Have you gotten your fill of spring morels?



Remember to renew your Sperry-Galligar Chapter dues.

Sightings



Compare the three species of doves that can show up in your backyard. Note the differences in markings.



Mourning dove



White-winged dove



Eurasian collared dove

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

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

For first-time local membership, send \$20.00 and you will become a member of both organizations, receive 4 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and 8 copies of Sperry-Galligar Newsletter. *Please make your check to: National Audubon Society.*

____ *YES I wish to become a FIRST-TIME member of both organizations (\$20.00).*

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*

____ *YES I wish to become a RENEWING member of the local chapter (\$15.00).*

Future National Renewals: Contact National directly for Audubon Magazine.

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

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Chapter Code: C2ZJ10OZ



Chapter Field Trip Calendar

April 28, 2012: Warblers & Spring Migrants, Roaring River State Park, MO. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Applebees in Pittsburg to carpool to Roaring River to see spring warbler varieties and other spring migrants such as scarlet tanager, painted buntings, etc. Driving and walking tour. Habitat is such that one can find a picnic table and just sit and watch for species or take one of the many hiking trails over the hills of the park and look down on species. This will be an all day trip as it is about two hours to the park. Bring snacks, lunch and dress accordingly.

May 12, 2012: Restored Prairie Habitat, Max Good property, Parsons, KS Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Applebees in Pittsburg to carpool to Parsons to view various native flowers, grasses, insects, birds, & trees in a native prairie restoration project.

Summer, 2012: No official field trips scheduled.

Annual Sperry-Galligar Picnic

The annual SGAS picnic will be held May 31st from 6 to 9PM at The Homer Cole Community Center, 3003 North Joplin Street Pittsburg, Ks. The speakers for the night will be Steve and Margaret Hoyle who will tell us about their trip to New Zealand.

The club will furnish fried chicken, ice tea and coffee. Bring your own table service and we are asking each family to bring a vegetable, dessert, or salad. Please contact Liz Mangile with how many are attending and what dish they are bringing.

Liz can be reached at 620-231-3117 or on line lawnmowerliz@cox.net.

Please come. We always have a great time!

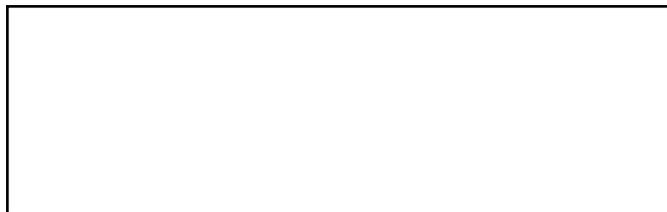


**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
Newsletter
P.O. Box 205
Pittsburg, KS 66762**

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.

