



# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry– Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2011-2013

**President:**

Meagan Duffee

**Vice President:**

Mavis Benner

**Secretary**

Barb Robins

**Treasurer**

Liz Mangile

**Newsletter Editor**

Cindy Ford

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October 2012

VOLUME 2012 ISSUE 7

## CHASING A BOOBY!

Martha Price

Wednesday, August 15, 6:00 a.m. - still dark. Charlie & Carolyn Chips picked up Martha Price and left Girard for Pittsburg. Liz Mangle was waiting on her back porch at 6:16 p.m. We were on our way. It had been reported there was a rare sighting of a Brown Booby in Arkansas. WHAT??? This is a sea bird rarely coming ashore. What is it doing in the middle of the United States? Nobody has the answer but a lot of speculation is floating around. It has been confirmed to be a female Brown Booby. We had to go see it. No second opportunity on this bird!

Our group met Dave and Martha Evans of Vian OK, friends of the Chips, at Ft. Smith AR and the journey continued. We arrived at Lake Norrel, Alexander AR, west of Little Rock. Jamie Peach on her pontoon boat picked up the group at 12:30 p.m. Our search was coming to a conclusion. The day was bright and temperature ideal for a calm boat ride a short way up the lake to the boat dock of Scott Selmela and there she, "Ralph", was sitting under the dock roof. A beautiful 30" tall brown gray bird with white face, yellow bill, legs and feet and the deepest of blue eyes.

The group docked and positioned to take pictures. Two other couples and the news crew from Channel 7 Little Rock were on the scene also. Unexpectedly we became news story cast members as we boated around to get a look at Ralph. At the start of the day we had no idea we would end up on TV. Ralph was the star of the day, walking around rafters, preening and watching us watching her. Then she flew off on those 60" wings over the lake, dove in and came up with an afternoon snack. What a bird! It was well worth the trip. Also flying around the dock was a Rufous Hummingbird who was a life list-er for some of the group. We said good-bye to our dock hosts and pontoon driver and headed home; it was 2:00 p.m. After supper near Ft. Smith we said good-bye to the Evans' and headed on home. End of the journey back in Girard at 9:30 p.m. - it's dark again. This was not our Big Day of birding but our Big Day of traveling to see ONE bird: 650 miles and 16 hours but it was all worth it – a great Big Day!

Along our journey we also saw the following birds: Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Starling, Common Grackle, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Pigeon, Common Crow, Cattle Egret, Canada Geese, Turkey, Red-shouldered hawk, Barn Swallow, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Great Egret, Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned hawk, Peregrine Falcon, ?? Ducks, Carolina chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, House Sparrow, Eurasian Collared Dove, House Finch, Eastern Kingbird, Chimney Swift, plus the Rufous Hummingbird and Brown Booby. A total of 30; not bad when going for one.



### October Meeting 7:00 p.m. Presentation

October 25 — "Wild Places of Southern and Eastern Africa: A Photography Safari of Mammals and Birds"

The program will be presented by Ellen and Rod Sallee of Neosho, MO.

To receive e-newsletter:  
send your e-mail address to  
Cindy Ford, Editor.

THANKS  
FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES!

**Board Meeting Highlights**  
**Barb Robins, Secretary**

**Attending:** Mavis Benner, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Martha Price, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan.

**Call To Order (Interim Pres. Benner):** 6:05 p.m.

**Minutes from August Meeting:** Approved.

**Treasurer's Report (Liz):** Checking account balance of \$3,306.34.

**Old Business:**

**Photo Contest:** Megan Duffy had reported that there was no indication of interest from her photography

class. Since there appeared to be little interest elsewhere, it was moved, seconded and approved that we

do not hold a photo contest this year.

**Bird Seed Sale (Dec. 8):** The mall is scheduled and the seed source verified. Signup sheets for volunteers

will be circulated at next month's general meeting.

**Field Trips:** Mavis passed around a tentative schedule.

**Program for April:** We discussed and agreed that a bird ID-related one would be enjoyable and informative.

**Community Project:** There is still interest in a chimney swift tower; possible sites were suggested.

**New Business:**

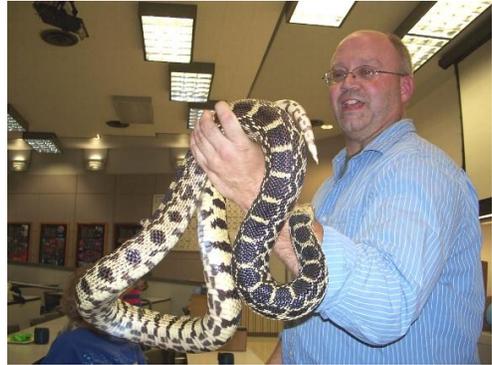
It was moved, seconded, and approved to give tonight's speaker, Jeff Cantrell, an SGAS t-shirt. Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

**September Audubon Presentation**  
**Jeff Cantrell**

It is difficult to be herpetophobic (afraid of reptiles) after experiencing a presentation by Jeff Cantrell, Education Consultant for the Missouri Department of Conservation. His program for us was entitled, "Their Blood Runs Cold." Jeff involved the audience by walking around and allowing everyone to touch a model of a hellbender, a tiger salamander, three-toed box turtle, a tortoise from Africa, speckled king snake, black rat snake, and Great Plains rat snake (the latter specimen has been held or touched by 21,000 people).

Jeff gave us some reasons why amphibians have been rapidly disappearing worldwide, including a deformity-causing fungus carried by the African clawed frog imported by pet stores and science labs. Also, poaching for the pet trade and hitting them with vehicles have greatly decimated them. He also emphasized the importance of keeping amphibians and reptiles in their original habitat, as well as not acquiring imported pets.

Although a few hardcore herpetophobes probably were remaining at the end of Jeff's program, we all left with a greater understanding and appreciation of our native "herps".



**General Meeting Happenings — September 2012**

Members were welcomed by Interim President Mavis Benner. The signup sheet was circulated for refreshment volunteers for the year. Diane McCallum explained that all local chapter dues are now due in September. There is a minor glitch in the e-mail newsletter mailing list; if you didn't receive one this month, contact Cindy Ford. A field trip this Saturday will be at the Neosho Wildlife Area; meet at the St. Paul café at 7 a.m. Mavis invited everyone to attend the SGAS board meetings, immediately before the general meetings, 6 p.m. in Heckert-Wells Hall. Bob Mangile awarded 50-bird pins to Megan Corrigan and Wayne Bockelman. Mavis proposed that we visit the Sperry-Galligar property on South College St. to learn more of its history and see the house interior. Vic Sullivan elaborated on the "pair-o'-docs" life, work, and philosophy. Mavis will arrange a tour, possibly in November. Vic Sullivan introduced his guest, David Weible. Martha Price introduced Ruth Hughes as a visitor and possible future attendee. Martha held a door prize drawing and awarded prizes to Cheryl Lemmon, Kiona Brown, Ruth Sullivan, Ruth Hughes, and Donna Brown.

Barb Robins

**Financial Statement**  
**Liz Mangile, Treasurer**

**September 2012**

**Beginning Balance**-----\$3277.81

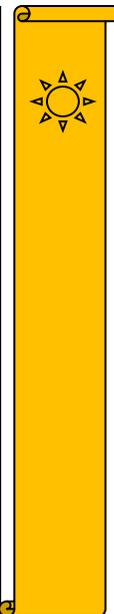
**Debits**

Newsletter Printing	\$ 16.47
Total.....	\$ 16.47

**Credits**

Local Dues	\$ 45.00
Local Dues	165.00
Total.....	\$ 210.00

**Ending balance**-----\$3471.34



**Thank you, Mavis Benner, for serving as Interim President this fall.**

**First Bird Walk of the Fall**

Diane McCallum



It's been a long summer and it was time to enjoy the many gifts that autumn offers, so six SGAS members met at Neosho Wildlife Area for a bird walk on Saturday, Sept. 29. Those present were Bob and Liz Mangile, Mavis Benner, Marvin and Donna Smith, and Diane McCallum. The weather was perfect, with a few clouds but no rain, a bit of a breeze and cool temperatures for most of the morning. At the start of the trip, we were treated to a sun bow, a ring that went around the sun like a faint rainbow.

Everywhere there was lush green, sprinkled with white, yellow and purple wildflowers. Although there weren't a lot of birds to be seen, we did

see 30 species, including an amazing number of red-headed woodpeckers. Other highlights were pileated woodpeckers, an osprey flying directly overhead, a summer tanager singing in the branches of a tree, and several flocks of white pelicans soaring gracefully in the sky. We also saw non-bird species: a southern leopard frog, several butterflies, and two monarch caterpillars. Diane had a close encounter with a bee but survived it.

Bob tried his best to spot an ibis but wasn't able to do it. All of us had a good time and enjoyed the morning together.



**Sightings.....**



**FALL FLIGHT**



Canada geese



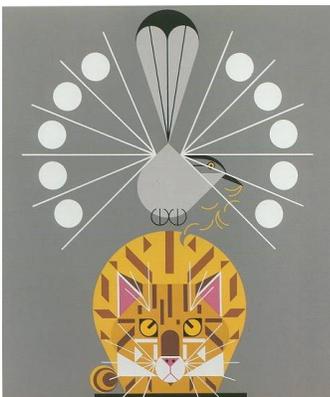
Snow geese



White pelicans

**TEST YOUR BIRD KNOWLEDGE**

Try your skill in naming the bird in the images by Charley Harper.



**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 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



**Upcoming Field Trips**

If you have some areas where you would like to visit on field trips, please let Mavis Benner, Bob or Liz Mangile know your ideas.

We may be visiting the Sperry-Galligar house in the near future.

**Nature Resources**

Google the following resources. You will be pleasantly surprised by the kind of information available.

Acorn Naturalist has some fantastic outdoor equipment, books, and media for exploring your surroundings.

The Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita continues to publish some tiny fieldguides on birds, plants, reptiles, mussels, and more.

The Kansas Native Plant Society keeps up a great website with good information on native plants and wildflower events around the state.



**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**

**Pay membership dues in September.** 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.

