



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

cford@pittstate.edu

March Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Yates 102
PSU Campus
****Presentation****

March 28 — "Birds of Ecuador" by Matt Gearheart, Vice President of the Kansas Ornithological Society

Enjoy a trip to Ecuador through the eyes of a birder. Find out how remarkable the bird species diversity is in this area of the world.

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

March 2013

VOLUME 2013 ISSUE 3



A BIRDER'S VERDIN

BY STEVE HOYLE

I BIRD, not from my car, because I'm not a ROAD-RUNNER. So I get off my SCOTER and walk to the field where species were reported. It's not EAGLE to CROSSBILL into a posted area, but this one time won't matter, I tell myself, though I know KNOT to chance it. Just DUCK under the FINCH and hike into the woods for a short STINT won't ruffle any feathers. It's EIDER that or EGRET missing a good sighting.

VEERY quietly I CRANE my neck to spy a movement in the BUSHTIT. What a LARK! I CREEPER around tree for a closer look. Then bam! I feel a BITTERN blow across my face. I see the lights FLICKER before I recognize what transpired. "You BOOBY, you LOON! You can't cross MYNA land and get away with it," my attacker clucked. Are you CUCKOO?"

I rise slowly. "You old COOT," I say. "I'm not ROBIN you. And I'm not here to KILLDEER."

"You TURKEY! I'm going to TERN you in."

"But this is as innocent as a JAY walk," I chirp. "My head is SORA. I'll have a GOLDENEYE when this starts to TEAL. Looks like I WREN into a train."

"I'm DUNLIN with you. GREBE your binoculars and your CANVASBACK jacket. We're seeing judge MARTIN," he screeches. "It won't do no good to CHAT here like MAGPIES."

After we migrate to the judge's chamber I call my GULL friend, PHOEBE, and ask her to meet us there. Alone in the waiting room I play SOLITAIRE to pass the time. Shortly, the bailiff takes me to the court room where I spy my LOVEBIRD looking so PHEAS-

ANT with her hair pulled back in a PINTAIL. I realize I PLOVER so much. These are scary times. Ashamed and afraid, I stare down past my YELLOWLEGS to my PARAKEET and PIGEON toes. Surprisingly, the judge and the BISHOP enter and proceed down the OWL to the bench. Instead of a prayer the CARDINAL turns to me and cheeps, "You'd better OSPREY to GODWIT he'll be lenient with you. And I don't mean just PARROT the words! No MERLIN is going to swoop down and SPARROW you this time."

Then, stiff as a MANNIKIN the judge -- from his CATBIRD seat -- asks for SWIFT arguments. "Your honor, I'm not a TATTLER, but this YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER was BIRDING on my land, and I'm STORK RAVEN mad.

"Oh, POORWILL! Is that all?," the judge peeps. "This is no place to just GROUSE. Go RAIL to someone else." Then he wheels to me for comment.

I SWALLOW hard. This could be my SWAN song. "Judge, he was too RUFF on me for such a little covert activity. This NUTCRACKER may as well have given me GOOSE with a CROWBAR. He didn't have to SHRIKE me so hard. You MACAW me bold, but when it comes to trouble I'm just a PEWEE and QUAIL with fear. Really, I'm just a PRAIRIE-CHICKEN. He should pay the medical bill."

Then the judge raises his hand for silence. Reaching for kleenex, it is obvious he is going to HAWK, spit, then give the BIRDICT. "Enough of this BRAMBLING! I'm not the BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET you think I am. Just ask ANI one. This man is no VULTURE. Having wasted my time someone should WHIP-POOR-WILL. WILLET this case go. Begone, Will. Sell your JUNCO, or fly a KITE, but let the birders bird. Case dismissed."

As I rise to leave, I feel I'm on STILTS, wishing to fly away. I take PHOEBE's hand and coo, "I DOVE you STARLING. My SISKIN take us home now.



Board Meeting Highlights Barb Robins, Secretary

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

Call To Order (Bob for Meagan): 6:00 p.m.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Accepted.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$4,599.34. Accepted.

Field Trip: To Riverton area this Saturday.

Sperry-Galligar House Visit: We'll go later, in the spring.

Education Projects:

Turtle Races: Bob's working on a prototype; later there will be 8 or so made, then Delia will offer them to the schools and do a presentation in the summer.

Waffles & Woodcocks: It's still too cold; no sightings. We decided to bring coffee and cookies in lieu of waffles. We'll plan to schedule it on Friday or Saturday when they appear.

Other:

Bob suggested Andrew Burnett to give a program on purple martins sometime in the future. He's been heading a local effort to restore martin habitats in Parsons.

Northern Saw-whet owl—no sightings locally
Bob proposed that we as a chapter buy a membership to the Kansas Native Plant Society (\$35.00) to demonstrate our support of the organization. Moved, seconded, and approved.

Should we have the next bird seed sale at Blue Ribbon's store? Bob discussed it with them, but we haven't decided if it will be advantageous to them and/or us.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

February Audubon Presentation Chuck Otte



Chuck Otte braved the snow of North Central Kansas to speak to us tonight on "Hummerscaping: Make Your Yard Hummer Friendly." Chuck is the agriculture, horticulture, and natural resources agent for K-State Research and Extension, Geary County, and is the president of the Kansas Ornithological Society as well as a consummate birder. Chuck always gives an enthusiastic, dynamic presentation, and tonight was

no exception. Hummingbirds are an obvious passion of his, and we were highly entertained and informed.

To attract hummers, you need food for them. We heard the difference between naturalistic landscaping and a hummer-oriented garden of blooming annuals and feeders. Remember where you live, and plant native and adapted plants and trees.

The sole species to visit us regularly in SEK-- the Ruby-throated hummingbird—was Chuck's area of emphasis, and he gave us facts and tips on their behavior and migrating patterns. It is always astounding to hear that the little birds build a nest the size of a thimble and fledge in two weeks. Since the males arrive and leave first, we are usually enjoying the antics of females and juveniles in the late summer.

"Chuck's Top 15 Hummingbird Plants" list and discussion was a very useful part of the program and consisted of natives and cultivars that can all be grown in this area.

After Chuck's admonishments to "think like a bird" and to "remember to have fun", we left with high anticipation of the star appearance of the mighty miniature jewels in mid-to-late April.



Financial Statement Liz Mangile, Treasurer

February 2013

Beginning Balance \$4,683.46

Debits

Newsletter, room for Chuck Otte, refreshments, KS Native Plant Society membership
Total \$ 126.62

Credits

Local dues, ant molts
Total \$ 74.00

Ending balance \$ 4,630.84

General Meeting Happenings — February 2013

Mavis Benner, tonight's substitute for Meagan Duffee, welcomed a very generous turnout.

Bird Sightings: Fox sparrow, Pine siskins, Eagles.

Woodcock Observation Party: We'll call it a Snickerdoodles and Timberdoodles party and will send e-mails when the birds appear.

Bench at Miners Hall Museum in Franklin: We received a letter from the board thanking us and expressing their appreciation.

Field Trip Saturday: Leave for Riverton from Applebee's at 7:30 a.m.

Alma Hurt in the News: There was an excellent article and photos in the Joplin Globe today on Alma's bluebird activities.

Ant Traps: Made by Ray Benner. They are on sale tonight for \$2.00.

Door Prizes: Denise Elder (bird clock) and Mary Hughes (hummingbird basket)

February Fieldtrips

Four birders departed from Applebee's parking lot on **3/2/2013**, dressed in layers to ward off the cold. Cold it was, 22 degrees with wind chill down in the teens. Included in their gloves and ear muffs were Liz and Bob Mangile, Donna Mansell and Mavis Benner. The field trip was around the Riverton area on the edges of Spring River.

Highlights of the trip were an abundance of cardinals, about 50 cormorants in an overhead flock, around 40 pelicans, numerous gulls, in two separate areas about 6 wood ducks, and on the north side of the highway towards the area of the old Spring River Inn site, were seven great blue herons. There were several flocks of turkeys sighted, one flock numbered 56 birds. A common snipe posed along the roadside for a viewing in the sunlight, showing his distinct striped plumage. It should be warmer for the next field trip, so hope to see you there.

Mavis Benner



Ford Farm

The moon and stars (covered by a thick cover of clouds) aligned on the evening of March 8, for eleven birders hoping to see and hear the American Woodcocks at Steve and Cindy Ford's.

The birders were not disappointed. At 6:30 pm sharp, the first was heard "Peenting." Delia and Steve pointed out the first as it was flying high over the grasses and calling. They explained how the females were sitting watching the males and how this happened every morning and evening during mating season.

The group saw at least five flying woodcocks even though the light was low and the clouds heavy. A few sprinkles did not stop the group from staying out until dark.

Homemade cookies, fruit, rainforest coffee and good conversation followed. The group gathered again by the fireplace and laughed about adventures past, present and future.

Crawford State Park

We roamed around the lake at 7:30 tonight and had almost given up. When we drove by the entrance, we saw one flying! We pulled over and got out to hear Woodcocks on both sides of the road as you enter the park. We heard at least 6 and it lasted until 7:50. We were so excited to find them here!

Margaret Hoyle



Sightings.....



Visitors to the
Backyard



Cedar waxwing



Fox sparrow



Eastern phoebe

Thank you to Julie Hartman for boxes of Girl Scout cookies. Sign up at the meetings in the months to come to get some of these cookies as a door prize.

Thanks to Donna Brown for the refreshments at the last meeting. If you would like to help with refreshments at the meetings, please contact Liz Mangile to get details. If you need to find out if you are already on the list for this year, please check the Sperry-Galligar Audubon website.

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

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

For first-time National Audubon membership, send \$20.00 and become a member of both organizations, receive 6 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and 8 copies of Sperry-Galligar Newsletter. *Please make your check to: Sperry-Galligar Audubon.*

YES I wish to become a FIRST-TIME member of National Audubon and Sperry-Galligar Audubon. (\$20.00).

For only local or renewal membership, send \$15.00 for membership of Sperry-Galligar Audubon and receive the 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 Audubon renewals: Send Audubon mailer forms directly to National.

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



Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____



**Events,
&
Miscellany**

SUMMER 2013 DAY CAMPS

This year Nature Reach and Sperry-Galligar Audubon will again be hosting summer camps. The dates are **June 17-21, 2013** for students who will be entering or just completing 5th grade.

July 15-19th will be for those who have just completed or who are entering 2nd grade. The day camps run from 9am-12pm. Students will receive lots of hands-on learning, get to see live animals, and do lots of fun activities.

If you are interested please contact Delia Lister (235-4727 or dlister@pittstate.edu).

ANT MOAT



Ray Benner arrived at our **Feb. 28th.** meeting with a bag full of "Ant Moats" - shown above the hummingbird feeder in the photo. When filled with water it blocks ants from invading your sugar water feeder. And they really work,

too. He has several of them left at \$2.00 each and the money goes in the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter kitty.

Thanks Ray for your idea and offerings.



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.

