



# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2013 - 2015

**President:**

Wayne Bockelman

**Vice President:**

Megan Corrigan

**Secretary**

Barb Robins

**Treasurer**

Liz Mangile

**Newsletter Editor**

Cindy Ford

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Oct 2014

VOLUME 2014 ISSUE 7

## PROTECT OUR EARTH



Over Australia



Over Pacific

Most of us share a love of wildlife, be it in the form of birds, mammals, plants, insects or all of the above. We're used to peering through binoculars or crouching down to inspect some small spark of life we've discovered in the grass. But how often do you look around you and marvel at the very thing that makes all of it possible, our magnificent planet Earth? Most of the time, it's difficult. We can only see our own little patch of ground and sky, big enough for us to inhabit, perhaps, but not big enough for us to really appreciate where we live.

If you have some spare time, I strongly urge you to do what at first might seem contrary to taking the larger view: I want you to stare at your computer monitor. But for once, don't let it be Facebook or Youtube or Pinterest. Instead, try this site: [eol.jsc.nasa.gov/HDEV/](http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/HDEV/) If you try it and see only black or gray on the screen, please wait a few minutes or check back in about half an hour. I promise it will be worth it.

This site gives us the unprecedented ability to see the Earth from the International Space Station. And what a spectacular marvel it is! Swirls of blue, white and brown glide under our eyes. The sheer variety of cloud patterns is mind-boggling. The curve of blue against the stark black sky is a work of art. And you can see darkness fall in fast-motion, followed about half an hour later by sunrise. As you gaze at your monitor, you begin to get an idea of what a fantastic place our planet is and why it's worth our protection. Nothing this beautiful should be allowed to wither and die.

National Audubon has released its climate change report and it's a little scary. But there's still time and hope. As long as we can understand what we're protecting, how big and beautiful and important it is, certainly all is not lost. Let's see what we can do.

Diane McCallum

**October Meeting**  
**Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Yates 102, PSU**  
**\*\*Presentation\*\***

**Oct. 30 — "The Threat of the Brown Tree Snake in the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands" by Scott Newland, Sedgwick County Zoo Curator of Birds. Scott will showcase his work in the South Sea Islands. He is rescuing endangered birds from the brown tree snake, which is introduced to the islands.**

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

**Board Meeting Highlights  
Barb Robins, Secretary**

**Attending:** Wayne Bockelman, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Barb Robins.  
**Call To Order (Wayne):** 6:05 p.m.  
**Minutes** accepted as submitted.  
**Treasurer's Report (Liz):** Checking account balance of \$3,641.86  
**Audit, Sept. 8:** Conducted by the Executive Committee on Liz's financial transactions during recent years; all was found to be in excellent order.  
**Publicity:** A barrage of posters was distributed in the usual manner, as well as notices in newspapers and KRPS. We were even on the PSU electronic sign on Broadway.  
**Programs:** Megan still needs March and April speakers.  
**Field Trips:** These will be announced at tonight's meeting.  
**Birdhouses:** A date will be set soon for a painting session.  
**Bylaws Revision:** There was a discussion concerning the definition of "household" in Article I, Section 4. It was voted to leave the terminology as it stands. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the bylaws be accepted as revised. We now must mail notification of a vote by the membership to them 15 days before the October meeting. The amended bylaws will be posted on the website, and a summary of the proposed changes will be in the newsletter.  
 Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

**Financial Statement  
Liz Mangile, Treasurer**

**Oct 2014**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Beginning balance-----                        | \$ 3916.61 |
| Debit   |            |
| Bluehost & Domain name-----                   | \$ 134.87  |
| Food for board meeting-----                   | \$ 43.30   |
| Yearly printed material-----                  | \$ 34.74   |
| Newsletter-----                               | \$ 7.84    |
| 200 Stamps-----                               | \$ 98.00   |
| 117 Stamps for postcards to update by-laws--  | \$ 34.34   |
| Total-----                                    | \$ 353.09  |
| Credit  |            |
| Credit from National Audubon-----             | \$ 20.00   |
| Two birdhouses/3 ant molts/ \$4.00 Donation-- | \$ 24.00   |
| 19 local dues/ 1 ant molt-----                | \$ 317.00  |
| 4 local dues-----                             | \$ 75.00   |
| Total-----                                    | \$ 436.00  |
| Ending balance-----                           | \$ 3999.52 |



**THANK YOU, LIZ MANGILE, FOR THE SEPTEMBER REFRESHMENTS.**  
 Check with Liz Mangile to get your name on the refreshment list.

**September Meeting Presenter  
Delia Lister**



This year, well over 500,000 people will proudly state that they have traveled to Alaska. However, 95% of them will have seen the sights from a cruise ship. Our own Delia Lister can truly boast that she was "Among the Five Percent: Exploring Glacier Bay National Park." She was with a handful of knowledgeable

people who certainly obtained a different and more detailed perspective of the area by hiking, kayaking, and observing glacial phenomena and wildlife up close.

In Delia's usual entertaining and informative manner, she explained the formation, anatomy, and movement of glaciers as well as their effects on the landscape. We saw photos of huge dropped rocks and ancient tree stumps; and she explained the process of succession—the stages of plant life development after the land had been scoured by a glacier—from lichen to more complex blooming plants, pines, spruces, and hemlocks.



We all know that glaciers are receding and slowly disappearing, and Delia showed us evidence of that, for example, Muir Glacier in 1895 vs. the present day. There were still opportunities for her to see jaw-dropping sights such as the 250-foot-high portion of a glacier.

In Delia's presentations we're always treated with superb photos of wild fauna and flora, and tonight was no exception—fishes, sea stars, urchins, sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions, and humpback whales from the ocean; black and brown bears, and moose on the land. And there were the birds: puffins, oystercatchers, guillemots, cormorants, and hosts of eagles.



Thank you, Delia, for taking us—virtually, anyway—where only the intrepid 5% dare to go.

**Bird Sightings:** Ospreys, pine siskins, among others.

**Announcements:**

We still have ant moats for hummingbird feeders for sale at \$2.00. Liz brought the refreshments; we need volunteers for future meetings. Dues are due now. If your membership includes more than one person, please give Diane McCallum their names.

The Board of Directors has been working on updating the bylaws. Wayne distributed a summary of the proposed changes. Earlier tonight, the board approved all changes. In a couple of weeks, we will send members notification of the vote at the October general meeting. The amended bylaws will be posted on the website, and a summary of the proposed changes will be in the newsletter.

**Field Trips:** There are three events to choose from this Saturday: Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge will host a "Let's Go Outside" day; the annual Prairie Jubilee at Prairie State Park; and a Pelican Festival at Grove, OK. In October, the Fords will host an outing at their farm; and on Friday, Nov. 7, there will be a Bird Banding Day at the Wildcat Glades center in Joplin.

Delia thanked all those who volunteered at her day camp this summer.

## SUMMARY OF CHAPTER BY-LAWS

### Proposed Changes to Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society Bylaws (as of 24 September 2014)

The organization's name is changed from Sperry Audubon Society to Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society.

Membership in local Audubon is clarified to include to all members of a household residing at a single address. Voting privileges are extended to members 18 years of age or older. (Article I, Sec. 4)

Yearly membership continues through August 31st with a six month grace period for renewing dues. (Article I, Secs. 5, 6)

Communication may now be done through e-mail or other electronic communication rather than requiring post office mail. (Article II, Sec. 4; Article XI)

The Board of Directors is expanded to include Board Members at Large, Audubon members who attend Board meetings regularly and who are approved by the Board. (Article III, Secs. 3, 4)

The Annual Board Planning Meeting is moved from April to August to reflect current practice. (Article III, Sec. 6)

Meetings of the Board are open to all local Audubon members, as is current practice. (Article III, Sec. 8)

Provision is made for the Board to conduct time sensitive business by electronic communication rather than requiring physical meetings. (Article III, Sec. 10)

Correspondence of the Society may be conducted by Officers and Committee Chairs, not only by the Secretary. (Article IV, Sec. 5)

The Treasurer may write checks with her signature alone on a portion of the Society's funds (reflecting current practice) rather than also requiring the signature of the President. (Article IV, Sec. 7)

The Board of Directors, not a nominating committee, selects candidates for office. (Members may also nominate candidates.) (Article V, Sec. 1)

Standing Committees are no longer required to have more than one member. (Article VII, Sec. 1)

Duties of the Membership Committee and Publicity Committee are redefined. (Article VII, Sec. 3)

**Thank you, Wayne, for your attention to detail and working with the Board on these updates.**



### 2014 BLUEBIRD CENSUS

Bob Mangile gathers information on bluebirds and nesting activity in the area to place on the Sperry-Galligar website. The Bluebird Trail Managers' Final Report for 2014 was produced by Elma Hurt, the Bluebird Lady. A total of 357 bluebird fledglings



for what was thought as a bad year was a bit of a surprise. The report stated, however, that no one on the Bluebird Trail Managers' team was able to raise a single bluebird to adulthood this year. The average number of fledglings per box for the 136 boxes reported was 2.6 fledglings. Elma Hurt reported that she lost 100 bluebird eggs for various reasons. Predators may have contributed to this huge loss. Could the ups and downs of temperature and rain affected the fate of the bluebirds. Hopefully, next year will be more productive.

### Sightings.....



Two Mississippi kites nested in Brad and Andra Stefanoni's backyard this summer. This is an unusual occurrence in southeast Kansas.



**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 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.*

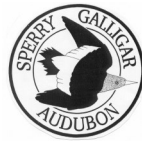
\_\_\_ *YES I wish to become a FIRST-TIME member of National Audubon and Sperry-Galligar Audubon. (\$20.00).*

**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**

**From National Audubon:**

Check out Audubon.org/climate to see birds in your area threatened by climate change, download maps, and read frequently asked questions about the research.

**North American Breeding Bird Survey:**

Are you interested in helping count breeding birds in June each year? These are designated routes set up by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service where they track birds over many years. If you are wanting to get involved, see Cindy or Steve Ford. We are giving up our two routes and looking for replacements.

**Nature Photography Seminar Alert:**

The Sperry-Galligar Audubon Club is gathering information about sponsoring a seminar featuring how to's of nature photography which will be held on campus in the near future. If you would like to attend a workshop of this type, please contact Steve Ford at sford@pittstate.edu. He would like to see what kind of interest there is for a workshop of this kind.

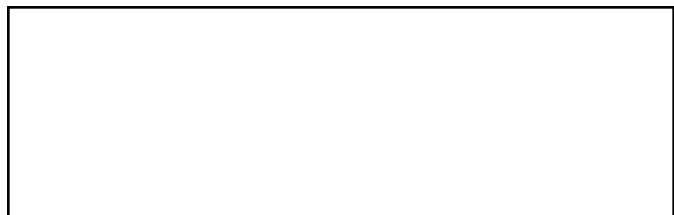
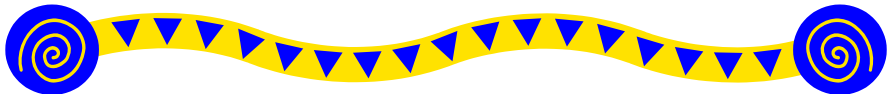
**Sperry-Galligar Club Dues:**

Have you paid your dues for this year? If not, please contact Liz or Bob Mangile. All memberships expire in September.

*Enjoy the colors of fall.*



**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.

