



# 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

[cford@pittstate.edu](mailto:cford@pittstate.edu)

October 2015

VOLUME 2015 ISSUE 7

## RENAMING NATURE'S CRITTERS

By Bob Mangile

If you smile when someone mentions Fibber Mcgee's closet you just may have given away your age! Yeah! Remember that popular radio show, of the 1930's, 40's & 50's, "Fibber Mcgee & Molly" who resided at 79 Wistful Vista Street. If you lived in rural America back then you also are probably familiar with critters being called yellow-hammers (yellow-shafted flickers), greenheads (bullfrogs), mud hens (coots), shipokes (green herons), helldivers (pied-billed grebes), bullbats (common nighthawks), joint snakes (legless lizards), snake feeders (dragonflies), and civet cats (spotted skunks).

It is interesting how the passage of time, advancing knowledge and better understanding gradually renders us obsolete. When I hear someone say the saw a sparrow hawk, now called an American kestrel, I know it is someone past middle age. Same bird, but the name has changed. I recall in my younger days trying to pronounce and commit to memory those scientific names of the snow goose (*Chen hyperborea*) and blue goose (*Chen carulescens*). Back then they were considered to be two different species. Now you can forget the blue goose - it has since been determined to be a color phase of the snow goose (a genetic variant). But wait, the snow goose has now been given the scientific name that was assigned to the blue goose, i.e., (*Chen carulescens*). Check it out!



The eastern screech owl has two color variants that used to be called the "gray phase" and the "red phase" - and now the term "phase" has been phased-out and replaced with the term "morph". It gets quite confusing if you don't stay involved. Since DNA sequencing has come into being many changes have been made to the names of flora and fauna. Recent DNA studies have "found essentially no genetic differences differences between the common, hoary, and lesser redpolls" - making them one bird species. We will get more changes as time goes on but those of us who remember Fibber Mcgee & Molly struggle with change and eventually we will get relegated to the back of the class if we don't keep up! Ask around to learn how many 80-years-olds are or were computer gurus? The generation gap is not simply about age it is about not keeping up with the new versus the old. I'd guess that you are not aware that the Center of North American Herpetology (CNAH) has "decided that the most accepted version [definition] of reptile is one that doesn't include either turtles or crocodiles." Turtles now have their own designation, i.e., "turtles" - but the controversy rages on. Now-a-days we only have eight planets - Pluto is no longer considered a planet - and Columbus didn't discover America. Geez! Sometimes it is nice to be in the back of the class - where it is quiet and peaceful and you are never expected to answer questions! <smile> # # #

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

**Oct. 29 — "Fall Reservoir Birding - You'll Need a Scope!", by Mike Rader - Wildlife Education Coordinator of KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism. Rader will discuss tips on birding the abundant reservoirs of Kansas during fall and winter and some he thinks are the better ones to visit.**

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

### Board Meeting Highlights Barb Robins, Secretary

**Attending:** Wayne Bockelman, Megan Corrigan, Cindy Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan.

**Call To Order (Wayne):** 6:00 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report (Liz):** Checking account balance of \$3,852.03

**Programs:** A new attendance record (other than the Ivory-billed woodpecker program), between 67-70, was set at Jordan Johnson's shark presentation last month. Tonight's meeting will feature Charles & Carolyn Chips on their volunteering activities, and next month, we will have Mike Rader. January's program has been set; Delia will give updates on Nature Reach.

**Publicity:** There was notice in this morning's issues of the Morning Sun, but nothing in the Joplin Globe. KRPS is concerned with their membership campaign. Megan is designing and distributing posters on the PSU campus.

**Emmett** was recognized as being featured in July's Kansas Native Plant Society newsletter, along with color photos.

Delia and Jordan gave pacha kuchas.

**Refreshments** tonight will be provided by Liz and Mavis.

**Dues:** Due now.

**Newsletter:** Cindy had enough material to produce a bonus page this time.

**Field Trips:** The swift count on September 13 involved 8 people and 3 locations; around 1600 swifts were spotted.

**Birdseed Sale, December 5:** Mall space is booked.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

### Financial Statement Liz Mangile, Treasurer Oct 2015

Beginning balance .....	\$ 3,863.29
<i>Debits</i>	
Newsletter .....	11.26
<i>Credits</i>	
Local dues .....	210.00
Donation .....	100.00
Ending balance .....	\$ 4,162.03

*If you have not paid your local dues, dig out your wallet. See Liz Mangile to complete your transaction.*

### September Meeting Presenters Charles & Carolyn Chips



Outdoors-oriented people dread the onset of winter that confines them to their house interiors and limits bird-viewing quantities and opportunities. SGAS members Carolyn and Charles Chips have discovered a solution to the Kansas winter blahs by volunteering in Southern Texas, where species are plentiful and the weather is mild.

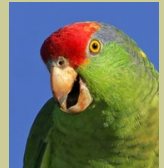
Carolyn and Charles learned from friends of their experiences at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge near Alamo, Texas, and applied for volunteer positions. They were accepted and lived in a campground near the refuge from February 1 to April 30 of this year. They and 28 other volunteers performed various tasks, including removing invasive trees and plants, cleaning moss out of water features, leading groups of children, banding birds, and counting hawks.

Because the refuge contains diverse habitats and has an ever-expanding area of 2,300 acres, as well as viewing docks and towers, Charles and Carolyn were able to see many bird species as well as many of the 400 butterfly species that inhabit the site. Since the refuge is a walking-only one, they walked several miles each day. The Chips's schedule required them to work 3 days a week; the rest of the time was theirs.

They greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet and interact with people of different cultures, and the refuge was right on the border with Mexico.

Since there was a storm that produced fallout and debris from plants and trees, they were allowed to gather specimens and show them to us. These included two epiphytes (Spanish and ball mosses), guayacan (soap bush), coral bean, sandpaper, and retama trees.

Snakes were spotted, but not poisonous ones. The Chipses were able to add many birds to their life lists, including the chachalaca, clay-colored thrush, green Jay, crested caracara, Altamira oriole, red-crowned parrot, red-billed pigeon, golden-fronted woodpecker, white-tailed dove, elf Owl, and common parakeet.



Charles and Carolyn highly recommend a volunteering adventure in the southern climes to banish the end-of-winter blues. So much, in fact, that they are returning to the Santa Ana to do it again next year.

### General Meeting Highlights

Emmett Sullivan's wildflower photos were projected before the meeting began.

**Bird Sightings:** Several people are still seeing hummingbirds in the vicinity. Donna Smith brought a "mystery nest" for us to examine and guess what species built it. President Wayne

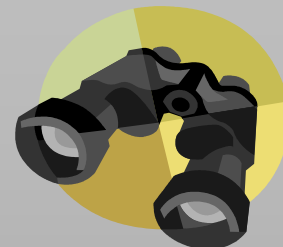
Bockelman revealed at the end of the program that it was a Warbling Vireo's nest.

Wayne reported on the swift count outing September 13 (see board minutes).

Everyone's dues are due this month.

The birdseed sale is December 5; Wayne called for ideas on procuring a covered truck to haul and dispense birdseed bags. Please contact him if you know of one available.

*Sightings.....*



**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.*

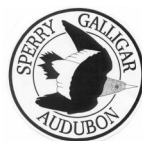
*YES I wish to become a FIRST-TIME member of National Audubon and Sperry-Galligar Audubon. (\$20.00).*

**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**  
816 E. Atkinson  
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-0205



Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_



**Events, Field Trips, and  
Miscellany**

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**THANKS FOR THE GOODIES,**  
Liz Mangile and Mavis Benner

We are excited to announce that today Audubon has released an updated version of the [Audubon Bird Guide app](#) and it's now FREE to bird lovers nationwide.

With 821 species profiles and 3200-plus world-renowned bird photos, Audubon's award-winning app instantly turns any mobile device into the most trusted field guide in North America.

To download the Audubon Bird Guide, go to: [www.audubon.org/apps](http://www.audubon.org/apps)

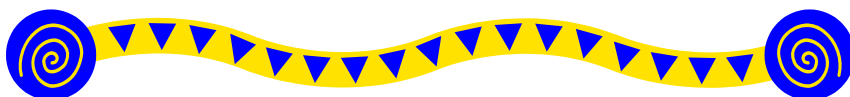
The free app also provides a great new way to engage more people in becoming active participants in conservation action. [Find a toolkit](#) of resources on Audubon Works to help you share the free app with your members and supporters. The toolkit includes tips and tricks for using the app, email and social copy and images, ecards, a poster, and a captivating video.

Warm regards,

Audubon Chapter Services



**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society  
Newsletter**  
816 E. Atkinson  
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.

