



NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry– Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2015 - 2017

President:

Wayne Bockelman

Vice President:

Megan Corrigan

Secretary

Barb Robins

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

cford@pittstate.edu

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

Dec. 3 — “Cassowaries: Guardians of the Rain Forest.” by Maria Minnaar-Bailey. She has conducted research on emus and is considered the Godmother of the Emu Industry and author of the *Emu Farmer’s Handbook*. She will talk about cassowaries, big flightless birds in the wilds of Australia.

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

December 2015

VOLUME 2015 ISSUE 8

Girdling Beetles

If you have mature trees in your yard, especially pecan, hickory and oak, you probably have had the experience of finding a steady supply of pencil or finger sized twigs beneath the trees during August and September. Most of us blame the wind or some climate related event but if you take time to investigate you would soon discover that the ends of these twigs have several different appearances.

Some of the smaller twigs are the work of squirrels which display a chewed off angular end, **(Photo #1)**. These are used to construct round nests of leaves and twigs, called **dreys**, usually in the fork of a large tree. (A **cavity** nest is called a **den**.) But there is another lawn twig

ground. The eggs hatch in about three weeks and the larvae overwinter in the twig. Come spring the larvae burrow under the bark towards the cut end of the twig feeding on the woody portion of the twig. In late summer pupation last about two weeks. Then the new adult chews a circular hole in the bark to emerge and begin a new cycle. Heavy infestations can greatly reduce the number of fruiting twigs on pecan trees resulting in lower yields the following year. Some control can be acquired by destroying/burning twigs to reduce infestations the following year. The use of insecticide is said not to be practical.

Article & photo 1 & 2 by Bob Mangile

Photo #1: Squirrel Chew



Photo #2: Twig Girdler Chew



found at this time of the year that has a curious looking end **(Photo #2)** that looks as though it was cut off with a copper tube cutter. This is the work of one of the Longhorn beetles called the Twig Girdler Beetle **(Photo #3)**. Most often these are twigs with a diameter less than 3/4 of an inch, roughly pencil or finger sized in diameter.

In late summer and fall the adult female, about 5/8 inches long, chews a V-shaped groove around the twig and leaves a cylinder in the center that allows the twig to eventually break off after laying eggs under the bark of the twig. Some twigs hang in the tree but some fall to the



Photo #3: Twig Girdler Beetle
(Oncideres cingulata) (NC Extension)

Board Meeting Highlights
Barb Robins, Secretary

Attending: Mavis Benner, Wayne Bockelman, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan.,

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

Minutes (Barb) Read and approved. A correction was made to reflect the fact that the August meeting's attendance was the third largest rather than the second. Bob noted that the first-ever meeting of SGAS drew 99, making it the second, after the record Ivory-billed Woodpecker presentation.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$4,162.03

Publicity: Joplin Globe printed meeting notice 3 times; it was also in the Morning Sun, at PSU and PPL poster sites, and KRPS. E-mail reminders were sent, including schools and Schermerhorn Nature Center.

Future Meetings: On December 3, Maria Minnaar-Bailey will present "Cassowaries: Guardians of the Rain Forest". Megan is pursuing Mavis's suggestions for spring programs.

Refreshments: Megan. We need more volunteers for future months; Liz will send around the sign-up sheet again at the general meeting.

Membership: We have 44 paid members and 12 yet un-renewed.

Newsletter: Cindy proposed that we begin alternating the regular four-page newsletter with a two-page one. Wayne declared that she is the editor and can do as she sees fit. A letter from an 89-year-old member was read thanking our chapter for its work.

Eco-Meet: Mavis, as a volunteer, reported that there was much activity, everything went well, and all had fun.

Field Trips: Nothing scheduled at present.

Birdseed Sale, Dec. 5: Bob has a lead on the free loan of a stock trailer.

Article: Steven had volunteered to write on soliciting members' suggestions and help on possible conservation or educational projects. He is working on it.

Mall Booth, Nov. 7-8: Are we interested in creating one and manning it? No interest was indicated.

Other: Steve would like for SGAS to donate a decorative split-rail 170-ft. fence for the front of the PSU Sperry-Galligar property. He will bring this up at a later date when we have time to discuss it. Meeting adjourned at 6:50

Megan Corrigan
 Thanks for the refreshments at the
 November meeting.

General Meeting Highlights

Birds: Roadrunner in Grove, OK; Bald Eagles have returned to Bone Creek; juncos; yellow-rumped warbler; waterfowl are starting to come through the area.

We need more refreshment volunteers. Liz is passing around a sign-up sheet for that as well as one for the birdseed sale on December 5.

Jenn Rader reported on the Eco-Meet last week, which SGAS helped fund. Seven schools were represented, with 66 students participating, and Colgan was the winner. Several Audubon members helped.

The Crawford County Museum is attempting to reinvent itself; there will be a workday, and SGAS members will be asked to volunteer. Watch for details



AN APPRECIATIVE MEMBER WRITES:

"Friends: Thank you for caring for our beautiful birds and for publishing the newsletter which is a joy to read."

Sincerely,
 Merry C. Lance

Financial Statement
Liz Mangile, Treasurer
November 2015

Beginning balance-----	\$4162.03
Credits	
Local Dues-----	\$180.00
Debits	
Newsletter-----	\$ 7.30
Ending balance-----	\$4344.7



November Meeting Presenter Mike Rader



As late autumn arrives, so do the waterfowl—ducks, geese, and shorebirds—who are on their way to warmer climes to feed and wait out the winter in anticipation of migrating north in the spring to their breeding grounds. We were fortunate to have one of the foremost birders in the state to inform us of possible species to watch for and identify. Mike Rader is Wildlife Education Coordinator of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism and editor of the “Bird Brain” column in the *Kansas Wildlife and Parks* magazine and spends many free hours birding.

Mike addressed tonight’s remarks primarily to bird activities at the state’s reservoirs. Being based in Pratt, he spends a majority of his waterfowl- watching time at the reservoirs in the Pratt and Wichita areas. In fact, his program was entitled, “Birding Kansas Lakes: You’re Gonna Need a Scope!” All Kansas lakes but one are man-made; most of them are administered by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Mike organized his talk by species groups and later into subtopics with interesting titles. The photos shown were all taken by him and illustrated the importance of having a scope to view/ photograph waterfowl who can be (and usually are) on the lake several hundred yards from shore.

We saw grebes and loons, as well as shorebirds (willet, American golden and black-billed plovers, who also like burned fields.) Seabirds were represented, such as scoters (who fortunately like to eat zebra mussels) and common merganser. Other birds shown were merlin, sandhill crane, tundra swans, and snowy owl. Mike’s attention-getting categories featured:

“Beautiful and Rare” (mountain bluebirds, whooping cranes (who should be seen soon);

“Common, But Fun to See” (cedar waxwings, loggerhead shrike, which are declining);

“Gulls” (Franklin’s, Sabin’s, and the most common ring-billed gulls);

“Awesome Waterfowl Numbers” (mallards, snow geese);

“Raptors” (red-tailed hawks, eagles—who follow large waterfowl flocks—osprey, rough-winged hawk; and short-eared owls).

A Kansas sunset ended the program. Buy or borrow a scope, go to a lake, and witness these phenomena of beautiful avian and celestial displays yourself.



Scoter



Mt. bluebird



Golden plover



Sightings.....

The Cranes



Whooping Crane



Sandhill Crane

The adult male Rufous Hummingbird, that was confirmed by Lanny Chambers to be the same bird that wintered here last year, is still here and visiting the feeders daily, especially in the morning. He seems very skittish the last couple days, and is hardly ever landing as he was before, even though our visitors have been very respectful. It could be because of the strong winds we've had, but I think I will change my previous instructions, just to be on the safe side, and ask that visitors stay next to one of the back corners of the house or behind the privacy fence. That will give him more room to chose which feeder he wants to use. I have seen him on the front (South side) feeder a couple times, where he is even more stunning because he's in full sunlight, but he seems to prefer the backyard (North side of the house), more cover I suppose.

>We are enjoying him so much. Each time I catch my breath a little. I still can't believe he came back. He could leave any time, so I'm soaking up every day. How amazing these little guys are.

From Bob Mangile

Send your newsletter articles, bird sightings, and nature notes to C. Ford by Jan.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**

Bird Seed Sale — Dec. 5

Get your bird seed this year or come to help sell the bird seed on **Saturday, Dec. 5th at North Park Mall**. We will have a booth set up inside to sell seed, crafts, and foods. A truck with the seed will be located on the west parking lot. If you would like to work at the sale, please contact Bob or Liz. We need volunteers.

CRANKY COMPUTER PROBLEMS

Contact Bob Mangile if you are not receiving e-mails from him. His computer had issues and he has had to start his e-mail list over again. E-mail Bob at rmangile@cox.net to get back on his list

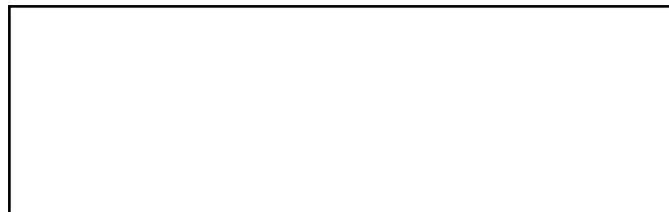
New Format for Newsletter

In the future you may notice a new format for the monthly newsletter. A short newsletter style may be used if I do not have enough articles to include. In this way, we can still publish a monthly newsletter to keep all members apprised of events. Please feel free to send articles about bird sightings or interesting nature occurrences and I will plan to have the longer newsletter.

Your Editor, Cindy Ford



**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.

