



# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2015 - 2017

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March 2016

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## SPERRY-GALLIGAR LEGACY

For those newer members who may be wondering from where our Audubon chapter name comes, here is a tiny bit of history. Drs. Ted Sperry and Gladys Galligar were associated with the PSU Department of Biology. Ted was quite well-known for his work with Aldo Leopold ("Father of Wildlife Management") where he was charged with establishing the first restored prairie (Curtis Prairie in Madison, WI). Dr. Sperry was later called the "Father of Prairie Restoration". He taught botany courses at PSU for many years, establishing the Biology Department Herbarium which is now named in his honor.

He and Gladys bought property on the edge of town while in Pittsburg. It was an acre of mined land on which he planted many wildflowers, trees, and grasses. Gladys designed the house; Ted restored the grounds. They called their home, "Paradocs"—a pun on the fact that they were both doctors and that the property looked so very different from the suburban

residences around them. On that acre Ted tried to design as many habitats as possible to attract wildlife, particularly birds. Being an old-school naturalist, he maintained hundreds of journal entries every year, recording wildlife occurrences on the property. To look at some of those entries, the reader is often surprised to see some unexpected species that took refuge in this one acre in the suburban neighborhood.

Dr. Sperry, upon his death, donated the property and house to the Department of Biology. The house and grounds have since cast a positive spell on many people who have stayed in the house as Visiting Scholars. There is still a magic about stepping into Ted and Gladys's natural world.

Our Audubon chapter is named after Drs. Sperry and Galligar as a tribute to their passion of nature, knowledge of birds, and dedication to conservation.

Cindy Ford

## SPERRY-GALLIGAR AUDUBON RAIL FENCE COMPLETED

Members of the chapter erected a new cedar split-rail fence in front of the home of our namesake, Drs. Ted Sperry and Gladys Galligar, on College Street in Pittsburg. The fence was donated by the chapter - \$500, purchased from Sutherlands in Joplin. It is almost finished and looks great. Several neighbors have stopped by to chat about it, and are all quite complimentary, which is gratifying since it is important to keep up the appearance of the rather "natural-looking" area in the midst of an otherwise manicured neighborhood. Much of the property behind the fence still needs some attention, as it has become pretty weedy, but we're working on it. Some of us think that Ted and Gladys's spirits still pervade that woody acre as it's not unusual that unexpected animals occasion the area. Wayne and I got a close view of a beautiful red fox, and Cindy and I heard a red-shouldered hawk and barred owl nearby, not to mention an array of smaller woodland birds that are fun to have in this kind of neighborhood. We put up a small sign on the fence indicating our chapter's support. The place is owned by the University, but it's important to show community involvement. Thanks to Wayne Bockelman, Hermann Nonnenmacher (from the Biology Department), and Cindy for their help—and thanks to the chapter as a whole for its financial support.

Steve Ford



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

**Mar 31— "Botswana - Africa's Garden of Eden", by Rick Hines, P.A., Board Member of Kansas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and world traveler. Hines will talk about his trip to Africa's immense Okavango Delta, one of the world's greatest wildlife habitats. He will not only show photos of the native wildlife but also discuss the tremendous conservation efforts the country of Botswana is taking.**

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

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

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

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

**Minutes:** Read and approved.

**Tonight's Meeting:** "Bison Parts and Pieces, by Katy Holmer of Prairie State Park; next month's will be on Botswana, by Rick Hines.

**Publicity:** Joplin Globe, but not the Morning Sun. Announcements were heard on KKOW, KOAM, and KRPS.

**Tonight's Refreshments:** Cynthia Pfannenstiel and Mary Kilcher. Next month, Donna Smith and Mary Tersiner will provide them.

**Newsletter:** Superb as usual. Bob pointed out how Much money we're saving with the e-mail version versus the paper mailing.

**Field Trips:** Two female long-tailed ducks were seen at the Webb City water treatment plant, along with a list of otherbirds kept by Diane McCallum. There will be a bison hike at Prairie State Park next Saturday. The woodcocks have been displaying for two weeks at Steve and Cindy's, so the window for waffles and woodcocks has opened and closed.

**National Audubon Office** wants information on board members. Does anyone object? No.

**The first Audubon of Kansas Conference** is scheduled for April 9 in Lawrence. A couple of our board members may go.

**Rail Fence:** The rails are up. Thanks to Wayne for helping Steve and Cindy construct it.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40.

**Financial Statement**  
**Liz Mangile, Treasurer**  
**March 2016**

Beginning balance.....	\$5731.11
<i>Credits</i>	
Local Dues.....	\$ 35.00
<i>Debits</i>	
Newsletter.....	\$ 3.33
Ending balance.....	\$5762.78

**GOOD EATS**

**Cynthia Pfannenstiel and Mary Kilcher**  
 Thanks for the refreshments at the February meeting.

**February Meeting Presenter: Katy Holmer**



Repurposing materials for other uses may seem like a twenty-first century trend, but it's been practiced probably since the dawn of man. Native Americans were masters at it, and the plains Indians in our area relied heavily on the bison to provide them with necessities and adorn-

ments. Katy Holmer, natural resources steward from Prairie State Park, brought "Bison Parts and Pieces" to us in the form of what she termed a "grocery store" of items the plains Indians would have crafted for their survival and quality of life. She displayed and explained these items and passed several around for us to see and feel. Along with these, she listed other objects made from different bison parts.

The hair and hides would produce blankets, teepees, spun clothing, moccasins, dolls, shields, and drums; whips from tails; utensils and powderhorns from horns; water bottles from bladders; thread from sinews; paddles, cutting boards, scrapers, weapons, and carrying containers from bones. Toe bones made dice-like objects for playing games, hooves produced glue, and buffalo chips (dried manure) would provide warmth and cooking fires. No part of the bison was wasted.

The demise of the bison in the Great Plains was brought about, in part, by the destruction of prairie habitat by arriving settlers. Originally, over 232,000 acres of prairie existed in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma; less than 5% of that remains scattered among the three states. White men shot bison for food and sport. Before 1871, there were approximately 30 million bison; by 1891, only 1,000 remained. Efforts to restore numbers and keep the genetic strains pure have resulted in 30,000 today. Between 1985 and 1989, bison were re-introduced into Prairie State Park, and there are 130 there today.

Katy outlined the efforts made at the part to restore and maintain the herd and its prairie habitat. Controlled burns are executed on a different third of the park each year. Invasive plants and woody growth must be sprayed on each individual plant. The herd is moved around to different areas to prevent overgrazing. It is a thrill, at certain times of the year, to see the animals roaming freely among hikers and in front of cars on the road.

Other aspects of the park can lure us to the prairie experience. There are 17 miles of hiking trails, 4 camping sites and backpack camping is welcomed. Twenty-two elk roam the park. Various events are held throughout the year: bison hikes, wildflower hikes, special programs, and the Prairie Jubilee in the fall. For details on these activities,

Google "Prairie State Park" for the website, and enter facebook.com/prairiestatepark for the Facebook page.



Barb Robins

## SPERRY-GALLIGAR Audubon Happenings

## Sightings.....



## CRITTER CONNECTIONS

### Eurasian Collared Dove



The **Eurasian collared-dove**, *Streptopelia decaocto*, is a bird species on the move! The following is from an eBird article from November 2013. "Originally from the Indian subcontinent, Eurasian collared-dove expanded its range to western Europe in the previous century, reaching Germany in 1945 and Great Britain in 1953. It has since been recorded on Iceland, northern Norway, northwestern Africa, most of Russia, Malaysia and even Japan..." Introduced in the Bahamas in the 70's it has expanded across the US and southern Canada and it appears to be moving into Central America." Our own Sperry-Galligar Audubon member, Martha Price, was first to observe and document this species in Girard, Crawford County, KS. Below is the accepted record in the 1999 Report of the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

**"Eurasian collared-dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), 99-16, up to 5 adults, various dates from 1997 to 1999, residential area in Girard (Crawford County), Martha Price, Robert Mangile, Mary Ann Lepoglow, Ronnie O'Toole. Video and**

accompanying audio record helped to corroborate this identification. This is the 3rd accepted record for this species in the state. Additionally, this report would indicate that the species has been in the southeastern corner of the state since at least 1997."

In June 2000, Dave Buckley, of Pittsburg, KS, reported seeing two Eurasian collared-doves at his bird feeder; and in December 2000 Martha Price reported seeing 20 individuals at one time. **The invasion of Kansas had begun!** It took them a year or two before they invaded our back yard and are now regular visitors to our feeders. They tend to prefer small towns and communities where they glean waste grain around barn lots, elevators and bird feeders. But fall flocks numbering in the hundreds are seen in fields farther west in Kansas.

This species is one of over a dozen "true" **turtle doves** in the genus *Streptopelia*. Its endless repetitious "**cu'coo kuk**" call can sometimes be annoying. They often make a nasal scream or cat-call (**yeaaaaah**) during courtship flight. Our **mourning dove**, *Zenaida macroura*, was given the name "turtle dove" by the European settlers because it reminded them of the true turtle dove, (*Streptopelia turtur*), species from their homeland.

There is no primary difference between pigeons and doves – regardless of size. There are over 300 species of pigeons and doves in the world. All build flimsy nests and lay one or two white or cream-white eggs. The helpless (altricial) new hatchlings are called squabs and are fed "crop milk" or "pigeon milk" by **both** parents. Doves are the only birds that drink with a sucking action instead of scooping up water and tilting their heads back. # # #

Bob Mangile

#### Earliest of the Wildflowers



Henbit



Trout Lily



Spring Beauty

## REMINDER: PLAN TO ATTEND KANSAS AUDUBON CONFERENCE

Please plan to join other Audubon members and conservationists from across the state for the first **Audubon of Kansas Conference** to be held on **Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** at the **Lawrence Holiday Inn**. The conference is being called: "**Silent Spring 2016: Threats to Birds, Bees and other Wildlife.**" Details of the conference are at the following web address: <http://www.audubonofkansas.org/about/silent-spring-conference-2016/>

Register on the Audubon of Kansas website. The registration cost is \$50 for members and \$75 for nonmembers. Lunch is included.

**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**  
816 E. Atkinson Ave  
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762



Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Events &  
Miscellany**



**PSU SUMMER CAMPS**

If you have young children who are interested in learning about nature you might be interested in the two summer programs by PSU's Nature Reach Director, Delia Lister  
<delialister@yahoo.com>

The June Summer Camp is a five (5) day program and the Pre Kindergarten Reading is a half hour reading one day a week for three weeks. Registration required - 15 student maximum for each camp. For more information, contact Delia Lister, Department of Biology, Pittsburg State University.

Diane McCallom found this interesting bird tidbit: Wisdom, the Laysan Albatross, has some great superlatives to her name. She's the oldest tagged bird in the wild, which may also make her the most famous. She's also mothered 35 chicks—and this year, the 64-year-old beauty has returned to her favorite nesting grounds in the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, laid her annual egg, and should be welcoming a chick any day now.

Even with Wisdom's impressive contributions to her colony, the species is in trouble. They're listed in danger of extinction on the 2014 State of the Birds Watch List. National Audubon Society

**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society  
Newsletter**  
816 Atkinson Ave.  
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.) 7:00 pm to 9 pm, in Room 102, Yates Hall.  
PSU Campus, Pittsburg, KS.  
Refreshments served. 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.

