



NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry– Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2015 - 2017

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March 2017

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Listen for the Leopard Frogs (cont. on p. 3)

As kids we spent much of the warmer months wandering the fields and fishing in local ponds. Back then people were free to enter property without being considered trespassers. Everybody knew everyone! We knew that to catch the big Largemouth Bass you needed bait that was large enough that the smaller fish couldn't take it off of your hook and one of the best baits were what we called "stripie frogs". These are not a new species of frog but we called them stripie frogs because they had two light stripes down their back and they were nearly impossible to catch. But the larger bass couldn't resist them when tossed in the open water away from vegetation cover along the edge. These striped frogs were, in fact, Leopard Frogs.

In our area there are two species of Leopard Frogs, i.e., the Plains Leopard Frog, (*Lithobates blairi*), found through-

out in the southeastern fifth of the state. Adults of both species grow to about 2-3+ inches long. Both species have: two light dorsolateral folds on the back (hence, our name "stripie frogs"), and are tan colored with irregular dark spots on their back and sides. The Southern Leopard Frog usually displays variable amounts of green on their back and snout and is a little smaller than the Plains Leopard Frog. Both can jump long distances – quickly.

The general public most likely cannot make a distinction between these two species but there is one characteristic that makes identification easy – generally. The extreme posterior ends of the dorsolateral lines on the Plains Leopard Frog are broken and offset inward at the lower end compared to the unbroken lateral folds on the Southern Leopard Frog. (See photos by Steve Johnson & Tom Brennen.).

March Meeting
Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Yates 102
Pittsburg State Univ
****Presentation****

Mar 30 — "Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species of Southeast Kansas." by Ed Miller, T&E Coordinator with the KDWP&T, will explore the life history, habitat, and conservation efforts toward these rare wildlife species.

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



Southern Leopard Frog



Plains Leopard Frog

out Kansas and the Southern Leopard Frog, (*Lithobates sphenoccephalus*), found

Board Meeting Highlights
Barb Robins, Secretary

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

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

Minutes for January 26, 2017: Read and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$7037.96

Tonight's Presentation will be "Prairie Conservation and Restoration" by Jerod Huebner of the Missouri Prairie Foundation. In March, we will hear Ed Miller on "Threatened and Endangered Species of Southeast Kansas." Andra Stefanoni has agreed to speak at the May picnic meeting on "Nature Places for Kids and Grandkids."

Ted Sperry and Prairie Restoration: Wayne thanked Bob for sending him a background on Sperry's work, and he asked Steve to give a brief "backstory" on Dr. Sperry's connection to prairie restoration to lead into tonight's presentation at the general meeting.

Publicity: Evidently nothing was announced on KRPS; the Morning Sun ran our item for three days; and posters were put up on campus and the public library.

Newsletter: Wayne complimented this month's contributors. Some readers have mentioned how much they enjoy reading the newsletter.

Texting Service: During the last two months, some members have signed up and are now receiving notifications of meetings.

Refreshments: Cynthia Pfannenstiel and Robert Snare. We now have enough volunteers to finish the year.

Great Backyard Bird Count was February 17-20. Several participated.

Field Trips: Auduboners were represented at Stella's eagle days and at the PPL presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Financial Statement
Liz Mangile, Treasurer
March 2017

Beginning Balance-----\$7038.46

Credits

Service Chg. Refund-----\$ 3.00
 Local dues & birdhouses-----\$124.00
 Birdhouses-----\$ 30.00
 Total-----\$ 157.00

Debits

Newsletter-----\$ 4.50
 Nat'l Audubon members-----\$ 40.00
 Total-----\$ 44.50

Ending Balance-----\$7150.96

February Presenter: Jerod Huebner



It is hard to imagine that a great percentage of early Missouri's lands was tallgrass prairie, and today that percentage can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Thankfully, there are individuals and organizations dedicated to preserving those remaining remnants; we were privileged to hear one of them describe to us in detail his work in that area. Jerod, in his early

career, spent five years at the University of Missouri, and is now Director of Prairie Management for the Missouri Prairie Foundation. He is currently working on the prairie restoration project at Carver Prairie outside Diamond. Jerod was careful to explain the difference between restoration and reconstruction. Acres of prairie land that have never been plowed can be candidates for restoration to their original native state by removing invasive species and replanting species that might have dwindled or disappeared. Acres that have been plowed at some time must be reconstructed by removing everything and starting from scratch.

Native grassland ecosystems are dominated by perennial warm season grasses, legumes, wildflowers, hedges, and scattered shrubs, with very few trees. Prairies evolved with fire and drought. Tallgrass prairies in SW Missouri number 21 owned by the Prairie Foundation. Carver Prairie is one of the newest. Jerod spoke in detail on his work in maintaining these prairies and what he directs as part of an annual management program: prescribed burning, brush and fence removal, seed collecting and planting, and treatment of invasives. Burning is done to emulate Mother Nature's lightning storms in the early days, and several factors, including timing, humidity, wind speed and direction, temperature, and fuel moisture must be considered.

Carver Prairie's work has resulted in finding two species that haven't been seen in 20 years. Future plans for this 163-acre prairie will involve maintaining 63 acres like other prairies, completely restoring 35 acres, removing 15 acres of brush and trees, and restoring 50 acres of woodland to historic conditions.

Unfortunately, it is necessary to use herbicides on invasive species, but much research has been done to utilize those that will kill a specific plant but not pollute groundwater.

These tallgrass prairies managed by the MPF are mostly open to the public. It would be an exciting and historical experience to take your children and grandchildren to see plants in bloom that would have been present before pioneers arrived to break the prairie with their plows.

In their season, you can see black-eyed Susan, wild strawberry, Monarda, butterfly milkweed, fringed orchids, Indian paintbrush, among many others.

Jerod gave us some upcoming event dates, the first two being an Missouri Prairie Foundation Native Plant Sale in Kansas City, April 15, and National Prairie Day on June 3.



Help celebrate our important remaining prairies.

Barb Robins

HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

Listen for the Leopard Frogs (cont. from p. 1)

April and May are peak periods of activity and breeding and as many as 5,000+ eggs are laid in a large mass. Hatching time is dependent on water temperature and tadpoles metamorphose in late summer. Their behavior of wandering far from water gives rise

to being called "meadow frogs". Food consists of insects and invertebrates.

Note: Unlike vocalizations produced by many other vertebrates, frogs and toads produce sound without expelling air from their mouth; rather, the vocal sac/sacs are inflated with air from the lungs and cycles back and forth, over the vocal chords in the larynx, between the vocal sacs and the lungs.

Bob Mangile

Sightings.....



NATURE PIC OF THE MONTH

By
Emmett
Sullivan

Southeast Kansas Animals Enjoy Spring



Female hairy woodpecker
— (Bob Mangile)



Errant Ford horses sampling bird feeder — (Cindy Ford)



Red-tailed hawk



Persistent squirrel finding seeds in tube feeder — (Cindy Ford)



Nesting great horned owl — (Bob Mangile)

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



Thank you, Cynthia Pfannenstiel and Robert Snare for the refreshments.

REMINDER: Check your bluebird boxes for leftover nesting or invaders. Bluebirds will start nesting soon and benefit from a clean box.

As planner for the upcoming Spring Kansas Ornithological Society Meeting, I am looking for anyone available and willing to help lead some of the birding field trips in Cherokee, Crawford, Labette, and Neosho counties. If you know of some great birding spots in any of these counties and would be interested in leading a group of birders out to these locations for Saturday, or Sunday morning (May 6 & 7), please contact jennifer.rader@ks.gov or jennrader34@gmail.com. We'd love to have some local experts show off the southeast corner of the state! And even if you aren't available to help, but know of some great birding locations, feel free to send me a note. Hope to see you there! For more information, head to www.ksbirds.org Thanks!

Join the March for Science in Joplin on Earth Day, April 22. Meet just north of 7th & Main at 9:00 and end up near the library at 11:00. Google "March for Science, Joplin, MO" to get more details. For a t-shirt to support the cause, go to marchforscience.com in next few days.

**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.

