



# 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@gus.pittstate.edu](mailto:cford@gus.pittstate.edu)

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

.....  
**May 25 — “Promoting Young Naturalists” by Andra Stefanoni, journalist and naturalist. Andra will share strategies for engaging young people (as well as adults) in adventures in nature.**

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

May 2017

VOLUME 2017 ISSUE 5

## WHOOO WOOD'A THUNK!



Wikipedia photo

It was cold day in early March as I went to the farm to check my cattle. At the home place I have a house and buildings and in the house is a nice fireplace with an insert. Thinking it would be a good idea to have a warm place to warm-up, I went in and open up the doors on the fireplace and to my surprise guess “whooo” was looking at me--a full grown Barn Owl with eyes

almost as big as mine! He jumped out and flew to the west end of the living room, no exit there, came back making a right turn into the kitchen hitting the window and then perching there. I got a broom and swept him lightly to the floor and around the corner and out the back door. He stood up looked around and took off.

**Ken Tersinar**



Gary Eitel

## IN-FLIGHT MEAL

I recently had a fascinating encounter with warblers at Wilderness Park in Frontenac. It was May 6 and the weather was fantastic, but parts of the park were still waterlogged so there weren't very many people there. I spent some time birding and saw some good birds, including a glimpse of a pileated woodpecker...but the best was yet to come.

I was heading back to the parking lot when I decided to take a side trip along Cross Creek Trail. At first I didn't see much, although occasionally I would spot a yellow-rumped warbler flitting around. I'd just about resolved to turn back when I noticed some birds fluttering around ahead of me. Curious, I continued up the path.

As I reached a turn in the trail, I stopped because I could see several small birds swooping back and forth across the path. I couldn't figure out what was happening until I spotted several flying insects hovering in a patch of sunlight there. As I watched, warblers swooped across the path, snatching the insects

in mid-air. There were at least four yellow warblers and eight or ten yellow-rumped warblers enjoying a feast. I had never seen warblers catch insects in the air like that and I must have stood there for fifteen minutes enjoying the spectacle. Sometimes one bird would fly across and the other times a group of them would swoop down on the hapless bugs. They would land in a tree to eat their catch and then dive

down for another one. A Swainson's thrush also showed up to see what he could catch, although he stayed on the ground. Occasionally one of the swooping warblers would land quite close (within ten feet) of me, although most of the time they were a good fifty feet away. It was amazing to see the flashes of yellow and black/white

as the warblers flew out of the shadows and fluttered in the sunlight while catching their prey.

It's always nice to get a reminder of how rewarding a walk in the park can be! I was lucky to catch the show.

**Diane McCallum**



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

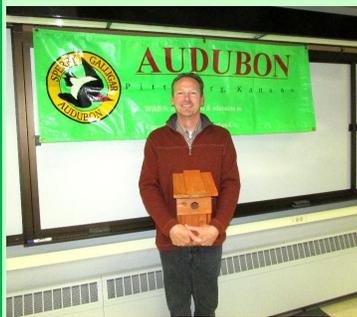
**Attending:** Mavis Benner, Wayne Bockelman, Megan Corrigan, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan.  
**Call To Order (Wayne):** 6:00.  
**Minutes** for March 30 were read and approved.  
**Treasurer's Report (Liz):** Checking account balance of \$7181.30.  
**Special Guest:** Katie McMurry, biology graduate student of Chris Brodsky, is conducting a research project studying the effects of gardening landscaping practices on bird and butterfly diversity. She would like to visit volunteer gardens four times during the period of May-August 2017 and observe the plants and wildlife. She is looking for people willing to allow access to their gardens during that time, and she is requesting funding from our chapter to cover mailing expenses. Discussion ensued after she departed; and it was moved, seconded, and approved that we fund her \$500 for her project.  
**Refreshments:** are by Mary Kilcher and Sharon Kennedy. It was reported erroneously last month that Mary Kilcher helped provide them; it was Mary Tersiner instead.  
**Tonight's Speaker** is Tony Robyn on urban ecology planning. Also, Rick Tucker would like to speak for a few minutes on Audubon of Kansas.  
**Election of Officers** will occur at the general meeting tonight.  
**Publicity** was sparse this month; no posters or announcements except to area schools.  
**Picnic May 25:** Liz would like for someone else to be responsible for the arrangements and chicken this year.  
**Newsletter:** Thanks go to Cindy, Steve, and Barb.  
**Field Trips:** None scheduled; KOS is meeting in Pittsburg weekend after next with bird forays to several locations. Meeting adjourned at 6:50.

**MANY THANKS TO BARB ROBINS FOR HER YEARS OF EXCELLENT SERVICE!**

**Financial Statement**  
**Liz Mangile, Treasurer**  
**May 2017**

<b>Beginning balance</b> -----	\$7150.96
<i>Credits</i>	
National Audubon money for new members-----	\$ 40.00
4 ant molts-----	\$ 8.00
<b>Total</b> -----	<b>\$ 48.00</b>
<i>Debits</i>	
Newsletter-----	\$ 4.83
Donation to Katie McMurray for educational work----	\$ 500.00
Gift certificate Barb Robins secretary, retirement----	\$ 25.00
Newsletter-----	\$ 4.83
<b>Total</b> -----	<b>\$ 534.66</b>
<b>Ending balance</b> -----	<b>\$6664.30</b>

**March Presenter: Tony Robyn**



Tony was gracious enough to come from Joplin and take a different departure from our usual topics on wildlife. Tony has been in Joplin 16 years and is currently Assistant Director of Planning Development and Neighborhood Services for the City. In his previous life, he was associate zoo director for Kansas City, Missouri, then executive director of Joplin's Wildcat

Glades Audubon Center, and regional vice president of the National Audubon Society. Urban ecology is the scientific study of living organisms with each other and their surroundings in an urban environment. Urban planning constitutes an orderly development in urban and suburban areas. Years ago, cities used to just happen; now we plan in all aspects of urban growth—infrastructure, streets, parks, etc. The Joplin tornado of 2011, as tragic and devastating as it was, provided opportunities to create and execute a plan. "Our ideas existed, the storm just unleashed their power." Tony's group developed recovery objectives involving aspects such as population stability and growth, quality jobs and employment, quality housing and infrastructure, and quality of life in general. Also, they wanted to improve recreation and amenities; trees, parks and greenspace; storm water drainage and water quality, and sustainability.

Working closely with the state department of conservation, they selected and planted native trees to replace the 25,000 that were lost. Their plans also include prairie restoration and trails expansion. Tony gave us details on a project his group is proud of: the new Mercy Park, being developed on the former St. Johns Hospital site. A unique water feature has been built, a prairie meadow is being developed, along with naturescaping, a monarch butterfly waystation, and chimney swift towers. Interpretative signage is being installed. Wildlife are arriving, including red-headed woodpeckers and kestrels.

An important component of urban planning is storm water disposal, which is mandated in detail by state and federal regulations. The group worked with Parks and Wildlife to develop wetland detention and urban prairie areas along Murphy Boulevard. Aiding in water detention and disposal are trees, and an objective is to place 20,000 trees in Mercy Park, Campbell Parkway, and Parr Hill Park, among other sites. Tony showed us plans for a pocket park on the new Joplin Public Library site. Underground filtration will occur under the parking lot. Joplin currently has 20 miles of trails; the plans are to double that to 40 by 2019. They will interconnect city amenities.

Thank you, Tony, for taking your time to share with us the foresight and talent involved in making Joplin emerge a better place which evokes an aesthetic sense and quality of life to be presented as a model to other urban environments in Missouri and well beyond.

Barb Robins



*Thanks to Mary Kilcher and Sharon Kennedy for the refreshments at the April meeting.*

## HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

### HIGHLIGHTS OF SPERRY-GALLIGAR AUDUBON GENERAL MEETING

**Birds Sighted:** Wood duck, bald eagle, scarlet tanager, parula warbler, Scissor-tailed flycatcher, yellow-rumped warbler, downy woodpecker on hummingbird feeder, barred owl, among others.

Rick Tucker of Parsons, representing Audubon of Kansas as a board trustee, informed us of that organization's activities, its mission, and the grassroots issues in which it is involved. He requested that someone from this area volunteer for the state board, and that we as members help fund their publication "Prairie Wings".

Katie McMurry, graduate student of Christine Brodsky, spoke to us about her research project, on backyard landscapes and their effect on bird and butterfly visits. She would like to people to participate by sharing their yards with her. Our board has voted to help her with her expenses, and we awarded her \$500.

The slate of officers was voted in by voice vote: Wayne Bockelman (president), Christine Brodsky (vice president), Liz Mangile (treasurer), and Megan Corrigan (secretary) will serve us next year.

Next month's meeting will be our annual picnic. Bring a side and we will provide fried chicken and drinks.

Andra Stefanoni will speak on nature-friendly places.

**Barb Robins**

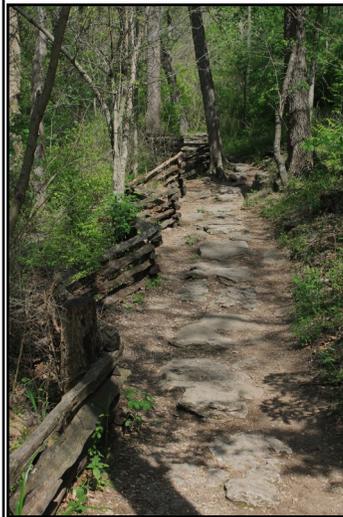
### White Red-tailed Hawk

Janelle Cowan has been interested in nature and wildlife since childhood. She was among the first groups of kids to attend the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Summer Camps held in the early 2000's. Recently she emailed the following: "This mostly white Red-tailed Hawk was spotted West of Pittsburg on a telephone pole. I had spotted it last year as well, but never had a great photo opp." There is some color in the hawk's plumage, therefore, it is not an albino but are often incorrectly called "partial albinos". Being partially albino is like being partially pregnant! Perhaps a more correct name for this condition would be "leucistic" or "amelanistic". Bob Mangile



Photo by:  
Janelle Cowan  
March 2017

### SPRINGFIELD NATURE CENTER



If you're ever in the area of Springfield, MO, I highly recommend a stop at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. You'll find a nature center staffed by friendly and helpful people, as well as many trails through various habitats.

To get there, I took I-44 east and took the exit for Hwy. 60 (James River Freeway). Then I followed the brown signs. It was remarkable easy to find.

There's an expansive parking lot and there are signs pointing out where to go for the center of the trails. I started in the nature center and received all kinds of tips and suggestions

from the staff there. One was a birder who gave me advice about where to look for warblers, although I was a little early (It was April 15.). They handed me a map and I was off.

There are 79 acres, with three miles of trails to enjoy. I walked along Lake Springfield, through fields of grass and among the trees. I saw turtles sunning themselves on a log, a cardinal flower sprouting from some rocks and several nice wooden bridges. The trails vary in length from 0.2 miles to two miles. Some are paved, some are gravel and some are boardwalks. The whole area is beautiful.

Some of the wildflowers I saw included cardinal flowers, wild hyacinth, wild sweet William and spice bush. Some of the birds I saw included a blue-gray gnat-catcher. **Diane McCallum**



### Sightings.....



Pic of the Month  
by  
Emmett Sullivan



Great egret

The great egret is the largest egret in our area. Note the size and black legs. A snowy egret has black legs and yellow "slippers". Cattle egrets are the smallest of the regional egrets.

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



**Hello Nature Enthusiasts.** You are invited to attend the Sperry-Galligar Audubon annual picnic on May 25th, 6-9 P.M. at the Homer Cole Pittsburg Community Center, 3003 North Joplin in Pittsburg, KS. We will supply the chicken, coffee and tea but we ask that you bring a side dish of some sort - vegetables, desserts or both - and your own table service, i.e., plates, silverware cups and glasses. A semi potluck!

Guest speaker, Andra Stefanoni, will talk about how to get young people interested in Nature. If you plan to attend please let us know how many will be in your party at least five days ahead so that we will know how much chicken to buy. Call [620-231-3117](tel:620-231-3117) or E-mail Bob Mangile <[rmangile@cox.net](mailto:rmangile@cox.net)>

Do it now so you don't forget! Hope you can make it.

**NATIVE PLANT SALE—MAY 27**

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery will be at Wildcat Glade, Joplin. Plants for Birds is a key initiative in the Audubon's bird-friendly community strategic plan. If you are with an Audubon Chapter, you may be looking for ways to participate in this initiative, and we want to measure your efforts as we strive to reach the goal of a million native plants put in the ground to benefit birds and other wildlife. As you already know, native plants are much more beneficial for wildlife than most of the non-native plants available at most nurseries, and when used in a rain garden they can help prevent some nonpoint source water pollution affecting water quality in streams.

**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.

