

NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2017 - 2019

President:

Wayne Bockelman

Vice President:

Christine Brodsky

Secretary

Megan Corrigan

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

cford@gus.pittstate.edu

May Meeting
Thursday, 6:00 p.m.
Homer Cole Bldg
Pittsburg, KS
****Presentation****

May 31: "...From Black-footed Ferrets to Bobwhite Quail: Audubon of Kansas Conservation Advocacy and Sanctuaries" by Ron Klataske, Director of Audubon of Kansas. Get an update on some of our Kansas rare, unusual, and declining species. Find out what is being done to maintain their status and their habitats.

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

May 2018

VOLUME 2018 ISSUE 5

Annual Sperry-Galligar Audubon Picnic *Plan to come.*

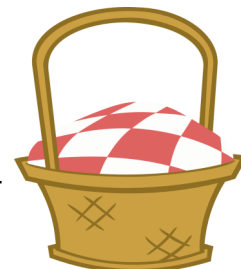
The Sperry-Galligar Audubon would like to invite you to attend our annual picnic on Thursday, May 31st, from 6-9 pm at the Homer Cole Community Center, [3003 North Joplin](#), in Pittsburg, KS. Ron Klataske, Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas, was scheduled to speak at our February meeting program but Manhattan, KS was hit with an ice storm and Ron had to cancel. However, Ron will be our speaker at the picnic and will talk about efforts to reintroduce the black-footed Ferret in Kansas. The Black-footed Ferret, now on the endangered species list, was thought to be extinct in 1996 and is one of the rarest mammals in the United States. Other species will be discussed, including bobwhite quail.

Sperry-Galligar Audubon will provide fried chicken, tea and coffee. This will be a "semi potluck" so you are asked to bring either a dessert or side dish and your own table service (plate, fork, knife, and cup or glass).

If you have not already signed up please let us know (RSVP) if you plan to attend. We request that you contact us no later than May 24th. (the sooner the better) to let us know how many will be in your party so we can order the chicken. Email Bob Mangile <rmangile@cox.net> or Liz Mangile <lawnmowerliz@cox.net> or call 620-231-3117.

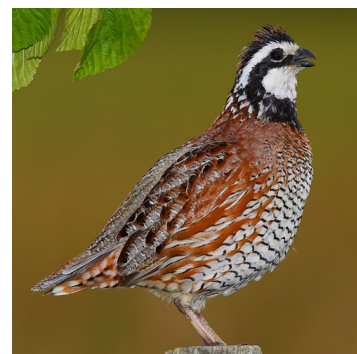
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Please RSVP if you plan to attend our picnic. OK?

Bob Mangile
Sperry-Galligar Audubon



Black-footed Ferret

**Find out
about the
status of
these two
Kansas
wildlife
species.**



Northern Bobwhite

6:00 Board Meeting Highlights Steve Ford for Megan Corrigan,

Attending: Mavis Benner, Wayne Bockelman, Cindy and Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob and Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Emmet and Ruth Sullivan.

March Minutes: Read and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): \$7,512.84

April Refreshments: Thank you Cindy and Delia

May Presentation (Picnic at Homer Cole) to be Ron Klatske, "Audubon of Kansas Conservation Advocacy and Sanctuaries, from Black-footed Ferrets to Bobwhite Quail." Motion passed to give Audubon of Kansas \$100 for Ron's efforts, plus motel fee if he stays. Christine will arrange.

Discussion of slate of officers: proposed – Steve Ford, president; Christine Brodsky, vice/programs; David Hollie, secretary; Liz Mangile, treasurer

Publicity: Our recent KACEE award made the front page of *Morning Sun*!

May Homer Cole picnic under control (May 31, 6:00 pm) Bob said Bob Hurt agreed to make new bench for Wilderness Park. No charge.

Wildlife & Parks HQ landscape project: Steve and Cindy planted 20 loblolly pine seedlings and eight seven foot saplings and started herbiciding weeds in nearby woods. Steve to coordinate making of Leopold benches and bird-feeding structures.

Wildlife Stamp book: First Edition Wildlife postal stamp book (given to Diane for S-G Aud) will be offered in silent auction at May picnic. Minimum bid to be \$40.

Thanks to outgoing president Wayne for his dedicated, efficient work for the board!

Financial Statement Liz Mangile, Treasurer May 2018

Beginning balance-----	\$7516.79
Credits	
Donation-----	\$ 25.00
Total-----	\$ 25.00
Debits	
Newsletter-----	\$ 3.95
Wilderness Park bench materials-----	\$66.00
Total-----	\$69.95
Ending balance-----	\$7471.84

Refreshments provided by
Delia Lister and Cindy Ford

Presenter: Dr. Cindy Ford



Long-time Sperry-Galligar stalwart and board member, Emmett Sullivan, has been taking photos of Kansas wildflowers since the early 1950s. He's gotten pretty good at it (and won awards) as his beautiful photos at the April meeting testified. Viewers could practically feel the buttercups tickling their nose.

Cindy Ford used his pictures, and some of her own, to illustrate one of her favorite subjects, the many ways to appreciate native plants.

"Native plants" is probably a better term than "wildflowers," as it includes not only the ankle-level little forbs, but shrubs and trees too, just as "pollinator garden" is more appropriate than "butterfly garden." Lots of animals are pollinators in addition to butterflies. Understanding pollination ecology is more than just a monarch on a milkweed. For example, a shrub with a striking flower is the red buckeye. When it blooms in mid to late April depend on seeing your first hummingbird. This time-related natural relationship is called "phenology," and is a fascinating part of enjoying native plants. Unfortunately our changing climate may well be disrupting these time- and local climate-related relationships. So does habitat loss and non-native invasive species. It's satisfying on many levels for nature-appreciators to get involved in native plants.

How? (1) Make native plants "your own." Use them in your own landscaping. There are many advantages. For example, once established they are easy to care for. They are drought-tolerant and have few pests that they can't survive. Indeed there are some disadvantages. Many general nurseries don't sell them so you have to seek out specialty nurseries (Missouri Wildflower Nursery, for example) and/or keep your eye out for sales at nature centers. Many native plants can be rather tall and not as showy as common garden flowers. That said, they obviously lend themselves well to informal-style garden landscapes. Cindy replaced her mown-grass front yard with natives.

Start small and be patient. Seeds or live plants? Buy from reputable sources. Beware of general "wildflower mixes" Please do not dig up plants from roadsides – in some states that's illegal. Water at first, and dig the weeds from your young garden – yes, you'll have to learn what a weed is and what is a desirable plant. There are several guides to establishing a small native plant landscape. Of course a good way to get started is to enlist the advice of an expert – Cindy for example.

Another way to enjoy native plants is (2) to simply find them in nature, the way Emmett does. *Missouri Wildflowers* is a good ID guide for our area. Seek out a variety of natural habitats – woods, pond edges, natural grassy edges, parks. Remember phenology. There are spring-bloomers and fall-bloomers, so return to the same areas over the growing season.

Steve Ford

HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

Thank you Wayne and Megan

After five years of shepherding Pittsburg's Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter, Wayne Bockelman is hanging up his binoculars. One of his first projects was to comb through our constitution and by-laws and upgrade them. Evidence that Sperry-Galligar Audubon has thrived under his leadership is the chapter's recent award from KACEE (Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education). Wayne has cheerfully undertaken both the organizational grunt work and the public eye-type activities inherent in the "head woodpecker" position, not to mention the dirty-fingernail work of wildlife conservation. He has toted many a 50-pound bag of sunflower seeds at the annual bird-seed sale and has been a creative force in keeping our small-town club an Audubon chapter second to none in Kansas.

Sadly for us Megan Corrigan is also flying the coop. She had recently stepped into the secretary position, but for most of her tenure served as vice-president and program director. Program director is a key position for any Audubon chapter as interesting speakers are what fill the chairs in general meetings. Meg has done a wonderful job in that capacity. She also assisted Wayne in the quality functioning of the chapter's administration, including the production of eye-catching posters. She has finished her degree in Environmental Sustainability (emphasis in biology) at PSU, and has accepted the position of Director of International Studies at Cottey College in Neosho.

Both Wayne and Megan brought uncommon attention to detail and energy to their work for the chapter. We thank them wholeheartedly and wish them the best.

Steve Ford

Stymied on Lonestar Birds by Steve Ford

As I write this I'm sitting on my deck reading a little John Steinbeck and occasionally looking over the backyard for birds. I've been at this grueling activity for awhile now, and been able to identify about thirty different species. I'm thinking this number is not bad, considering I've not been at all aggressive in trying to up the count – no visiting hot spots or playing recordings. Just sitting on my . . . chair. (I do have to admit to seeing a few migrating warblers that I would not see at other times. On the other hand, my count today does not include any waterfowl or shorebirds. So.)

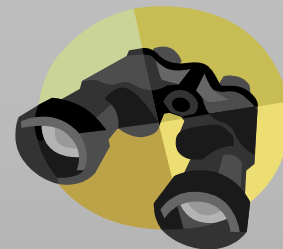
Cindy and I drove down to the Texas Hill Country recently for a short getaway. Over the years we've seen a lot of Texas, but this was our first visit to this south-central region around Fredericksburg. While I was hoping to see a lot of the iconic Texas bluebonnets (We certainly did. Beautiful!), and was assuming to see a lot of, well, hilly country, I was not expecting to see so many trees. A typical overlook included a few pastures and vineyards, but mostly was a blanket of trees - a light green and dark green mosaic of relatively small live oaks and "cedars." The effect is rather like a checkerboard-patterned afghan on a very lumpy bed. Scenic, and one might hope, birdy.



Of course we always take binoculars to Texas. We had a wonderful birding experience on a previous trip to coastal Galveston. Several field trips to the Big Bend area, Aransas, and Palo Duro Canyon in the Panhandle, have always been fruitful. But this time? Shucks (I would say "alas," but this was Texas), this time the birding was the pits. Despite hikes in three state parks, a hotel balcony overlooking the woods, and miles of back roads we were all but skunked. OK, there was a plethora (Texas translation: s**t – load) of white-winged doves, collared doves, and black vultures, plus some blue jays, and cardinals, and a turkey. Oh yes, and an ostrich. But all-in-all we should have stowed the binoculars and visited more wineries.

My point is, Toto, sometimes indeed there is no place like home.

Sightings.....



Emmett Sullivan's Pic of the Month



Barred Owl

Emmett spotted this owl sitting on a fence post in Cherokee Co., KS.

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



Last Month's Quiz Questions —answered for you—

Emmett's Pic of the Month
This feather was found at
the Southeast Kansas
Nature Center in Galena, KS

(Red-headed woodpecker)



Is this a double-crested cormorant or a neotropic (northern) cormorant?

(Double-crested cormorant)

What is a definitive ID difference?

(Larger & orange on face versus whitish V-shape on neotropic cormorant)



**THANK YOU, BOB HURT, FOR BUILDING
THE BENCH FOR WILDERNESS PARK**

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.

