



NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry– Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2018 - 2020

President:

Steve Ford

Vice President:

Christine Brodsky

Secretary

David Hollie

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

cford@gus.pittstate.edu

September Meeting
Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Yates 102, PSU
Pittsburg, KS
****Presentation****

Sep. 27: "Monarchs and Milkweeds...and More" by Val Frankoski. The iconic monarch butterfly has declined more than 80% in the past two years. She will present a practical detailed discussion on how interest in their recovery has surged and how average citizens are able to make an impact on their future.

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

Sep 2018

VOLUME 2018 ISSUE 6

Birding at its Best

Neosho Wildlife Area with Burroughs Audubon

Neosho Wildlife Area, just east of Greensburg, Kansas, was the site of an all-day birding trip on Saturday, April 28, hosted by Andrew Burnett of Parsons, for Burroughs Audubon of Kansas City and Sperry-Gallagher Audubon of Pittsburg. Early birders met at 7:00 a.m. to search the woods for warblers passing through the area. We were joined at 9:00 a.m. for those touring the wetlands area for waterfowl. A total of ninety-six species was seen during the day.

A beautiful day it was—one of the last cool early mornings when a stocking cap was still comfortable, but by afternoon we were breaking out the sun-screen. The afternoon walk along the levees of the wetlands provided not only exercise, but also ample opportunity to view a variety of waterfowl.

A number of the Kansas City birders had nice scopes on tripods for zooming in on the shore birds on the opposite bank. In fact, shore birds seemed almost always to be on the opposite bank. Binoculars were great for scanning the shore and finding birds, but scopes sure came in handy to identify birds and observe their personality.

The Phalarope danced in the water, spinning around like a ballerina. The Long-billed Dowitcher probed the mud with its bill, up and down like a sewing machine. Once we learned their behavior, we could identify them even with binoculars.

Andrew is a fantastic birder, as are several of the Kansas City Audubon members. While I, myself, was proud to recall the name *Sandpiper*, they were able to identify whether the bird in the scope was the more common Pectoral Sandpiper or the single Semi-palmated Sandpiper we found. We saw several Solitary Sandpipers and a smattering of Spotted Sandpipers but only one Stilt Sandpiper. There was a Baird's Sandpiper and, at last, a Least Sandpiper.

Among the flock of Double-crested Cormorants that flew over, there was one Neotropical Cormorant. It was about two-thirds the size of the others, had a smaller head, thinner bill, and longer tail. Still, the experienced birders were quite willing to answer a question from those less experienced, "How do you know they are cormorants?"

Several kids went along on the long hike—from young children to teenagers. They were surprisingly tolerant of their parents' idea of a good time. They were passably patient even when it was clear they couldn't care less whether the scope revealed a Greater or a Lesser Yellowlegs.

However, the large, up-close-and-personal snapping turtle sunning itself on the levee was a hit.

Our thanks go out to Andrew Burnett and to the members of Burroughs Audubon who shared their expertise

and equipment. A list of the birds the group observed is listed on the Bonus Page. Not all birds were seen by all birders. Some species, including the turkey, were identified only from their calls. Wayne Bockelman



6:00 Board Meeting Highlights

David Hollie, Secretary

Attending: Wayne Bockelman, Christine Brodsky, Cindy and Steve Ford, David Hollie, Mary Kilcher, Delia Lister, Bob and Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, and Emmett Sullivan

April Minutes: Read and approved

Treasurer's Report (Liz): \$7,241.68

Newsletter articles: Articles are welcome anytime, deadline is always the 10th of the month

Update on shirts: Already sold out of XL, plenty of the other sizes still available. We will pass around a sheet at the September meeting to see if there is enough interest in XL to order more

Sperry house: It doesn't have a caretaker anymore. Steve and Cindy Ford have played a large part in taking care of it for the last 25 years, but we are looking to find new way of maintaining the property.

Wildlife & Parks HQ landscaping project: Progress has been made with the landscaping around the HQ with river rocks, native plants and wildflowers. Steve and Cindy have already helped with laying down gravel and plants, the project will continue throughout the fall

Speakers for Monthly Meetings: Christine has speakers for the fall months, still have openings in March, April, and May

Nature Reach 5k Fun Run Help: The inaugural "Run Like an Animal" 5k and 1 mile fun run to benefit the PSU Nature Reach Program will be held on March 30. **Motion passed:** to sponsor a hydration station – need a half dozen volunteers to help pass out water to runners.

Parsons Rehab Flight Pen: Delia presented list of questions to ask before we give funds to help with the construction of the flight pen for raptors.

Refreshments for September & later:

Liz Mangile will do the refreshments for September (thank you!), sheet will be passed around for future months. Ask for volunteers in the audience if coffee is something we want at meetings.

Publicity: **Motion passed:** to continue advertising on Bird Notes (KRPS)

Ideas to reach more youth: (1) Have more family-friendly activities (2) Reach out to scout organizations or 4-H (3) Plan a family day to Prairie State Park

Field trips: Steve and Cindy to head up field trips. Ideas for field trips are always welcome

The May meeting silent auction item was a stamp album that was won by Wylie DeGruson. Funds were donated to the Sperry-Galligar Chapter.

May Picnic & Presenter: Ron Klataske



Liz Mangile

The Sperry-Galligar Audubon May Picnic has become a very popular annual event. Lots of good food accompanies club-contributed fried chicken. If you have not attended, plan to come 2019.

The picnic is held at the Homer-Cole Building. We want to thank Teri and Clay McKinnis for their help and even decorations in setting up the room for the meeting.



And, then, there are great speakers who give us insight into nature around us. This past May, Ron Klataske (photo right) gave an inspiring presentation and also highlighted the accomplishments of our Audubon Chapter and of our 2018 President, Wayne Bockelman (left). (Photos by Bob Mangile)

Financial Statement...Liz Mangile, Treasurer September 2018

Beginning balance-----\$7,471.35

Credits

Local dues-----\$20.00
Dues & Stamp book-----\$80.00
Shirts-----\$ 40.00
Memberships-----\$45.00

Debits

Newsletter-----\$ 3.07
Picnic supplies-----\$106.24
Lodging for KACCC banquet-----\$ 56.55
Donation to AOKansas-----\$100.00
Homer Cole rent for 2019-----\$ 60.00
Gift Audubon book-----\$ 43.81

Ending balance-----\$7,286.68

HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

Delia Lister reports that the summer kid camp was another success. You can see from the photos that these "explorers" are having a great time. Many thanks to Donna Smith (photos) and Bob Mangile (assistance).



Emmett Sullivan took this great photo of a green heron in Cherokee County. Look for these birds around wooded ponds or along rivers.



Diane McCallum gave an account of a trip she and her husband took this summer.

Black-billed Magpie, taken at the Alluvial Fan area of Rocky Mountain National Park in June.

I was able to take a two-week vacation in June. Much of it was spent visiting family, but I also got to see some beautiful scenery and wildlife, including birds. After a stop in Nebraska, where we narrowly avoided severe weather, we continued to Colorado.

We first spent some time with my sister in the Boulder area. At a place called Sawhill Ponds, my sister and I were on a walk when we saw a bird fly into a tree. I put the binoculars on it and got that "what-in-the-world" and "I-have-no-idea-what-I'm-seeing" feeling. It was shaped like a blackbird, but it was mostly white and black with a very yellow head. After we did some research, my sister and I determined it was a female Bullock's Oriole. We were also able to see an osprey and a kingfisher on that walk.

Paul and I then traveled to Steamboat Springs for a few days. There we saw black-billed magpies, chipping sparrows, yellow warblers, a cedar waxwing, a song sparrow, various swallows, an American widgeon, a Western Tanager ... and my favorite of the trip, an American Dipper. The little gray bird was bobbing up and down on a rock until it dove into the rushing water below Fish Creek Falls.

I got to see a great blue heron fly right over my head and we spotted an osprey in flight with a very large fish in its talons.

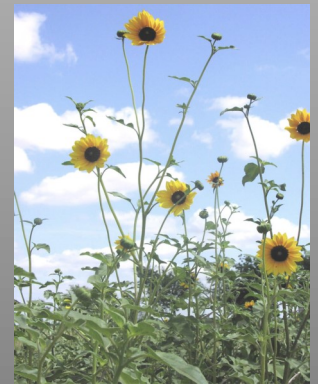
We also went through Rocky Mountain National Park, where we saw a mountain bluebird and a Steller's jay, as well as more magpies.

Even though it was not an official "birding trip," I was still able to put the binoculars to good use and add a few birds to my list. I'm ready to go again!

Sightings.....



Sunflowers



Common sunflower



Maximilian sunflower

Only two of many sunflowers that you can see along Kansas roadsides.

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



On September 9th, nine members of Sperry-Galligar Audubon counted a total of 962 Chimney Swifts at three roost locations in Pittsburg. Members have participated in this "Swift Night Out" event since 2005. Bob Mangile



Photos by
Diane
McCallum

Wilderness Park is graced by a new bench, constructed by Bob Hurt and donated by Sperry-Galligar Audubon..

Birding Fieldtrip Planned

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter members are planning to observe birds at Wilderness Park on September 29. Meet at the north Broadway McDonald's parking lot at 8:15 or at the parking area at Wilderness Park at 8:30 to join the group. We will be birding about two hours, but you can stay as long as you like. We may be able to see some early fall warblers.

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.

BONUS PAGE

BIRDS RECORDED AT NEOSHO WILDLIFE AREA

April 28, 2018

Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe	22
Horned Grebe	4
Eared Grebe	2

Pelicans & Allies

American White Pelican	3
------------------------	---

Frigates

Neotropic Cormorant	1
Double-crested Cormorant	160

Hérons & Allies

Great Blue Heron	2
Great Egret	8
Snowy Egret	1

Geese & Ducks

Canada Goose	16
Gadwall	50
Mallard	4
Blue-winged Teal	371
Northern Shoveler	400
Lesser Scaup	20
Ruddy Duck	8

Diurnal Birds of Prey

Bald Eagle	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3
Turkey Vulture	11

Gallinaceous Birds

Wild Turkey	4
-------------	---

Cranes, Rails & Allies

American Coot	400
---------------	-----

Shorebirds, Gulls & Allies

Black-bellied Plover	2
Wilson's Snipe	1
Semipalmated Plover	9
Killdeer	6
Greater Yellowlegs	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	211
Solitary Sandpiper	4
Spotted Sandpiper	10
Hudsonian Godwit	2
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1
Least Sandpiper	2
Baird's Sandpiper	3
Pectoral Sandpiper	35
Dunlin	4
Stilt Sandpiper	1
Long-billed Dowitcher	40
Wilson's Phalarope	25

Pigeons & Doves

Mourning Dove	5
---------------	---

Owls

Great Horned Owl	1
Barred Owl	2

Swifts & Hummingbirds

Chimney Swift	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1

Kingfishers & Allies

Belted Kingfisher	1
-------------------	---

Woodpeckers & Allies

Red-headed Woodpecker	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7
Downy Woodpecker	6
Hairy Woodpecker	2

Perching Birds

Eastern Phoebe	2
Warbling Vireo	5
Blue Jay	13
American Crow	10
Fish Crow	11
Purple Martin	1
Tree Swallow	25
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4
Cliff Swallow	3
Barn Swallow	10
Carolina Chickadee	2
Tufted Titmouse	14
Carolina Wren	10
Sedge Wren	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6
Eastern Bluebird	2
Swainson's Thrush	1
American Robin	2
Northern Mockingbird	1
Brown Thrasher	2
American Pipit	6
Orange-crowned Warbler	3
Nashville Warbler	1
Yellow Warbler	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	16
Northern Parula	4
Prothonotary Warbler	3
Common Yellowthroat	3
Eastern Towhee	1
Chipping Sparrow	6
Field Sparrow	2
Lark Sparrow	1
Savannah Sparrow	6
Song Sparrow	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Swamp Sparrow	3
White-throated Sparrow	24
Summer Tanager	2
Northern Cardinal	15
Red-winged Blackbird	208
Eastern Meadowlark	3
Yellow-headed Blackbird	2
Common Grackle	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	26
Baltimore Oriole	1
American Goldfinch	11

Wayne Bockelman

List compiled by Kathy Carroll