

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

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

Oct. 25: "EE is for the Birds", by Laura Downey, Director of the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE). Learn about the environmental education (EE) efforts taking place in Kansas. Get an overview of the research about kids in nature, environmental literacy, and current Kansas programs. Participate in a great EE activity about birds that can be used at Audubon events and activities.

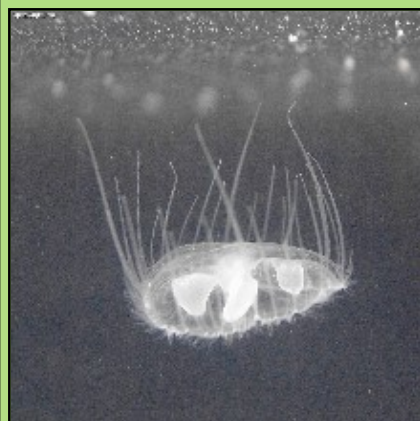
To receive an e-newsletter:
send your e-mail address to
Cindy Ford, Editor.

Oct 2018

VOLUME 2018 ISSUE 7

JELLYFISH IN KANSAS?

When you hear the word jellyfish most likely your first thoughts bring to mind little sea creatures that look like a translucent umbrella or half of a grapefruit



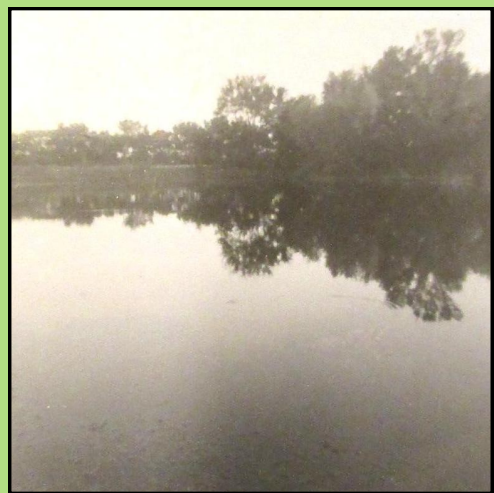
turned upside down (called medusa), pulsating in the ocean. But to be clear, jellyfish are not "fish" and are perhaps more accurately called **sea jellies** or just **jellies**. They belong to a group called **Cnidarians**, of which comprise over 10,000 species. They do not have a brain but possess stinging cells called nematocysts. OK? Now on with my story!

During September of 1965 I received a report that a fisherman spotted strange looking, penny-sized little creatures that looked like tiny jellyfish floating around in an old, deep, clear water strip pit north of Frontenac, Kansas. Soon after I visited the pit to investigate. You guessed it! We found fresh water jellyfish pulsating in the clear, sun lit, water of the pit. Eventually it made the local newspaper. The following year in October 1966 I took some black and white photos (see photo) of the pit and again found jellyfish still pulsating around in the clear water. Some were netted and survived for awhile in my fish tanks as pets by feeding them brine shrimp.

Though this was a rather rare and exciting experience fresh water jellyfish (*Craspedacusta sowerbyi*) are found in much of North America and throughout the world. Though they may be present in some of the waters in our area they go unnoticed because the water is not crystal clear and the sunlight has to be at the right angle for detection of their translucent bodies. And they are probably most often observed in deep, still water, limiting observations of them from a boat.

*You can watch a two minute video of fresh water jellyfish pulsating in a fish tank at this youtube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbQftoTNBZ4> # # #

Bob Mangile



6:00 Board Meeting Highlights David Hollie, Secretary

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

August minutes: Read and approved

Treasurer's report - 7178.56

Newsletter: If you want to write an article or know someone who might, articles are always welcome! Due by the 10th of each month

Publicity: Motion passed to authorize ~\$200 to pay for sponsoring Bird Notes with KRPS

September Refreshments provided by Liz and Cindy, thank you! Looking for volunteers to bring coffee

Next month speaker: Laura Downey – "Environmental education is for the Birds". Still need speakers for March and April

Swift count – Eight participants went out on Sept 9 and counted 962 Chimney Swifts, about the same number as recent years

Bird Surveys at Prairie State Park: The Land Steward from Prairie State Park – writing grant to do bird surveys before/after clearing brush, wanting volunteers from SGA. Christine will clarify what the surveys entail

Youth involvement – Steve still looking into Boy Scouts, awaiting update from Mary and 4-H

Nature Reach T-shirts: Nature Reach has a new logo!

T-shirts are available for \$15, see Delia if interested

Finances: Motion passed to move money from checking to a CD. On Nov 4, \$4,000 will be moved from checking to a CD. We may move to different banks depending on which offers the best interest

Financial Statement...Liz Mangile, Treasurer October 2018

Beginning balance-----\$7286.68

Credits

Memberships----- \$305.00

National Audubon new memberships----\$ 40.00

Total-----\$ 345.00

Debits

Newsletter-----\$ 8.12

Stamps-----\$100.00

Total-----\$ 108.12

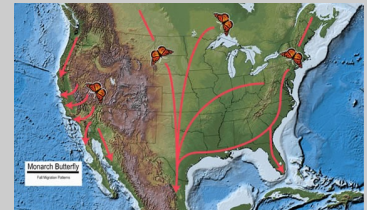
Ending balance-----\$7523.56

September Presenter: Val Frankoski



Over the last 25 years, about a billion Monarch butterflies have disappeared from the population. To understand how this might have happened and what we can do to slow the decline, we first need to understand a little bit about the life history of

the Monarch. That is exactly what we learned from Val Frankoski, Missouri Master Naturalist from Chert Glades Audubon, at September's meeting.



The Monarch's range spans from coast to coast in the United States and southern Canada where they are welcome sights in many people's yards. Like many other insects, Monarchs are active pollinators of many plant species. But the Monarchs we see in Kansas are most likely the grand children of Monarchs that winter in the mountains of Mexico. In March and April, the wintering Monarchs migrate into the southern United States where females lay eggs on milkweed. It only takes a month for the progeny to mature, and that generation continues to migrate north into the middle latitudes of the United States. Each generation continues the migration north until they reach southern Canada by July or August. When fall rolls around, the last generation of Monarchs migrate south to Mexico where their ancestors from four or five generations ago originally started the journey in the early spring.

If Monarchs are so widespread, why is there so much concern for this species? The biggest problem is change in habitat quality. Their wintering grounds in Mexico have suffered from habitat destruction; fortunately, laws have reduced, but not eliminated, the deforestation in the wintering areas over the past couple of decades. Up here in the United States, Monarchs are also facing a reduction in available breeding habitat. Increasing urban development has eliminated many of the overgrown, milkweed-containing fields in which Monarchs historically bred. The growing farming industry, and the total weed eradication that often comes with it, has also caused problems for Monarchs breeding.

So, what can we as individuals do to help Monarchs? In addition to letting our elected officials know that conservation issues are important to you, Frankoski recommended planting flowers like lantana, butterfly bush, and zinnia for adult Monarchs to feed on during their southern migration; or, if you want to plant some milkweed for breeding Monarchs, she recommends planting Common or Swampy Milkweed, both of which grow quite well in our area. For best results, get the seeds in the ground this fall and you may be lucky enough to have Monarchs use them next summer!

David Hollie

HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

Rocky Road by Steve Ford

Cindy and I recently returned from one of our “blitz” vacations wherein we pack up our old Toyota (which cannot seem to hold onto its hubcaps, thereby spreading them over a considerable expanse of the United States), bust out of Crawford County for five or six days, then limp back home like a couple of coon hounds after a long, happy weekend in the woods. This time we went West, deeply into the Rockies, of course first enduring the landscape of far western Kansas and eastern Colorado with its thirsty and scarred ag fields and scattered rusty farm machinery. The highlight of this region was a stop at Rocky Ford to purchase a couple of their famous cantaloupes.

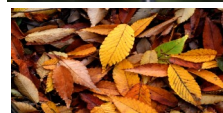
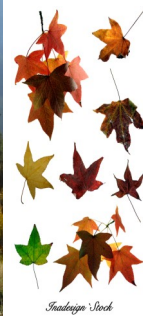
The second day we finally rolled our hubcap-less car, rather reminiscent of a dirt-track stock car, into the land of the Porsche, Mercedes, and BMW – Aspen.

While this relatively small, but very upscale town is not known as the playground of retired schoolteachers, we hit it just right, at least for us. The summer crowd was gone, the winter ski crowd had yet to arrive (no snow), and the traffic was tolerable. Best of all the fall color of the golden aspen leaves against the dark green of spruce and fir in the mountains was beyond description. We hiked in a particularly spectacular region dominated by mountains called the Maroon Bells where the trekking from stands of fragrant conifers to groves of white-barked aspens (yes, their leaves were quaking in the breeze), most of the while near a rushing stream . . . well, French horns and violins come to mind.

Some great wildlife too. We hadn’t seen magpies for a while, and they were all over the place, as well as the wonderful Steller’s jay. We looked endlessly for that unique little bird called the dipper that inhabits mountain streams, but didn’t see any. We did get good looks at pikas (conies) which are those guinea-pig-like mammals that live among rocky talus slopes; also pine (red) squirrels, and a distant view of mountain goats through a spotting scope (courtesy of fellow hikers).

Back in town we poked around in art galleries and museums, and did nerdy stuff like exploring a neat little bookstore and attending an evening lecture on global warming (how’s that for nightlife!). There’s a small, but diverse nature center near the center of town that displays a huge golden eagle just outside the door, and multi-level platforms for doing yoga. We think Wilderness Park could use some yoga platforms.

Climbing from the Crawford County altitude of 900 feet to Aspen’s 8,000 feet (10-12,000 in some areas) left us with a little altitude sickness, but not unbearable. We recovered quickly upon returning to the fulsome air of eastern Kansas. By the way, the fashion look on the street this fall in Aspen is a quilted coat and tights if you’re interested. We’re not. We were interested in the Rocky Ford cantaloupes, which were delicious.



Sightings.....



Diane McCallum photographed this fungus in Wilderness Park



Emmett Sullivan has sent us a beautiful photo of his backyard feeder in West Mineral hosting hummingbirds in September.



Send your newsletter articles, bird sightings, and nature notes to C. Ford by Nov. 10.



The 28 participants in the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Bluebird Trail program fledged 235 young Bluebirds for 2018. Numbers have fallen a bit the past two years. To review the results of the past 20 years visit this link. <http://sperry-galligar.com/Bluebrd.html>

**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**



Birding Fieldtrip Planned

Meet at Meadowbrook Mall on Centennial at 8:00 to caravan to the Ford Farm...or meet at the Ford Farm at 8:30 on **Saturday, October 27**. We will walk trails to observe birds. We will finish the outing with some coffee or apple cider.

Seven Auduboners went for a bird walk at Wilderness Park near Frontenac on Saturday, September 29. The weather was cool but otherwise nice for a walk. At first, there were few birds to be seen or heard, but the group visited Sperry-Galligar's new bench and took time for some oak tree education before the birds started to make themselves audible and visible. After about an hour and a half, we had seen and/or heard fifteen species: blue jay, Carolina wren, red-bellied woodpecker, cardinal, chickadee, titmouse, pileated woodpecker, robin (there were quite a few of these), downy woodpecker, flicker, great blue heron, nuthatch, fish crow, great egret and Canada goose. Other wildlife included deer and tiny (probably cricket) frogs. We also examined various plants and a vivid orange fungus growing on a tree. It was a productive and enjoyable trip.

Following the fieldtrip, Bob Mangile visited the nearby lagoons and saw these additional species: Cooper's hawk, kestrel, rough-winged swallow, American crow, mourning dove and starling.

Diane McCallum

September refreshments provided by Liz Mangile, Cindy Ford, and Donna Maus.

**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.

