

# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry– Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2019 - 2021

**President:**

Steve Ford

**Vice President:**

Mary Jo Meier

**Secretary**

Christine Brodsky

**Treasurer**

Liz Mangile

**Newsletter Editor**

Cindy Ford

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

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

**Sept. 26 — “Bring back the Bottoms—Ducks Unlimited” by Edward Vanderbeck. Ed will highlight what Ducks Unlimited is promoting to conserve Cheyenne Bottoms, an internationally important marsh located in central Kansas.**

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

Sept 2019

VOLUME 2019 ISSUE 6

## ALASKA FOR AWHILE by Steve Ford

### As President, let me welcome you to our 21st year.

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Cindy and I visited Alaska in July. It was the warmest month – not the warmest July, but the warmest *month* - Alaska has known since record-keeping began, so I guess we're special to have experienced it. Motels in Juneau don't have air conditioning, but we did have two large fans in our room. Gustavus, the small community where we stayed near Glacier Bay National Park, enjoyed very nice temperatures, but was in the midst of a drought despite being in the northwestern coastal rainforest. Gray clouds hung in the sky all week, which is normal in that region, but we were told some of the gray was due to smoke from many wildfires to the northeast. I couldn't smell it, but some said they could.

I won't gush about the scenery, although it's hard not to - it's just that a short newsletter article would not hold it. Same for the diversity of wildlife, but I do have to note a few things. I never thought I'd have the pleasure of sitting on a boulder in a large meadow with no other people around except Cindy and two friends, Dan VanLeeuwen and Delia Lister, watching a black bear and a brown bear (as they call the coastal grizzlies) in the same view; nor seeing moose walking past Dan's window; nor watching humpback whales; sea lions flipping halibut for fun; bald eagles and sea otters so abundant as to become old hat; and harbor seals stretching and yawning on ice floes recently calved from glaciers, and indeed the thunderous calving glaciers

themselves.

It was great seeing tufted puffins (Places where smoking is prohibited all have decals on the windows that say “No Puffin”), but my favorite bird became the pigeon guillemot. I'm not sure why. They just seem to have personality.



Pigeon guillemot

I always enjoy learning about ecological relationships, especially when they result in anatomical consequences. Brown bears are considerably larger than the inland grizzlies, not just because there is more food for them *per se* along the coast, but be-

cause there is a year-round supply of food via the intertidal zones. “Brownies” are never subjected to seasonal food shortages, as are inland mammals. Twice a day, every day, the smorgasbord is set. Cindy and Delia enjoyed exploring the intertidal zones for sea stars, butter clams, and octopus, but I'm afraid of that stuff so I didn't go.

We also enjoyed learning about the culture of the Native Americans, the Tlingits being the tribe around Glacier Bay. I find their vivid, highly stylized portrayal of animals on their totem poles and lodges fascinating.

I fear we got a taste of climate change on our visit, but from a purely mercenary perspective we much appreciated seeing Alaska and Glacier Bay while there are still glaciers in the bay. It is a wonderful place. Thanks to Dan for being quite a gracious host and to Delia for being an enthusiastic tour guide.

**I encourage your getting immersed in nature as we start our new Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter year. Join us on fieldtrips and for programs.**

## 6:00 Board Meeting Highlights Christine Brodsky, Secretary

**Attending:** Mavis Benner, Steve & Cindy Ford, Wayne Bockel man, Christine Brodsky, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Mary Jo Meier, Mary Kiltchner, Emmett Sullivan

**May minutes:** Read and approved

**Treasurer's Report:** \$3378.10 balance

**Membership:** Membership for 2019 was 51 national and 37 local members. National membership was a little lower than previous years, but local membership has been holding steady. Total meeting attendance last year was 502, the highest attendance in the last few years.

**Newsletter:** Articles on the way from Diane, Delia, and photographs from Emmett. Have an article? Send one to Cindy! Articles are always due the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Speakers:** September 26<sup>th</sup> speaker are Edward Vanderbeck and Chris Young from Ducks Unlimited. Ed and Chris will present "Bringing Back the Bottoms: Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife." All slots for the year are covered – kudos to Mary Jo!

**Refreshments:** Mary Jo and Diane will cover refreshments for September. All months are also covered for refreshments – kudos to Mavis! Reservation for the annual picnic has already been placed by Bob.

**Publicity:** Bob will continue contact local media outlets (i.e. KOAM, newspaper). Wayne will contact KRPS to publicize monthly meeting on Bird Notes. Mary will distribute fliers at local restaurants (i.e. Mall Deli) and Arma library, and Mavis will distribute fliers at the Pittsburg library and YMCA.

**Field Trips:** Farlington Fish Hatchery with Dan Mosier on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am - will announce local meeting place for carpool at September meeting. The annual swift count will be on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> - meet at Braum's at 6:45PM. Bluebird box construction event TBD. Send field trip suggestions to Steve.

**Wildlife & Parks (Walt DeGrusen) Landscape Project:** The project is moving along. Dave Jenkins got more compost and Steve and Cindy will purchase some shrubs for planting in the fall. Future plans include planting seeds in the spring.

**Bird Seed Sale:** On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Prices will be distributed prior to the sale. Will sell more bluebird and wren boxes (\$12 possibly).

**Minedland Christmas Bird Count:** Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 1, 2020. Meet at 7AM at Farm to Table Restaurant in McCune.

**Earth Day:** Last year worked out okay with our table at the Pittsburg and on-campus event. Mary volunteered distributing seedlings. We'll need to distribute more brochures and possibly have an informative poster, etc.

**Peregrine Falcons:** Have the boxes been made for the city (Besse Hotel)? Making the boxes might be a nice event!

**Next Meeting:** September 26, 2019

**The university has restricted all food from our meeting room, so we will not be able to provide refreshments until further notice.**

## May Presenter: Chris Pistole



Chris has always been interested in rare birds and Hawaii has its share due to its isolation in the Pacific Ocean. The name, Hawaii, comes from a Polynesian fisherman giving children names to the islands. The islands are situated on hot spots of volcanic magma with new volcanoes even forming today. The geologic activity is instrumental in creating more land on the islands.

Hawaii is the wettest area in the U.S., raining 300 inches per year. These conditions contribute to providing lush vegetation, including many flowers. However, many plants, especially showy flowers, have been introduced to the area, e.g. plumeria, heliconia, and bird of paradise.

The islands were "discovered" by Captain James Cook, a British explorer who was killed by natives already on the islands. The historical figure, King Kamehameha, is revered by Hawaiians. He is depicted with feathers in his regalia. Legend tells that he caught birds to get the feathers, but released them again rather than killing them.

Birds, as well as the "jungles", attract naturalists to the region. It must be noted that most birds found there today are not native. For example, the Red-breasted cardinal is Brazilian and related to tanagers, the myna was imported to control insects, and some non-native birds escaped from captivity. The Java sparrow, Peking nightingale, and many others have become invasive and compete with native birds which seriously reduces native populations. Loss of habitat, predation, competition, and climate change have resulted in 95% of the native bird species to become extinct—33 of 44 endemic species are gone from the islands. The Hawaiian crow is the most endangered, with only 50 individuals alive. The Hawaiian goose, Hawaii's national bird, is the rarest goose in the world. Chris was rewarded with seeing numerous Hawaiian honeycreepers in wooded areas, but noted that chickens were everywhere. The Polynesians are responsible for bringing in Mona jungle fowl, related to modern day chickens.

Unfortunately, there is not much funding available to protect native species of plants and animals. Main predators of animals include cats, goats, and mongoose (which were brought to control rats). People are aware of the problem, but it is difficult to achieve solutions. Some conservation measures are being used for invasive plant species: Ex-closure fences are used to reduce disturbance from goats. In sensitive areas, boot scrapers are available to scrape off dirt and seeds to avoid spread of plants. Conservation gives hope to protection in the future.

Cindy Ford

## Nature Conservancy Meeting — Sept 25

On Wednesday, September 25th. the Nature Conservancy is having a 30 year Celebration in Kansas at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts located at 1711 S. Homer Street, Pittsburg, KS. Public is invited. This should be an interesting, informative session for all of us interested in nature conservation, and I would encourage folks to attend. Please RSVP to Susan at [susan.m.smith@tnc.org](mailto:susan.m.smith@tnc.org) or 785-233-4400. More information and a location map can be found at our web page <http://sperry-galligar.com/FieldTr.html>



## HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS



Emmett Sullivan found this spotted geranium blooming April 9th at Schermerhorn Park in Galena, KS.



Diane McCallum snapped these bird pics in Rocky Mountain National Park this summer on her Colorado vacation.

## SUMMER DAY CAMP SUCCESS—Delia Lister

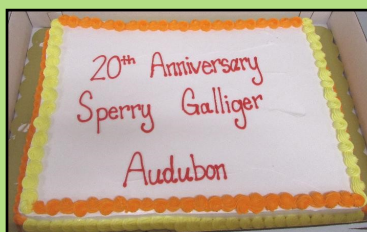
I hope you enjoy the photos from our 2019 Day Camp that was held June 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. We once again had a full camp of 15 campers. It is always an exhausting week for me, but the kids have a great time digging potatoes, chasing dragonflies, practicing their bird watching skills, looking for herps, and seeing just how realistic they can make animal scat out of clay. Many thanks to Bob Mangile and Donna Smith for all of your help. I couldn't pull off camp without great volunteers!

I will start advertising for Day Camp 2020 around March, so be sure to check out our website for all the details. In addition to annual Day Camp and Pre-K Reading program, I will also be adding some sort of event for the Kindergarten age group.



## 20th Anniversary Celebrated at May Picnic

A milestone in our Audubon Chapter!  
Thanks to all who have made it successful...



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June thru September 2019

Beginning balance-----\$4108.05

## CREDITS

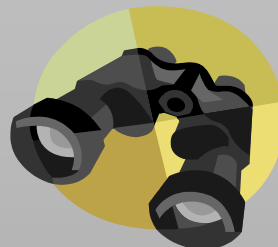
Ant molts-----\$ 5.00  
New members plus donation-----\$ 65.00  
Total-----\$ 70.00

## DEBITS

Newsletter-----\$ 2.48  
Cake for picnic-----\$ 46.99  
Travel for speaker-----\$ 40.00  
Chicken, side dishes, etc. for picnic-----\$288.87  
Gift to Terri McKinnis-----\$ 20.00  
Web host for 3 years-----\$341.61  
Next years picnic Homer Cole-----\$ 60.00  
KRPS Bird list-----\$200.00  
Total-----\$ 999.95

Ending balance----- \$3178.10

## Sightings.....



Leaves of Same Tree  
Species? No.



Shellbark hickory



Green ash

Learn to look at placement on branch. Ash will have opposite leaves; hickories will have alternative leaves.

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**



**Count Chimney Swifts—Sept 15**

Sunday, September 15th. Sperry-Galligar Audubon will hold its annual Chimney Swift Count at 6:45 P.M. at the Braum's Ice Cream Store at 515 S. Broadway in Pittsburg, KS. We will have some ice cream, visit awhile and then head out to our faithful Chimney Swift Roost to count swifts.

**Help to Plant Shrubs — Sept. 21**

Steve and Cindy Ford will bring shrubs to the KS Dept. Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism Headquarters to continue landscape dedicated to Walt DeGrusen. Meet at the office with your shovel, trowel, and gloves. See the progress.

**Audubon Field Trip — Sept. 28**

Join the group to learn about local trees and their identification. Meet at the Ford Farm at 9:00, Saturday, September 28. Bring binoculars in case we see birds.

**Audubon Field Trip — October 12**

Meet at Farlington Fish Hatchery at 10:00, Saturday, October 12. If interested in car pooling, meet at Home Depot northeast corner of parking lot at 9:00. We will have a personal tour by Dan Mosier, Fisheries Biologist, who will show us the facility and describe on-going projects.

**DUES ... DUES ... DUES... DUES**

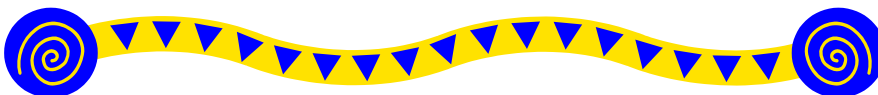
See Liz Mangile to pay your dues for the another fun year.

**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.

