

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

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

February 27 — "The State of Birds in 2020: How Citizen Science Informs Conservation", by Dr. Andrew George, Asst. Professor of Biology at Pittsburg State University, where he studies the ecology and conservation of birds and other animals. His research team has been involved in several notable bird conservation projects in the 4-state region and beyond.

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

Feb 2020

VOLUME 2020 ISSUE 2

Pointed Parts of Nature

by Bob Mangile

So many times I've commented to folks that I often think about things that I have no business thinking about! What follows is related to some of those thoughts.



When looking at the living forms of Mother Nature I wonder if anyone has considered how consistent "she" can be with some subtleties. For example: we don't give a second thought as to why blackberry brambles have thorns – they just hurt when contacted. And so do cactus, Osage orange (hedge) and honey locust tree thorns. But why are they pointed? Well, humans have a way of answering their own questions to put things

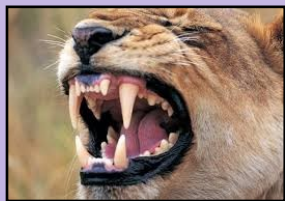
is a mental perspective that correctly answers the "why"? Okay, they are pointed for their protection. Makes sense. Huh?

But that is not the point of this missive. The point "is" the point! Bear with me? The pointed spear-shaped bill of a great blue heron does not serve its possessor in the same way the pointed talons serve a great horned owl. And the pointed hooked beaks of hawks do not function like the bills of woodpeckers. The cassowary has made use of a special pointed

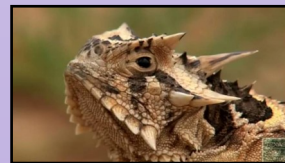


claw on its foot as a weapon capable of killing a human.

My indulging thoughts keep telling me that "pointed parts" are one of Nature's most formidable shapes! And they spring from a wide array of unrelated sources.



The pointed canines of carnivores (lions, wolves, etc.) and elephant tusks are teeth. But the horns of a rhinoceros are made of hair. Permanent bony horns of bison, cattle and a horned lizard are different than the temporary antlers of deer and elk. And dinosaur fossils reveal many



forms with pointed scales, spikes, teeth, etc.

Spines on fish and stingers on bees are more of Nature's pointed work that offer something of purpose to their possessors. And early humans became aware of the utility of pointed sticks and spears, sharpened bones for tools and weapons. Modern humans use needles, nails, ice picks and knives. This can go on and on but I don't think our editor will allow much more so I'll close by saying that pointed shapes might just be one of Nature's most efficient shapes. Thinking about it makes it hard to ignore. I'd guess you can add many more. # # #

6:00 Board Meeting Highlights Christine Brodsky, Secretary

In attendance: Delia Lister, Steve and Cindy Ford, Bob and Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Mary Jo Meier, Wayne Bockelman, Mavis Benner, Linda Reed.

Minutes taken by Delia Lister.

Treasurer's Report: \$4637.27

Minutes read and approved

Bird Seed Sale—We didn't do as well this year, but we think it is somewhat tied to weather and advertising. Many thanks to Bob and Liz for their efforts as per usual. Thanks to the volunteers. In addition, the Fords sold 15 Bird Boxes at a gathering at their home.

Christmas Bird Count—38 Species, which is about as good as last year. It was warmer, but very windy.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act Letter—Diane brought up a letter to Congress that our organization could sign to encourage them to keep protections the same rather than diminished. Mavis motioned to sign the letter. Cindy seconded.

Tonight's Speaker—Conner Ossowski, the new KDWPT District Fisheries Biologist.

Next month's Speaker—Dr. Andrew George, "State of Birds in 2020, Citizen Science Informs Conservation"

Reserve Project/Nature Reach Summer Camps—There will be a major mine reclamation project at the Reserve. It may have an impact on Summer Camps. Nature Reach reserved a \$10,000 grant from Evergy to help fund a new pilot kindergarten camp.

Australia Wildfire Relief—Delia has a family member in the middle of the wildfires in Australia. There is some interest in donating to help with wildlife recover and habitat protection. Item tabled until next month.

Other business—Backyard bird count this month, Feb. 14-17, 2020

We have some events coming up: Earth Day Table, Field Trips, May Picnic (Rick Hines presenting)



January Presenter: Conner Ossowski



After announcements, Conner Ossowski, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) District Fisheries Biologist introduced himself to the group and gave an extensive

background of experience in the field. He gave a snapshot of what a District Fisheries Biologist does throughout the year from writing newsletters and filing reports to research in the field to public education.

He discussed the extensive mined land wildlife areas and the work KDWPT does to maintain such lands. In addition, he mentioned the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Surface Mining Road Safety Projects occurring throughout the region and the benefit it as had for the wildlife, fisheries, and access.

Ongoing projects were covered including stocking, habitat management, boat ramp improvements, bathymetric mapping, and work occurring the "trout pit". There is certainly no shortage of things to do as a District Fisheries Biologist! Many thanks to Conner for sharing what he does!



Delia Lister

FINANCIAL STATEMENT February 2020 Liz Mangile, Treasurer

Beginning balance-----\$ 4244.91

Credits

National Audubon-----\$ 447.75
2 memberships-----\$ 30.00
Total-----\$ 477.75

Debits

Newsletter-----\$ 5.38
Total-----\$ 5.38

Ending balance-----\$ 4717.28

HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

An observation and a bit of history from Bob Mangile after Larry Herbert noted that many black vultures were spotted at Schermerhorn Park recently.

RE: Black Vultures: Did you see the recent post on KS Birds by Jenn Rader about over a dozen Black Vultures between Galena and Riverton. Apparently Emmett Sullivan saw them and mentioned them to Jenn. I'm not absolutely positive but I think I was one of the first people to spot Black Vultures at Schermerhorn Park many years ago. Since then they seem to be expanding their range into Kansas. But there is a chance that the first Black Vulture found in Kansas was found in Frontenac, KS way back in October 1965 - please read the attachment (I save everything!). I sent the photo to a vulture expert and she said it was indeed a Black Vulture. The author of the article, Harold Taylor, was quite a writer and liked to expand a bit on hyperbole but he was a good "Horse Editor", as they called in back in those days. I knew him.

.....
The Pittsburg , Kansas Headlight newspaper - October 26, 1965.
(Article by Harold Taylor) [Possibly a black vulture.]

WHATZIT INFRONTENAC - This strange looking bird arrived for a visit with residents on Harrison Street in Frontenac. Residents of the neighborhood and others called in for a look were unable to identify it. The bird gave no indication of being injured although not exceedingly active after taking up a temporary abode on a lawn. (Staff photo by Taylor).

Monkey Face and Long Bill

Whatzit Bird Stops Over in Frontenac

One of the most anti-social visitors to visit Frontenac since prohibition days arrived by air Monday morning. It is not a case of who but instead it is what. The aerial visitor is a bird that landed in a yard on West Harris. Residents of the immediate neighborhood gathered to look. Then they invited guests to look. Some of the guests carried cameras and attempted to photograph the thing [,] which was not only uncooperative but [was] downright rude at times.



Eagle Sized.

The bird, as described by residents of the area, was the size of a small eagle had feathers as dark as a crow but just off the breast had a feather on each side with a stripe down the center. There were striped feathers in the tail. The creature has a monkey face but a long bill. It has yellow legs like a good laying hen. It was not limping, indicating any injury, and its wing span [,] when these feathers were spread gave a [sic] not hint for the stopover.

Suffered Temper.

The bird "just sat" except for an occasional jaunt of limited spaces around [sic] a lawn. When observers approached too close it ruffled feathers on its neck and head indicating it was not only willing but anxious to give fight. The battle intentions were not tested. The too-close observers backed away.

Mrs. Joe Ginardi, 609 West Harris, who was listed as the discoverer of the ebon-hued visitor, said in excitement of reporting the arrival that it had a wing spread "that stretched nearly across the front yard." Later and in less excited moments, Mrs. Ginardi re-evaluated her statistics, but still maintained the spread "was plenty wide". Other observers concurred. But among all the visitors--none claiming to be [sic] authoritative in the field of bird lore--there was no designation of the species of this strange bird.

Sightings.....



Emmett's Pics



False garlic

Lily family.
Habitat: Prairies, open woods, rocky exposed ledges. False garlic resembles wild onion but lacks the onion-like odor. They should start blooming sometime in April. This photo was taken on April 15-2019.

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



BIRDING FIELD TRIP PLANNED

Lester Davis Memorial Forest

Meet to carpool to the forest reserve near Mindenmines, MO on March 14th, 8:00, at the north end of the Home Depot parking lot. The walk is through woods where we will look for spring bird migrants. Bring your binoculars and comfortable walking shoes.

BENCH REPAIRED

The Sperry-Galligar Audubon bench at Wilderness Park was repaired by the City of Pittsburg. We appreciate their work on the bench.



Delia Lister saw nearly 100 manatees during a trip to Florida in January. They were feeding in a warm spring outside Orlando.



**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.

