



# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

Jan 2022 / Issue 4

## OFFICERS

**President**  
Steve Ford  
**Vice President**  
Mary Jo Meier  
**Secretary**  
Megan Corrigan  
**Treasurer**  
Liz Mangile

## Board Support

**Newsletter Editor**  
Cindy Ford  
[cford@gus.pittstate.edu](mailto:cford@gus.pittstate.edu)

**Web Master**  
Bob Mangile  
[sperry-galligar.com](http://sperry-galligar.com)

**Membership**  
Dianne McCallum

## Next Program

Thursday,  
January 27

**JANUARY  
PROGRAM  
CANCELLED**

**DUE TO OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 OMICRON VIRUS**

**JANUARY PROGRAM CANCELLED**

The program for February is tentatively planned depending on the pandemic conditions at that time.

## Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

The 2022 Christmas Bird Count was a stark contrast to the previous year's count. We only had 6 participants this year, which is tied for the lowest since the count was started in 1989.

One reason for fewer people was the hazardous weather forecast for the count day. We postponed until the next morning when conditions had improved, though temperatures remained bitter cold. It was only ~12°F when we began, which is the second coldest start temp on record for the count.

Despite the cold weather and fewer participants, we still managed to find 69 species. This is sharply lower than the record high from 2021 but above average for the count.

The only new species was black vulture – nice find Steve and Cindy! Black vultures have undergone a northward range expansion in recent years, and they have become increasingly common in southeast Kansas, though sightings are still notable.

Record high counts for individual species (with total # counted) included greater white-fronted goose (60) and golden-crowned kinglet (22). Uncommon species (with previous # of occurrences) included greater white-fronted goose (2), Wilson's snipe (1), merlin (3), marsh wren (2), American pipit (3), and Smith's longspur (1).

Notably absent species included rock pigeon, eastern bluebird, and house sparrow. Unusually low bluebird numbers have been noted on other counts in the region. It will be interesting to see if trends can be linked to the historic cold wave from February 2021.

**Andy George, Compiler**

## Board Minutes...Megan Corrigan

The Sperry-Galligar Audubon Board Meeting was held December 2, 2021. In attendance were Bob and Liz Mangile, Mavis Benner, Mary Jo Meier, Steve and Cindy Ford, Dianne McCallum, Wayne Bockelman, and Megan Corrigan

**Treasurer's Report** – We have \$4,573.73 in checking.

**Membership** –Our membership stands at about 65 people, and it is time to renew for the 2021-22 year. We try to collect all dues once a year in September.

**Newsletter** – Some addresses got deleted from the subscribers list, so please let us know if you did not receive the November newsletter.

**Facebook** – please like our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SperryGalligarAudubon> to stay up to date on our activities.

**Bluebird boxes** – Available for sale from SGAS members for \$15.

**T Shirts** – Available for \$12

**Library Backpack Project** – SGAS is working with Audubon of Kansas and Jayhawk Audubon to apply for a grant to provide backpacks with bird guides and binoculars to local libraries for patrons to check out. We will hear in March if we have been awarded the grant.

**Christmas Bird Count** – At Mined Lands area, Will be held January 1<sup>st</sup>. All are welcome to participate. Meet at McCune's Farm to Market Store at 7:00 AM on January 1. If you plan to participate, please contact Andy George at least a few days in advance to let him know [adageorge@pittstate.edu](mailto:adageorge@pittstate.edu) or 573-777-0652.

## Treasurer Report...Liz Mangile

January 2022

Beginning balance -----	\$ 4901.27
Credits	
Membership-----	\$ 250.00
T shirts-----	\$ 151.00
Feed Sale-----	\$ 400.00
Bird Houses-----	\$ 30.00

Debits

Newsletters-----	\$ 20.14
KS Herpetological Society-----	\$ 300.00
Nails for Bird Houses-----	\$ 39.72
Book( <i>Unflappable</i> )-----	\$ 19.87
Stamps-----	\$ 23.20
T shirts-----	\$ 100.00

Ending balance----- \$ 5229.34

## Past Audubon Meeting Program



**Jackie Augustine**, Audubon of Kansas Director

Audubon of Kansas (AOK) was formed in 1999 by a consortium of ten local Audubon chapters, when the National Audubon Society closed regional offices. Their mission is

advocacy, conservation and environmental education. Since 1999, AOK has been successful in helping landowners who want to maintain natural [colonies of prairie dogs](#) and reintroduce [black footed ferrets](#) in Logan County. AOK helped them fight the state law that allows counties to eradicate prairie dogs on private property. They have worked with the State of Kansas to stop the planting of invasive [Old World Bluestem](#) grass for erosion control and replace it with more diverse grasses. And they have been involved in county regulation processes of proper siting of [wind energy facilities](#).

AOK maintains several [wildlife sanctuaries](#) where farming, grazing or ranching co-exist with wildlife. Every November, AOK holds a [Celebration of Cranes](#) at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, and in April, in Hays, they will host their first [Prairie Chicken Festival](#). The prairie chicken festival is an initiative of Jackie's, who assumed the position of Executive Director of AOK in January, 2021. Jackie completed her PhD at Kansas State with research on prairie chicken mating habits. Her research determined that the attractive males have [higher levels of testosterone](#) although they could detect no specific traits that would tip females off to the presence of higher testosterone. Jackie has conducted further research on prairie chickens, using taxidermy females on radio-controlled robot wheels, and drones. While even small drones caused the birds to flush and fly away, the taxidermy females did get the attention of males. Apparently both greater and lesser prairie chicken males display more enthusiastically for greater prairie chicken taxidermy females on wheels. Jackie gave up a cushy job as a professor to head Audubon of Kansas in part because of her love for prairie chickens, but mostly because she is excited to be able to work towards protecting grassland birds on a daily basis. "Grassland birds need our help," she said. A 2019 study published in *Science* found that [the US has lost 3 billion birds](#) since 1970. The population of grassland birds in the US has fallen by 53%, a catastrophic decline. Jackie is excited to be able to be part of the solution instead of just researching the problem.

In addition to the Prairie Chicken Festival, Jackie is working with SGAS and Jayhawk Audubon to start a library backpack program where local libraries would have backpacks with binoculars, bird guides and other items to check out. We will know in March if we receive the grant.

If you are interested in joining Audubon of Kansas email list, [sign up](#) on [www.audubonofkansas.org](http://www.audubonofkansas.org). **Megan Corrigan**



# Happenings in Southeast KS



Bob Mangile spotted this male white-tailed deer in his backyard in the late fall.

## LOCAL WILDLIFE



David Mangile could not resist getting this picture of a red fox near Arma.

Emmett Sullivan gets a beautiful shot of a ring-billed gull near West Mineral, January 2, 2022.



Bob Mangile discovered the differences between two species of yellow jackets in his yard this fall. Note the different patterns.

## PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

Jayhawk Audubon is hosting a photo exhibition. Anyone in Kansas is eligible to submit photos. This is not a contest. Check out their website:

<https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/photo-exhibition>

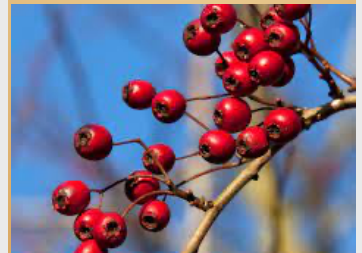
## Sightings...



### ATTRACT WINTER BIRDS WITH FRUIT TREES



Deciduous Holly



Hawthorn



Crabapple

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

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

## 2021 Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

### Southeast Kansas Mined Lands CBC Results, January 2, 2022

Greater white-fronted goose	60	Brown creeper	1
Snow goose	25	Marsh wren	1
Canada goose	77	Carolina wren	10
Mallard	165	Golden-crowned kinglet	14
Duck sp.	10	Ruby-crowned kinglet	6
Pied-billed grebe	6	American robin	9
Great blue heron	4	Northern mockingbird	4
Black vulture	4	European starling	21
Northern harrier	6	American pipit	7
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	Cedar waxwing	1
Cooper's hawk	1	Lapland longspur	720
Accipiter sp.	1	Smith's longspur	5
Red-shouldered hawk	2	Longspur sp.	100
Red-tailed hawk	51	Yellow-rumped warbler	35
Red-tailed hawk (Harlan's)	1	American tree sparrow	2
Red-tailed hawk (Krider's)	1	Field sparrow	5
Rough-legged hawk	1	Fox sparrow	6
Killdeer	1	Dark-eyed junco	56
Wilson's snipe	1	White-crowned sparrow	33
Eurasian collared dove	2	Harris's sparrow	70
Mourning dove	12	White-throated sparrow	113
Great horned owl	5	Savannah sparrow	14
Barred owl	1	Song sparrow	22
Belted kingfisher	1	Lincoln's sparrow	1
Red-headed woodpecker	16	Swamp sparrow	10
Red-bellied woodpecker	34	Northern cardinal	74
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	3	Red-winged blackbird	54
Downy woodpecker	11	Western meadowlark	7
Hairy woodpecker	4	Eastern meadowlark	91
Northern flicker	16	Meadowlark sp.	15
Northern flicker (yellow-shafted).	4	Rusty blackbird	120
Pileated woodpecker	2	Blackbird sp.	500
American kestrel	9	House finch	4
Merlin	1	American goldfinch	11
Loggerhead shrike	3	House sparrow	9
Blue jay	61		
American crow	116	<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	<b>69</b>
Horned lark	403		
Carolina chickadee	33	<b>Participants:</b> Cindy Ford, Steve Ford,	
Chickadee sp.	1	Chad Gardner, Andrew George,	
Tufted titmouse	34	Don Weidemann, Marion Weidemann	
White-breasted nuthatch	9		

**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 renewal membership, send \$15.00 for membership in 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.

Please print and mail to:

**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society  
816 E. Atkinson Ave.  
Pittsburg, KS 66762**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Sperry-Galligar Audubon  
Society**

Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month...7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m., Room 102, Yates Hall, PSU Campus, Pittsburg, KS.

No meetings in June, July, or August. (November/December meeting date to be announced.)

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society  
816 E. Atkinson Ave.  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

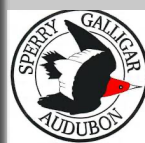
**Events & Etc.**

**Bird Seed Sale**

The annual bird seed sale was another success for Sperry-Galligar Chapter. Many thanks to the Schultz's at Blue Ribbon Farm Store for arranging the sale for the chapter. If you need bird seed for your feeders, stop by Blue Ribbon.

.....  
**DUES**

Please pay your membership dues for this year. Send a check to the address at the left or see Liz Mangile at the next meeting. Your dues help the chapter get funding from National Audubon.



**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS.** Pay membership dues in September. Please consider paying local membership dues. Our chapter receives 100% of the local dues only. You can subscribe to both local and national. Either way you get the newsletter.