



# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

September 2022 / Issue 1

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Megan Corrigan

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### Facebook

Megan Corrigan

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[SperryGalligarAudubon](http://Facebook.com/SperryGalligarAudubon)

### Membership

Diane McCallum

## Next Program

Thursday, 7:00

September 29

Yates 102

PSU Campus

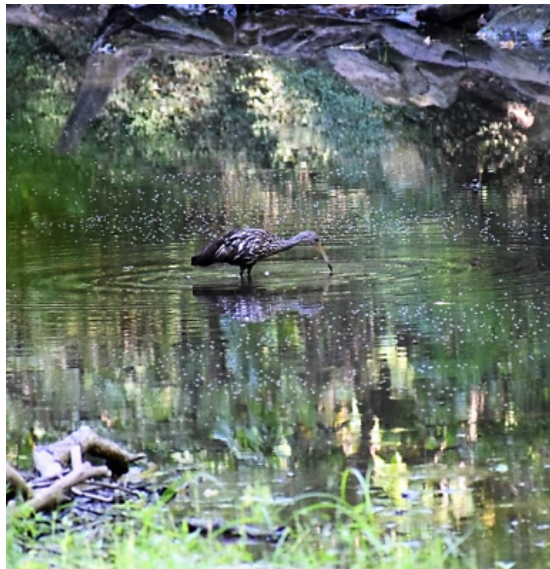
"KS Flyways:  
The Current &  
Future  
Understanding  
of Birds'  
Movements" by  
Alice Boyd,  
Kansas State  
University

## WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR OF SPERRY-GALLIGAR AUDUBON

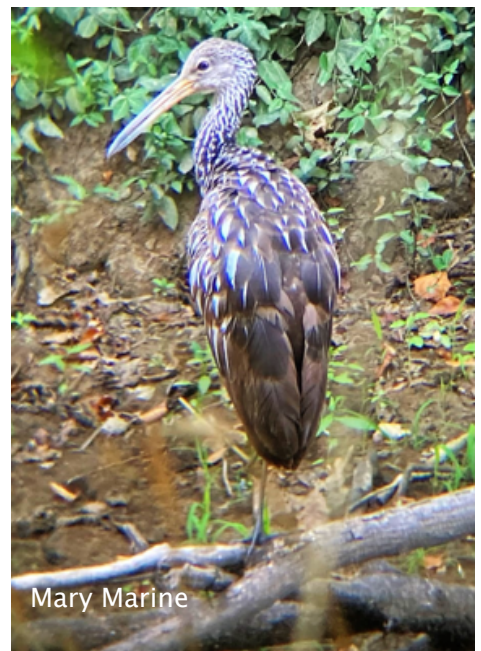
We have a year of exciting programs, bird walks, and events planned that will inspire you to learn more about birds and other wildlife. Start off the Audubon Year right by coming to the September meeting to see friends and to meet new like-minded folks. See you there.

## LOOK WHAT VISITED OUR AREA LAST WEEK!

On a recent Audubon bird walk at Wilderness Park near Pittsburg, the group was surprised to see a limpkin, a wading bird usually found in Florida. Toni Gariglietti and Mary Marine shot some excellent photos of the bird feeding on some snails.



Toni Gariglietti



Mary Marine

## Board Minutes...Megan Corrigan

### SPERRY-GALLIGAR MAY PICNIC



Bob Mangile Photo

## Emmett's Pics

### American Lotus

The largest flower in the U.S., the water plant is dramatic in wetlands. The flower is a creamy beauty held high above the leaves.



The seeds are large in their unusual seed pod--as you can see in the photo above. Emmett found this plant in a shallow pit in Northwest Cherokee County. The depth of water needs to be shallow since the plant is rooted in the mud below the surface of the water.

Despite its beauty, American lotus can be aggressive and choke a wetland.

## Treasurer Report...Liz Mangile

### Financial Statement June to September

Beginning Balance. . . . . \$5,457.20

#### Credits

Membership Dues . . . . .	\$ 122.00
Birdhouses/Donations . . . . .	180.00
National Audubon. . . . .	45.00
Bank dropped service chg. . .	9.00
	\$ 356.00

#### Debits

Newsletters . . . . .	\$ 12.58
Picnic Supplies . . . . .	134.38
Website (3 years) . . . . .	416.61
KRPS (for Bird Note) . . . . .	200.00
	\$ 763.57

Ending Balance . . . . . \$5,049.63

## Sperry-Galligar Bird Walks

Generally held at 8:00 on the first Saturday of the month, but check the time and place on Sperry-Galligar Audubon Facebook.

<http://Facebook.com/SperryGalligarAudubon>

Andy George leads the bird walks with biology students and Audubon members. Find out why so many people get excited about bird watching.

[adgeorge@pittstate.edu](mailto:adgeorge@pittstate.edu)

## May Program Synopsis by Megan Corrigan

### Arctic to Antarctic Conservation Practices



It's not often you can cover Iceland and Antarctica in the space of an hour, but that was the program menu for our annual picnic, featuring Rick Hines, who has been fortunate enough to travel to both places.

Rick's photos of Iceland are spectacularly scenic, with waterfalls, glaciers and black sand beaches. Iceland offsets the impact of tourism by prioritizing conservation, and has abundant clean geothermal energy. It also has some amazing birds. With 24-hour sunlight in the summer, it is a nesting site for puffins, arctic terns, fulmars, murres and other sea birds.

Puffins, unfortunately, are in trouble. Puffins lay one egg a year in the side of a rocky cliff, returning to the same site each year. Both parents care for the young. Puffins use their colorful beaks to catch smelt to feed their young. The smelt have

to be small enough to fit down the gullet of the chicks. In recent years, the sea temperature around Iceland has risen half a degree, the smelt have grown larger, and chicks often choke to death. Puffin population numbers have declined in recent years as they have been unable to adapt to this change.

Eider ducks are in better shape. Icelanders do a lot to promote their survival. Since a coat filled with eiderdown can cost \$50,000, there is financial motivation to ensure that eider ducks thrive. Eider ducks pull soft down from their breast to line their nests. Farmers then substitute straw nests and collect the eider. It has been shown that this makes no difference to the chicks. Farmers also build fences to protect the eider nests from Arctic foxes, who would happily feast on the eggs. Eider ducks are true to their nest sites from year to year, so this symbiotic relationship is going strong.

Arctic terns have the longest migration in the world, traveling 11,000 miles from the Arctic Circle down to Antarctica each season. They nest in Iceland in big communities and are very defensive when tourists get anywhere close to their nests, making noise and dive-bombing anyone who approaches. Once their chicks have fledged, they set out for Antarctica, which is a long a perilous journey.

For tourists, too, the journey to Antarctica is not simple, as it involves taking a ship from Patagonia across the Drake Straits, facing 30-foot waves. But Hines found it worth the trouble. He had impressive photos of ice. Towering icebergs look like cliffs, dwarfing the ship and that is only the above-water part. 70% of all freshwater is held in Antarctic ice, with ice two miles thick in places. If it all melts, sea level will rise by 200 feet. "Antarctica makes you realize how insignificant humans are. It's heart aching to look at the expanse of nature," he said.

He got wonderful views of humpback whales sleeping on the ocean surface, orcas traveling in a pod, top predator leopard seals, and of course, birds. Albatrosses have the longest wingspan of any bird and they would follow in the wake of the ship. Adelie penguins nest higher above the water and walk down single file to the sea to find krill for themselves and their chicks. Gentoo penguins nest closer to the water, in coastal areas, and feed on both krill and fish. Skuas predate on baby penguins.

Antarctica has no indigenous population or government. Under an international agreement some restrictions on mining and whaling are in place. Companies that bring tourists police their own environmental impact, understanding that conservation is the key to continuing tourism. Hines hopes that the wonders of tourism is a net positive for Antarctica.





## Happenings in Southeast KS

### Bicycling with Butterflies: Author Event with Sara Dykman

**Monday, September 26, 7:00 in Yates 102, PSU**

From March to December 2017, Sara followed the monarch butterflies from their overwintering grounds in central Mexico to Canada and back. Her trip became a spotlight to remind us that it is up to us to save the migration. Pittsburg was a rest stop on her 2017 journey, and she was gracious enough to present to our community. She is now headed back this way and promoting the book she wrote about her experience. She will give a program as well as have books to sell.

**CO-SPONSORED BY NATURE REACH AND SPERRY-GALLIGAR AUDUBON**



Nature Reach had a big summer with three camps. Insect nets flew through the air, logs full of nature's wonders were inspected, and many young birds attempted to "migrate" the Mississippi flyway. Many thanks to all involved.

**Delia Lister, Director**

## Sightings...



This summer's drought and heat has had an impact on wildlife in the area, including those in our backyards.

Even this late in the season, try to provide water, some flowers for pollination, and allow wildlife (like squirrels and birds) to eat fruits (your garden?) to sustain them into winter.



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

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

## Plum and Rachel Meet a Mom

Steve Ford

Over forty years ago when I was beginning my graduate work on coyotes I read a book entitled *The Clever Coyote* by Stanley Young. In my subsequent work, reading, and observations of coyotes I have never come across any circumstance that disavows the use of the word "clever" as being anything but spot on.

Not long ago I wrote a note for the newsletter that related how a coyote escaped my two dogs by jumping into the strip pit behind my house and swimming across it. (Admittedly, I tried my best to intervene. I'm not sure of the outcome had I not, except that I'm pretty sure my pets would have suffered injuries.)

Here's another report: In early July Cindy and I were in our fields west of the house watering some of the several hundred tree saplings we had planted the previous months (and thereby virtually guaranteeing the following drought. Sorry.) We don't usually let our two young dogs out of the spacious confines of our extended yard - they have everything there a dog could ever want - for fear of their getting into trouble with the neighbors, which is a fear well-founded. But this day we relented and opened the gate. Brother, you would not have wanted to be in front of them!

As we watered we spotted a coyote several hundred yards west emerging from some thick brush near a marsh. It trotted along rather nonchalantly when a smaller, darker animal ran across its path. "Skunk," "raccoon," and "woodchuck" first came to mind, but the coyote hardly reacted at all, and the smaller animal rather bounced toward the coyote as if to say, "Hi Mom!" Sure enough, a coyote pup had evidently escaped the den to chase after its mother. The two soon disappeared.

I looked around for our dogs, hoping they were far elsewhere, but noooooo there they were exploring the marsh with an enthusiasm I haven't had since . . . well, never. They disappeared too, but in just a couple of minutes they began with bellows that would have made 'coon dogs proud, and they ain't 'coon dogs. The game was afoot, and in another minute we heard other barks - the distinctive high-pitched yips of the coyote. All this was taking place in heavy brush and beyond our seeing. We listened to the commotion for some five minutes. Eventually the dogs stopped barking, but not the coyote. It continued its yip, yip, yip...maybe ten minutes more. Here came our dogs, tongues dangling, but the coyote was still yipping in the distance!

What happened could only have been this: the coyote knew that brushy landscape much better than did Plum and Rachel, but rather than tearing out across the country to put distance between her and our dogs, she protected her pups in the den by continuing to egg on the dogs by her constant yipping, and leading them away into landscape she knew well, but they didn't. I'm sure she had little concern about being caught.

We returned the next day for more watering. Of course our darlings made a bee-line for the location of their previous adventure, but alas, nothing. Momma had moved her pups. Clever.





## SEK Wildlife Rehabbers Coalition

Sally Imhof

It's official! We have formed the SEK Wildlife Rehabbers Coalition! On August 7<sup>th</sup> we all met at Jessi Thummel's Ranch in Thayer Kansas. Jessi has been training with Operation Wildlife to obtain a permit for wildlife rehabilitation. As Jessi saw a need for a team of wildlife rehabbers in southeast Kansas she reached out to us and we all said YES! Jessi is taking it one step further and forming non-profit 501 C3.

Our first meeting was to get acquainted with each other. We each have different strengths and abilities that became apparent as we conversed. Jessi is big into educating the public and turns out that Ivy has been doing just that in the Parsons area. We plan to build on what Ivy has developed and come up with a syllabus for all of us to use. We will let everyone know when we are ready to make presentations.

We decided on two events to get things rolling, they are:

We are having a booth at the Chanute Artist Alley. Jessi has obtained a number of pamphlets to hand out to the public to help explain what we are doing and what to do if they see abandoned or injured wildlife.

We will be having a garage sale to benefit our new group. It cost a lot to feed and house the wildlife we take in, plus gas for pickup. Money will also be used for continuing education classes. Again, it takes our volunteer time and money for classes to keep learning better ways to care for the animals and help the public. We would like donations for this garage sale, but no clothes, please. You can take donations to Happy Paws in Pittsburg the week of October 10 through 14.



## INJURIES

Steve Ford

I snapped my plantaris tendon recently lugging a five-gallon bucket of water up a steep strip pit embankment. This shoe-string-like cord is one of the longest in the human body, extending from the heel up to behind the knee to the big condyle of the thigh's femur. If you were some tiny animated minion journeying up the tendon, which is sandwiched between the two huge calf muscles, expecting to eventually come to an equally huge plantaris you'd be very disappointed, for it is but a mouse-sized thing, and a small mouse at that. In fact the plantaris is so vestigial and insignificant in people that some seven per cent of us don't bother to have it at all.

But I do and I broke its tendon so suddenly that it felt like a burley linebacker ambushed me from the bushes and kicked me hard in the back of the leg. I don't really blame a ghost football player for my injury, but I do blame global warming because the water was for some recently-planted loblolly pine seedlings parched from the summer drought, which, according to those dreary climatologists, is one of many to come over the next fifty years to plague YOUR grandchildren. (At least my non-existent grandkids won't blame ME for their misery.)

Of course I have no way of knowing whether the droughty condition leading to my misfortune was caused specifically by fossil fuels or cow farts, but anyway the trees got their drink, and (thank you) my swelling and pain have diminished appreciatively. Oh, and please tell your grandkids that old Steve says sorry and good luck.

**Application for Membership  
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society**

For first-time National Audubon membership: send \$20.00 and become a member of both organizations, receive 4 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and 8 copies of Sperry-Galligar Newsletter. Please make your check to: National Audubon Society.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 Audubon Society.

**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

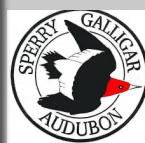
**EVENTS & MISCELLANY**

**TIME TO PAY DUES.  
SEE LIZ MANGILE.**

**Prairie Jubilee** at  
Prairie State Park, MO  
September 24  
10 - 3

Enjoy a day of learning  
about prairies and natural  
history.

If you would like to volunteer  
to help during the festival,  
please contact  
Dana Hoisington  
Prairie State Park  
**417-843-6711**



**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.