



NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

Nov/Dec 2022 / Issue 4

OFFICERS

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Mary Jo Meier

Vice President

Andrew George

Secretary

Megan Corrigan

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

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Board Support

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

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

pittstate.edu

Web Master

Bob Mangile

[sperry-](http://sperry-galligar.com)

[galligar.com](http://sperry-galligar.com)

Membership

Diane McCallum

Next Program

Thursday, 7:00

December 1

Yates 102

PSU Campus

"The Kansas
Birding Trail
and Wildlife
Viewing" by
Jenn Rader,
Kansas Dept. of
Wildlife & Parks
(Southeast KS
Nature Center)

Paradise and Prairie Tales

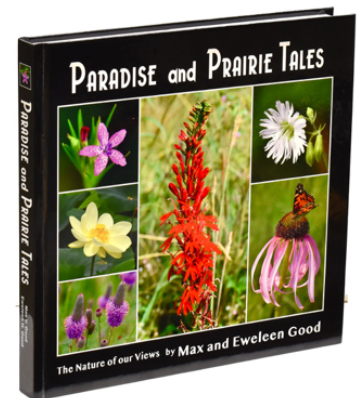
Max and Eweleen Good, residents outside of Parsons, KS, have written a beautiful and inspiring book about their home, "The Good Woods". If you talk with Max and Eweleen, you know that they have spent many years restoring a farm (purchased in 1975) to a property full of wildflowers, wetlands, and woods. Because of the changes they have made to the landscape, they commonly see hooded mergansers on their pond from their living room, have hummingbirds visit their deck plants, and watch wood duck chicks jump out of their nests. Maybe you have been lucky enough to attend one of Max's presentations or wildflower walks.

The 30-year restoration, particularly the prairie areas, has resulted in 237 species of plants on their 40 acres. They will tell you that the house takes up one acre and wildlife takes up the remainder. Max is a professional photographer who has taken wildflower photos in each season to record the diversity and beauty of the property.

Along with Eweleen, who taught journalism at Pittsburg High School, Max photographed wildflowers for a book that he and Eweleen started four years ago. They recently published the coffee table book, called *Paradise and Prairie Tales: The Nature of our Views*, based on their restoration and conservation of the property. The message is that anyone can aspire to conservation of land and make a difference.

The book is not a field guide but rather a photographic journey through the seasons with anecdotal "Maxisms" that make the wanderings quite enjoyable. The 308-page book is available at paradiseandprairietales@gmail.com and sells for about \$105, depending on type of payment and shipping.

C. Ford



Reminder: Annual Audubon Bird Seed Sale

Friday, Dec. 2 -- all day & Saturday, Dec. 3 -- morning

Blue Ribbon Farm and Home Store

**Buy your bird seed at the store and Blue Ribbon
will donate to Sperry-Galligar Chapter 15% of
those sales.**

Board Minutes...Megan Corrigan

Sperry Galligar Audubon Minutes - 27 October 2022, Pitt State, Yates Hall 102

Attended: Mary Jo Meier, Mavis Benner, Andrew George, Steve Ford, Cindy Ford, Diane McCallum, Bob Mangile, Liz Mangile, Wayne Bockelman, Megan Corrigan

Minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report – We have \$5036.21 in checking.

Upcoming Events – November 12 – Bird Walk, December 1 – Jenn Rader, Director of the SEKS Nature Center. Dec. 2-3 – Birdseed Sale at Blue Ribbon, April 27 – Rick Hines, Amazon travels

Bylaws – Mary Jo and Wayne met to look at the bylaws, diversity statement, and mission statement. No changes were suggested. Concern was expressed that the bylaws say “No ... part of the Society’s activities shall consist of ... attempting to influence legislation,” since we do sometimes sign petitions, often at the behest of National Audubon. Bob thinks this may be a relic of past rules, when chapters were more closely connected to National Audubon. Mary Jo will check with chapter services about whether we can remove that statement. It was also suggested that the functions of the various officer positions and duties be clarified. Mary Jo moved to re-approve the bylaws as written and to re-examine them next year. The motion was approved.

Donation to Rehabilitation Center – Steve moved to donate \$500 to Sally Imhoff’s rehabilitation center, which is working on getting non-profit status. The motion was approved.

Motus Bird Tag – Mary Jo moved to sponsor two bird tags, at \$200 a piece to support the Motus project. Questions were raised about how funding basic research ties in to our mission of conservation and education. It was mentioned that it would be good publicity, that conservation strategies are built on basic research, and that the research falls under education. It was suggested that there could be a field trip to participate in bird banding. After discussion it was proposed to sponsor one tag this year, at \$200. The motion was passed.

Treasurer Report...Liz Mangile

November, 2022

Beginning balance-----\$5049.63

Credits

Memberships, bird houses, t-shirts--\$ 344.00

National Audubon----- 20.00

Total-----\$ 364.00

Debits

Newsletter-----\$ 21.37

Speaker-----\$ 106.05

Treats-----\$ 60.00

Total-----\$ 187.42

Ending balance-----\$5226.21

Minutes (cont.)

Outreach – Wayne and Megan had a table for SGAS the PSU Sustainability Fair . Cindy was invited to speak about our organization to a Pittsburg study group.

Lead Legislation – We received an email solicitation from Animal Wellness Action to sign on to support a bill asking the Biden administration to restore the policy of not using lead ammunition on National Wildlife Refuges. A motion was made and passed to sign on.

Attendance at October Meeting – 70; October bird walk – 5 attendees



Photo by Bob Mangile

**2022/2023 Sperry-Galligar Board
(Andy George, Bob Mangile, &
Delia Lister not pictured.)**

October Program Synopsis by Megan Corrigan

Fantastic Birds and Where to Find Them



Photo by Bob Mangile

Mary Marine, who is originally from Florida, readily admits that American Flamingo, Roseate Spoonbills and Tricolored Herons are fantastic. If you want to find them, there are plenty of sources to help you. But she contends that every bird is fantastic, even unassuming little brown ones you can barely notice.

Mary's favorite bird is the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, the most endangered bird in the US. It may become the first US bird to go extinct since 1987, if their decline cannot be reversed. A few years ago, there were estimated to be only 70 individuals left in the wild. In 2020, Mary worked as a conservation technician on the Florida dry prairie in an effort to shore up the population.

She spent six hours a day looking for their very cryptic nests and then monitoring, protecting them from predators, and banding the babies. Fire ants are a predator, so Mary poured boiling water on any fire ant nests within 50 feet of a sparrow nest. She put up nets to protect them from snakes and small mammals. She wove 'boardwalks' out of palm leaves to surround the nest so if the babies fell out they would not drown. If rain was forecast, she lifted the nests, filling in dirt below so it would not flood.

At the same time, several zoos were raising Florida Grasshopper Sparrows and releasing more of them into the wild. These combined efforts have paid off. From 33 nests in 2020, the population has grown to 70 nests this year. They are still on the edge, but for now their numbers are increasing.

Mary also showed us Snowy Owls in Maine; Scrub Jays and California Quail in California; crowds of Sandhill Cranes and a rare Whooping Crane in Nebraska, Ovenbirds in the Ozarks and prairie chickens in western Kansas, each one fantastic. Birds are fantastic, she said, because they draw people from around the country and world to stand shoulder to shoulder with strangers and admire them. Because the birds tend to be found in fantastic places with amazing ecosystems, they draw us people to those same places, and help us appreciate the miracle of the planet we inhabit. If a bird can get humans to change our behavior and conserve our beautiful places, isn't that fantastic?

WILDERNESS PARK BIRD WALK

Birders attending the Wilderness Park Bird Walk Nov. 12, 2022 saw 30 species, including 3 species of geese, 7 species of ducks, red-shouldered hawk, 3 species of woodpeckers, mourning dove, killdeer, 3 species of gulls, and 11 species of songbirds. A species list for the outing can be found on ebird.org or contact Andrew George at adgeorge@pittstate.edu.



Happenings in Southeast KS

A TRIP OUT WEST

Steve Ford

A couple of weeks ago I boarded a commercial plane for only the second time in over forty years. The first time was just two years ago when Cindy and I flew to Alaska. One does not find flying pleasant, at least this one doesn't. Both flights were stressful ordeals, and we didn't even hit major snags. They beg the question, is it worth it?

The short answer is yes. Alaska was wonderful. This time we flew into Las Vegas, but after driving down the supremely gawkable strip (and lunching at an IHOP, after all we were on vacation), we drove north to our ultimate destinations, Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks in southern Utah, and an unplanned day trip to the north rim of the Grand Canyon. I won't try to describe the scenery - mere words don't cut it. Despite our hoary age we even managed to hike a few paved bunny trails, of course watching for birds and becoming reacquainted with several of our western friends: ravens,



mountain chickadees, a Williamson's sapsucker, black-billed magpies, brown-headed nuthatches, bushtits, the exquisite Stellar's jay, and others. But the birding highlight for me was a species I'd been yearning to see for decades. It was the afternoon of our last day at Zion, and I was despairing of being skunked once again, but eureka! The clouds parted, the French horns soared, and there it was, the magnificent American dipper! OK maybe not sooo magnificent, but certainly very cool, and doing its thing of submerging and re-emerging repeatedly in a frothy mountain stream. We happily watched it through binoculars for twenty minutes.

Two days later we were decompressing on our back porch from our previous very long day of plane and car travel home. As fun as it is to see different birds in beautiful landscapes, especially a long-sought lifer, we were seeing and hearing far more birds in our backyard than we did in the parks. I think I've opined on this before - pound-for-pound Toto, for birds, it's hard to beat our little corner of paradise right here at home.

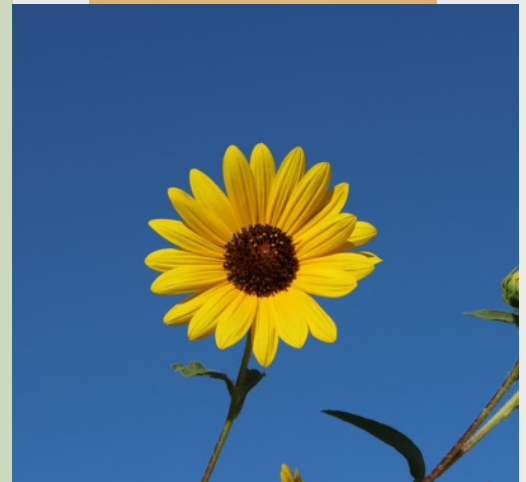
Uptick in Bluebirds

Bob Mangile reported 139 bluebirds fledged this year whereas 89 bluebirds fledged last year.

Sightings...



Emmett's Pics



Common Sunflower

The Kansas State Flower can be found along county roads and old reclaimed strip pits in our area. They are good food sources for wild birds. Photo taken September 2022.

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

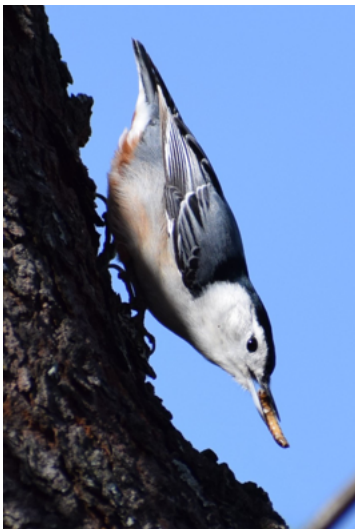
cford@pittstate.edu

FOX PHOTOS FROM TERRAPIN RIDGE

Kathy Fox



It's November, cue the turkey! A rafter of wild turkeys trotted across the driveway just to remind us they are okay after the dry summer.



White-breasted nuthatch enjoying a live mealworm from the feeder. This is our first attempt at offering live mealworms through the winter. We are set up with an abundant supply, thanks to a good friend, and hoping our yard birds enjoy the extra fuel this year.

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.)

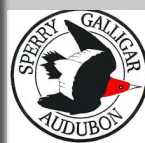
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
816 E. Atkinson Ave.
Pittsburg, KS 66762

Events & Etc.

Audubon's Christmas Bird Count is planned for New Year's Day (January 1, 2023). Stay in touch for information about the count held in Cherokee County.

Meet at McCune Farm to Market at 7:00 a.m. to get your packet for the day.

Preferably, contact Andy George (620-235-4030) or email him at adgeorge@pittstate.edu to RSVP.



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.