



NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

January 2026 / Issue 4

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Andrew George
Vice President
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Secretary
Steve Ford
Treasurer
Wayne Bockelman

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cford@pittstate.edu

Web Master
Bob Mangile
sperry-galligar.com

Membership
Diane McCallum
dmccallum11@cox.net

Next Program

Thursday, 7:00
January 29, 2026
102 Yates Hall, PSU

"Bridging Science and Story: Climate Change in Two Iconic National Parks" by Dr. Delia Lister.

How can we connect the realities of climate change to the National Parks where namesakes are at risk? How are naturalists and others at Joshua Tree and Glacier Bay National Parks communicating this change?



Photo by Linda Phipps

Bird Seed for Winter

Thank you to Dane & Linda Schulz
Blue Ribbon Farm Store
4th & Rouse
Pittsburg

We greatly appreciate your support!

A percentage of bird seed sales was donated to the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter.

Board Minutes...Steve Ford

The board meeting was held in the Heckert-Wells third floor lounge starting at 6:00 pm.

** Present were Mavis Benner, Wayne Bockleman, Megan Corrigan, Steve Ford, Kathy Fox, Andy George, Bob Mangile, Diane McCallum.

** November's minutes were approved. Treasurer (Wayne) reported a balance of \$2,885.08 in checking, plus our CD.

** Steve reported a good showing at the Celebration of Cranes event at the Quivera National Wildlife Refuge, including sightings of some 32 whooping cranes.

** The decision was made to offer Paypal as an option for local dues only (<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/3V62V9XZN8PQW>). We will also continue to accept cash and checks. So far two members have joined through Paypal.

** First time members wishing to pay online to join Sperry-Galligar and National Audubon for \$20 for the first year should be instructed to visit <https://act.audubon.org/a/chapter-membership?chapter=J10> We need to urge members who join this way to let us know that they did so. Otherwise there is a lag time before we are informed that they have joined. We will continue to accept combined new memberships from those who prefer to pay by cash or check.

** Tonight's speaker is Linda Bower: Ponds; January is Dr. Delia Lister: Research on climate change in national parks; February is Dr. David Penning: Helping herps; March is Jamie Phelps: Butterflies; April (open); May picnic (open). Discussion regarding doing something different at the picnic other than having a speaker, possibly involving members' photographs, was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer Report...Wayne Bockelman

January, 2026

Credits

Memberships	\$ 80.00
Book Sales61.00

Female Purple Finch
from Linda Phipp's
Camera Feeder



Spring Bird Event:

Kansas Lek Treks Prairie Chicken Fest

Sponsored by Audubon of Kansas

April 9 - 12, Hays, KS

- ** Participate in Tours to view prairie chickens
- ** Attend Presentation by Ken Kaufman, author of Kansas bird books
- ** Meet like-minded bird watchers

For more information and to register:

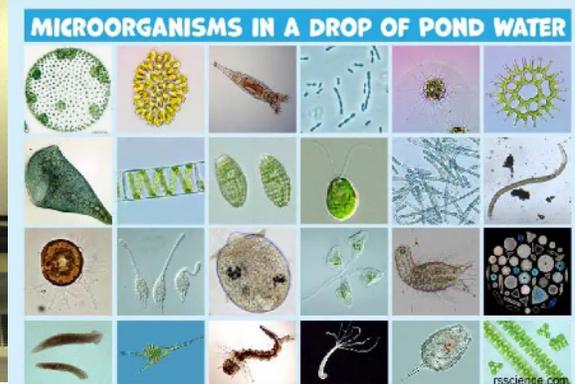
Visit Audubon of Kansas website





Photo by Bob Mangile

Pondering the Pond as Wildlife Habitat



Missouri's Master Naturalist, Linda Bower's, program on pond life took me back to my old college class in limnology, the study of freshwater ecosystems. That class was tough, but quite interesting in not only introducing me to the myriads of both microscopic and macroscopic critters one sees in ponds and streams, but also relating them to each other ecologically, that is who eats whom, reproduction, the role of the physical environment, plus the role we humans play. Ponds and streams are kind of concentrated classes in ecology IF we care to look and consider.

Linda Bower from Springfield did care and came up with a fascinating program of face-in-the-water video (all her own) and a rich, funny, personable narrative that was quite instructive, but with a casual betcha'-didn't-know-this delivery. I found myself wanting to grab a dip net with one hand and a cup of coffee with the other. She started out

telling us she did all her hundreds of hours of recording "just for fun." Both her diligence and excitement showed.

I was particularly interested in the equipment and techniques she used to capture action footage of everything from microscopic monsters called moss piglets, to developing salamanders, spring peeper frogs, and newts to woodcocks, armadillos, bobcats and coyotes. Clearly, her "just for fun" included being mighty wet, muddy, cold, and Oh so patient. She pressed on us to take care of our bodies of water, even the little ones. They are key to our wildlife community.

Forty-four folks enjoyed the program, including a herd of high-schoolers from Donna Maus's class who laughed and learned along with us graybeards. Thanks to Linda for her enthusiasm for nature and for making the trip from Springfield and thanks to program director, Megan Corrigan, for snagging her for us. This was a good one.

National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

began in 1900 as an alternative to Christmas Day “side hunts” — friendly competitions dating to the late 18th century in which hunters attempted to harvest as many animals as possible. Concerned about declining bird populations, ornithologist Frank Chapman proposed a Christmas bird census instead. The first count included just 27 participants at a handful of locations in the United States and Canada. Over the next 125 years, the CBC grew steadily in popularity. Last year’s count included more than 83,000 participants across approximately 2,700 count circles in 21 countries. Despite this growth in participation, the number of birds counted per circle has declined over time, reflecting long-term population declines in many bird species. More information about the CBC can be found [HERE](#).

The 36th Southeast Kansas Mined Lands CBC was held on January 1. Nine volunteers — three of them first-time participants — spent the day birding within our count circle in Cherokee County. Mild temperatures and low winds made for ideal conditions. We recorded 69 species, slightly above the long-term average for this circle.

No new species were added this year, but several uncommon birds were noteworthy, including LeConte’s Sparrow, Smith’s Longspur, Common Yellowthroat, and Eastern Screech-Owl. We also met or exceeded previous high counts for Greater White-fronted Goose, Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. Thank you to all of the volunteer birders who made this count possible. Participants: Andrew Burnett, Chad Gardner, Andrew George, Nathan George, Hilary Shepard, Timothy Tarkelly, Kate Tyree, Caleb Stradley, Heaven Jones

Greater White-fronted Goose	60	Downy Woodpecker	11	Common Yellowthroat	1
Canada Goose	73	Hairy Woodpecker	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	11
Gadwall	1	Northern Flicker	35	Smith's Longspur	2
American Wigeon	2	Pileated Woodpecker	3	American Tree Sparrow	3
Mallard	630	American Kestrel	22	Fox Sparrow	17
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Loggerhead Shrike	4	Dark-eyed Junco	210
Great Blue Heron	1	Blue Jay	64	White-crowned Sparrow	114
Northern Harrier	5	American Crow	127	Harris's Sparrow	91
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Horned Lark	9	White-throated Sparrow	146
Bald Eagle	6	Carolina Chickadee	37	LeConte's Sparrow	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	Tufted Titmouse	27	Savannah Sparrow	69
Red-tailed Hawk	30	White-breasted Nuthatch	9	Song Sparrow	51
Killdeer	8	Brown Creeper	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	3
Ring-billed Gull	7	Winter Wren	3	Swamp Sparrow	56
Feral Pigeon	5	Marsh Wren	1	Northern Cardinal	75
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5	Carolina Wren	11	Red-winged Blackbird	1459
Mourning Dove	206	Golden-crowned Kinglet	10	Western Meadowlark	5
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	Eastern Meadowlark	26
Barred Owl	1	Eastern Bluebird	31	Rusty Blackbird	100
Belted Kingfisher	3	American Robin	46	Brown-headed Cowbird	20
Red-headed Woodpecker	14	Northern Mockingbird	11	House Finch	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	37	European Starling	224	American Goldfinch	72
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	Cedar Waxwing	20	House Sparrow	55
<i>Total species: 69</i>		<i>Total individuals: 5501</i>			

Article & Species Compilation by Andrew George

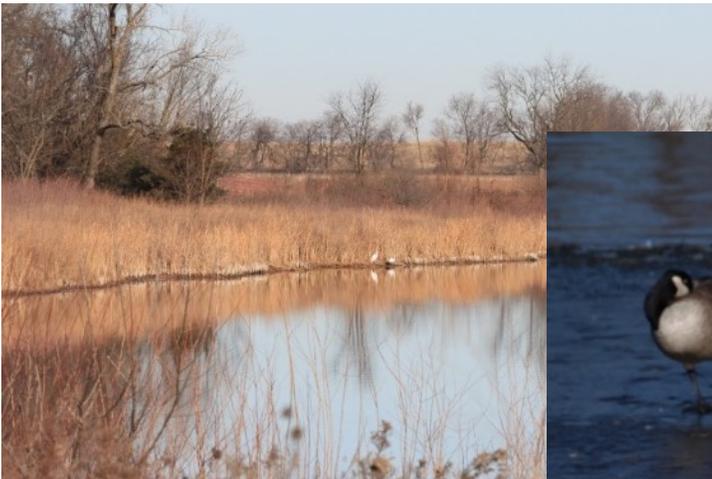
PHOTOGRAPHERS' NOTEBOOK



White-throated Sparrow ... Kathy Fox Photo



Golden-crowned Kinglet ... Kathy Fox Photo



Great Egrets on Strip Pit ...
Emmett Sullivan Photo



Trumpeter Swan (fore ground) and Canada Goose ...
Emmett Sullivan Photo



Happenings in Southeast KS

Sightings...



A Christmas Gift

Linda Phipps

My grandson, Jack, gifted me a wonderful bird feeder that has a camera attached for Christmas. Jack is very thoughtful about gift giving and tries to make sure the gift fits the person. He certainly hit the nail on the head this time. The feeder camera is solar powered and records videos of the feeder visitors as well as still shots. Through WIFI the camera sends the images to my phone and laptop. The name of this feeder is The Birdbuddy – Smart Bird Feeder Pro Solar, but there are many feeders out there that are similar.

I have had so much fun watching these backyard friends find the feeder. If I didn't know better, I would think they know they are on camera and actually seem to pose at times. So far, I have seen 9/10 different species of birds and a squirrel or two.

Some birds that I have seen: Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Tufted Titmouse, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee and ... of course, gray squirrels found the feed on about day three.



Tufted Titmouse



Purple Finch



Northern Cardinal

**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**

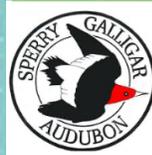
Name _____

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.

NOTE CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP

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If you want to join National Audubon Society, with magazine for \$20, please contact National Audubon Society online with your check.

For Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter membership, give \$15 check to Wayne Bockelman or pay with paypal. Members of both National Audubon Society and Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter receive newsletters.

Please submit articles or photos to the newsletter editor by the 10th of each month.

Next submission date:
Feb 10 Send to:
cford@pittstate.edu

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.