



NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

October 2026 / Issue 2

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Next Program

Thursday, 7:00
Oct. 29, 2026
Yates 102, PSU
Pittsburg, KS

"Cardinal Valley—
Mined Land
Restoration" by John
Nichols, Habitat
Restoration Manager
will highlight the
successful
ecological
transformation of
about 1,000 acres
of scarred mined
land near Webb City.

Eyes: Its all about the Light

Bob Mangile

Most of us know that house cats have vertical slit pupils, as do most of the smaller cats of the world but there are exceptions, e.g. Pallas's cat that has round pupils. But interestingly the large cats, i.e., lions, tigers, etc. have round pupils. However, vertical slit pupils are not limited to cats. Some birds, e.g. skimmers; reptiles, e.g. vipers; crocodilians; and foxes, e.g. red foxes; have them. Vertical slit pupils are thought to maximize the ability to judge distances of prey and are thought to be more efficient at controlling light entering the eye.



Animals like sheep, goats, deer, horses, and some other grazing herbivores, often have horizontal slits or rectangular pupils that are thought to expand their field of vision and reduce

light from above. (I remember a lady that once told me that she didn't like to look at a goat's funny eyes!)



Many critters can see some colors but unlike humans it is limited regardless of the amount of light. The human eye cannot see color until the light has reached a certain

threshold – measured as Lux. At dawn most things are just dark but as the sun rises in the sky the increasing light projected on a surface, called Lux, (lumen = the light emitted from a source) allows color to be more vivid. People that had cataract surgery comment on how bright the colors are after surgery. The old darkened lens was replaced with a clear lens and allows in more light. Of interest is that blue-eyed people have a gene that blocks melanin (black pigment) only in the eye which allows more light into the eye. Hence, they have a harder time looking at bright light or the sunlit sky because too much light enters the eye. ###

Board Minutes...Steve Ford

September 24, 2026

Present: Mavis Benner, Megan Corrigan, Cindy and Steve Ford, Kathy Fox, Andy George, Diane McCallum. President Andy called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

** Secretary Minutes: Approved

** Treasurer's Report: We have \$3,928.42 in our checking account. Kathy reported our CD matured at Arvest Bank, making us \$1,302.35. It was rolled over into a new 2 year CD at Arvest, which compounds quarterly, so as of today that new CD contains \$16,302.35. Our total account then, including checking and new CD is \$20,230.77.

** Programs: Tonight's speaker is Monica Murnan from Greenbush. Oct.- John Nichols: Cardinal Valley Restoration (near Webb City), Dec.-Gabe McClain: Prothonotary warbler study, Jan.- John Imhof: Guiding for Elk, Feb.-open, Mar.-Natalie Douglas: Hummingbirds, Apr.-open, Picnic-open.

** Old Business: Megan investigated alternative meeting sites, as the restriction on refreshments at Yates 102 was deemed as possibly having a negative impact on attendance. She reported the new Kelce had serious drawbacks. Grubbs Hall and Nursing might have opportunities. Andy will look into allowing us an exemption in Yates.

Bird walk next Saturday, Oct. 3, at Greenbush.

Andy reported that there was good progress on developing a summer nature camp at Greenbush. Springfield, Missouri's successful camp is a model.

** Meeting adjourned.



Treasurer Report...Kathy Fox

October 2026

Beginning Balance (Sep 2) \$ 4228.42

Credits \$ 220
(Memberships)

Debits \$ 250
(Donation to KRPS)

Ending Balance (Sep 2) \$ 4198.42

CD \$16,302.35

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Annual Bird Seed Sale Coming Soon

**Plan to get your winter bird seed
supply at Blue Ribbon Farm &
Home**

Friday, December 4 — 7:30 to 5:30
Saturday, December 5 — 7:30 to 1:00

Black Oil Sunflower,
Wild Bird Seed, and
Nyjer Thistle

**15% of the proceeds of these sales will
be donated to
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter**



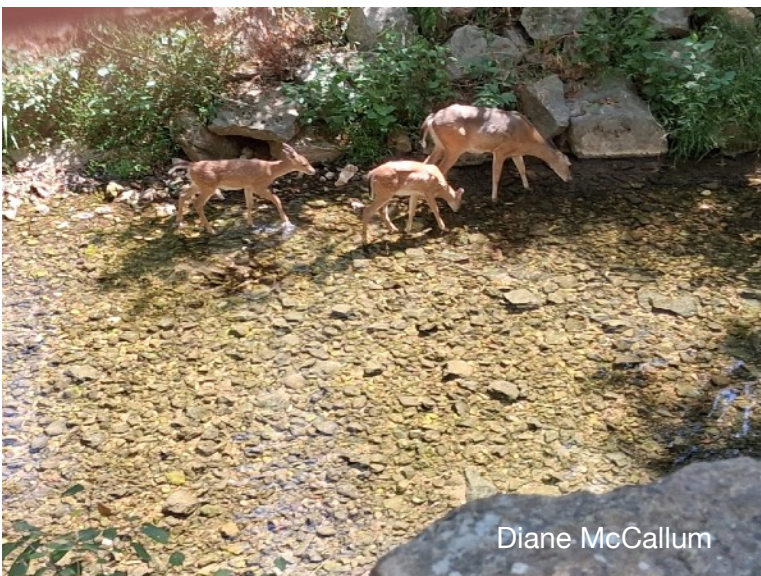
Greenbush 50th Anniversary

Monica Murnan was September's enthusiastic speaker who proved that slides and other gaudy visuals are not always needed to carry off an informative, entertaining program. Monica is a representative of the Greenbush Educational Service Center west of Girard. As a former politician (for example she represented the 3rd District in the Kansas legislature for four years) she reminded us how important it is to get involved. Most people don't, so the opinions of the few that do, carry a lot of weight.

This is the 50th anniversary of Greenbush, which serves all of Kansas in procurement of goods and services for public schools, serves as a center for teacher education, and offers a field trip destination for regional students. It owns 500 acres, most of which is leased for farmland, but about 100 of which is a diverse landscape for kids and teachers. Considerable renovation includes plans to revamp a rainforest greenhouse, (a second greenhouse uses hydroponics to grow lettuce for their food service), to construct another astronomical observatory, to upgrade the science center with labs for kids, and to explore a recently expanded trail system that passes through a diverse landscape that includes a lake. A wetland is also being revitalized.

The center, including cabins, remains available to groups, schools, churches, scouts, etc., but is not yet open to the non-accompanied general public. It may be in the future.

Wildlife can be found in natural areas and on residential structures.



Gray Tree Frog

PHOTOGRAPHERS' NOTEBOOK

Kathy Fox Photos

Kathy has her camera close by as she observes nature activities at her slice of natural paradise just outside of Pittsburg and in her travels.



Coyote



Broad-winged Hawk



Spotted Orb Spider



Happenings in Southeast KS

Sightings...



Birding at Greenbush

The Saturday morning was a crisp fall day. It was a joy to be out birding after the hot summer that we had this year. Most birds observed were not unusual except seeing a close look at a barn owl perched in a cedar tree — in daylight. We were also impressed by a flock of migrating broad-winged hawks.

1. Killdeer-1
2. Turkey Vulture-1
3. Sharp-shinned Hawk-1
4. Broad-winged Hawk-5
5. Red-shouldered Hawk-1
6. Red-tailed Hawk-1
7. American Barn Owl-1
8. Red-headed Woodpecker-1
9. Red-bellied Woodpecker-5
10. Downy Woodpecker-2
11. Pileated Woodpecker-1
12. Northern Flicker-5
13. Empidonax sp.-1
14. Eastern Phoebe-3
15. Blue Jay-27
16. American Crow-4
17. Carolina Chickadee-6
18. Tufted Titmouse-2
19. Northern Rough-winged Swallow-4
20. White-breasted Nuthatch-1
21. Carolina Wren-1
22. European Starling-2
23. Gray Catbird-1
24. Brown Thrasher-
25. Eastern Bluebird-1
26. American Robin-1
27. Cedar Waxwing-12
28. House Sparrow-4
29. House Finch-2
30. American Goldfinch-1
31. Red-winged Blackbird-8
32. blackbird sp.- 60
33. Yellow-rumped Warbler-4
34. Northern Cardinal-6
35. Indigo Bunting-4

Application for Membership Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

For **FIRST-TIME** National Audubon Society membership, send \$20.00 online or by mail **directly** to National Audubon Society. You will receive 4 copies of the Audubon Magazine annually and 8 copies of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter Newsletter.

Be sure to include the code, **J-10** on your check to indicate in which Audubon chapter you belong and your **e-mail**.

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For local membership **ONLY** pay \$20.00 to Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter and receive 8 newsletters per year informing you of all our local activities. You may pay in person at a meeting by cash or check or send a check by mail or online through Paypal.

Be sure to include the code, **J-10** on your Paypal transmission. Find Paypal on the Sperry-Galligar website or Facebook page.

.....Cut Here.....

To mail a check, please print and send to:

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter
431 E. 126 Hwy.
Pittsburg, KS. 66762

_____ Yes, I wish to become a member of the local chapter. (\$20)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____



Sperry- Galligar Audubon Society

Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month:

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Room 102 Yates Hall

Pittsburg State University

Pittsburg, KS.

November/December meeting dates combined typically the first week in December. No meetings in June, July, or August.

EVENTS & ETC.

2026-2027

Dues

Only \$20

See Kathy Fox

What have you seen?
What do you think?
Please, the newsletter
needs your input.

Please submit articles or
photos to the newsletter
editor by the 10th of
each month. Next
submission date:
NOV. 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 Sperry-Galligar Newsletter.