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### News From the Flock, Vol. 2008 Issue 2

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society  
Serving Crawford, Bourbon, and Cherokee Counties, Kansas

## SGAS Officers

2007-2008

### President:

Mavis Benner

### Vice President:

Jim Brumfield

### Secretary

Barb Robins

### Treasurer

Liz Mangile

## FEBRUARY 2008

## VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

### Winter Feeding Makes for Better Breeding

Submitted by John Hartley

Keep feeding the birds over winter: that's the message from research by the University of Exeter and Queen's University Belfast. The study shows for the first time that the extra food we provide garden birds in winter makes for a more successful breeding season in the spring.

By providing some birds with extra food, such as peanuts, and leaving others to fend for themselves, the team was able to compare productivity between the two groups. Those that were given extra food laid eggs earlier and, although they produced the same number of chicks, an average of one more per clutch successfully fledged. Although it was well known that garden feeding helps many birds survive the winter, this is the first time that the benefits to spring breeding and productivity have been shown.

Dr. Stuart Bearhop of the University of Exeter, corresponding author on the paper, said: "Our study shows that birds that receive extra food over winter lay their eggs earlier and produce

more fledglings. While this research shows how the extra food we provide in winter helps the birds that take it, it is still unclear whether this has a knock-on effect on other species. This is something we are keen to investigate, but in the meantime I will certainly be putting out food for garden birds for the rest of the winter."



US and UK households provide over 500,000 tons of food for garden birds each year. Despite this, there is a debate on whether we should continue feeding birds in the spring, when natural food sources become more readily available. This research shows, for the first time, that birds will continue to benefit from winter feeding well into the breeding season, which starts in April for most song birds in the UK.

Dr. Dan Chamberlain of the British Trust for Ornithology, a collaborator on the project, adds: "These results demonstrate that

feeding birds in gardens over winter can be vital to their breeding success. It is highly likely that the benefits of extra food continue year-round, so don't just stock your bird feeders in winter if you want to do the best for the birds in your garden".

Now that the research team has shown the long-lasting benefits of supplementary food for garden birds, they are keen to investigate exactly what is happening in terms of nutrition. Dr. Stuart Bearhop of the University of Exeter continued: "The extra food we put out for birds contains fat, protein and carbohydrates, which may make the female bird stronger and more able to produce eggs. Foods like peanuts and bird seed also include vitamins and minerals, which can also produce healthier eggs and chicks, and we currently have a research project looking at the role of energy versus vitamins in explaining these effects."

*This research was published February 6, 2008, in the Royal Society journal Biology Letters. The study was carried out by the University of Exeter, Queen's University Belfast, Central Science Laboratory, the British Trust for Ornithology and the University of Birmingham. Food and nest boxes were provided by Gardman Ltd.*

**MEETING TIME**  
We will begin our

meetings at  
**7:30 P.M.**

**Yates Hall Room 102.**  
**On the last Thursday**  
**of the month**



## KANSAS BIRDING FESTIVAL! APRIL 25-28, 2008

Take a birding and wildlife trip you'll never forget! Plan to attend the Kansas Birding Festival in Wakefield, Kansas. Over 300 bird species can be seen in the Milford Lake area. Some events include birding by boat, birding at the Konza Prairie, and Republican River Bottoms. Registration of \$90.00 is due by April 8th. For more information please visit:

<http://www.kansasbirdingfestival.org/>

## Calendar of Events

**Feb. 28th**—"The Sapelo Experience" by Delia Lister, PSU Biology Department. Come see what land and sea life a PSU Sponsored group of students, teachers, and Audubon members learned about last summer on a 10 day immersion camping trip to Sapelo Island, Georgia.

**March 27th**—"Butterflies" by Chandra Regier, Prairie State Park.

**March 29th**—Field Trip to PSU Natural History Research Reserve. Meet at Applebee's at 8am.

## Board Meeting Minutes

**Attending:** Mavis Benner, Jim Brumfield, Steve Ford, John & Julie Hartley, Delia Lister, Bob Mangile, Carol Newcomb, Barb Robins, Jordyn Newcomb (guest)  
**Call To Order By President Benner:** 6:05 p.m.

Minutes from Meeting: Approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report (Bob for Liz):** Balance of \$4,632.73 in checking account, which includes \$87.90 from Bob Hurt's bird-house plans income, donated by him. We made \$1087.67 on the birdseed & crafts sale.

**Other Reports (Steve):** Bird numbers in the various Christmas Bird Counts were down this year as well as the number of counters (Some were birding in Texas).

**Old Business:**

**Bird Feeding Education Program (John):** The visuals have been placed on a Power Point program.

**Bluebird House Project (Steve):** The houses sold successfully at the December sale; we have about 15 left and might want to consider making more this summer/fall. Steve would like for everyone to return the jigs to him to keep in one place.

**Barn Owl Houses (Bob):** He's waiting for warmer weather—permission to place one near the airport by the remote operators' field has been granted. The other could be placed in Monaghan or Robb prairies.

**Nature Photography Contest (Steve & Delia):** It's still under discussion.

**Prairie Plot at the Research Reserve (Steve & Delia):** It's been planted, and hay is spread. The building has cabinets, and the plumbing and electrical work are being finished.

**Picnic (Mavis):** It is still being planned for the Research Reserve, and details will be decided next month.

**New Business:**

**Field Trips (John):** We will tour the SEK Recycling Center Saturday, and perhaps to go Wilderness Park afterward to look for ducks. March 22 we will go to the Research Reserve.

**Kansas Birding Festival at Wakefield, April 25-27 (Mavis):** She wanted us to be aware of it, and make plans accordingly. Informa-

tion is on the SGAS website.

**Points to Ponder:**

Should we appoint a chapter representative to attend Kansas Audubon meetings? Should we support/participate in a PSU birding class designed for the public, perhaps late fall, for 5-6 nights (or weekends)? Would we want to approach Greenbush staff to offer to partner on an outdoor nature project? Steve will find a contact person. A Research Reserve walking path: Would we be willing to plant and start one as a project; would we be interested in finishing it? Special speakers for future meetings? Would we be willing to pay for a "name" and contact speakers' bureaus to find one?

## General Meeting Minutes

President Mavis Benner welcomed everyone and thanked those who helped with the birdseed sale.

**Announcements:**

Bob Mangile substituted for ill Liz and reported that our chapter has a checking account balance of \$4,632.73, which includes \$87.90 royalties from Bob Hurt's bird house plans. We made \$1087.67 profit on the birdseed sale, and sold most of the bluebird houses.

Steve Ford would like to collect all the jigs involved in making the birdhouses. Please give them to him.

Bob has extra copies of the *Directory of Missouri Natural Areas* to give away.

There are still two copies of *Kansas Birds* to buy at \$10 each. If you are interested in participating in the next Great Backyard Bird Count February 15-18, take some folders to complete and/or distribute.

"Walk Kansas" will begin in March; if you are interested in being in charge of a team, let Julie Hartley know.

There will be a birding festival in Wakefield on April 25-27. For more information, go to the SGAS website.

SGAS members can tour the Recycling Center at 9:00 a.m. this Saturday and perhaps go to

Wilderness Park afterward to look for winter birds.

**Bird Sightings:**

We're still seeing Red-Breasted nuthatches. Purple finches have been spotted. John Hartley displayed photos of unusual birds he saw during a Christmas trip to Iowa and Wisconsin, as well as a picture of a partially albino cardinal in his backyard.

**Wing Tips:**

Bob gave some pertinent facts about the Eurasian Collared dove, which was first seen in Kansas in the late 1990s. It is an aggressive European species that escaped to the southern U. S. via the Bahamas. It likes to visit feeders in town and stay close to houses, much like the mourning dove. We were treated to Bob's

imitations of both species.

**Featured Speaker:**

Jim Brumfield introduced Dr. Jim Triplett, chairman of Biological Sciences at PSU, and chairman of the board of the Crawford County Recycling Plant. His talk was entitled, "Energy and Resource Conservation: Global Impacts Result in Local Decisions and Activity." After mentioning the impacts of humans on ecosystems, he told us about the local recycling center and its huge growth in staff, physical space, and equipment. The center processed more the

2150 tons in 2007 and is looking to expand its operations, including hazardous waste handling and electronic waste collecting and sorting. They're also investigating the feasibility of a community curbside recycling pickup program. Last March, PSU began a recycling center on campus.

**Door Prizes:**

Sarah Riddle, Mavis Benner, LeAnn Webb, Tom Sims, Diane McCallum, and Barbara



### Help Wanted!

Are there any volunteers willing to be greeters at the February, March and April meetings? We Just need 1-2 people to sit at the door and have folks sign in on a numbered sheet of paper for the door prize and give them a name badge. Thanks for your help! Volunteers please contact Mavis Benner (mavisrn@att.net)

### Check it Out!

[www.okwinterbirds.com](http://www.okwinterbirds.com)

This site ID's 52 of the most commonly seen birds at feeders. Although it is designed for Oklahoma, it applies to Kansas as well as birds do not obey state lines!

## Recycling Center

By Carol Newcomb

After Dr. Jim Triplett's program on recycling at the January 31 Sperry-Gallagher Audubon Society meeting, a tour of the facility was planned. A group of 22 Audubon members met at the recycling center on February 2 for the tour.

They arrived at 9 AM on the site of the recycling grounds ready to see some action and learn more information. Mr. Chuck Delp, manager of the recycling operation, led the tour. He gave information on how recycling makes sense to the public welfare and to the environment. The sorting of various plastics, different colored glasses, various grades of paper, cardboard

stock, metal cans, etc., was observed by the group. The members of the tour saw the tons of recycled materials in large bales. The bales are shipped to various places across the country to be made back into some form so that the material can be reused and not placed back to the earth's soil in the form of landfills.

I believe the group walked away with an abundance of information to help spread the word to others to keep the earth clean.

Following the tour of the recycling center, a group of hard core Auduboners continued on to do some bird watching at Wildcat Park in Joplin, Missouri.



**Above:** Chuck Delp, Manager of the SEK Recycling Center gives a tour of the center to SGAS field trip members on February 2, 2008. **Right:** Volunteers on February 8, 2008 installed a Barn Owl nesting box at the Pittsburg Radio Control Club flying field. Two Barn Owl Boxes were constructed and donated by John Hegel. The second box will be installed at a different location. Those in the photo, from left to right, are: John Hegel, John Hartley and Jack Dock, manager of the flying field. Also assisting with the project were Ray Benner and Bob Mangile.

## WANTED:

Persons to give "Wing Tips"

Just to keep our focus on birds a little, each meeting before the main program speaker, a member, who volunteers or who is *gently* persuaded will give a brief presentation, just 5 or 10 minutes. The volunteer can choose a bird and give the description for identification, describe the birds call, tell about its behavior, its nest, what it eats, any facts that seem interesting. The presenter can show a picture or what ever they choose to share with the group. There are a lot of birds so we can do this a long time. The volunteer can chose their favorite bird or one that interests them or one that is unique.



## February Newsletter "Wing Tip" Red-tailed Hawk

If you haven't seen a Red-tailed hawk while driving down the road in Kansas then you must need a pair of glasses! It is, by far, the most widespread *Buteo* in the state. Although the plumage varies slightly, the identifying mark for adult birds is the rusty colored tail feathers. Juveniles, however, lack the red-tail until they are approximately 3 years old. In fact, the newest addition to Nature Reach is a juvenile named "Bella". She came to us from the Stone Nature Center in Topeka, KS. She is currently in training, and will be ready for programs in a month.

## Featured Bird coming in March...

*This bird has a cheerful and active disposition even through the harshest of*





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

For an introductory rate of \$20.00 you will become a member of both organizations, receive 4 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and the Sperry-Galligar Newsletter.

For rate of \$15.00 you will become a member of Sperry-Galligar Audubon and receive the regular 8 newsletters per year informing you of all our local activities.

If you wish to join the National as well as the Local Chapter : Please make your check out to: National Audubon Society

If you wish to join just the Local Sperry Galligar Audubon : Please make your check out to Sperry Galligar Audubon.

And mail to:

**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 205**

**Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-0205**

- ☐ YES I wish to become a member, of both organizations (\$20.00)  
☐ YES I wish to become a member of the local chapter only (\$15.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Chapter Code: J 10 7XCH



**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**By Liz Mangile**

December-February 2008

**Beginning balance 12/19/07** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$4873.46**

**CREDITS:**

2/1/08--Donation Bob Hurt \_\_\_\_\_ \$87.90  
 2/1/08--Four Local Dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00  
 2/7/08--Sold 10 Bluebird Boxes \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00  
**Total** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$197.90**

**DEBITS:**

1/8/08--Kansas Sales Tax for Feed Sale \_\_\_\_\_ \$180.00  
 1/8/08--Stamps for January Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ \$41.00  
 1/8/08--Printing of Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ \$19.73  
 2/4/08--Stamps for February Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 41.00  
 2/4/08--Concrete and Posts for Owl Box \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.79  
**Total** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$307.52**

**Ending Balance 2/11/08** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$4763.84**

**Walk Kansas**

Calling all walkers, swimmers, bikers, etc!  
 If memory serves, Walk Kansas will be starting in March. We are looking for anyone interested in managing a team or being a team member. This is an eight week commitment to exercise and report weekly to your team captain how far you have gone. If you bike or swim, walk on a treadmill, etc., fifteen minutes equals a mile. For straight walking, real miles are counted. We hope every team that participates gets at least the 423 miles across Kansas. If you are interested, e-mail John Hartley at [hartley@grapevine.net](mailto:hartley@grapevine.net)



**John and Julie Hartley**



**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society**

**Newsletter**

**P.O. Box 205**

**Pittsburg, KS 66762**

**Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month. No meetings in June July, or August. (Nov/Dec meeting date to be announced) From 7:30 pm to 9 pm, in Room 102, Yates Hall. PSU Campus, Pittsburg, Kansas. Refreshments served and Guests Welcome.**

Articles for submission may be sent to  
 SGAS Newsletter editor-

Delia Lister

[delialister@hotmail.com](mailto:delialister@hotmail.com) OR [dalister@pittstate.edu](mailto:dalister@pittstate.edu)

Published monthly

Next Deadline is March 6, 2008!

**February**  
**2008**



**Attention All  
 Members**

If this box is checked, our records indicate that your membership has expired. Please consider paying local membership dues. Our chapter receives 100% of the local dues only. HOWEVER, you can subscribe to both. Either way you get the newsletter.