

Pittsburg State University

## Pittsburg State University Digital Commons

---

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society Newsletters

Organizations

---

4-2008

### News From the Flock, Vol. 2008 Issue 4

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/sgasnewsletter>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society, "News From the Flock, Vol. 2008 Issue 4" (2008). *Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society Newsletters*. 4.

<https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/sgasnewsletter/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Organizations at Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@pittstate.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@pittstate.edu).



# 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

April 2008

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 4

## Bird Song Changes & Habitat Fragmentation Submitted by Delia Lister

New research published in the British Ecological Society's *Journal of Applied Ecology* has found that changes in bird songs could be used as an early warning system to detect man-made ecological disturbances. Although much previous research has focused on bird song and vocal mimicry, this is the first study to analyze the role played by habitat loss and fragmentation on song-matching.

Ecologists recorded and analyzed the songs of more than 200 Dupont's larks in Spain and Morocco and found that in fragmented habitats, song-sharing among neighbors was enhanced, whereas song-sharing among non-neighbors declined. Having ruled out other explanations, such as the stage of the breeding season and

competition intensity, the researchers say this change in song-sharing is due to lack of interaction between individuals isolated by habitat barriers. This suggests that males from fragmented habitats perceived as rivals only the close neighbors with which they engaged in counter-singing.

"Because of their rapidly evolving cultural nature, bird vocalizations might become an early warning system detecting the effects of fragmentation over relatively short times and before other indicators - such as genetic markers - show any change," says the researchers.

Sharing song types - when a male replies to a rival's song with the same song sequence - with neighbors is common in birds and is thought to act

as a threat signal between males, which would explain why birds have evolved such complex song repertoires.

The Dupont's lark is a rare and specialized steppe passerine, and its song unit is made up of up to 11 discrete sequences, each sequence being composed of up to 13 notes. The most common sequence is known as the *whee-ur-wheeee*. To be considered as shared songs in this study, two sequences had to match at least 75 percent of their component notes and the matching portions had to be similar in note shape, timing, and frequency.

For more information visit [www.britishecologicalsociety.org](http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org).

Original source: [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)

**MEETING TIME**  
We will begin our meetings at **7:30 P.M.**  
Yates Hall Room 102.  
On the last Thursday of the month



## Calendar of Events

**April 24th**— "Wild Turkey Behavior" by Larry Dablemont, book author, newspaper columnist and radio personality.

**April 26th**—Work day at PSU Research Reserve. Contact Delia Lister for more information.

**May 29th**—Annual SGAS Picnic at PSU Natural History Research Reserve.

**June, July, and August**—NO REGULAR MEETINGS!

The Research Reserve field trip group visits the new PSU Raptor Lab during the last SGAS Audubon field trip.

## Board Meeting Minutes

**Attending:** Mavis Benner, Steve Ford, Doris Grant, John & Julie Hartley, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Carol Newcomb, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan.

**Call To Order By President Benner:** Done so by President Benner at 6:05 p.m. Minutes from Previous Meeting: Approved as submitted. **Treasurer's Report (Liz):** Checking account balance of \$4720.54. Approved.

**Unfinished Business:** *Bird Feeding Education Program (Mavis):* We will wait to hear from Linda Phipps as to when she would like one scheduled for SEK Nature Center.

*Barn Owl Box, Monahan Prairie (Delia & Bob):* She and relatives have installed it.

*Nature Photography Contest (Steve):* He will announce it at the picnic as the official kick-off, as well as the starting date. Although

not yet set, the judging date will probably be in April, 2009.

*Picnic (Mavis):* John has prepared food signup sheets and will generate BIRDO cards; Delia will arrange with the PSU Physical Plant to have tables and chairs set up at the Research Reserve.

*Bushnell Speaker for June 22, 2 p.m. (Mavis):* Carol will design a flyer, Steve will schedule a room in Yates Hall, Mavis will invite Joplin and Parsons Audubon Chapters. She will also contact Andra Stefanoni to write an article for the Morning Sun.

*Ornithology Class (Steve):* Three 2-hour weekly sessions will probably be the best. After discussion, we decided that the content should be more general, focusing on rudiments, aimed at the community to generate interest in birds and future SGAS participation.



**New Business:** *Field Trips (John):* We will go to the Research Reserve on March 29; meet at

Applebee's at 8:00. On April 12, we will meet at Heckert-Wells Hall, PSU, at 7 a.m. to depart in vans for Four Rivers. We should return around 3:00. *April Program (Mavis):* Since she has not heard to the contrary, Larry Dablemont will speak.

Julie moved and Diane seconded that we offer him a \$50 honorarium.

*Officers for 2009 (Mavis):* We need a nominee for vice president; all other slots are filled. Mavis asked Steve, Diane, and Carol to serve on the nominating committee.

*Toyota/Audubon Conservation Projects (Delia):* Toyota has announced Together Green, a \$20 million grant program partnered with Audubon to fund conservation projects, train environmental leaders, and offer volunteer opportunities to significantly benefit the environment. Delia is interested in



## By Barb Robins

developing a proposal, perhaps for Nature Reach educational improvements and/or outreach programs. Call for proposals will be in April, and the proposals are due in June. Julie moved and John seconded that we support her efforts to obtain a grant. *Earth Day April 19 at Schermerhorn:* John has volunteered to lead bird walks and will set up an SGAS table with pamphlets. *Feathers in Flight Bird Festival, Wildcat Glades Audubon Center, May 2-4:* Do we want to have a booth or participate in any way?

*Bird Box Wood:* Chuck Delp at the Recycling Center has again offered wood to make bird boxes. We need to find storage room and volunteer help. Bob and Steve will meet and plan something. Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

## General Meeting Minutes

### Bird Sightings:

Purple martin, Woodcock, Brown creeper, Brown thrasher, Bluebird eggs, nesting Wood ducks, RB nuthatches still around.

### Announcements:

April 19 is the book sale at the Recycling Center.

Mavis reiterated her invitation for one and all to attend board meetings. We have a nominating committee for officers for next year: Steve Ford, Diane McCallum, and Carol Newcomb.

Thelda Meyer demonstrated her crafts project: a bird feeder made from a cup and saucer bolted to a steel pole, covered with copper tubing. She described the process of making it and handed out the directions to all interested parties.

Delia Lister announced the next volunteer work day for the Research Center, April 26, and invited all to come help clean the interior of the lab and do some more picking up outside. She's also taking orders for Nature Reach T-shirts for fund raising and sent a signup sheet around for orders.

Larry Dablemont, hunting and fishing communist, will lead a field trip to Truman Lake in

April to study wildlife. Check his website if you are interested:

<http://www.larrydablemont.com/>

John Hartley announced our field trip this Saturday to walk the trails at Nature Reach. Meet at Applebee's at 8 a.m. On April 12, PSU will provide vans to allow us to go to the Four Rivers Wildlife Area in Missouri. Meet at Heckert-Wells Hall at 7 a.m. Bring a sack lunch. See John if you want to ride in a van (or you may drive on your own.)

The Walk Kansas Audubon teams, the Puffins and Social Raptors, are doing great—they are in 7th and 11th places in a list of 115 teams.

The picnic will be May 29; watch at the next meeting for a food signup sheet.

**Wing Tips:** Marilyn Von Soosten, an active member of Quails Unlimited and involved in providing habitat for quail, provided us with interesting facts about the "cute little birds". We heard about their covey behavior, breeding, nesting, incubation, and feeding

habits.

### Featured Speaker:

Martha Price introduced Chanda Regier, naturalist at Prairie State Park and soon-to-be naturalist at Wildcat Glades Audubon Center. She had a most novel way of

presenting information on butterflies: she divided the group into four teams, and we played Butterfly Jeopardy. Each clue, of course, provided Chanda an opportunity to give us little-known facts about butterfly species and their

habitats. Surprising to all were study findings that butterflies possess much intelligence, individual personality, and ability to retain memory.

**Door Prize:** Harry Krug.

### More Announcements:

Bob Mangile showed photos of the second Barn owl box to be installed, this one at Monaghan Prairie by Delia Lister and her relatives.



03/27/2008

## By Barb Robins

### Birding Festival at Wildcat Glades by Dave Hennes

The first Feathers in Flight Birding Festival in Joplin, MO will be the weekend of May 2,3,& 4. This festival is being hosted by the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, Missouri's first Audubon Center, located in the region where the Ozarks meet the prairies.

There will be field trips to Roaring River State Park, Prairie State Park (and possibly other area prairies), and local hot spots, including sites in Kansas and Oklahoma. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Roaring River SP, it is a very good location for both migrating and breeding passerines. In addition to the field trips we will be offering numerous work shops. The Friday

evening registration and social event will feature a live eagle/raptor presentation by the Dickerson Zoo. Our featured speaker on Saturday Night will be Noppadol Paothong, photographer for the Missouri Department of Conservation. His stellar work can be seen in the Missouri Conservationist magazine, as well as other MDC publications. More info on the festival and the nature center can be found at the center's web site at [www.wildcatglades.audubon.org](http://www.wildcatglades.audubon.org).

You can also contact Dave Hennes at eagle3194@aol.com or 417-206-2884 if you have any other questions. Some of the mentioned programs or field trips are subject to change. Please check the website.

### Rainy Weather Keeping you from Birding? Check Out These Bird Related Books....

*The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots* by Bob Gress and Pete Jenzen

*A Summer of Birds: John James Audubon at Oakley House* by Danny Heitman.

*The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time* by Jonathan Weiner

*Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding*



### Annual SGAS Picnic! Thursday, May 29th 6:30pm PSU Natural History Research Reserve



Join us for Ham and Beans cooked by our very own Steve Ford. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting for cornbread, dessert, salad and drinks. Bring your own table service, lawn chair. We will once again be playing BIRDO for \$10 gift certificates to local businesses and a few nice "white elephant" gifts. Pick up a map to the Research Reserve at the April meeting.

Carol Newcomb checks out some Bald Cypress "knees" at the PSU Natural History Research Reserve during the last SGAS field trip. The group had a great time!

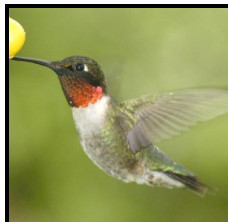


### Hint for Featured May Bird...These birds love oranges!



### WANTED: Persons to give "Wing Tips"

Just to keep our focus on birds each meeting before the main program speaker, a member, who volunteers or who is gently persuaded will give a brief 5 minute presentation. The volunteer can choose a bird and give the description for identification, call, behavior, its nest, what it eats, and 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.



### April Newsletter "Wing Tip" Ruby-throated Hummingbird

These little birds produce pea sized eggs that require only 2 weeks to hatch. It takes another 2-4 weeks for the birds to hatch. Once the young hummingbirds fledge they are nearly double the size of their mother as she spends all of her energy raising the young. Some used to believe these birds migrated by riding on the backs of other birds, however, this idea is completely untrue. They do, in fact, migrate on their own and will soon be returning to Kansas. Keep your eyes peeled!

**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**

April 2008

Beginning balance 4/7/08 \_\_\_\_\_ \$4789.47  
CREDITS

Two members, book sold and postage \_\_\_\_\_ \$56.13

Total \_\_\_\_\_ \$56.13

DEBITS

Stamps for Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ \$49.20

March Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ \$19.73

Total \_\_\_\_\_ \$68.93

Ending balance 4/7/08 \_\_\_\_\_ \$4776.67

**Larry Herbert's Bluebird Data**

I have 37 Eastern Bluebird houses in extreme Southeast Cherokee County, 10 of which are at Schermerhorn park, Galena, KS.

13 nests with eggs including one with six white eggs.

2 bluebird nest with no eggs.

2 Carolina Wren nests.

1 Carolina Chickadee nest.



Two of the Eastern Bluebird nests were already completed on 3-25-08. This was one of the earliest records.



**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 OR dalister@pittstate.edu  
Published monthly  
Next Deadline is May 8, 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.