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News From the Flock, Vol. 2008 Issue 6

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK . . .

Newsletter of the Sperry Galligan Audubon Society serving Bourbon, Crawford, and Cherokee counties in Kansas.

September, 2008

Volume 11, Issue 6

Calendar of Events:

Next Meeting:

September 25, 7:30PM,
Room 102, Yates Hall ,
PSU Campus
Refreshments served.
Guests welcome

"Raptor Night"
by Sally Imhof,
Meagan Duffee, and
Delia Lister

Meeting Wing Tip—
Yellow eyed Penguin
by Larry Herbert

Board Meeting: Open meet-
ing 6 PM before regular
meeting, 3rd Floor Hockett
Wells Hall.

Beginning Birding

Class: Oct 2, 9, and 16,
6-8 PM at Pittsburg Public
Library

Next Field Trip:

Mangile Habitat, Oct 4,
8 AM
Wilderness Park, Oct 18,
8 AM.

Current Officers:

President: Mavis Benner
Vice President: Delia Lister
Secretary: Barbara Robins
Treasurer: Liz Mangile

Website:

[http://pwp.surfglobal.net/
rmangile/Sgas/index.html](http://pwp.surfglobal.net/rmangile/Sgas/index.html)

Mailing Address

SGAS
PO BOX 205
Pittsburg, KS 66762

Articles for submission for
October news letter may be
sent to hartley@grapevine.net
by Oct 6, 2008

Newsletter is published monthly
September thru May.

SGAS Ends Year with Everyone a Winner

Pittsburg, KS—The annual meeting/picnic was an acclaimed success by the 40+ members attending May 29 at Nature Reach. Delia Lister arranged for accommodations in the new Research building. Before the meal she conducted a tour of the new cages and talked about the current population of raptors. Upon returning to the building, the members were treated to home-made ham and beans, expertly cooked by Steve Ford.

(Talk was to make Steve our official SGAS cook.) The h/b were complimented by an abundant variety of biscuits, cornbread, fruits, salads, and desserts. President Mavis Benner asked Steve Ford to introduce and briefly explain a year-long photo contest that will conclude at the picnic next year. Julie Hartley presented walking awards for exceptional effort on the two Walk Kansas teams representing SGAS. The evening's main event was "Birdo with Bob," based on the format of bingo. Over 30 prizes were won including gift certifications, field guides and books, plants, jewelry, and backyard bird feeding accessories. The picnic adjourned with happy hearts and full bellies.



Birdo Bob in Action

Summer Bluebirds

by Elma Hurt

Pittsburg, KS—Several weeks ago, on a slightly chilly morning, I found two baby bluebirds on the ground in my yard. Something had pulled the nest out of the nest box and the babies were thrown out. One was dead but I noticed one moving slightly, so picked it up and held it in my cupped hands to warm it up. The nestling was no more than a few days old, as it was almost bare. Now, what was I going to do with it? I thought maybe if I had another nest with babies in it, I could slip it in and a new mother would feed it. So, I held it in my hand for warmth, while I continued checking several nest boxes. The only box with babies were ones about to fledge to that idea wouldn't work with my boxes. (continued p.4)



SGAS Board Plans for Next Year— Meeting Minutes

Pittsburg, KS —

Attending: Mavis Benner, Jim Brumfield, Debbie Christensen, Steve & Cindy Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Kate McLaughlin, Barb Robins.

Call To Order By President Benner: Aug 10, 2008 at 4:15 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Vice President 2007-08 (Jim): He submitted a list of last year's speakers and acknowledged help from others.

Vice President 2008-09 (Delia): She has lined up the following so far: Nature Reach critters (Delia, Sept.); Black bears (Kim Smith, Oct.); Threatened and endangered species (Ed Miller, Nov./Dec.); Larry Dablemont (Jan.); Butterflies and moths (Feb.); Wild edibles (Cindy Cogbill, Mar.); Audubon and his artwork (Chris Pistole & C. Tolivar, Apr.); Picnic at Research Reserve, (May): Waffles and woodcocks

(Delia, when timelines dictate).

Treasurer (Liz): We have \$4380.41 in the checking account, plus \$149.50 donated by Bob Hurt from additional bluebird box plans royalties.

Secretary (Barb): Minutes for all board and general meetings have been e-mailed to board members and printed in the newsletter.

Field Trips 2007-08 (Mavis for John): Mavis summarized trips.

Field Trips 2008-09 (Diane and Kate): Currently their plans are to continue the swift count and Christmas Bird Count and to schedule field trips to Neosho Wildlife Refuge, Crawford State Park, a short-eared owl prowl, to Research Reserve, Wilderness Park, possibly Bushwhacker Lake Conservation Area. Any suggestions are welcome.

Membership: This next year, Julie Hartley will serve as the contact person.

Conservation (Steve): The bluebird house building/selling project was

successful; we will continue to make them and perhaps some ground feeders this next year.

Publicity and Web Site (Bob): He sent press releases to 13 media sites throughout the year. Of 119 paid members, 49 are local.

Audubon Summer Camp (Delia): She asked the board to start considering what aspect of this camp and to what extent SGAS wants to sponsor.

KOS Spring Meeting, May 1-3, Hosted by PSU & SGAS (Delia): Think about good birding locations to which we can guide attendees on the Saturday and Sunday field trips.

Cloth Bags: After much discussion, Mavis appointed Liz, Debbie, and Jim to investigate what and where we could have 125-150 bags with the SGAS logo made for about \$400 and to bring the information to the next board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.
Submitted by Barb Robins

Butterflies are Free—For the Watching

Columbus, KS—Thelda Mayer is providing hands-on learning about setting up a butterfly garden. As part of her science class at Life and Career Skills Center, an alternative learning site for the public schools in Cherokee County, Thelda teaches students about butterflies—life cycles, habits, and what is needed to attract them. Given a butterfly box, she had a student decorate it. Other students assembled a base and installed it in a butterfly flower

garden. Thelda and her students hope that butterflies will be free—for the watching.



From My Nest

This column will return to the SGAS newsletter as an editorial column to express opinions and thoughts of club members.

Audubon is back in swing and the focus for our 2008-09 year is "Green Living". The heart of Audubon always is conservation. I am setting a goal to work

with the club members and the community to do our best to help reduce our nation's dependency on oil. We may only make a tiny impact but if every Audubon group, church group, garden group, and other organizations would do a tiny little part we would be effective. SGAS will have a "Green Living" team this year. Jim

Brumfield and Debbie Christenson are the co-chairmen. So along with "Wing Tips" we will have some "Green Tips" this year. I urge you to take an active part by attending meetings, working on projects, making new friends and enriching your lives with your participation. I challenge you to look for ways to reduce our use of oil and reuse, recycle and revitalize our environment. Mavis,

Ecological Birding:

Big Green Big Year

About two dozen Minnesotans are doing a Big Green Big Year in 2008. They are ticking off good numbers of species while birding more often in ecologically conscious ways. Participants usually choose walking or bicycling, although one of us has a transit-assisted list. Although the sample size is small and data a bit spotty, we found that in the first five months of the year:

- * Feeder-watching and looking up from yard chores nets an average of 44 species through 5/31, about 25% of our MN lists so far this year.
- * Walking from home doubles the number of species seen, 85.
- * Biking produces another 14% more species, 109.

In other words, we are getting about two-thirds of our species with zero carbon footprint. We've kicked around how to increase those percentages, mostly by identifying the most productive sites nearby. MOU-net, of course, remains invaluable. How far can one travel in a BGBY day? We found that walkers typically cover about three miles. The range for bikers averages about seven miles out and then back, coincidentally the same as the Christmas bird count circles. The environmental benefits are obvious. The health aspect: one walking couple projects 1000 miles/year. Think heart toning and calories burning --



meaning weight control, longevity and more years of active birding.

For details:

<http://www.sparrowworks.ca/bigby.html>

From: Subject: BGBY MN Spring Results by Frank Berdan , fberdan3@yahoo.com
Date: Fri, 6 Jun 2008 15:45:24 -0700



Birding Seminars

A Great Way to Begin Fall and Winter Birding

By Steve Ford

Members of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon chapter will offer a series of three free informal birding "classes" for the general public this fall at the Pittsburg Public Library, 308 N. Walnut. Classes will start promptly at 6 PM and finish a little before 8 PM. Light refreshments will be served. Two Saturday morning field trips will allow for practical application. The topics are:

- October 2 Thursday How to identify birds; field guides; binoculars; some common winter backyard birds;
- October 4 Saturday

Beginning at 8 AM. field trip to Pittsburg home of Bob and Liz Mangile, 816 E. Atkinson, Pittsburg, to view a variety of bird-attracting feeders and a diversity of good birding habitat;
--October 9 Thursday, Common winter birds; attracting backyard birds;
--October 16 Thursday, Some spring and summer birds; songs and calls;
--October 18 Saturday, beginning at 8 AM Field trip to Wilderness Park, 1/2 mile west of US 69 and MacKay, Frontenac.



Come be introduced to the addictive hobby of birding! Attend all the classes and activities or just a few.

Birding Fact:

With 82 million birdwatchers (and birders), bird watching is the second most popular hobby in the US. What do you think is first?

Application for Membership Form

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

—For an introductory rate of \$20 you can become a member of both The National Audubon Society and SGAS. You receive four copies of the National Audubon Magazine and all local SGAS newsletters.

—For \$15 you can become a member of the local SGAS and receive only the local newsletters.

—If you wish join National Audubon and local SGAS, complete this form along with a check made out to National Audubon Society and return SGAS treasurer.

—If you wish to join only the local SGAS, complete this form and return to SGAS treasurer along with \$15. Make check out to SGAS for this option.

Mail address is SGAS, PO Box 205, Pittsburg, KS 66762

☐ I wish to join both organizations and am enclosing \$20.

☐ I wish to join only the local SGAS and am enclosing \$15.

Please Print information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Chapter Code: **J 10 7XCH**


Financial Statement
June/ July/ August-2008

Beginning balance-----\$4480.41

Credits

7/14/08---Local Dues----- \$45.00

Total----- \$45.00

Debits

6/24/08 Rehab fee for S. Imhof --\$75.00

8/1/08---P.O. Box for 1 year-----\$70.00

Total-----\$ 145.00

Ending Balance-----\$4380.41

(continued from page 1)

Summer Bluebirds—I called Bob Mangile on the chance he had a box with about the same age babies as my little orphan. He checked and said he had one with 4 babies in it that he thought would work. So, I took my little baby to him and by that time it was warmed up and opening its mouth for something to eat Bob placed it in his nest of four and called one week later to tell me that it was growing and bigger than the rest of the 5, yes 5, other baby bluebirds in the nest. He had miscounted the first time. Another week passed and he emailed that all had fledged! My other first time experience this spring had to do with a very wet nest, which contained 2 eggs. I decided to remove the wet nest and replace it with a dry one. Having accomplished that, I checked a day or two later and there were 3 eggs so that worked. — July 2008

Return Address:

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
PO Box 205
Pittsburg, KS 66762



SEPTEMBER

Dues Due

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

If the above box is marked, our records indicate that your membership has expired. Please consider rejoining as a member of the local SGAS only. The local chapter receives 100% of the dues paid.