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### News From the Flock, Vol. 2008 Issue 7

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.

October, 2008

Issue 2008- 7

## Calendar of Events:

### Next Meeting:

*Kansas Threatened and Endangered Species*  
by Ed Miller, wildlife specialist for KWP.  
Oct 30th 7:00 PM,  
Room 102, Yates Hall ,  
PSU Campus  
Refreshments served.  
Guests welcome.  
Wing Tip: Mourning Dove

**Board Meeting** begins  
before the general meeting  
at 5:45 at the 3rd floor  
lounge area Heckert-Well  
Hall, PSU. Meeting is open  
to all.

### Next Field Trip:

November 1— Neosho  
Wildlife Area near St.  
Paul, KS. Meet at Hiway  
Inn on State Hwy 47 in  
Girard at 7 AM for break-  
fast and talk.

### Current Officers:

President: Mavis Benner  
Vice President: Delia Lister  
Secretary: Barbara Robins  
Treasure: 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  
the newsletter may be sent  
to

[hartley@grapevine.net](mailto:hartley@grapevine.net)

by Nov. 7, 2008

Newsletter is published  
monthly September thru  
May.

## Whole Lot of Snappin' Goin' On!

By Steve Ford —

Amateurs! Grab your camera and share your views of the natural wonders of the 4-states area. Our chapter is sponsoring a photo contest for any amateur photographer living within fifty miles of Pittsburg (including all students). Photos must: be taken within 150 miles of Pittsburg; be about 8 by 10 inches mounted on foam board; not be enhanced via computers or the darkroom except for cropping; be submitted with an official form by the last Thursday in April, 2009. There are three categories: Animals

(wild); Plants, Landscapes, Things in Nature; People in Nature. A total of five photos may be submitted (please do not submit previous prize-winning photos). There is no entry fee. The winner of each category will receive a \$25 gift certificate to a Pittsburg restaurant and a certificate of recognition. Winning photos will become the property of the chapter to be displayed at various public venues. All entries will be displayed at the May picnic and the winners announced at that time.

Contact Steve Ford, Biology Dept., Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg,



KS 66762 for complete rules and an official entry form. Phone 235-4745 or email [sford@pittstate.edu](mailto:sford@pittstate.edu)  
This is strictly a local contest for local folks who appreciate the beauty and interest of nature in our own area. Get out and look around. Show us what you see!

## Anytime, Anywhere Celebration of Nature in the City

*Simple citizen-science project reaches urbanites of all ages*

*Ithaca, N.Y.*—Nature has the power to soothe and enthuse. More people are finding that out as they join the free, year-round “Celebrate Urban Birds!” citizen-science project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. People of all ages and backgrounds participate in Celebrate Urban Birds through gardening, cultural activities and citizen-science. For the citizen-science part of the project, participants watch city birds for 10 minutes, check off 15 target species of birds, and send the information through the mail or the Internet to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Once enough data are gathered, scientists hope to learn more about how birds survive in cities and how they use urban green spaces such as parks, rooftop gardens, and even potted plants on balconies for food, resting sites, and shelter. If you would like to participate, go to this email address and sign up at [www.birdscornell.edu/celebration](http://www.birdscornell.edu/celebration)



## Minutes of Meetings Lay Out Many Activities for the Coming Months

### Board Meeting

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

**Call To Order By President Benner:** at 6 p.m.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report (Liz):** Checking account balance of \$4,458.56. CDs will be renewed for another year.

### Unfinished Business:

**-Bird Seminars (Steve):** Dates for seminars and field trips are October 2, 4, 9, 16, and 18. Steve will conduct the first session, Bob and John the second, and Cindy and Steve the third. Liz, Mavis, and Julie will bring cookies (one seminar session each), and Barb will make coffee for all three.

**-Tote Bag Committee (Liz & Barb):** Liz presented quotes from Wilbert and Proforma. It was moved (Steve seconded (Delia), and passed that we select the \$3.75 model from Wilbert, tan color, black print, quantity of 110.

**Bird Seed Sale, Dec. 6 (Bob & Steve):** It has been OKed with the mall and KAMO. Price of bird seed has greatly increased; we'll try to sell at a competitive price.

**Christmas Parade Float (Carol):** We discussed a "green living" theme, as well as a "no child left indoors" motif.

**Field Trips (Diane):** There will be two in October in conjunction with the birding seminar; in November we'll go to Neosho Wildlife Refuge; December will be the bird seed sale and Christmas Bird Count. Liz announced that the Joplin Audubon chapter is conducting a trip to Iowa to watch hawks (October 10-12). If anyone wants to go, let her know tonight, if possible.

**-Living Green Committee:** Since neither Debbie nor Jim was present, there was no report.

**-"Bring a Friend" (Mavis):** In an attempt to increase membership, she suggested that we attempt to bring someone to the December general meeting.

**-Summer Camp for Kids (Delia):** She will bring suggestions to this group at a later date. She also proudly announced that Nature Reach received \$5200 in donations this month.

**-KOS Meeting, May 1-3, 2009 (Delia):** Plans are moving along; field trips will be at Schermerhorn, Neosho Wildlife Refuge, Prairie State Park, and Steve & Cindy's place. Delia will ask for trip leader volunteers later.

Steve asked if we could do something to raise awareness of SGAS. **Newsletter (John):** Deadline for items will always be the first Friday of the month (Barb excepted). He's now gathering news for the November issue.

**Bird Feeding Program (John):** The garden club would like to have a presentation on October 27. Linda Phipps thinks November 8 would be a good date for one at the SEK Nature Center.

**Photo Contest (Steve):** He has copies of the rules and entry forms with a unique number for each.

### New Business:

Mavis: Should we continue door prizes? We'll talk about it next month.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55. --Barb Robins, Secretary

### SUMMARY of General Meeting

Yates Hall, Room 102 September 25, 2008

### Announcements:

President Mavis Benner welcomed everyone to the new SGAS season. Mavis passed around a signup sheet for greeter and "Wing Tip" presenter volunteers.

She recognized John Hartley as the current newsletter editor and urged everyone to submit items to John by the first Friday of the month: recipes, book reviews, and reports on birding trips are examples of good candidates for submission. Mavis commended Sheila Hensley for her above-and-beyond effort in counting chimney swifts on various nights. She and the curious neighbors watched swifts dart into Westside School in varying populations from 28 to 400. Mavis has appointed a new "green living team" consisting of Debbie Christensen and Jim Brumfield. From time to time, they will give us eco-friendly tips at meetings and in the newsletter.

Treasurer Liz Mangile reported that SGAS has \$4,458.56 in the checking account. The annual bird seed sale will be held at the mall on December 6. Members, please consider bringing homemade crafts, baked goods, or bird houses/feeders. Steve Ford is presenting a series of three beginning-birder seminars and two related field trips in October. The seminars will be at the Pittsburg Public Library on October 2, 9, and 16, from 6-8 p.m. Topics covered will range from how to ID birds, common seasonal bird species, attracting backyard birds, to songs and calls. The field trips will be October 4 and 18, at the Mangiles' estate and Wilderness Park, respectively. Please come and invite your friends. The chapter is having tote bags made to give away to attending members, beginning with next month's meeting. Diane McCallum announced that she is arranging a field trip for November 1 to Neosho Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Highway Inn in Girard for breakfast, or start birding with us at the refuge at 8:00.

Steve Ford reminded us of the chapter-sponsored amateur photo contest. First prize is a \$25 gift card to a Pittsburg restaurant. Submission deadline is the last Thursday in April; the category winners will be announced at the picnic in May. Contact Steve for rules and entry form.

Mavis asked the group if they would prefer to start our meetings at 7:00 instead of 7:30, beginning with the next meeting; she asked for a show of hands, and it was unanimous that we begin at 7:00. Please give your e-mail address to Bob Mangile if you'd like to receive online information on SGAS event and activities. Carol Newcomb is this year's Christmas parade float designer. The theme will probably be either green living or leaving your kids in the woods. Delia Lister announced that October 1 is the grand opening ceremony for the newly-constructed Nature Reach lab. Also, Nature Reach has received \$5200 this month in donations; part of that will be used for constructing stainless steel caging.

### Wing Tips:

Before Larry Herbert began his presentation, he passed around the Kansas Ornithological Society's published tributes to Marvin Schwilling, a well-loved and respected Kansas bird expert, who recently passed away.

recently passed away. He then regaled us with lively information on penguins, in particular the Yellow-Eyed penguin (Hoiho) on the islands of New Zealand. At a population of 2,000, they are the rarest penguin species in the world, due to forest habitat degradation. We learned that these temperate-climate birds are land-based on the rarest penguin species in the world, due to forest habitat degradation.

**Door Prizes:** Donna Brown and Ryan Newcomb.

### Featured Speakers:

Delia first introduced Sally Imhof, who has received her federal and state permits to rehabilitate injured wildlife. She thanked SGAS for sponsoring her attendance of a certification workshop in Wichita on state and county animal response teams (SART and CART), who organize action in the event of a natural disaster. (If you are interested in volunteering, please give her your name.) She showed slides of some of the injured animals she and her helpers have cared for.

The next presenter was Meagan Duffee, PSU undergraduate student, who gave us a history of falconry, its current practice, and why the present-day sport appeals to her. After giving us a detailed description of the complex procedure



one must complete to become a certified falconer, she introduced Zoe, a young Redtail hawk, and Harriet the Harris's hawk, both of whom she is training to hunt in the falconry tradition.

Delia concluded the program by displaying two new additions to the Nature Reach family: Dodger the American kestrel, and Hootie the Great-Horned owl. Everyone gleaned entertaining and informative tidbits on some of our local raptors.

**Next Meeting:** October 30. --Barb Robins, Secretary

## From My Nest

Ladies and Gents,

You can't have fun if you don't participate in the projects, programs and field trips. There is something for everyone. The club will put together a float for the Christmas parade, December 1. We could use you to decorate it or just walk along in the parade. The bird seed and craft sale is slated for December 6. You can load seed, make crafts, baked goods, work at the booth or just talk to customers. There are still slots

for greeters, persons to give "Wing Tips" at meetings and your company would be wonderful on field trips. Invite a friend, neighbor or relative to come to a meeting. December 4 is our official meeting to bring someone to Audubon. There is an excellent program about bears which will be informative for all ages. Let's fill the meeting room with friends and enjoy the evening. —Mavis Benner, President

## A Whale of a Tail

By Mavis Benner—

Mavis and Ray Benner visited Grand Manan Island, just off the coast of St. John, in New Brunswick, Canada.



This was an Elderhostel trip the last week of August. Mavis added 17 sea and shorebird to her life list and the high-

light were the Atlantic Puffins. They also observed about 20 right whales a species that is on the endangered list. They also spent a day on Whitehead island. This is the island John James Audubon visited to see the herring gulls nest in trees. He did not believe it until he saw for himself. The population of gulls was so intense there was no shore for nesting so they nested in trees.



## Liz's Larder:

By Liz Mangile—



In the late fall of the year the persimmons have had the frost they need to turn nice and sweet. If you can get to them before

the possums they make wonderful cookies. The hardest part is cleaning the pulp from the persimmon the easy part is eating this delicious cookie.

Persimmon Cookies

1 cup sugar  
3/4 cup butter



## GREEN TIP of the Month

from SGAS Green Committee—

Use your own container! Besides taking your own bags to the stores where you shop, you can also take a cup to McDonald's or Starbucks. Did you know you'll save 5 cents per bag at Ron's and Dillon's? McDonald's and Starbucks also give discounts. I like to take a reusable container to restaurants to avoid the wasteful use of a Styrofoam box for leftovers. And putting half my meal in the box before I start to eat keeps me from eating too much. I keep several canvas bags and a travel coffee mug in the car so that they're always handy and I don't have to rely on my memory to have them available. Any time there is the possibility of needing a container, try to think of a "green" alternative, and just say "NO" to disposable plastic and styrofoam!



2 eggs  
1 cup persimmon pulp  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 cups flour  
1/2 cup raisins  
1/2 cup nuts

Dissolve soda in the pulp. Cream sugar and butter. Add vanilla and beaten eggs to cream sugar and butter. Sift dry ingredients together. Add dry ingredients and pulp. Drop by teaspoon on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at

## Book Review:

**Compact Guide to Kansas Birds**

by Ted T. Cable, et al.  
Lonesome Pine Publishing Intl.



Review by Bob Mangile—

The **Compact Guide to Kansas Birds** is an excellent guide for beginner birders. It's 4-1/4" x 7-1/2" size conveniently fits into one's pocket. The Contents page is color coded with the page edges to allow quick access to the various bird groups and the illustrated Reference. Guide shows thumbnails of each species and page numbers to full accounts. The Introduction explains how to use the species accounts and range maps and a list of good birding areas in Kansas. Each species is given two side-by-side pages with a colored illustration and called out field marks, the common and scientific name - followed by a brief discussion, its Kansas range map, size, voice, habitat, nesting and colored illustration of the egg. Also, insets of things you might want to know and what to look for; plus colored illustrations of similar looking birds for comparison. The back contains a small Glossary of terms, a complete checklist of Kansas birds where the user can check each of the species seen, and index. This 240 page guide contains accounts for 105 of the bird species most likely to be encountered by a beginner birder. I could not find mention of binoculars in this guide, probably because most birders have binoculars and the topic might confuse rather than help to a new birder.

350 degrees for about 10 to cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for about 10 to 12 minutes.

**YUM! YUM!**



## Birding Facts:

250 thousand dollars spent on the marketing campaign for Roger Tory Peterson's 100th-anniversary *Field Guide to Birds of North America*, due out August 28—a record for birding books.

33.3 billion dollars spent on birding-related purchases in 2006, according to a study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

947 species listed on the American Birding Association's North American Checklist. Zero birders who have spotted them all.

**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 along with \$15 and return to SGAS treasurer. Make check payable to SGAS.

Mailing 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: J10 7XCH**



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 2008

Beginning Balance-----\$4380.41

**CREDITS**

8/13/08---Donation Bob & Elma Hurt-----\$149.50

8/13/08---Local Dues/ Sale of birdhouse-----\$ 20.00

9/26/08---Local Dues 7 members-----\$105.00

Total-----\$ 274.50

**DEBITS**

8/28/08---Stamps for Newsletter-----\$ 67.20

9/24/08---Newsletter-----\$ 24.15

Total-----\$91.35

Ending Balance-----\$4563.56

Submitted by L. Mangile

**A Special Thanks to Members**

The Sperry-Gallagher board decided as part of a our first decade as a club, to distribute one tote bag per membership as part of that celebration. The tote bag is also part of our way of reminding you work on Greener Living. Use the canvas bag for groceries, shopping or carrying and break the use of plastic bags that are produced from petroleum. The tote bags are a reward to members and an incentive to come to a meeting. The only way a member may pick up their tote bag is to come to a meeting. We will start distributing bags to members in October and December. So, members, come and pick up you tote bag and show the show the SGAS logo to the community as you say "no" to plastic bags. —Mavis Benner, President



Return Address

**SGAS**

**PO BOX 205**

**Pittsburg, KS 66762**



## October

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

Dues Due

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 receive 100% of the dues paid.

**New Meeting Time— 7:00 PM, 102 Yates Hall, PSU**