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News From the Flock, Vol. 2008 Issue 8

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK . . .

Newsletter of the Sperry Galligar Audubon Society serving Bourbon.

November/December, 2008

Issue 2008-8

Calendar of Events

Next Meeting:
"Black Bears"
by Dr. Kim Smith,
University of Arkansas,
Dec. 4th , 7:00PM,
Yates Hall, room 102,
PSU Campus
Board Meeting: Open meeting
at 5:45 PM before regular
meeting, 3rd Floor Hecket
Wells Hall.

Special Event:
Annual Bird Seed/
Crafts Sale,
Dec 6, 9-5, Meadowbrook
Mall, Pittsburg, KS.

Next Field Trip:
Christmas Bird Count
on Jan 1, 7 AM,
Express Lane Mini-mart,
Scammon, KS (Check out
other area CBC's on our web-
site)

Bushwhacker CA
on Jan 10, 8 AM meet at
Applebee's in Pittsburg,
Travel to Bushwhacker, east
of MO Hwy 43, S. of
Bronough, MO.

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 January
newsletter may be sent to
jhartley@care2.com
by January 3, 2009

Newsletter is published 8 times,
September thru May.

SGAS Loses Founder and Friend



—Ten years ago the SGAS came into existence largely through the efforts and dedicated determination of Roger Willis. Through his efforts the National Audubon gave sanction to our Chapter

in the Southeast corner of the state of Kansas. Then he established SGAS as a non profit 501C organization, worked to receive a small grant from the Prichett Trust for Audubon Adventures in area schools and served two terms at President of the Chapter. His early leadership set us on a course that reached out to the general public with educational programs, public service and organizational activities that continue today. We pay tribute to his efforts by continuing on the path he

worked so hard to establish.—B. Mangile
Roger loved Audubon. He worked hard to get our local chapter started. He loved the field trips and getting close to nature.—M. Benner
Roger's energy, organizational skills, and business acumen put us on rock-solid ground as a non-profit organization. Roger also drafted the constitution and provided strong, creative leadership during the first years of our new organization. He remained a principal in board meetings, always
(continued page 2-R.Willis)

Swift Tales

By Shelia Hensley

Throughout the last several years my husband and I would sit on the front porch and watch chimney swifts in the summer evenings. We thought these birds were acrobats and loved watching them dive and twist and swarm toward the chimney at Westside School, which is nearby our house. We often thought that we should join the Audubon Society so we could learn more about birds. There were so many questions that we had and, after my husband died over a year ago, I did join and found out that there is a keen interest among Auduboners to count the chimney swifts as they descend into the chimneys in our fair city. Who would have thought that? I was fascinated and actually stood on the parking lot of Westside School with these friendly people as they carefully counted them a few times last summer. I was quickly forgiven when I mistakenly reported that we were counting "chimney sweeps." So, I began counting every evening for a few weeks and found out that if you stand on the parking lot, looking upward the neighbors start wondering what in the world you are doing. Children would ride their bicycles over to me and ask questions like, "What are you doing?" After I explained that I was counting chimney swifts it became interesting to them and often they would help me count. "Oh, do you like the bats?" one girl said. But when I explained that they were chimney swifts she was quite amazed and went to tell her friends. One evening I had several people over to my house for supper and "for the entertainment we are going to go count chimney swifts."



(continued on page 3)

SGAS Board Plans Many Upcoming Events—

Attending: Mavis Benner, Debbie Christenson, 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: Done so at 5:45 p.m.

Unfinished Business:

Tote Bags (Liz): She displayed the finished product and will begin distributing to members tonight and the next meeting. Anything left over will be sold at the seed sale (Liz moved, Delia seconded, approved by the group.) **Bird Seed Sale, Dec. 6 (Mavis & Bob):** Feeders will be sold for \$5; will find out seed prices closer to the date. Mavis will pass around signup sheet for workers tonight.

Float for Dec. 1 Parade (Carol): She displayed the idea she's sketched for an "Explore Your World" theme. Moved (Liz) and seconded (Barb) to approve Carol's proposal, with a \$50 supply limit. Approved. We will decorate the float at Carol's house Saturday, November 29, 2PM.

Bird Seminars Follow-up & Other Presentations: Although a larger turnout would have been nice, we agreed it was worthwhile. John and Bob presented at the garden club meeting, and they were given \$50. John and Bob will present at Schermerhorn on November 8 at 1:30.

Living Green Committee

(Debbie): She will have an item for the next newsletter.

Bring a Friend to the Dec, 4 Meeting

(Mavis): Mavis urged us to do so
Summer Camp (Delia): She will apply for a Pritchett grant; how much do we want to donate? \$300 would offset costs for the children attending. She will go to the elementary schools and encourage children to write an essay stating why they want to come. Another alternative would be for us to sponsor a couple of needy children. Think about it for discussion next time.

KOS Meeting (Delia): She reported plans are moving along well.

Photo Contest (Delia): No new items to discuss.

Door Prizes: Tonight we will award the book that Ann Willis gave us; she will donate additional items later.

When those are gone, we will discuss whether to continue the prizes.

New Business:

10th Anniversary Party for Members and Spouses: Liz suggested a catered dinner in February or March. Bob could create a continuously-running Power Point photo show. Bob will inquire about renting the Homer Cole Center; Mavis will find out about her church basement. We will use Chicken Annie's or Mary's, and Liz will check on costs for a decorated cake.

Community Project: Should we make a donation to the recycling center? Moved (Liz) and seconded (Diane) that we give \$300 and try to

get publicity, and offer a challenge to other organizations to do the same. The motion was approved.

Field Trips (Diane): Chris Pistole's available dates for leading a wild flower walk are limited; we asked Diane to find some May dates that would work for him and us. Trip to Neosho Wildlife Refuge Saturday. Meeting adjourned at 6:48.

Submitted by Barb Robins

Green Tip



Donate your aluminum cans to a Kiwanis member for their Cans for Kansas Kids program. They sell the cans to be recycled and use the funds for various programs to help children in Kansas. Roger Willis was a volunteer with the program, doing good for kids as well as the environment. Using recycled aluminum reduces raw material requirements by 95%, thus minimizing environmental damage done by mining bauxite. The energy saved by recycling one ton of aluminum is equivalent to the amount of electricity the average home uses in ten years, or one can saves enough energy to run a TV several hours. Next time you see a can, think of Roger, pick it up and recycle. You



From My Nest



Dec 6th is our annual bird seed sale at the Meadowbrook Mall in Pittsburg. Members have contributed in a various ways including arranging seed



delivers, making items to sell and working on the outside feed truck and inside crafts booth. One of our items this

year will be ground bird feeders. Parts were

precut and painted and then assembled by members at a Sunday work-day. You can participate in the joy we had making them by buying them at the sale.



R. Willis (from page 1)

providing logical, thoughtful, points of view. He was a mainstay at the annual birdseed sales, and was always, always, always good company.

I've been on several birding trips with Roger. I'd just give him a call, stop by, and within the hour we were having a good time finding birds. He was always very easy to talk with, very convivial, funny, easy to joke around with, and was a good birder. I'm fortunate to count myself among his many friends, and I'll miss him very much. —S. Ford

General Meeting Features Talk on Endangered and Threatened KS Species

Announcements:

President Mavis Benner needs us to re-sign a sheet to volunteer for Wing Tips and to be greeters.

Treasurer Liz Mangile reported a balance of \$4499.45 in our checking account.

Mavis and Liz introduced the SGA tote bags which will be distributed to members tonight and at the next meeting.

For the Christmas parade December 1, we will have a float with the theme, "Explore Your World." The float work day will be at Carol Newcomb's on November 29 at 2 p.m. Please come and help.

For the December 6 bird seed sale, Mavis passed around a signup sheet for volunteers to work at the table and to load outside. Bob Mangile displayed a ground feeder, 32 of which members assembled last weekend. Mavis called for crafts and baked goods, to be brought to the mall the day of the sale.

Mavis has membership forms for the Recycling Center and urged members to join. Their book sale is the Friday and Saturday before Thanks-

giving. Our club will donate \$300 to the center and challenge other organizations to match or better that.

Next meeting will feature a program on bears; come and bring a friend.

Mavis reminded us of the photo contest.

Our founder and friend, Roger Willis, passed away this month. A card was passed for members to sign.

There will be a field trip to the Neosho Wildlife Refuge this Saturday. Meet at the Highway Inn in Girard for breakfast at 7 a.m., or join us at 8:00 at the refuge.

Mavis called for ideas on community projects we could do.

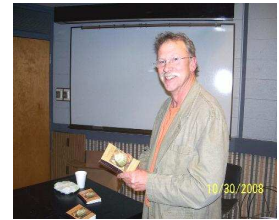
Wing Tips:

John Hartley prepared a creative Power Point presentation on mourning doves entitled, "Fidelity, Equality, Brevity." They are one of our most abundant North American species. John gave us enlightening details on their nest building and brooding.

Door Prize: Martha Price won the door prize of a book donated by Ann Willis.

Featured Speaker:

Delia Lister introduced Ed Miller, threatened and endangered species coordinator for Kansas. In his program, "Kansas Threatened and Endangered Species," Ed explained



how species get listed or de-listed and defined the terms "endangered", "threatened", and "SINC"

(species in need of conservation). He gave the history of the listing process and explained that a 5-year review is mandated and how that is conducted. There are currently 25 endangered, 34 threatened, and 70 in need of conservation; so far, the task force has received petitions for 21 species to be added to the lists next year.

Next Meeting: December 4

Swifts (continued from page 1)

We set up the lawn chairs and for about thirty minutes we sat and with about ten of us spread across the parking lot it appeared as if we were having a homemade ice cream party. The neighborhood in which I live is active and alive with people of all ages walking to and from Kabredelos. That evening we only counted 58 birds. Some evenings the count would be as high as 384.

One evening a cook from Westside School came out and asked me if I was waiting for someone. When I pointed up, and while trying to keep track of the count, "sixty-four, sixty-five, and only one pair will successfully nest in that one chimney, sixty-six..." I explained--she just couldn't

believe something so wonderful was occurring outside of the kitchen where she works. She was so delighted that she also began to help me count. I think she'll watch the chimney from now on, even if I'm not there counting. I think that the kids won't call them chimney sweeps—they'll know for the rest of their lives that these are chimney swifts. Somehow that seems important

Editors Note: The total count for Pittsburg was approximately 365 from three different locations.

By Doris Grant—

On Friday night, Oct. 3rd., 2008, I was sitting at the Sonic Drive In, in Columbus, KS., 228 W. Maple, and

saw 7 or 8 chimney swifts circling the Methodist Church chimney at 320 W. Maple. The darker it got the more Swifts were seen. About dark there were approximately 150 to 200 circling and hovering over the chimney. I pulled into the church parking lot and watched; there was only one or two dropping into the chimney each time they circled. I wasn't able to count them as they were circling so fast and it was getting too dark to see them. I left and drove around the block; when I returned they were all gone. I guess they all went into the chimney. I think I was scaring them and they went in when I left. I have seen them at this same church two years ago, and I was looking for them Friday night. What a sight it was!

**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 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 for October, 2008	
BEGINNING BALANCE -----	\$4563.56
CREDITS:	
10/09/08- Deposit National Audubon—	\$447.75
10/15/08---3 new members-----	\$60.00
10/31/20---New members, bird feeders, and Zone 6 GC Donation-----	\$124.00
Total -----	\$ 631.75
DEBITS:	
10/14/08---Newsletter for October—	\$ 21.75
10/15/08---Stamps for 2 newsletters—	\$117.60
10/28/20-110 Tote bags for members--	\$432.50
Total -----	\$ 571.85
ENDING BALANCE —Nov. 3, 08-----	\$4623.46
Submitted by Liz Mangile, Treasurer	

1, 2, 3Christmas Bird Count

By Steve Ford

Members of the S-G Audubon chapter have participated in the annual CBC since the beginning of the chapter (Actually the Mined land CBC is older than the chapter, having been initiated in 1986. Dr. Sperry did a count in Pittsburg for many years before that). Your humble count compiler never likes getting up so early on New Years Day, but I've never failed to be glad I did. It's a great way to keep up with the bird life of the area, renew birding skills, and truly contribute to science and bird conservation, all in a relaxed and not terribly taxing manner. We'll meet as always at the Express Lane Mini-mart on Highway 7 near Scammon (about five miles south of Highway 400 - turn at the stop light in Cherokee). Meet at 7:00 A.M., January 1. Please contact me if you have any questions. Steve Ford (sford@pittstate.edu or call 620-235-4745. (work) or 620-632-4280 (home).

Return Address:

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



November/December

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.