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News From the Flock, Vol. 2009 Issue 1

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK . . .

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

Calendar of Events:

Next Meeting:

Jan. 29th,
Migrating
Waterfowl
by Larry
Dablemont,
7:00PM,
Yates Hall,
rm 102, PSU Campus
Board Meeting: Open meet-
ing 5:45 PM before regular
meeting, 3rd Floor Hecket
Wells Hall.

Next Field Trip:

Feb. 7,
Looking for short-
eared owls, meet at
3PM, Pittsburg High
parking lot, Feb. 7th.



Current Officers:

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

Website:

<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 jjhartley@care2.com or
hartley@mobill.net by
February 6, 2009

Newsletter is published 8 times,
September thru May.

Birds Move Farther North; Climate Considered



We birders have long wondered about the inaccuracy of range maps in field guides and how birds appear to be out of their normal ranges. Here is some scientific evidence that those "out-of-range sightings" may not be just wishful thinking.—Editor's Comment

Science Daily (Aug. 13, 2008) A study by researchers at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) has documented, for the first time in the northeastern United States, that a variety of bird species are extending their breeding ranges to the north, a pattern that adds to concerns about climate change. Focusing on 83 species of birds that have traditionally bred in New York state, the researchers compared data collected in the early 1980s with information gathered between 2000 and 2005. They

discovered that many species had extended their range boundaries, some by as much as 40 miles. "They are indeed moving northward in their range boundaries," said researcher Benjamin Zuckerberg, whose Ph.D. dissertation included the study. "But the real signal came out with some of the northerly species that are more common in Canada and the northern part of the U.S. Their southern range boundaries are actually moving northward as well, at a much faster clip." Among the species moving north are the Nashville warbler, a little bird with a yellow belly and a loudly musical two-part song, and the pine siskin, a common finch that resembles a sparrow. Both

birds have traditionally been seen in Northern New York but are showing significant retractions in their southern range boundaries, Zuckerberg said. Birds moving north from more southern areas include the red-bellied woodpecker, considered the most common woodpecker in the Southeastern United States, and the Carolina wren, whose



"teakettle, teakettle, teakettle" song is surprisingly loud for a bird that

weighs less than an ounce. "There are a wide spectrum of changes that are occurring and those changes are occurring in a relatively short amount of time. We're not (continue on page 4)

Audubon Members on the Go!

—Two field trips were held in connection with birding seminars presented by Steve Ford. The first to Mangile property on Oct 4th had six participants. Birds of interest included a brown thrasher and yellow shafted flickers. The Wilderness Park trip on Oct 18 had 13 birders. Woodpeckers were the most interesting finds.

On November 1, trip leader Diane McCallum reported nine birders took field trip to Neosho WF near St. Paul after breakfast at the Hiway Café in



Girard. More than 40 species of birds were seen including wood ducks and a good variety of winter sparrows. On Jan. 1, 14 people met at the Express Lane Convenience Store in Scammon to

get bird counting assignments for our annual CBC. Four out-of-state birders joined in.



Over 60 species were reported. Unusual species of note were great-tailed grackle, rough legged hawk, and orange crowned warbler.

Board Makes Decisions about Spring Activities—Meetings Minutes

Board Minutes

December 4, 2008

Attending: Mavis Benner, Steve Ford, John & Julie Hartley, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Barb Robins.

Call To Order By President Benner:
Done so at 5:48 p.m.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: Approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$4,346.13

Unfinished Business:

Bird Seed Sale Dec. 6 (Bob): The seed is ready to go, and he will park the truck in the usual place in the mall lot. There are a couple of slots left on the work schedule.

Bird ID Presentation at Schermerhorn (Bob & John): It went well; they sold several bird feeders.

Living Green Committee: Jim Brumfield has suggested to Mavis that we buy a new book published by the National Geographic Society, Illustrated Green Guide: The Complete Reference for Consuming Wisely, for \$34.95. Barb moved, Steve seconded

that we do so, share it for a while, then donate it to the public library. Motion passed.

Summer Camp (Delia): She handed out a proposal with a suggested schedule, syllabus, and two options for per-student expenditure. She will need a couple of volunteers. We will continue discussing it at a later meeting.

KOS Meeting: Nothing more to discuss at the present time.

Photo Contest (Steve): He has been receiving requests for applications.

10th Anniversary Party (Mavis & Liz): Prices have been discovered for facilities rental and meals. discussion, the issue was tabled till January's meeting.

Roger Willis Memorial: Options will be discussed at January's meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:40.

--Barb Robins, Secretary

General Meeting,

Announcements:

President Mavis Benner opened the meeting by reminding members who haven't picked up their tote bags to do so tonight.

—Our seed sale is Saturday; we'd like to have crafts and baked goods donations.

—Next Thursday at 7:00 p.m., in this room, PSU and SGAS will co-sponsor a special presentation on sea turtles by Jeff Kutz.

—Bob Mangile reported on Christmas Bird Count dates. The both Parsons and Joplin are CBC's will be on December 20; Prairie State Park CBC will be on December 27th. The Mined Land (Pittsburg area) will be January 1. All details, meeting sites, and times, are on the SGAS web site.

—John Hartley asked that items for the newsletter be submitted by January 3.

—The video, An Inconvenient Truth, is still available for checkout.

—Diane McCallum announced that there will be a field trip to Bushwhacker Lake Conservation Area on January 10, led by Larry Herbert. Meet at Applebee's at 8 a.m. to carpool to the area.

—Steve Ford reported on our bird house and feeder construction projects; we made 60 more boxes this year and over 30 ground feeders.

—Our chapter made a \$300 contribution to the recycling center recently and challenged other organizations to match it.

Bird Sightings: The most interesting birds recently spotted are pine siskins.

Wing Tips:

Martha Price gave an animated PP presentation, "Woodpeckers: A Long Tail".



She pointed out principal differences between them and other bird families, and the adaptations they have made to enable them to maneuver on trees for food and shelter. Particularly fascinating were facts and illustrations on the woodpecker's tongue.

Door Prize: Cindy Ford.

Featured Speaker:

Delia Lister introduced Dr. Kim Smith from the University of Arkansas,

who gave us a very knowledgeable and witty presentation, "Black Bears in Arkansas:



The Most Successful Reintroduction in the World." His historical background

included the fact that black bears had not been seen since 1920 (except in the southeast corner), due to habitat destruction and unregulated hunting. The audience was fascinated by his description of the secretive transporting in 1958 of males (and later females) from Minnesota by the game and fish commission. Since then, he and others have been tracking and studying individuals to determine their territorial habits and health conditions, to try to determine why the reintroduction was so successful—from 160 to over 4,000 in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri—resulting in the most successful bear reintroduction in the world.

Next Meeting: January 29.

—Barb Robbins, Secretary

Turtle Lore Highlight Special Program

There was a standing room only crowd of members and students to hear Jeff Kutz tell about sea turtles and his efforts around the

world to maintain sea turtle species. Jeff is a Pittsburg native who became interested in turtles and their plight. Sea turtles are endangered and threatened by fishing practices, pollution, and harvesting of turtle meat and eggs.



FROM MY NEST

This has been a very active first half of a year. We have had a variety of birding adventures, a profitable feed sale, and informative programs. We look forward to host the spring KOS meeting, giving our area statewide exposure. This is our 10th year and promises to be one of the best. By tradition we will elect a new slate of officers. If you are interested in some new directions for the club, become an officer and make a change.



A great way to start your birding year is the Great Backyard Bird Count. 1. Plan to count for 15 minutes one or more days from Feb 13 to Feb 16, 2009. 2. Count the greatest number of a species you see together at any one time. 3. Enter your results at the website. The website is www.birdsource.org/gbbc/ for more information.

Members Promote Birding Activities in the Community



Getting the word on winter birding was the job of Bob Mangile and John Hartley. They presented a hands-on and PowerPoint presentation on bird habitat, birding feeding and winter birds to the Pittsburg Garden Club on October 9 at the Pittsburg Public Library and to 20 interested nature lovers at the Schemerhorn Nature Center in Galena on November 8. This one hour program was well received by both groups.

December 1st was the annual Pittsburg Christmas parade. This year our float had a theme of Exploring the World Outside Our



float feature eight young people observing nature in the outdoors.

December 6th was our annual Bird Seed and Crafts sale. Business was brisk both inside the Mall's north door and outside



on the truck. Sales from crafts and seed totaled over \$1200. That put a smile on Bob's face.



Green Tip



Songbird Friendly Shopping Tips

- Avoid fruits and vegetables from Latin America unless they are labeled "organic." This discourages use of dangerous pesticides.
- Buy shade grown coffee that is organic and fair-traded. This encourages development of wildlife areas and sustainable farming practices.
- Buy wood and paper products that are made from timber harvested in forests certified by the Forest Service Council. This promotes sustainable logging practices that safeguard bird habitat.

Remember to take a cloth bag shopping for groceries and small items. This will save getting a plastic bag.



LEGIONS OF RAPTORS FLYING IN FORMATION

The Loess Hills Odyssey

By Jim Brumfield

Images of WWII flying formations danced through my head as I pondered what we would be seeing when we arrived at Hitchcock Nature Center (HNC). Nestled in the southern half of the Loess Hills (loess rhymes with *buss*), HNC is located about ten miles north of Council Bluffs, Iowa near the small town of Crescent. The Loess Hill themselves are composed of windblown soils deposited long ago on the eastern side of the Missouri River Valley by prevailing westerly winds. The Loess Hills tower hundreds of feet above the flat valley floor on their imposing west face and reach a height of 1200-1400 feet above sea level. HNC is known for the fall raptor flights. Hitchcock is one of the few active hawk-watches on the Great Plain. Funneled past Hitchcock by the updrafts created by the hills and by the north-south channel of the Missouri River Valley, raptors and other avian migrants over fly the location in large numbers in the fall. Our group consisted of birders from both the Joplin and Pittsburg clubs. From



Joplin Dave Henness was in the driver's seat and David Pistole rode shotgun, Calvin Cassidy and Joyce Haynes, Rod and Ellen Sallee. Liz Mangile, Mavis Benner, John Hartley, and yours truly made up the remainder of the group. After a long drive, we arrived at HNC and settled in after dark. Our early morning anticipation of skies darkened with birds of prey was dampened by dark thunder heads. Frequent lightning and high winds prevented us from climbing the 40 foot viewing tower until almost noon and dashed our hopes of raptor abundance. Among the birds who did brave the 30+ mph winds were; Red-tailed Hawks, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and one distant Peregrine Falcon. In addition we saw negative 4 Turkey Vultures. (This is too complicated to go into here. Ask someone and the next meeting will explain.) At the end of this day, after an invigorating walk which included a magnificent vista from atop the Loess deposits, we were entertained by an art festival that happen to be occurring that day at Hitchcock. True to our mission, the next day we traveled to the near by Desoto



Natural Wildlife Refuge. Inside the Center we saw the remarkably well preserved and abundantly displayed contents the 1968 excavation of the Steamboat Bertrand, which sank in 1865. The 200,000 artifacts in the Bertrand Collection provide one of the most significant assemblages of Civil War era artifacts in the Missouri River region. Our next stop was the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Mound City, Missouri where we went looking for prairie dogs as well as birds. We see huge numbers of American White Pelicans, various ducks and shore birds. At the entrance to the Nature Center we received another surprise. The "Owl Lady" had been touring nature centers in the mid-west giving talks on birds of prey. Inside her van were perched a Great Horned Owl, an American Kestrel and a friendly Caracara that let us scratch and pet it's head and shoulders. As the van rolled into the darkness and back toward Pittsburg those images of legions of raptors were replaced by the many fond memories of this very memorable outing. Thanks to Dave Henness and David



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, January, 2009

BEGINNING BALANCE-----\$4623.46

CREDITS:

Dues & 3 ground feeders-----\$ 45.00

9 birdhouses, 6 ground feeders 4 dues, -----\$ 150.00

4 dues-----\$ 40.00

Feed sale deposit-----\$ 3503.35

Feed money, 2 feeders, 4 birdhouses, 3 bags thistle,

1 tote bag-----\$ 62.50

Total-----\$3800.85

DEBITS:

Donation to SEK Recycle Center-----\$ 300.00

Nov./Dec. Newsletter-----\$ 21.74

Stamps for Dec. and Jan. Newsletter-----\$ 75.60

Speaker fee for bear talk-----\$ 50.00

KAMO paid for feed-----\$2289.30

Total-----\$2736.64

ENDING BALANCE-----\$5687.68

Bird Feed Sale December 2008

Total money deposited-----\$3503.35

Paid KAMO-----\$2289.30

Total on all sales-----\$1255.55

Profit from feed-----\$812.83

Migration (from page 1)

talking centuries, we're talking decades," said William Porter, an ESF faculty member and director of ESF's Adirondack Ecological Center, who worked with Zuckerberg the study. . . . [C]hanges were found in birds that breed in forests and those that inhabit grasslands, in both insectivores and omnivores, and even in new tropical migrants that are typically seen in Mexico and South America. "What you begin to see is a systematic pattern of these species moving northward as we would predict with regional warming,"

Abstracted from Science Daily (Aug 13, 2008) using material from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (2008, August 13). Birds Move Farther North; Climate Change

Bird Facts: There are 51 warblers that reside in or pass through North America. There are 18 species that have summer residence in the 4-States and only one that winters—the myrtle yellow rump.



Return Address:

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



January



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.