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News From the Flock, Vol. 2009 Issue 4

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK . . .

April, 2009

Volume 2009-4

Calendar of Events:

Next Meeting:

Audubon's Art by Chris Pistole and Cliff Tolivar
7:00 PM, Room 102, Yates Hall, PSU Campus Refreshments served. Guests welcome.
 Open board meeting at 5:45 before the General meeting on the 3rd Floor Heckert-Wells Hall, PSU



Next Field Trips:

==Wilderness Park, west of Frontenac, KS, April 25, 8 AM—Looking for warblers and other spring arrivals.
==KOS meeting, May 1-3, 102 Yates Hall and various locations. See website <http://ksbirds.org/kos/2009SpringMeeting.htm> for details.
==Monahan Prairie, May 9, 8:30AM. Meet at Meadowbrook Mall Annex Parking lot. Lead by Steve Ford

Current Officers:

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

Website:

<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@mobill.net or jjhartley@care2.com. Please send written articles in WORD and pictures as JPG by May 1, 2009

Newsletter is published monthly September thru May.

WAFFLES AND WOODCOCKLESS



Pittsburg, KS. Twenty-three hopeful birders gathered at Nature Reach outside Pittsburg KS. for the first annual Waffles and Woodcocks to enjoy a cornucopia of waffles, egg casseroles, fruits and juices, yogurt, and rolls. Tables were decorated with gummy

and fellowship, the hopefuls moved by car and foot a mile down the road and sat patiently, listening for one hour for the distinctive call



worms and chocolate eggs. After enjoying food

Lister called it quits and as a consolation, the watchers

of mating woodcocks. One person commented, "This was the longest time I have not heard people talk!" After one hour, hostess Delia

returned to Nature Reach headquarters to view two new additions. These were two eastern screech owls, one rufous (left below) and one gray (right below). As the birders left, the cry went up "Next year Waffles and Woodcocks!"



TIMBERDOODLE, ANYONE?



Now is the time when American Woodcocks are migrating from their southern wintering grounds to their breeding grounds in the northern and central states and southern Canadian Provinces. Woodcocks, nicknamed Timberdoodles, will also begin their remarkable courtship display flights. This elaborate "sky dance" is a delight to behold. In November 2005, we reported on the developments for a "Woodcock Conservation Plan" to identify conservation and management goals for this species: http://www.refugenet.org/birding/novSBC05.html#TOC10_The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service has recently estimated that American Woodcock numbers over the last 30 years have declined on average 1.2 percent each year. This adds up to an estimated loss of 839,000 displaying male woodcocks across the species' range since the 1970s. Multiple studies have shown that hunting is not the cause of the woodcock population decline, however. The problem appears to be a continuing loss of habitat that woodcocks need for feeding, migration stopover, and nesting. For more details about woodcocks, check out the Woodcock Conservation Plan at: <http://timberdoodle.org> From *Birding Community E-Bulletin*, March, 2009.

Wild Edibles Fun and Food at General Meeting

Board Meeting, Hecket-Wells Hall 3/26/09

Attending: Mavis Benner, Bob & Liz Mangile, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan, Delia Lister, Cindy Ford, Carol Newcomb, Diane McCallum.

Call to Order By President Benner: 5:50 p.m.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: Approved.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$5,484.31.

Thank-You: Mavis thanked those who participated in the DooDah Parade.

News: Mavis announced that John Hartley is the new SGAS representative to Audubon of Kansas.

Unfinished Business:

Living Green Committee: Jim Brumfield has donated the National Geographic book, Illustrated Green Guide. The book was available for review.

Summer Camp (Delia): Delia has prepared a sign-up list for items to be donated by members next month or in May. She brought examples of craft projects, and plans to speak to teachers/schools soon to select ten students.

Photo Contest (Cindy): The deadline is the next Audubon meeting.

10th Anniversary Party/Picnic (Mavis): Mavis suggested bringing broasted as well as fried chicken. There will be a sign-up sheet next month. Cindy suggested using natural materials for decorations and volunteered to bring them.

Roger Willis Memorial (Bob): Linda Phipps has reported some disagreement over the size and design of the pergola. Liz will contact Linda again and the board will wait for the outcome.

Nominating Committee (Diane): All seats have a nominee but nominations will still be accepted.

Recycling Center Bird Reserve (Steve): Cindy reported that Steve is working on it.

KOS (Delia): This begins Friday, May 1, at 6:00 p.m. with a gathering at the PSU Natural History Reserve. Saturday will include field trips from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by a dinner at Pichler's Chicken Annie's. Sunday will have field trips from 6:30 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch and compilation at Gorilla Village. Delia has

registration forms.

New Business:

SGAS CD (Liz): One of the CDs is coming up for renewal. Bob made a motion, which Delia seconded, to add \$1,000 to the CD that is coming up for renewal, and the motion passed unanimously. So far there has been \$90.63 in profit from the group's CDs.

Newsletter Deadline: April 3.

Field Trip (Diane): March 28 walk postponed to April 4. May 9 trip to Monahan Prairie.

Next Meeting: April 30.

Additional discussion: Bob asked if anyone has received mangled newsletters.

Delia will create a Sperry-Galligar Audubon page on Facebook.

Bob has KS Native Plant Society brochures.

They will hold their September event in Pittsburg.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33.

General Meeting, Yates Hall 3/26/09

Bird Sightings: Robins, purple martins, kestrels, chipping sparrows

—Mavis thanked the DooDah parade participants

—Treasurer Liz Mangile reported balance.

The nominating committee of Donna Brown, Diane McCallum and Sue Robinson will announce the proposed slate of nominees at the next meeting. They will still accept nominations until then.

—Delia presented information on the KOS May events.

—Bob has copies of the DVD "An Inconvenient Truth" and the Illustrated Green Guide book available.

—Diane announced that the March 28 bird walk has been postponed until April 4 due to the weather forecast. This walk, to be led by Emmett Sullivan, will include a great blue heron rookery and will involve some walking. The group will leave Big Brutus at 8:00 a.m.

—There will also be a field trip led by Steve Ford on May 9 to Monahan Prairie; the group will leave the Meadowbrook Mall Annex at 8:30 a.m.

—The newsletter deadline is April 3. John requested articles on field trips and related items.

—Delia reported on the summer camp to be sponsored by SGAS and Nature Reach. It will run July 20-24 at the Nature Reserve, from 8 a.m. to noon each day, for students just out of

5th grade. There will be a sign-up sheet for members to contribute supplies, due by the May picnic, or members may contact Delia. —Our annual picnic/10th anniversary celebration will be Friday, May 29, from 6:00-9:00 pm. at the Homer Cole Community Center. The club will provide chicken, cake and coffee. Mavis will bring a sign-up sheet to the April meeting for side dishes.

The next meeting will be held April 30.

Wing Tips: Bob gave a presentation on the American Goldfinch, also known as the Wild Canary, Thistle Bird or Prairie Canary. This 5-inch bird goes through a complete molt before the breeding season and usually nests in July or August. Its range stretches from coast to coast across the U.S.

Door Prize: A book on making birdhouses to Barbara Simms.

Featured Speaker:

Delia Lister introduced Cyndi Cogbill and Chanda Williams from Wildcat Glades, who gave a presentation on edible native plants. Those in attendance played "Edible Bingo," with cards that contained photos of various local plants, while learning many useful facts.

It is important to know the correct stage of growth when a plant is edible,

as well as the structures of the plant that may be edible, including the bulb, bark, berries, flowers, buds, leaves or roots. It's always wise to try a small sample of a plant at first, to avoid a negative reaction.

There were many samples to try, including chickweed, redbuds, pecan butter, redbud fritters and various teas.

—Submitted by Diane McCallum, filling in for Barb Robins, Secretary



From My Nest—

From President Mavis



Organization's 10th Year Anniversary

SGAS meets the ten year milestone as an organization. Without you, the members the organization would cease to exist. In honor of the members, the annual picnic will be a celebration. So all members are encouraged to attend and enjoy the evening. Friday, May 29, 2009 at 6 pm. Bring a side dish and come to the Homer Cole Community Center at 3003 N. Joplin in Pittsburg, KS. Fried Chicken, anniversary cake, drinks and tableware will be provided. A collection of slides from the past 10 years of Audubon activities will be showing throughout the evening. The nature photography contest photos will be displayed and the winner will be announced. A pre-picnic count of attendees will be needed to order chicken. A signup sheet will be passed around at the next meeting or call Mavis Benner 620-231-8741 or send an email to mavisrn@att.net if you plan to attend.



SGAS Members Go to Extremes for Life Birds



Here are two accounts of SGAS members going to extreme locations with very different climates to see life birds.

Panama Life Birds

By Barb Robins

In addition to keeping a life list of bird species they've seen, most birders have a mental "life wish list" of species they'd most like to see. I was able to check off two of my wish list species this January when I went to Panama with some Kansas birder friends. The 14-day trip was guided by the owner of Advantage Tours, Guido Berguido, who was unexcelled in his ability to spot and identify birds by sight and sound; thanks to him, we were able to list 340 species seen and 44 heard. Traveling to both ends of the country, from mountains in the west to rain forest in the east, we marveled at the spectrum of gorgeous hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans, mot mots, et al; but the "dream birds" for all of us were the Resplendent Quetzal and the Harpy Eagle. The Harpy Eagle sighting required much effort (a 7-hour



hike each way and an overnight campout), but it was more than worth it. The shimmering colors of the Quetzal and the feathered crown of the mighty Harpy Eagle can be enjoyed through photos and nature shows but can only be fully appreciated by viewing them first-hand.



Pursuit of the Black-backed Woodpecker

By John Hartley

Since my first venture into the northern woods of the United States, I have wanted to see a black backed woodpecker. I guess sometimes you just hear about a bird and have to see it. My journey to the Sax-Zim Birding Festival in Meadowlands, MN (Feb 13-15) was to see this bird as well as other 'northern winter birds' not generally found in our area. Now northern Minnesota in the February is not par-

ticularly hospitable. On Sunday morning the temperature was -9 degrees and remained in the teens throughout the day. Guided trips in school buses took us to areas in the Sax-Zim bog, Atkins County and Duluth. Feeding stations of deer meat were put out in the bog to attract common and hoary redpolls, white winged crossbills, woodpeckers and black capped and boreal chickadees. I left



Des Moines, IA at 1 AM to see the sharp-tailed grouse BY 8 AM before the actually beginning the festival activities on the 13th. As I did a pre-festival search of the bog, I stopped at the prime location for the bbwp. I searched the woods in ankle deep snow without luck. Upon returning



to the road I saw the three-toed wp. A photographer coming out of the same woods had seen and photographed my nemesis. He took me back to the same spot but couldn't find a bbwp

SGAS Toots It Up in The DooDah Parade



Pittsburg, KS, March 7, 2009
What has 28 legs, is mostly green, and extra vision? If you guessed the SGAS participants in the annual DooDah parade, you would be correct. This annual

march celebrates Irish heritage in SE Kansas around St. Patrick's Day. At each intersection, they did a binocular salute. Thanks to the 14 people who 'showed the flag' (or in banner).



Green Tips



- Avoid air fresheners and other perfumed products. Freshen air by opening windows, using baking soda, cedar blocks, or dried flowers.
- Wrap the water heater in an insulating jacket. This may reduce carbon emissions up to 1000 pounds per year.
- Install low-flow showerheads that use less water. This may reduce carbon emissions up to 300 pounds per year.
- Plant local species of trees.
- Buy organic cotton products, fruits and vegetables and other goods that have not been grown or produced using toxic chemicals.

Source: World Wildlife Fund, www.worldwildlife.org.
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Birding Fact: Gray morph or phase is more typical of e. screech owls in the

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 checks out to SGAS.
 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: **C9ZJ100Z**



Financial Statement April, 2009

Beginning Balance -----	\$5418.36
DEBITS:	
Newsletter-----	\$ 14.05
Nature Reserve Summer Camp-----	\$ 300.00
Add money to 12 month Certificate-----	\$1000.00
Total -----	\$1314.05
CREDITS:	
4 Local Dues-----	\$60.00
Total -----	\$60.00
Ending Balance -----	\$4164.31

submitted by L. Mangile

Warblers Wanted:

The beginning of spring marks the start of warbler migration. In our four state area the primary winter warbler is the Myrtle yellow-rumped with occasional reporting of pine and orange crowned. Now is the time when a number of warblers return to our area to breed and summer over. Using Stokes' Field Guide to Warblers, here are some birds we should be looking for. Beginning April 1st, look for northern parula and black and whites and pine. There may be yellow-rumped hanging around. From April 10th to 20th, look for protonotary, Kentucky, yellow throated, black-throated green, ovenbird, and worm eating (eastern part of our area). From April 20th to May 1st, look for common yellow throat, yellow breasted chat, American redstart, prairie (eastern part of our area), cerulean, and Swainson's (southern and eastern part of our area). Some migrating warblers to look for beginning to the middle of April are Wilson's, Nashville, Tennessee, Palm, Blackburnian, orange-crowned, and blackpoll. A good website to find sightings of warblers is birdingonthe.net, then click Regional/Specialty, then on the state desired.



Return Address
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
PO Box 205
Pittsburg, Ks 66762



Attention All Members

Dues Due

If the 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