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9-2009

### News From the Flock, Vol. 2009 Issue 6

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK . . .

September, 2009

Volume 2009-6

## Calendar of Events:

### Next Meeting:

Penguins of the World by Larry Herbert and Joyce Haynes.



This program features interesting facts and original artwork 7:00 PM, Room 102, Yates Hall, PSU Campus. Refreshments served. Guests welcome.

Open Board meeting at 5:45 in the lounge on the 3rd Floor of Heckert-Wells Hall, PSU.

### Next Field Trip:

Oct 3 to Neosho WA. Meet at Hiway Inn on Hwy 47 in Girard at 7 AM for breakfast or meet at NWA about 8AM. Looking for fall migrants.

### Current Officers:

President: Delia Lister  
Vice President: Ann Willis  
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 October newsletter may be sent to [hartley@mobill.net](mailto:hartley@mobill.net) or [jjhartley@care2.com](mailto:jjhartley@care2.com) by October 8, 2008. Please send articles in WORD and picture in JPEG. Newsletter is published monthly September thru May.

## Happy Ten Years, SGAS

Pittsburg, Ks—SGAS ended its year with a picnic and celebration of ten years as a organization promoting conservation, ecology and birding in SE Kansas. This year's picnic was held at the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg. Over sixty members and friends attended. Both fried and broiled cooked chicken as well as cake and ice cream were provided by the club. A great variety of potluck dishes were provided by members. After the chicken and



potluck meal with a background of slide high-lights, recognition was given to the Hurts for contri-

bution of time and resources, to our first president Roger Willis, and to past officers and other contributors to the clubs activities. On display were all entries in the first annual photo Contest. The winner in each of the three categories were announced. (Related story on page 4.)

## From My Nest

from Delia Lister, President



I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer vacation and are ready to get back into the swing of the new 09-10 academic year. This coming year we hope to have a new T-shirt design and spend some time helping the SEK recycling center. We will, of course, continue with the Bird Seed Sale in December and will have work days prior to this to build additional ground feeders and blue bird boxes. I really look forward to leading the group this year and am very open to new ideas on how we can better serve the community. Don't be afraid to volunteer your time or get involved in something new this year. We will be starting off our programs with Larry Herbert's penguin program. I think many of us have been looking forward to this program for several months so don't miss what is sure to be a great program! Bring a friend...or two or three! See you on September 24th



# Board Looks Forward to a Busy New Year



## MINUTES

**Summer Board Meeting**  
**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society**  
**PSU Natural History Reserve Lab**  
**August 2, 2009**

**Attending:** Mavis Benner, Cindy & Steve Ford, John Hartley, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Kate McLaughlin, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan, Ann Willis (Jim & Belinda Brumfield joined us later)

**Call To Order By President Lister:** Done so at 2:10 p.m.

### Committee Reports:

**Treasurer (Liz):** We have \$4,704.10 in checking, \$630 of which is the Roger Willis Memorial Fund.

There is also \$4,000 invested in CDs. She distributed the annual income/expenditure report.

**Secretary (Barb):** Nothing specific to report.

**Vice President/Programs (Ann):** She is in the process of scheduling programs for 2009-10. Board members offered suggestions.

**Membership (John for Julie):** We currently have 152 members on the list, almost half of which belong to the local organization. Twenty-four non-active names will be dropped in September.

**Publicity (Bob):** Throughout the year, he has submitted meeting notices to his usual media list. He also delivers/picks up newsletter to/from the printer, prints labels, monitors the PO box and current membership list,

and maintains the web site. Discussion followed on possible other ways to publicize our meetings.

**Green Living:** It was confirmed that this was a temporary committee, formed in conjunction with last year's Green Living theme. [The newsletter will continue to give Green Tip. Ed. Note]

**Conservation (Steve):** Nothing specific to report.

**Newsletter (John):** Deadline for submissions will always be the first Friday of the month. Ann moved that we print the first newsletter of the year in color. Steve amended the motion to limit the expenditure on color to \$100 for 6 pages. Motion passed.

**Field Trips (Kate):** She will be unable to help Diane this year; Mavis volunteered to take her place. Next Sunday, August 9, at 7:00 p.m., we will meet at Braum's to do the annual chimney swift count.

**Summer Camp (Delia):** Five children participated; Julie H. and Bob M. assisted. Delia felt that the camp was a success and plans to do it again next year.

**Continue Wing Tips Next Year?** After discussion, Delia offered to do a short segment at the beginning of each meeting.

**Recycling Center:** Dr. Triplett would like to have SGAS volunteers work one Saturday a month from 10:00-2:00. Delia will ask the general membership if they will volunteer.

**Refreshments:** Barb will continue to make coffee. Carol was not present to

ask about food; Ann will provide it if Carol cannot.

**Christmas Parade:** Delia will talk to Carol.

**T-Shirts or Other Apparel:** It would be nice if members could wear something "official" at events in which they participate as SGAS representatives. Delia and Cindy will look at prices and possibilities.

**Meeting Time and Place:** We will continue our current schedule. Steve will reserve Yates 102.

**Birdseed Sale:** Mavis will reserve mall space; Bob will make seed arrangements. We will once again make bird boxes and feeders; Steve, John, and Bob will plan the process.

**Photo Contest (Steve):** Everyone was pleased with last year's output; we will repeat the contest this year.

**PSU Earth Day Events, April 2010:** Delia is in the process of planning.

**Memorial for Roger Willis (Steve/Liz/John):** More discussion will ensue.

**Spring Picnic Location:** Cindy moved, Ann seconded, that we have it again at the Homer Cole Center. Motion passed.

**Other:** Steve reminded the Board of the Sperry-Galligar property and its original designed as a nature area. Although it is managed by PSU, he suggested that we plan activities to focus on that property, such as volunteering to do some rock terracing.

Meeting adjourned.

--Barb Robins, Secretary

## Report on Yearly Finances

From Liz Mangile

I thought I would send this summary of money that was spent and received in the last year of SGAS. This might give you an overall picture of the financial activities for the year.



Summary of SGAS from September 2008 thru July 2009

### Money Brought In

\$ 700.00—Local Dues  
 \$1406.45—Bird feed sale- Bird Houses & Feeders  
 \$ 50.00—Donation Zone 6 Garden Club  
 \$ 587.75—Direct Deposit National Audubon  
 Total.....\$2744.20

### Money Spent

\$ 432.50—Tote Bags

\$ 668.45—Newsletter & Stamps  
 \$ 675.00—Donations & Photo Contest  
 \$ 100.00—Speakers Fee  
 \$ 186.58—10 Year Anniversary Party  
 \$ 81.46—Refreshments & Coffee  
 \$ 70.00—P.O. Box Rental  
 Total.....\$2213.99

Money made from 9/08-7/09  
 \$ 530.21

As you can see we have quite a variety of money sources and expenses. Suggestions for money making projects or expenditures to support SGAS activities are always welcome.



## Education a Big Part of Summer Activities—

The first of what I hope to be many Nature Reach summer day camps was a huge success! We only had five 5<sup>th</sup> graders attend July 20-26<sup>th</sup>, but they were an extremely bright and eager to learn bunch. In attendance were Emily Sanders, Hannah Maus, Jess Frasher, Riley Zerr, and Emily Eckelberry. The camp lasted from 8 am to 12 pm each day with an open house on the 26<sup>th</sup>.



One of the favorite activities was taking a bird identification hike around the PSU Natural History Reserve where the kids were asked to identify the wooden birds carved and painted by several of our Audubon members. The campers just absolutely loved spotting birds and identifying them correctly. Other topics included plants, insect collecting techniques, and learning how to identify frog and toad calls. I think THE highlight of the camp for the kids (and Bob Mangile) was investigating a "Game Scene." They were able to determine what animals were involved in

the "scene of the crime" by taking a look at various mammal tracks and signs. A huge thanks to Julie Hartley and Bob and Liz Mangile for their help during the camp and also to everyone who helped supplement our supplies. Great job!



—Bob Mangile and John Hartley helped with the closing day of First Methodist Church's Vacation Bible school with a presentation on bluebirds and bluebird trails. The VB theme was habitat and students made bluebird boxes. Bob and John talked about the environmental needs to maintain bluebirds with Power Point and with hands-on materials including eggs and mealworms. The kids proudly shared their finished products.



## Bird Silhouettes

By Steve Ford

I want to extend a BIG thank-you to the talented and dedicated S-G Audubon folks who made the birding session of Delia's summer camp a lot of fun and a real learning experience. If you haven't heard, here's the story. We cut oversized silhouettes of common local birds from wood, drilled and/or affixed hardware to them for ease of placement in the appropriate habitat in the field, and painted them. The original idea was just to include the relevant field marks so kids could see them through binoculars

and use a beginners field guide to identify the species, but our painters outdid themselves - as you know if you attended the May 29th anniversary picnic the birds are quite beautiful enough to serve as centerpiece tables. Nearly forty birds were made. Special thanks to Ruth Sullivan and Carol Newcomb for their artistry with a



brush and for taking the considerable time to do the work. Thanks also to woodworkers Bob Mangile, Bob Hurt, and A.O. Brown. The birds are available for loan to any S-G Audubon member for field activities or for decorations for birthdays Christmas activities, etc. Let me know when you want to borrow them.



## SGAS Adventures



Late spring and early summer were not a lazy time for bird watchers. Audubonites kept active during the late spring and summer months with a field trips to Monahan Prairie near Pittsburg, a flower walk through Wildcat Glades in Joplin Mo, and a return birding trip to Bushwacker CA near Bronaugh, MO.

— Monahan Prairie & Ford property Seven people walked around Monahan Prairie, seeing a common yellowthroat, a pileated woodpecker and Baltimore orioles. Highlights at the Ford property included a prothonotary warbler and great egrets in flight. The field trip was lead by Dr. Steve Ford.

—Wildcat Glades—Wildcat Glades is actually west of Wildcat Park on the west

side of the bluff road. The Chert Glades are a unique habitat type found primarily in southwest Missouri. Chert, also known as flint, is found here in bedrock form. Approximately 60 high-quality acres of this habitat are left in the world; 27 acres are within Wildcat Park. Glades are very dry places with thin soils-- Missouri's own deserts. The plants found on the glades here are primarily native grasses and wildflowers, with sporadic prickly pear cacti and post oak trees. Some of these oaks are dated over 150 years old yet are stunted due to the thin rocky soil. Lichens dot the rocks and trees and wildflowers like aster and coreopsis

sweep the landscape. Chanda Williams from the Wildcat Glades Audubon Center lead the excursion. Eleven participants ( pictured below) enjoyed the late spring flowers and mosses of the Glade as well as an excellent views of a field sparrow with a insect in its mouth and a soaring Mississippi kite.

—Bushwacker CA—What a difference six months makes. Last winter's field trip was in subzero



weather; for the June 20th trip sixteen Audubonites ( pictured on the right) were greeted with a thirty minute downpour of rain and then 80+ degree temperatures. Habitats included fence rows, woodlands, lake, pasture, and stream. Over 50 species of birds were observed. Several birders got life birds including loggerhead shrike, Bell's and warbling vireo, orchard oriole, and yellow breasted chat. Other notable birds observed were northern bobwhite and northern harrier. A special thanks to Larry Herbert leading a successful final birding adventure.



## Photo Contest Winners—

By Steve Ford

The first annual S-G Audubon photo contest proved to be a big success. The contest was designed not for the "pros," but for all local amateurs with a camera and an interest in the imagery of local nature. Photographers needed to live within about fifty miles of Pittsburg, and their photos needed to have been taken within about one-hundred and fifty miles of Pittsburg. Audubon membership was not necessary. Winners in each of the three categories won a \$25 gift certificate to a local restaurant and a certificate of achievement. Twenty-three people submitted ninety-one beautiful photos. The three judges said it was hard to pick the winners: for the category of Animals the winner was Mark Adams (Cardinals), for Plants, Landscapes, and Things in Nature from Sue and John Hegel

(Birds and Bird Feeder), and People in Nature the winner from Andra Stefanonni (Looking Through Ice) Winning photos become the property of S-G Audubon. We'll display them, and some of the other great donated photos, at various activities. Thanks and congrats to all participants. We'll have another contest this year - nature is just too beautiful not to share! Same rules. An entry form and the rules are at our web site or contact Steve Ford.





## 'Weedy' Bird Species May Win As Temperatures Rise.

*Abstracted from Science Daily (June 19, 2009)* — Climate change is altering North American winter bird communities in ways that models currently favored by ecologists fail to predict. Based on patterns of animals found in different climate zones today, ecologists would expect that as habitats warm, numbers of species found there will increase, and that those species will be smaller in size and restricted to narrower geographic ranges. Ecologists at the University of California, San Diego have found that only one of those three predictions has held for North American birds over the past quarter century. Instead, their analysis has revealed that warmer weather has favored "weedy" species, those that are adapted to a wide range of habitats and therefore easily extend their ranges. Larger birds, which are typically better dispersers than smaller species, seem to have gained an advantage . . . . Their assessment is based on the annual Christmas Bird Count, an event organized by the National Audubon Society in which volunteers note which birds are present within a 24 kilometer wide circle in their communities over a 24-hour period in early winter, relying on either sight or sound to identify the species. The team found 404 sites throughout North America where birders surveyed every year between 1975 and 2001. Over that period of time, the average annual temperature of these communities increased by nearly one degree Celsius. As spatial models predict, the numbers of species counted at each site grew as temperature climbed. But that increase could be attributed to larger and more widespread species becoming more common, a pattern not reflected by differences between ecological communities found in warmer versus cooler parts of the world. The observation suggests that weedy species may win in a warmer world, at least initially. But it also warns ecologists that they may need to revise their models when planning conservation in the face of global climate



## Bird Fact

The ovenbird gets its name from the unusual doomed nest it builds. Ovenbirds prefer to nest in deciduous woodlands with a well developed leaf litter layer. However, they will build their nests on fence posts and under the eaves of houses when a suitable tree cannot be found. After selecting a suitable nest site, usually in a tree or on a fence post, they begin building their hollowed-out nest with clay, strengthening it with grass and plant fibers. When the clay has been baked hard by the sun, the birds continue to add clay and plant fibers to the edges of the nest a

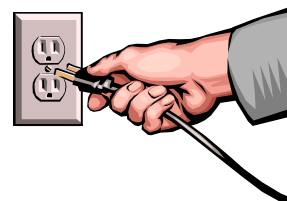
build up the walls until it has a dome shaped roof. The birds finish the nest by constructing a narrow, curving entrance chamber with a side entrance.. The female lines the inner nesting chamber with grass and feathers. The ovenbird's nest is made from between 1,500 and 2,000 separate lumps of clay. It weighs between 7-12 pounds.



## Green TIPS



One simple way to save energy, reduce global warming emissions, and save money: Unplug appliances and chargers when



you're not using them. According to the US Department of Energy, 75% of the energy used to power home elec-

tronics is consumed when those appliances are turned off! You can also unplug yourself from electronics like your MP3, TV, iPod, video games, cell phones, and all the other electronic gadgets we have. Internet addiction, 'techno fatigue', and



just plain information overload all take their toll. Unplug and get outdoors, connect with your community and with nature, and feel better

+++++

## Warbler Watch—

Sadly, by the publication of this newsletter, most of the warblers will have migrated through our four state area. Regularly reported, pine and myrtle yellow-rumped warblers winter here. But keep a look out from late moving palms and orange crowns (pictured).



**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. For this option, make check out 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: **C9ZJ100Z**



## Financial Statement For September, 2009

Beginning balance-----\$4616.22

### CREDIT

06/04/09---Membership-----\$105.00

07/09/09---Direct Deposit National Audubon--\$120.00

Total-----\$225.00

### DEBIT

06/20/09---Sales tax for feed sale-----\$179.67

07/21/09---Yearly charge for P.O. Box-----\$ 70.00

Total-----\$249.67

Ending balance-----\$4591.55

Submitted by Liz Mangile

## Editor's Note:



Normally our newsletter has four pages.

However, because of the number activi-

ties over the summer, the Board requested two extra

pages. All pictures are submitted to the printer in color,

but because of costs the newsletter is in black and white.

If you want a color copy of any picture, please contact me.

I will e-mail you a copy of the picture. Contributions of

articles and pictures are welcome. Written articles should

be in WORD and pictures as JPEG. I do reserve the right

to edit and condense articles to fit the format and space of

the newsletter and pictures/art may be added to enhance articles.

### Return Address

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

PO Box 205

Pittsburg, KS 66762

# SEPTEMBER



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 100% of the dues paid.