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5-2010

### News From the Flock, Vol. 2010 Issue 5

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.

May, 2010

Volume 2010-5

## Calendar of Events:

### Next Meeting:

Annual SGAS picnic,  
May 27, 6 PM at  
Homer Cole Center,  
Pittsburg. Bring a cov-  
ered dish.

## FYI—

### Website:

[http://  
pwp.surfglobal.net/rmangile/  
Sgas/](http://pwp.surfglobal.net/rmangile/Sgas/)

### Mailing Address:

**SGAS**  
**PO BOX 205**  
**Pittsburg, KS 66762**

Articles for the newsletter are wel-  
comed. Articles should be in  
WORD or in the body of an e-mail;  
pictures as JPEG. Newsletter is  
published monthly September thru

## Letter From the Editor—

Usually letters  
are to the editor. Well, This  
editor is writing you, the  
reader. If you have an unusual  
birding experience; if you take  
an interesting birding trip; if you  
have stories about a bird ; if  
you write a poem or read a  
good book or article about  
birding or ecology or conserva-  
tion; if you have a birding  
watching tip or have tried a new  
birding technology;  
if you've capture  
the a bird on  
camera— submit it  
for publication in  
the newsletter.



## GBH Rookery Worth the Wait and the Walk

April 10, Rural Cherokee Co. —  
Seventeen hopeful bird watchers gath-  
ered in the parking lot of Big Brutus to  
begin a quest for the great blue heron



rookery. The quest was lead by Emmett  
Sullivan who located the rookery on a  
creek that ran by his old family home-  
stead. This adventure had been post-  
poned because of rain from March 27th; this day with weather was bright, sunny and a  
pleasant 63 degrees. The trek made several stops at wetlands in Cherokee County observ-  
ing water fowl including blue-winged teal, coots, greater yellow legs, and killdeer and as well



over and hearing returning northern parula warblers. Thanks to Emmett for this great ad-  
venture. Thanks to Vic Sullivan for some great photos (top and left). And thanks to Diane  
McCallum and Mavis Benner for planning field trips this year.

the ever present red winged black-  
birds, raucously guarding nesting  
territories. After a 45 minute journey  
down dusty country roads, the hope-  
ful birders arrived at the entrance  
gate of the old homestead, two posts  
with a cable blocking the road to  
vehicle traffic. Before beginning the  
half mile hike back to the rookery,  
three lucky ladies (Thelda Mayer,  
Barb Robins, and Diane McCallum)  
found a patch of four-leaf clover in  
the parking area. Their luck must  
have rubbed off on the rest of the  
group— the creek was passable, the  
ground was dry, and there were 17  
nests high in the trees with numer-  
ous great blue herons landing. Re-  
warding the birders' efforts. The bird-  
ers also enjoyed a white pelican fly

# Minutes of April Meetings—

## Board MINUTES

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Heckert Wells Hall, PSU  
April 29, 2010

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

**Call To Order By Jeff Switlik:** Done so at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Treasurer's Report (Liz):** Checking account balance of \$2,744.18. As directed last meeting, Liz placed an additional \$2,000 in a current CD. She received thank-you letters from PSU for summer camp donation, and from Kansas Audubon. Liz also received a book from publisher Harper Collins, *An Eagle Named Freedom* by Jeff Guidry. They requested we mention it to members.

### Old Business:

**Picnic:** It will be at the Homer Cole Center, May 27, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

**Nominating Committee (Bob):** The slate is complete and will be presented at tonight's general meeting.

### New Business:

**Field Trip (Diane):** May 15, to Neosho Wildlife Refuge.

**Sponsorship Request (Delia):** She received an e-mail from Tricia Hearn, Lenexa, regarding her son Cody and his St. James Academy team. She would like for us to contribute to sponsoring his participation in

the Science Olympiad at the University of Illinois. Since he has no local connections, we decided not to contribute.

**Bumper Sticker (Bob):** He displayed a "Bird Watcher" sticker produced by the Joplin chapter and wondered if we'd like to do something similar. All agreed we would not be able to sell the minimum 50 required to print them.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25.

## SUMMARY

General Meeting, Sperry-Galligar  
Audubon Society  
Yates Hall, Room 102  
April 29, 2010

### Announcements:

**Diane McCallum:** There will be a field trip to Neosho Wildlife Refuge on May 15. Meet us at 7 a.m. at the Hiway Inn, Girard, for breakfast, or a little later at the refuge. If it's closed due to water, meet at the café in St. Paul.

**President Delia Lister:** Our annual picnic is May 27, 6:00-9:00 p.m., at the Homer Cole Center. A sign-up sheet for food is going around.

Cindy Ford has schedules for the Kansas Native Plant Society spring wildflower tours if you'd like one. Cindy is also taking any remaining photo contest entries tonight.

Delia still has SGAS and Nature Reach Earth Week T-shirts for sale, \$12 and \$10 respectively.

**Liz Mangile:** She received a complimentary book, *An Eagle Named Free*

*dom*, by Jeff Guidry, from the publisher; she'll add it to our lending library. Also available are five VHS cassettes, "Video Guide to the Birds of North America".

**Bob Mangile:** He presented a 100-bird pin to Martha Price. He also presented next year's slate of officers: Delia Lister, president; Jeff Switlik, vice president; Liz Mangile, treasurer; and Barb Robins, secretary. It was unanimously approved by the general membership.

He has purple coneflower seeds for the taking. Also, please take some extra newsletters.

**Nature Moment:** Delia showed a You-Tube video of a green heron fishing like a human (tossing out bread crumbs and waiting).

**Feature Speaker:** Bob introduced John Dorio, retired U.S Forest Service ranger, wildlife biologist, and author of

research papers on various bird species. He showed slides from work done in 1975-76 for his thesis, "Breeding Biology of the

Upland Sandpiper" and explained the methodology of the study. Nests and birds were located in various habitats in Central Minnesota to determine which nests were used to brood. Twenty-nine nests of four eggs/chicks each were found; the birds were weighed, banded, and marked with plastic tags for further study. None of the parents abandoned their nests when captured but used diversionary tactics similar to the Killdeer. Since the study was conducted before the common use of field radio signals and other electronic aids, nests were located by attaching metal cans to a rope and walking with it till the birds were flushed. He also located several Wilson's Phalarope nests this way.

**Door Prize:** Peggy Dorio.

--Barb Robins, Secretary



## From My Nest —

By Delia Lister, President



As this academic year is coming to a close I just wanted to say thanks to everyone for all of their hard work and support over the past few months. It has

been a great year, and I am looking forward to the SGAS/Nature Reach summer day camps in July. I am looking for volunteers for the second grade camp July 12-16 and 5th grade camp July 19-23.

Please let me know if you are interested. Thanks to all who have given items in support of the camp as well. It really does keep the cost low for the participants. We still have a few spaces left in both camps so if you know of a potential camper send them my way!



## Quick Action Saves Rare Penguin

Denver CO, April, 2010. At the Pueblo, Co Zoo, an African penguin emerged from its shell four days overdue. The parents refused to care for the chick of this once "vulnerable" endangered species. It was rushed to the Denver Zoo where surrogate parents were found. The chick's surrogate father, Durban, and mother, Spencer, are now taking excellent care of their adopted youngster. Zoo-keepers always prefer animals are raised by their parents or surrogates of the same species. This helps ensure they have the skills to raise their own young. Upon receiving the chick, Durban and Spencer immediately began "brooding" the chick by covering it with their bodies and wings for protection and quickly began feeding it. The chick will continue to be cared for by the surrogate parents for about 3 months while the chick is cov-



ered in soft insulating feathers. During this time it is not visible to the public. The wild

population was considered nearly extinct at the end of the 20th century due to egg harvesting, guano collection, and disruption of habitat due to oil spills and cleaning tankers.

## MOTHER, EMBARRASSED

By Steve Ford

Gluttony -  
Thy name is  
waxwing in a  
holly berry tree.  
Or mountain  
ash,  
Or any spring  
fruit small  
enough  
To get a beak over.



Oh you may *look* quite the gentleman,  
All dressed up in a fresh-pressed suit,  
And hair so primped as to make us  
Smile at your vanity.

But when the pie-eating contest begins  
All you cotillion ball dandies are,  
Well,  
Pigs at a trough.

## Free Book for Library

We received a free book entitled "An Eagle Named Freedom" by Jeff Guidry from the book publisher Harper Collins. It is a heart touching story about an injured Bald Eagle and its association with its caretaker. One critics writes, "Jeff Guidry writes from the heart, of how his life became entwined with that of the bald eagle, Freedom (Dream Flyer), and how their bond helped heal them both. He speaks for all those who give of themselves, for a relationship that reminds us of our oneness with, and responsibility for, nature and the wild creatures that inhabit it." (I. Pepperburg, *NY Times*). It is available in our SGAS library



## Green Tips—

Source: [Terri Hall-Jackson Feb 25, 2010 11:05http://www.care2.com/greenliving/reducing-food-packaging.html](http://www.care2.com/greenliving/reducing-food-packaging.html)



As of 1994, the European Union requires manufacturing companies to take back and recycle at least 60 percent of their packaging waste, including that used for food items, thus taking the burden off of the consumer and local communities. No such incentive for reducing packaging exists for manufacturers in the U.S. or Canada.

As consumers, there are a number of items we can use or purchase in order to reduce our consumption of excess packaging:

1. Bring a travel mug whenever you go to your favorite coffee shop, eliminating the need for those one-use styrofoam cups with plastic lids. Some even give discounts for bring your own.
2. Use a reusable, stainless steel drinking bottle instead of individual drink boxes or bottles.
3. Buy fresh fruits and vegetables instead of produce in cans, frozen boxes and bags.
4. Buy in bulk, using your own containers from home to eliminate the use of can, carton, and plastic bag packaging.
5. Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins.
6. Buy big boxes of cereal instead of individually packaged cereals.
7. Never buy individual "snack-sized" boxes or bags.
8. When washing non-bagged greens, use a salad spinner. That way you won't have to use paper towels to blot the greens dry.
9. Buy quarts of yogurt instead of eight-ounce or smaller cups.
10. Use cloth or a gold coffee filter rather than paper filters.
11. Buy bulk cheese instead of individually wrapped slices.
12. Make your own popsicles using reusable molds, rather than buying boxed popsicles.



## Membership in National Audubon and Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

—For an introductory rate of \$20, you can become a member of both the National Audubon Society and the local chapter—SGAS. You will receive four copies of the national magazine Audubon and all local SGAS newsletters.

—For \$15 you can become a member of the local chapter only and receive only local newsletters.

—If you wish to join both National Audubon and SGAS, please complete this form and submit it to the SGAS Treasurer along with a check for \$20 made out to National Audubon Society.

—If you wish to join only the local SGAS, complete this form and submit it to the SGAS Treasurer along with a check for \$15 made out to SGAS for yearly dues.

This form and the accompanying check should be sent to SGAS, PO Box 205, Pittsburg, KS 66762-0205

## Financial Statement April 2010

<b>Beginning Balance</b> -----	\$5418.36
<b>DEBITS:</b>	
Newsletters-----	\$ 14.05
Nature Reserve Summer Camp-----	\$ 300.00
Added to 12 month Certificate-----	\$1000.00
<b>TOTAL</b> -----	\$1314.05
<b>CREDITS:</b>	
4 local memberships-----	\$60.00
<b>TOTAL</b> -----	\$60.00
<b>Ending Balance</b> -----	\$4164.31

Submitted by Liz Mangile, Treasurer

### Membership Application Form

**I wish to join both National Audubon Society and SGAS and am enclosing \$20.**

**I wish to join only the local SGAS and am enclosing \$15.**

**Personal Information (please print):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Code: COZJ100Z**



## Bird Facts: Black and White Warbler—

This warbler is one of the first spring warblers to our area, reported as early as the third week in March in 2010. It is also seen in the fall as late as October. There are two white wing bars. Female and juvenile plumages are similar, but duller and less streaked. It breeds in broadleaved or mixed woodland, preferably in wetter areas and nests on the ground, laying 4-6 eggs in a cup nest. These birds feed on insects and spiders, and unlike other warblers forage like a nuthatch moving up and down tree trunks and along branches. The Black-and-white Warbler has an unusually long hind toe and claw on each foot. This adaptation allows it to move securely on the surface of tree bark. The song is a repeated high see wee. Unusually aggressive it sometimes attacks and fights other larger species.



Return Address  
SGAS  
PO Box 205  
Pittsburg, KS 66762



*May*

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

**Dues  
Due**

If the box is marked, our records indicate your membership has expired. Please consider rejoining as a member of the local SGAS only. The local chapter receives 100% of the dues paid.