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News From the Flock, Vol. 2010 Issue 6

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.

September, 2010

Volume 2010-6

Summer Day Camp Popular with Kids

By Delia Lister—What do you get when you combine 2nd graders with insect nets, binoculars, and fake animal scat? A crazy, chaotic, exciting learning environment where

the kids will likely never forget the experience they had at the SGAS/Nature Reach Summer Day camp. The camp was July 12-16 and was full with 10 campers this year. Some of

the topics covered included beginning birding, food from plants, insect collecting and identification, ecology practices, a "Game Scene" investigation, and a "Herp Hike". Excellent feedback was received from all the parents, and they are all ready to send their kids to another camp. I want to send a big THANK YOU to John Hartley, Bob and Liz Mangile, and Amber Woodward (a PSU student) for all of their hard work and help. I really could not have pulled the camp off without them. I am already making plans for another camp next year so if you have kids, grandkids, neighborhood kids or whoever interested in the camp please let me know. Thanks again for your sponsorship.



Calendar of Events:

Next Meeting:

"Antarctica and Chilean Fjords" by Rod and Ellen Sallee September 30 at 7:00 PM, Room 102, Yates Hall, PSU Campus. Refreshments served. Guests welcome. Open board meeting at 5:45, 3rd Floor Hecket-Wells Hall.

Field Trips:

—Saturday, October 2nd, 7:00 a.m. Meet at Appleby's in Pittsburg. Travel to Four Rivers Conservation Area near Archie, MO. Bring sack lunch and drink. Possible birds: migrating ducks, geese, shorebirds, and raptors. Car pooling is possible.

FYI—

Website:

<http://pwp.surfglobal.net/rmangile/Sgas/>

Mailing Address:

SGAS
PO BOX 205
Pittsburg, KS 66762-0205

Articles for submission for October newsletter may be sent to hart-



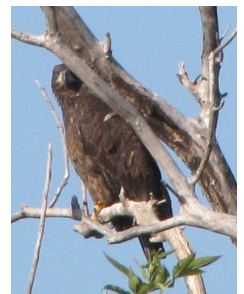
ley@mobil1.net by Oct 1, 2010. Articles should be in WORD or in the body of an e-mail; pictures as JPEG. Newsletter is published monthly September thru May.

End of Summer Birding Adventures—

—Pittsburg, August 7, 2010—August means back to school, hot weather, and the beginning of fall migration. This August was not exception. With a temperature near 100, fourteen bird watchers gathered at Braum's for a pre-watch treat of ice cream and drink and to get assignments to count chimney swifts at dusk. See picture on page 4. From five locations, 593 swifts were counted up from last years count of 428. The highest number of 225 were counted at Old Eugene Field School.

—Neosho WA, August 28, 2010—Carolyn and Charles Chips, new field trip leaders, guided 17

birders on a swing around the wildlife area before popular wetland areas close for the year. Birders toured early to avoid the summer heat. About 40 species of birds were seen including an immature bald eagle. Brunch was at the HiWay Inn afterwards.



Summer Board Meeting Minutes

The Ford Farm
August 8, 2010
2:00 p.m.

Attending: Mavis Benner, Carolyn & Charles Chips, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Barb Robins.

Committee Reports:

President (Delia): Summer camp was a success. 10 second graders attended, and parent feedback was very positive. Separate girls' and boys' camps would be a good idea to try in the future, and other option considered.

Vice President (Jeff Switlik): He has resigned. Program possibilities for the coming year were discussed, a list of names was created, and Steve agreed to be in charge temporarily of coordinating and contacting until an other VP nominee can be found.

Treasurer (Liz): We have \$2,779.21 in checking and \$6,238.12 in CD ac counts.

Membership and Newsletter

(John): He was not present. Reports previously submitted for national report.

Publicity (Bob): He has sent copies of the newsletters to the PSU and Kansas State Historical Society archives; both places now have a complete collection.

Refreshments: Delia will check with Carol Newcomb.

Field Trips (Carolyn): She and Charles have been checking out sites for next year.

Bird Seed Sale, December 4: Mavis will reserve tables at the mall.

Picnic, May 26: Bob will reserve the Homer Cole Center.

Photo Contest (Steve): We'll try it another year and try to publicize it more widely to get more participation. Perhaps a color insert in a newsletter displaying last year's winners would help; Cindy will check prices at the PSU Press.

Community Projects (Steve):

Sperry House Cleanup: Do we want to do it? Steve will talk to Alan Ross, manager, to see if there is a task we're able to do.

Recycling Center Land Management: Hot weather has prevented an inspection of the area; Steve will schedule a time when members can do a walk around.

Meeting adjourned.

--Barb Robins, Secretary

Kansas Roadside Beautiful

—excepts from *Audubon of Kansas press release of 7/9/10.*

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has made major strides to improve roadside vegetative management along the state's 10,000-mile system of state highways in recent years. Improvements have included the use of native prairie grasses and wildflowers in seeding mixtures for newly reconstructed roadside areas, and KDOT has implemented a limited mowing policy in most areas designed to dramatically reduce maintenance costs, reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and provide ecological and aesthetic benefits.

Aesthetic benefits occur when native wildflowers are allowed to flourish and bloom along roadsides. In recognition of this natural resource and public viewing opportunities—Audubon of Kansas has established a website feature "Kansas Roadside Wildflowers of the Week" designed to highlight and build appreciation for native plants and the habitat provided within the 150,000 acres of vegetated right-of-way maintained by the agency. It is also hoped that similar approaches will be employed on many tens of thousands of roadside acres administered by other agencies in the state and region.

Audubon of Kansas (AOK) has long been a tireless advocate for establishment of aesthetically pleasing and ecologically-friendly strategies of roadside management in the Great Plains and prairie states. According to Ron Klataske, Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas, the Kansas Native Plant Society, Kansas Wildlife Federation, Pheasants Forever, Quail Unlimited earlier and now Quail Forever, and representatives of several other leading conservation organizations and natural resource agencies have all supported improvements established by KDOT. A long list of ecological benefits is attributed to the use of native grasses

and forbs, and the limited mowing policies. Undisturbed roadside vegetation benefits a diversity of birds throughout the year, and in many places it is important as nesting habitat for birds that nest on or near the ground. Unmowed grasses as habitat and wildflowers as nectar sources are also increasingly important in efforts to haul or reverse declining populations of butterflies and other native pollinators.

During the winter, unmowed stands of stiff-stemmed and deep rooted grasses and forbs along highways serve as "living snow fences" and often prevent snow from blowing across and drifting. The state's 150,000 acres of public land under the stewardship of KDOT represents the largest ownership of grass-



land of any entity in Kansas. It is many times the size of the Tall grass Prairie National Preserve, and it is viewed by hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors traveling in the state—a Prairie State. (More pictures can be seen at www.audubonofkansas.org.)

Bluebird Reports Due—

From Bob Mangile

For those who have Bluebird nest boxes out during the 2010 nesting season, report the number of Bluebirds fledged this year. . Anyone can report whether you have only one nesting box or many. Send the number of Bluebird nest boxes you have, their general location, the number of Bluebirds you think fledged this year, and your name to Bob Mangile at <http://pwp.surfglobal.net/rmangile/> or call 620 1231-3117.

End of Year Activities—

Wet Weekend for Warblers—May 15, 2010



Neosho Wildlife Area. The day for the final birding SGAS group adventure started out as cold and wet, with rain and muddy roads. Eight birders fortified themselves with breakfast at the Hiway Café in Girard, while three more joined the group at the Area. Birders were rewarded by feeding orchard orioles (oror) (male at right) and an abundant number warbler species in an abundant number.



Warbler sightings included America redstarts, yellows, common yellowthroats, orange crowned, and Wilson's. Other birds of interest were a bald eagle, bob-o-links and a male red-bellied woodpecker feeding its young. In all about 37 species were identified.

SGAS Members Line UP— May 27, 2010

Thirty-four SGAS members lined up for



a fare of potluck dishes at the Annual Year End dinner meeting, held again this year at the Homer Cole Center Pittsburg. As usual there were a variety of main dishes, sides and desserts, enough to fill a counter and two side tables. Vic Sullivan presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Sullivan's adventure to the Galapagos Islands, a national park and wildlife preserve, 500 miles of the coast of and owned by Ecuador. Vic's presentation contained not only pictures of the many animals and plants but perspectives on the culture and geography of this unique area



Winner of the Plants, Landscapes and Things in Nature was Shr-Lyn Cline with Bee and Flower



Winner of the People in Nature was John Hartley with Granddaughter helping Grandpa.



Winners received a gift certificate to Apple Bee's restaurant Steve Ford anticipates this contest will continue next year. And encourages interested area photographers enter their photos taken with 150 miles of Pittsburg.

Quality in Photo Contest—May 27, 2010—

Steve Ford announced the winners of the second annual photo contest. Although only 23 photos were entered, Steve described this year's offerings as of "high quality." The judge was Portico Bowman, Director of Galleries, at PSU.

Winner of the Animals category was from Emmett Smith, Deer in Woods.



New National Leader—

David Yarnold has been named the new president and CEO of National Audubon. He is a Pulitzer Prize winning editor of the San Jose Mercury News and has recently been Executive Director of Environmental Defense Fund and President of Environmental Defense Action Fund.

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 an accompanying check should be sent to SGAS, PO Box 205, Pittsburg, KS 66762

Financial Statement	
August, 2010	
Current checking balance-----	\$2779.21
No movement of funds over the summer months.	
Submitted by Liz Mangile, Treasurer	

Raptor Workshop—

From Jeff Cantrell

Natural History and Identification of Raptors workshop will be held at Prairie State Park. Saturday, 11 December, 2010 Open to all beginning birders or anyone who wants to brush up on their birds of prey Class will be from 9 am to noon. A bonus for those that want to meet later that day we will go to a nearby conservation area to view short eared owls at 4:30 pm For registration please contact Jeff Cantrell, Office 417-629-3423 leave message at home 417-476-3311 or E-mail: jeff.cantrell@mdc.mo.gov.



August Swift Counters (Story on page 1.)



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



Return Address
SGAS
PO Box 205
Pittsburg, KS 66762



September

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.