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News From the Flock, Vol. 2011 Issue 2

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
Serving Crawford, Bourbon, and Cherokee Counties, Kansas

Sperry- Galligar
Audubon Chapter
Officers 2009-2011

President:

Delia Lister

Vice President:

Meagan Duffee

Secretary

Barb Robins

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

Articles & photos for
submission may be sent
to
Sperry-Galligar
Newsletter Editor,
Cindy Ford
cford@pittstate.edu

Next newsletter
deadline: MARCH 7.

February 2011

VOLUME 2011 ISSUE 2

Focus on Fieldtrips for Excellent Spring Birding

If you have not ventured out on a field trip with the Sperry-Galligar Audubon-ers, you are in for a treat. A dedicated group of birders find southeast Kansas "hotspots" and come back with many stories to tell.

Spring is an excellent time to get involved in these fieldtrips because the birding is fantastic. The species of birds will keep increasing as the season progresses. There will be exciting opportunities to see species that you may not know exist around here.

If you feel a bit rusty in identifying species of birds, these fieldtrips are the perfect chance to go with enthusiastic and experienced birders. They will help you get the best views of birds and you will undoubtedly expand your "list" of sightings.

Carolyn and Charles Chips are the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Club fieldtrip hosts. They have lined up some wonderful sites to visit, so get your binoculars, your bird book, and a friend to join the groups of birders having a great time.



February 26 — Ponds & Wetlands of Crawford County. Meet at Applebee's in Pittsburg at 7:30 a.m. to carpool to local areas; water fowl & winter species; dress accordingly

March 12 — Woodcocks. Time & place will be announced; woodcock displays

April 30 — Shorebirds & Spring Migrants. Meet at Applebee's in Pittsburg at 7:00 a.m. to carpool to Four Rivers Conservation Area near Nevada, MO; bring lunch & snacks;

May 21 — Warblers & Late Spring Migrants. Meet at Highway Inn in Girard at 7:00 a.m. to carpool to Crawford County State Lake at Farlington; plan to eat break fast at Highway Inn

June — Summer Residents. Trip to Roaring River State Park in MO; please contact trip leader if interested

Calendar of Meetings

February 24 — Dr. Joe Arruda, PSU Department of Biology, will present "A Land Snail's Tale: Life in the Litter"

March 31 — Dr. Cindy Ford, PSU Department of Biology, will present "Exploring Big Bend National Park"

April 28 — Rick Hines, Erie (KS), will present "Tanzania and Mt. Kilimanjaro"

May 26 — Annual Sperry-Galligar Picnic will be held at the Homer Cole Community Center, 3003 North Joplin, Pittsburg

**June, July, and August —
NO REGULAR MEETINGS!**

Board Meeting Minutes — Barb Robins

Attending: Mavis Benner, Carolyn & Charles Chips, Meagan Duffee, Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Martha Price, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan..

Call To Order (Delia): 5:20 p.m.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$3,479.50

Recycling Center Property Tour Results (Steve): After walking around on December 7 with Chuck Delp and Jim Triplett, the participating members concluded that the area was already wildlife-friendly, with various habitats. The railroad tracks cutting through made

it hazardous (and potentially illegal) for walking paths, although we might consider constructing paths on selected parts of the property in the future.

Bird Seed Sale Final Report (Bob): We cleared \$700 (seed, \$382, crafts, \$318).

Programming in May (Steve): Max Good has agreed to speak, perhaps on the topic of re-establishing wildflowers on the prairie.

New Appointment (Delia): Diane has agreed to assume membership duties.

Great Backyard Bird Count (Bob): He has the materials.

Field Trips (Carolyn): We'll go to Neosho Wildlife Refuge on Saturday to look for eagles. In February, concentrating on ponds; March, woodcocks; April, shorebirds; and May, warblers.

Other:

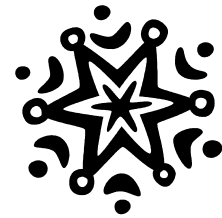
Delia: Western Energy will be building two additional cages for raptors.

Mavis: Westside School's chimney, a prominent chimney swift roosting site, has been capped; should our board support a letter requesting that they uncup it? Delia will send one.

Delia: We need a nominating committee for next year's officers; Mavis, Liz, and Charles agreed to serve.

Bob: Welcome back, Emmett!

Meeting adjourned at 6:20.



General Meeting Minutes — Barb Robins

Bird Sightings: Members have seen a Bald eagle on E.Quincy, near the city limits; Trumpeter swans, near Beulah; and thousands of Snow geese.

Announcements:

Delia Lister:

We made \$700 on our bird seed sale. Thanks to everyone. The Great Backyard Bird Count is February 18-21. John Hartley is ill, and our thoughts are with him. Mavis Benner is chairperson of the nominating committee. Please volunteer to serve as next year's vice president; we need new talent!

Steve Ford:

The CBC took place on January 1; participants saw 65 species. If you'd like a copy of the list, see him. The photo contest will end the last

Thursday in April. He has entry forms and rules.

Carolyn Chips:

Meet at the Hiway Inn in Girard at 7:30 on Saturday to caravan to the Neosho Wildlife Refuge to count eagles.

Bob Mangile:

Charles and Carolyn Chips have earned their 100-bird pins, which were presented to them. If Bob doesn't have your e-mail address and you'd like to receive notices, please give it to him.

Featured Speaker:

Steve introduced Rick Laas, who is currently a pest exterminator but has maintained an interest in bats since studying under Dr. Horace Hays for his bachelor's degree at PSU in the 1970s. In to-

night's presentation, he concentrated on bringing us up to date on the disastrous effects of white nose syndrome on various bat population across the country. Some species are coming close to extinction in the eastern U.S., and the fungus is working its way to Kansas (It has been detected in Missouri and Oklahoma). After Rick and Steve did a survey, they determined that our gray bat colony—the only one in Kansas—is down in population numbers this year. It is encouraging to know that the federal government has been spending millions of dollars to survey and study bats; as Rick emphasized, populations must be conserved because billions of insects not eaten by bats will cause epidemics affecting humans and other animals. The disease is still a mystery...

Door Prize: Harry Krug

February 2011

From my Nest — Delia Lister, President

I hope everyone has been staying warm and keeping those bird feeders full with these latest blasts of snow! I want to give a special THANK YOU to Charlie and Carolyn Chips. They have been doing a great job getting field trips put together, and I know those in attendance are having a great time. If you have never been on a Sperry-Galligar field trip, take some time to get out there with us this coming spring.

One of the items of discussion mentioned in the board meeting minutes is a letter to USD 250 (Pittsburg) concerning the capping off of chimneys at three local schools. The letter will go out this week, and we will wait for a reply. I hope we can change their minds about capping the chimney, but if not, I have a “plan B” to be discussed later.

Finally, don't forget to attend Dr. Joe Arruda's talk on snails this month. As a former student of Dr. Arruda's, I can attest to the fact that you'll never look at snails the same way again!

Photos Wanted

Don't forget to take that prize-winning photo. (Hint: The snowy weather would be a good background.)

Enter your photo in the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Photo Contest.

Contact Steve Ford for details:
620-235-4745
sford@pittstate.edu

Natural Events of Spring

The Missouri Department of Conservation has an interesting and useful calendar that can give you a “heads up” on what is happening in nature. The 2011 Natural Events Calendar can be purchased from The Missouri Department of Conservation Nature Store or contact a Department of Conservation Nature Center.

First week of March:

Ducks & geese start migrating north; begin setting up bluebird boxes; great blue herons begin arriving at heronries; barred owls are nesting; wood ducks nest around wooded ponds

Second week of March:

Bald eagle chicks begin hatching in southern Missouri; bluebirds begin nesting; field sparrows are arriving; American woodcocks begin courtship

Third week of March:

Wild turkeys gobble; purple martins arrive this week; mourning doves are nesting

Fourth week of March:

Canada geese begin nesting; pileated woodpeckers drum to establish territories; swallows return

Fifth week of March:

Double-crested cormorants arrive at wetlands; phoebes return this week

And, this is what is happening with only the birds! You will need to buy the calendar to get the “rest of the story”.



Annual Sperry-Galigar Picnic!
Thursday, May 26th, 6:30pm
Homer Cole Community Building
3003 N. Joplin, Pittsburg

Just a reminder to **mark your calendars** for the annual event. We will have some good pot-luck dishes to sample, an excellent program on restoring wildflowers in a native prairie by Max Good, and the results of the photo contest. More details later.

**Application for Membership
Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society**

For an introductory rate of \$20.00 you will become a member of both organizations, receive 4 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and the Sperry-Galligar Newsletter.

For rate of \$15.00 you will become a member of Sperry-Galligar Audubon and receive the regular 8 newsletters per year informing you of all our local activities.

If you wish to join the National as well as the Local Chapter : Please make your check out to: National Audubon Society

If you wish to join just the Local Sperry Galligar Audubon : Please make your check out to Sperry Galligar Audubon.

And mail to:

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

P.O. Box 205

Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-0205

- ☐ YES I wish to become a member, of both organizations (\$20.00)
☐ YES I wish to become a member of the local chapter only (\$15.00)

Name _____

Please Print

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Chapter Code: J 10 7XCH



Financial Statement January, 2011

Beginning balance-----\$3740.46

Debits

Newsletter-----\$ 17.20
 Stamps (300)-----\$264.00
 Labels for newsletter-----\$ 9.76
 Postage for mailing shirt-----\$ 5.00

Total-----\$ 295.96

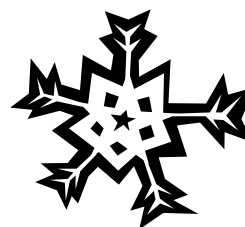
Credits

Local Dues-----\$ 15.00
 Shirt and postage-----\$ 20.00

Total-----\$ 35.00

Ending balance-----\$3479.50

Submitted by
Liz Mangile, Treasurer



Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Newsletter

P.O. Box 205

Pittsburg, KS 66762

Meetings are held the last Thursday of the month. No meetings in June July, or August. (Nov/Dec meeting date to be announced) From 7:00 pm to 9 pm, in Room 102, Yates Hall. PSU Campus, Pittsburg, KS. Refreshments served and Guests Welcome.

**Feb
2011**



Attention All Members

If this box is checked, our records indicate that your membership has expired. Please consider paying local membership dues. Our chapter receives 100% of the local dues only. HOWEVER, you can subscribe to both. Either way you get the newsletter.

