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### News From the Flock, Vol. 2012 Issue 6

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar  
Audubon Chapter  
Officers 2011-2013

President:

Megan Duffee

Vice President:

Mavis Benner

Secretary

Barb Robins

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

Newsletter Editor

Andy Ford

[cford@pittstate.edu](mailto:cford@pittstate.edu)

September Meeting  
7:00 p.m.  
Presentation

September 27, 2012, 7:00

"Their Blood Runs Cold"  
by Jeff Cantrell, MO Dept  
of Conservation. The pro-  
gram features live reptiles.  
Everyone enjoys the reptiles  
with an "up close and personal  
view".

THANKS  
FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES!

September 2012

VOLUME 2012 ISSUE 6

## Ahhh, Summer

Pegg Smith



It will soon be time to go back to school. The summer has been especially wonderful this year. I have been able to get up early and enjoy the sunrise and all my visitors, from my pretend wicker chair in my screened in porch with a good cup of fresh ground coffee, and a good orange cat on my lap.

Of course, I have had to do just a bit of preparation. I get up in the dark and fill the bird feeders. I place stale bread along the ground below the feeder that is near the back porch. I clean and re-fill the four bird-baths and the humming bottle. I put out dog food along one trail for the fox, and cat food along another for the feral cat. Then I make the coffee, and settle in to watch.

The fox comes along first in those early pre-dawn minutes. As I get older my eyesight isn't what it used to be, but many days he comes to eat breakfast, checks out the yard, gets a drink and moves on. He is skinny, skinny. I started feeding him when I noticed that he was eating bird seed from the ground feeder. Poor fellow. He still looks like ears on a stick, but I feel better.

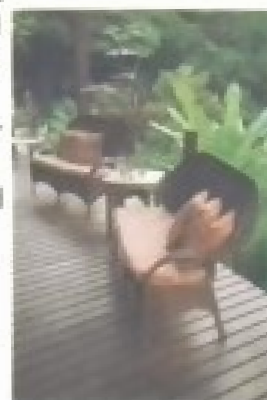
Then the cat comes along. She won't let me even look at her orange and white spots. But the bowl is far enough away from me that she will eat her breakfast, then skitter

off. Very soon the cardinals come in to eat. As light is gradually getting brighter the sparrow and brown thrasher come in.

Then the turtle, Spot, moves out from the base of the house toward the bread that is on the ground. Then I jump up and get his cooked chicken and fruit. I easily walk out and place his breakfast in front of him. He pulls in his head, but is ready to eat when I leave. Then he walks over to the in-ground shallow bird bath and takes a little turtle bath walk through. And then back to the house or under the bushes. He has one little section scraped on his back, so I know it is him.

Full sunrise brings many more birds and the hummers. The hummingbird feeder is about three feet from my chair. They don't seem to mind me. But they sure do argue a lot with each other. Of course there is another feeder across the yard for the loser.

But now, the lazy days of summer are gone. I still get a few minutes in the chair in the morning. But my early mornings are walking the new dog I rescued from the pound, which is a whole other wonderful story. Just ask me about my dog, Tilly.



Please send your bluebird fledgling numbers to Bob Mangile by September 30.

Pittsburg State University (Kansas)



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The May 2012 Annual Picnic closed a successful Audubon year. Join us this year for more good times, exciting programs, chances to learn about birds and wildlife, and meet new folks.



Linda Phipps, Southeast Kansas Nature Center, thanks Sperry-Galligar for sponsoring the beautiful snowy owl taxidermy.

### Board Meeting Highlights Barb Robins, Secretary

**Attending:** Mavis Benner, Meagan Duffee, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Martha Price, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan, Eric Yates

**Call To Order (Meagan):** 5:10 p.m.

**Committee Reports:**

**President (Meagan):** Due to a class schedule conflict, she cannot attend the fall meetings. Vice-President

Mavis will serve as interim president till January.

**Treasurer's Report (Liz):** We currently have \$3,172.81 in the checking account. She handed out the annual treasurer's report through July 2012.

**Membership (Diane):** She gave us a written summary of meeting attendance for 2011-2012. The average attendance at 8 meetings was 40.

**Refreshments:** It was agreed that we'll continue the present system of sign-ups for each meeting.

**Meeting Time and Place:** It will continue as last year: the last Thursday of the month, board on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Heckert Wells Hall, 6 p.m.; general meeting at 7:00 in Room 102, Yates Science Hall.

**Photo Contest:** After discussion, Meagan volunteered to talk to her photography class and instructor to determine if there is any interest in their participating. Bring other ideas to future meetings.

**Bird Seed Sale:** Delia will book a date at the mall.

**Community Project:** Perhaps a program on bird calls? Discussion on other ideas will ensue later.

**Spring Picnic:** It will be held at the same location and time.

**Establishing September 1<sup>st</sup> as Start for Local Dues Payment:** It was decided to do so.

**Newsletter:**

Cindy asked us to encourage more members to subscribe to the e-version. The newsletter collection in the PSU and KSHS Archives is complete except perhaps for one issue.

Deadline for newsletter item submission is still the tenth of the month.

**Door Prize:** Do we want to continue? Martha agreed to supply the prizes again; it was moved, seconded, and approved.

**Field Trips:** Mavis will devise a tentative list and bring it to the next meeting.

Bob has scheduled a chimney swift count for September 9.

**Website:** Is it worth an annual \$84 fee to continue it? We agreed it was.

**Programs:** Mavis passed out a tentative schedule.

### Sperry-Galligar Fieldtrip August 18, 2012

Martha Price sent a bird list from the Bushwhacker Conservation Area fieldtrip that she and others attended.

Besides the Bell's Vireo, we saw the following birds: Barred Owl, Mourning Dove, Bluebird, Starling, Red Tail Hawk, Barn Swallow, Meadowlark, Dickcissel, Killdeer, Cowbird, Great Blue Heron, Goldfinch, Crow, Kestrel, Upland Sandpiper, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Mockingbird, Ruff-winged Swallow, Eastern Phoebe, Quail, Eastern Kingbird, Cardinal, Alder Flycatcher, Green Heron, Canada Geese, Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Blue Jay, Yellow Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Turkey Vulture, Indigo Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Brown Thrasher, Carolina Chickadee, Collared Dove, Western Kingbird.

### Meagan Duffee, President

**Hope to see you at the next meeting. We have a great year ahead.**

### Financial Statement Liz Mangile, Treasurer

#### August 2012

Beginning Balance..... \$3376.96

#### Debits

P.O. Box for one year	86.00
Website and Domain	121.87
Chicken for Board Meeting	11.28
Total.....	\$ 219.15

#### Credits

Local Dues	\$ 120.00
Total.....	\$ 120.00

Ending balance..... \$3277.81

## BACK FROM THE AMAZON — DELIA LISTER



It has been just over a month since I have returned from my third trip to the Amazon, and I can almost still hear the toucans whistling, feel the surprisingly soft fur of the 3 toed sloth, and smell the freshness of the air that does not compare to any place I have ever visited.

I first fell in love with the tropical rainforest as a new graduate student in 2004. It was a place I was always fascinated with— I had learned about it in school, seen it on TV, and read about it in National Geographic. All of education in the world, though, cannot really prepare you for the first time you step off of the airplane in Iquitos, Peru. This city is the gateway to the Peruvian Amazon. As you fly into the city, you can see jungle. When you step off the plane, you feel the humidity.

It is still a thirty minute bus ride to the dock through a bustling city that has grown far beyond its capacity and still growing. The city smells of fumes from the moto-taxis and open markets. Not quite the jungle you expected just yet. After a day and a half of travel you finally get on a boat that will take you to your final destination. The Amazon Rainforest! At this point you are so excited you have forgotten all about the uncomfortable plane rides, the lack of sleep, and all of the things you should be doing back home. The farther away you get from the city, the farther away from "real life" you get. Instead of cars, you begin to see dug-out canoes. Instead of grocery stores and fast food restaurants, you see people with fishing nets or harvesting bananas, rice, and manioc. Open air, thatched roof houses are the standard living quarters.

During our experience we stayed in a series of lodges, built in the same style and with the same sustainable materials used by the locals along the Amazon. We slept under mosquito nets and ate local food. The guides that lead us are the ultimate interpreters. Most have grown up in the jungle, and have knowledge far beyond what can be gained by going to a University— although many are college educated. Our guide for this particular trip was Celso. He knew where to find all of the classic Amazon Rainforest wildlife, by trail and by boat, from toucans and monkeys to anacondas and piranha. But, he didn't just point out a bunch of animals. He could mimic their calls, tell of their natural history, and how they were part of the larger ecology of the forest. He was just as good, if not better, at telling of the local folklore and/or medicinal uses associated with nearly every plant at which you could point. He could explain the cultural/social issues of the people in a way that was easy to understand.

We were given the opportunity to visit with a local shaman as well as an American physician who gave up her own practice to setup shop in the jungle. We visited local villages to get an idea of what daily life was really like for ribereños, or river people. There is no better way of giving someone from a developed country a deep sense of appreciation of where they come from, and what they have been given in this life than to speak with all of these people.

One of the best parts of the experience for me on this particular trip was getting to introduce students to this world, and to see their passion develop for this place that I will never grow tired of visiting. It is nearly impossible to put into words everything you see, feel, or learn. There is not enough space in this newsletter anyway. If you would like to join me in 2014 to see for yourself, feel free to contact me!

## Up to Canada with Mavis and Ray Benner

Passports in hand, Ray and Mavis Benner crossed the bridge to Canada in May 2012. Then the pair met with a Road Scholar group of 20 very good birders and traveled by van to Simco, Ontario, Canada. The next morning the group birded Long Point Park along with some woodlands and marshes. The next day Chatham was the stop for over for another night. The Rondeau Conservation Area was swarming with various warblers all decked out in breeding plumage. Other stops for the birding group along the shores of Lake Erie were wetlands and other woodlands and fields. The last two nights were in Learnington, Ontario, the Tomato Capital of Canada. This is

the location for Point Pelee Park. No mechanical calling devices or "pschissing" are allowed in the state or national parks. The guide, Tony Peck, and his wife, Nina, had expert ability to hear the birds and pointed out their locations and species by calls. A total of 147 species for the group was recorded. Highlights were the blackburnian, Cape May, and black-throated blue warblers along with the black-billed cuckoo. The drumming of a ruffed grouse was heard in a woodland but was never spotted. Also seen were several scarlet tanagers and unaccountable numbers of yellow warblers and Baltimore orioles. The finale of the trip was a tour of the Pelee Island Winery, where the

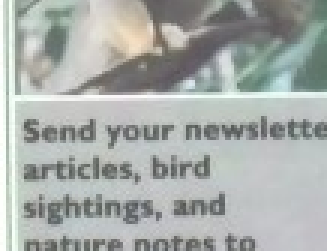
## Delia's Sightings.....



Houcan



Houcan



Houcan

Houcan

Houcan

Houcan

Houcan

Houcan

Send your newsletter articles, bird sightings, and nature notes to C. Ford by Oct 10.

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

For first-time local membership, send \$20.00 and you will become a member of both organizations, receive 4 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and 8 copies of Sperry-Galligar Newsletter. Please make your check to: National Audubon Society.

\_\_\_\_ YES I wish to become a FIRST-TIME member of both organizations (\$20.00).

To renew your membership, send \$15.00 and you will become a member of Sperry-Galligar Audubon and receive the regular 8 newsletters per year informing you of all our local activities. Please make your check to: Sperry-Galligar Audubon

\_\_\_\_ YES I wish to become a RENEWING member of the local chapter (\$15.00).

Future National Renewals: Contact National directly for Audubon Magazine.

Mail to:  
**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society**  
P.O. Box 205  
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-0205

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Code: C22J100Z



**WITH A SONG IN YOUR "HEAD"  
Martha Price**

Sometimes hunting for birds does not always depend on eyesight alone. Charlie and Carolyn Chips and Martha Price saw an e-mail that Larry Herbert had seen Bell's Vireo at Bushwhacker Lake Conservation Area, east and north of Prairie State Park, MO. We decided we would try to add this little bird to our life list. Knowing it would be hard to find in vegetation we listened to our favorite bird song website for the Bell's song over and over and over again until we thought we had the song in our heads.

On August the 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday we three birders headed east for Bushwhacker Lake. We found the lake and worked our way to a parking area. There were well maintained trails to the lake with lots of vegetation and trees for little birds to hide in. We had no idea just where Larry had spotted the vireo. They could have been anywhere and our location could have been way off. This would be pure luck to find our query.

Wait—was I playing the bird's song in my head I had been thinking so hard on finding it. No, the sound was coming from a clump of sumac along the trail. It is the same sound I had heard over and over on the website. Then I saw the little drab gray-green bird with white to yellow underparts and faint wingbars. Down the path the Chips seemed to have spotted one also. They came back up the path to my location and listened to my birds singing. What a thrill; another life bird for all of us. Without the song in our "head" the singing we had heard would have meant nothing to us. Now we also had the Bell's Vireo song in our heart as well. Another great day.



**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.

**Visit our website:**

<http://sperry-galligar.com/>

**Attention All  
Members**

**Pay membership dues in September.** 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.