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News From the Flock, Vol. 2007 Issue 4

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

SGAS Officers

2006-2007

President:

Dr. Steve Ford

Vice President:

Jim Brumfield

Secretary

Diane McCallum

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

APRIL 2007

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4

The Tropical Connection

At the March 2007 Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society meeting, Jeff Cantrell spoke about the state of affairs taking place in the Americas that have depleted the neotropical migrant bird populations in the past few decades. Though Cantrell mentioned some posi-

tive things taking place it is difficult to ignore how the steady destruction of breeding grounds and destruction of food sources in North America and the unsatisfactory conditions in their wintering grounds in Central and South America are taking a toll on our bird populations.

Some bird species

populations have reached such low numbers that they have trouble finding a mate during the breeding season in N. America. Without reproductive success a rapid decrease



in their numbers takes place. At some point their low numbers reach a point

where recovery is almost impossible without the strict protection of breeding and wintering grounds.

Populations have endured for thousands of years in the face of all of the "natural" limiting elements, i.e., diseases, predators, etc. But modern day factors like win-

dow kills, tower kills, road kills, pesticides and unnatural predators like domestic cats have eliminated millions annually from an ever dwindling population of most all birds species.

Cantrell stressed the point that we have better management control of species that are year round residents than those that migrate because we can gain an understanding of their entire life cycle. However, many Neotropical migrant species live a dual lifestyle, i.e., eating insects in North America and feeding on seeds and berries in South America and literally occupying a different niche in each place. Sound management at one end will not insure survivability at the other end.

Special Note...

Check your e-mail or contact a board member for details about the SGAS annual picnic!

MEETING TIME We will begin our

meetings at

7:30 P.M.

**Yates Hall Room 102.
On the last Thursday
of the month**

Trip to St. Paul Refuge

Ten birders started the morning of March 31st, by having a delicious breakfast at a small café in Girard and then headed out to St. Paul Refuge. It was a cool blustery morning but we were all eager to start Spring birding. The refuge had plenty of water and the roads were good to drive on.

The first bird we saw was a Downy Woodpecker and saw several more through out the morning along with a Hairy

Woodpecker, which was a good site. We didn't see any warblers, but I guess it is a little early for them.

We had two beginning birders with us; they were Jordyn Newcomb, and Kate McLaughlin. It was really a lot of fun showing them some of the birds that we think of as everyday birds. I had forgotten how great it makes you feel to enjoy teaching others about birding.

Story continues on page 4...

By Liz Mangile

Calendar of Events

April 26th—Green Team Bird Habitat Projects in Kansas By Brad Loveless. *The Green Team has done many projects including the osprey/eagle nesting platform at Bone Creek reservoir. Don't miss this program!*

May 31st—SGAS Annual Picnic

June— August—Summer Hiatus

A Foundation for Nature Reach

As most of you know by now, I have officially taken over as the director of PSU's Nature Reach Program. I have met many of you, but I am sure there are a few folks out there to whom I have yet to introduce myself.

I grew up in Clearwater, KS, which is a small town just outside of Wichita, KS. I was raised by my grandmother, and from a young age I was outside exploring and helping her in the garden. Looking back I know she was the person who instilled in me a love of the outdoors and nature in general.

I came to PSU as a college freshman in 1999, and five years later received a BS in Biology Education. Two and a half years later I received a MS in Biology. For the past 3 years I assisted the previous director, Sarah McCoy, and learned everything I possibly could about Nature Reach and what it means to be a natural history educator. Other experiences such as being a resident assistant and student ambassador

helped strengthen the much needed time management, organization, and leadership skills necessary for this position.

After taking over as a grad student last June, and officially just this past December I have set many goals for myself and the program. One of the most important of these goals is the sustainability of the program. We have been in existence since 1985, and yet few people in the community know we exist or that we are only *partially* funded by PSU. So, every year it is a battle to scrape enough money together to get us to the next year. The PSU administration has been nothing but supportive of the program, BUT there is a limit to what they can do.

So how can we solve this problem? I believe the answer lies in the establishment of a foundation. This would give us a much needed stable funding source and allow us to make much needed improvements to the program. Some of these

improvements would include updating cages, providing a healthier diet for our animals, and purchasing program materials.

The foundation goal is set at \$300,000.00. This is a lot of money, but I think with a lot of effort on the part of several individuals and/or organizations this is a goal that can be attained. Recent press has given us hope.

After reading about our struggles in a recent edition of the Collegio (PSU newspaper), we have received approximately \$7,500.00 so far from concerned individuals in the community. This money is earmarked for the building of four new raptor cages. In addition, Westar Energy's Green Team has agreed to build and provide additional building materials to complete the new raptor caging as well as renovate three older cages. Estimated completion date is June 2007.

Most recently, the manager of Meadowbrook Mall in Pitts-

burg has offered to donate all coins thrown in the mall fountain during the month of April.

In addition, we have teamed up with PSU technology to build a new lab facility which will partly be used for the care and maintenance of our raptors. Tech students over the past few years have helped design and build this building and thanks to the seed money provided by the SGAS, estimated completion will be December 2007.

As you can see we are beginning to take great strides in the program, but much more is needed. Any financial help is greatly appreciated; however, we will need big donations to reach our goal. So, spread the word to donate, remember us in your will, and keep us in mind when you get that tax return back from Uncle Sam. Also, don't forget to visit the mall and toss your coins in the fountain. I hope to have many updates for you in the future, and am looking to the progress in the coming months ahead.

By Delia Lister

Global Warming: Is Time Running Out? (Part II)

Submitted by Jim Brumfield

Russian scientists warn that 70 to 80 billion tons of methane and other carbon compounds, with 20 times carbon dioxide's heat trapping capacity per molecule, may soon escape into the atmosphere as permafrost thaws in Siberia. This release could trigger catastrophic increases in global warming. All over the world, insects are killing millions of acres of forest because winter freeze no longer occurs to slow the insects. In the United States, native bark bee-

ties are striking millions of trees, yielding unprecedented forest diebacks.

Based on such changes, leading scientists are issuing warnings that we now have less than 10 years to curb carbon dioxide emissions. James Hansen of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has warned that if we do not

get a grip on this threat, we will create a fundamentally "different planet."

Little wonder. We have embarked on a massive planetary experiment outside the range of human experience, putting nearly a trillion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in the past 150 years, raising atmospheric CO₂ levels by more than 36 percent.



The good news is that we still have time to act to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis—if we act now.

To be continued...

Next month: What you and I can do about global warming.

Reprinted with permission from the August/September 2006 issue of National Wildlife magazine. Copyright 2006 by the National Wildlife Federation.

Original Author:
Larry J. Schweiger

Minutes for the Meeting

President Steve Ford opened the meeting with a positive message that the return of spring means more birds and frogs can be seen and heard.

The nominating committee is accepting nominations for officers for next year. Voting will take place at the April meeting. Anyone wishing to volunteer or nominate someone may contact one of the committee members: John Hartley, Mavis Benner and Liz Mangile.

Liz then gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$6,947.62. Steve requested suggestions on conservation-oriented causes that would be suitable for the group's funding.

Bob Mangile announced the final call for the Backyard Habitat forms.

They will be sent in one week from today.

Bob reported that SGAS has donated a wooden park bench to Wilderness Park. It was built with assistance from Bob Hurt, and it is installed near the bulletin board at the entrance to the park.

Bob also reported that he received certificates for a sighting of trumpeter swans during the Liberal, MO, Christmas Bird Count. The certificates were available for viewing.

Steve thanked B. Robins and C. Newcomb for the refreshments and asked those in attendance to sign up for the door prizes.

Bob then introduced Jeff Cantrell, a naturalist with the Missouri De-

partment of Conservation, who gave a presentation on "The Four States' Tropical Connection."

Steve then reminded members that the club has a copy of the DVD "An Inconvenient Truth," which is available for loan.

The winners of the door prizes were D. McCallum and W. Roths.

Mavis reported that there will be a bird walk on March 31. Members will meet at 7:00 for breakfast at a café in Girard and then drive to the Neosho Wildlife Refuge.

There will be a wildflower tour at Schermerhorn Park, near Galena, on April 21.

The meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting will be on April 26, 2007

By Diane McCallum

Check Out
the Web Site:

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

For Last
Minute Field
Trip Notices.



Red-Cockaded
Woodpecker

What would we do?

There are only 15,000 endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers in the U.S. There numbers are so low because they only nest in live pine trees where they gouge out a series of holes around a tree trunk so that the sap will run and discourage black snakes. It can take up to six years for a pair of woodpeckers to gouge out a nest hole so they are very territorial. The area around Boiling Spring Lakes, N.C. is very attractive to these woodpeck-

ers because long ago people carved V-shaped notches in pine trees to gather pine sap for making turpentine. These V-shaped cuts attracted fungus and made it easier for the woodpeckers to excavate their nest holes. There are sixteen active woodpecker clusters in the town of Boiling Spring Lakes, and the U.S. fish and game service announced it was drawing up plans to designate who neighborhoods as protected habitat

for the woodpeckers-making them subject to more stringent building restrictions. Hoping to beat the regulations, landowners have cleared thousands of trees from lots because, without trees, the lots would not be subject to regulation. Scarred brown bark is all that is left of pine stands. Once tree-covered waterfront lots have been stripped down to sandy wasteland. People have held lots for years waiting for the value of the land

to appreciate and they are protecting their investment. What would we have done if we had been in their place? The mayor has stated that the beauty of the city has been ruined, and city commissioners are considering a one year moratorium on lot-clearing permits.



By John and Julie Hartley

Board Meeting Minutes

By Diane McCallum

Members present were Steve Ford, Bob and Liz Mangile, Jim Brumfield, Barb Robins, Mavis Benner, Carol Newcomb, Diane McCallum and Delia Lister.

After a recap of last month's meeting, the board received the Treasurer's report.

Dr. Jim Triplett of PSU has asked the board to write a letter of recommendation for him to be re-instated to the Basin Advisory Committee for the Neosho River. The board unanimously approved.

The nominating committee reported that they have a full slate of officers for next year.

Forms for the backyard habitat program will be due at the general meeting tonight.

Bob Brister, of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, would like to present a program that would include a slide show, "Wild Utah," to be followed by an update

on Utah wilderness issues and a request for attendees to write postcards to their state/federal representatives. After much discussion, the board agreed to contact Mr. Brister about presenting the program. Mavis also suggested having a program on chimney swifts.

Bob reported on a new bench that SGAS has donated to Wilderness Park. The board agreed to pay the cost to purchase signs reading "Donated by Sperry-Galligar Audubon," to be installed on the bench (see photo).

The board discussed possible methods of archiving the board/regular meeting minutes. The secretary will send condensed minutes of the board meeting to the newsletter editor, to be published in smaller print. The general meeting notes will also be in the newsletter, which is archived in several locations. The board also discussed the title of the newsletter.

Delia reported that April will be Nature



Reach month at Meadowbrook Mall, and there will be more publicity for Nature Reach in the coming weeks.

Steve asked the board to consider ideas for the May picnic. The meeting was adjourned.

**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
By Liz Mangile**

Balance as of 03/01/07—————\$6983.23

CREDITS:

4 Memberships—————\$65.00

TOTAL CREDITS—————\$65.00

DEBITS:

Newsletter for March—————\$ 19.58

Name Plates—————\$16.03
(For Bench at Wilderness Park)

TOTAL DEBITS—————\$35.61

BALANCE as of 04/06/07—————\$7012.62

Trip to St. Paul (Cont.)

In all we saw 35 species of birds, several turtles and one large soft shelled turtle. It was about 17 inches long. After we looked at it, and Carol Newcomb had her picture taken holding it, Bob put it in the water and we watched it swim off. What a great day to be out and enjoy nature and great friends!



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 7:30 pm to 9 pm, in Room 102, Yates Hall. PSU Campus, Pittsburg, Kansas. Refreshments served and Guests Welcome.

Articles for submission may be sent to

SGAS Newsletter editor-

Delia Lister

delialister@hotmail.com OR dalister@pittstate.edu

Published monthly

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April 2007



**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