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News From the Flock, Vol. 2013 Issue 5

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:

Meagan Duffee

Vice President:

Mavis Benner

Secretary

Barb Robins

Treasurer

Liz Mangle

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

cford@pittstate.edu

May 2013

VOLUME 2013 ISSUE 5

Test your knowledge on these female birds!

MATCH THE MALE WITH THE FEMALE BIRD



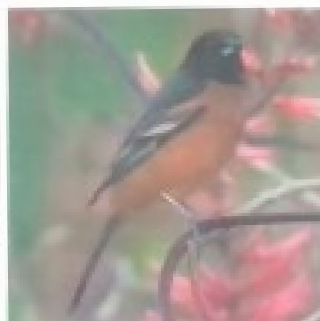
1. Baltimore oriole



2. Summer tanager



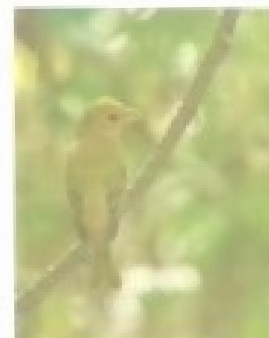
A



3. Orchard oriole



4. Scarlet tanager



B



Females are quite different from the males, but similar to other species of brightly-colored birds.

For answers, check your favorite bird identification book or look on page 3 of this newsletter.



C



D

May Meeting
6:00 p.m.

Homer Cole Bldg.
3003 N. Joplin St.
Presentation

May 30— "Learning More
about Nature through Pho-
tography" by Donna Smith

Come enjoy the beautiful
photographs that Donna
has taken. She may even
give you some helpful tips
to improve your own
photography.

To receive an e-newsletter:
send your e-mail address to
Cindy Ford, Editor.

Thank you to those of you who
sent articles to me this year. I
need MORE ARTICLES to produce
an interesting club newsletter!
The next newsletter is in the fall.
Hope to hear from YOU.

Pittsburg State University (Kansas)



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Board Meeting Highlights Barb Robins, Secretary

Attending: Mavis Benner, Meagan Duffee, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane

McCallum, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan.

Call To Order (Meagan): 6:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$4,465.71

Events: Meagan reminded us of tonight's program and the picnic on May 30.

Field Trips: None are currently scheduled.

Project for Education/Conservation (Steve): The grounds of the Sperry property on S. College sorely need maintaining—perhaps our chapter could have a couple of work days a year to help clean and trim. A related item: the original "swayback" mining shack has been torn down, and some people want to see it rebuilt. Would our chapter want to make a monetary contribution to that project? We can discuss it later.

Election of Officers: Meagan Corrigan has agreed to serve as vice president; we still need a presidential nominee. Steve will ask the general membership again tonight.

Others: Mavis mentioned that Pittsburg Beautiful is cleaning up the bypass this weekend and we might want to participate.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35.

Thanks to Elma Hurt for the refreshments at the last meeting. If you would like to help with refreshments at the meetings, please contact Liz Mangile to get details. If you need to find out if you are already on the list for this year, please check the Sperry-Galligar Audubon website.

Financial Statement Liz Mangile, Treasurer

April 2013

Beginning Balance \$ 4,480.68

Debits

Newsletter

Total \$ 14.97

Credits

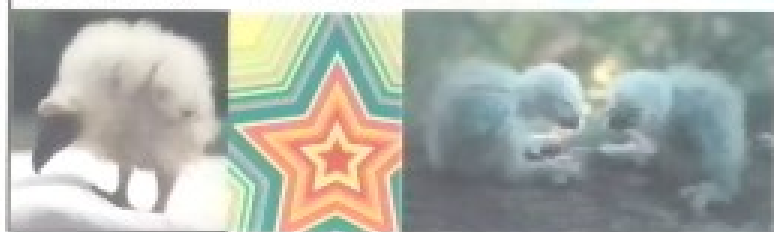
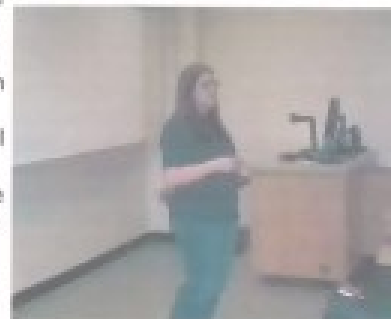
Postage, ant molts, t-shirts

Total \$ 49.20

Ending balance \$ 4,514.91

April Audubon Presentation Delia Lister

How can you tell the difference between a Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawk? Which is uglier, a baby owl or baby vulture? In Delia Lister's program, "Are You Smarter Than the Average Birder?" we learned the answers, as well as other ID tips. Some of the factors to consider are shape, color, size, behavior, habitat, time of year, and call/song. Delia's selections from the internet demonstrated all of these in one form or another, as well as a couple of egg IDs. All levels of experience of birders in the audience were challenged and were prompted to share their own stories and tips. Surely everyone could agree that all babies aren't cute. Barb Robins



General Meeting Happenings — April 2013

Cindy Ford, tonight's substitute for President, Meagan Duffee, welcomed us and reminded us that our picnic is on May 30 at 6:00-9:00, Homer Cole Center. Please sign the sheet that is circulating to indicate a side dish you will bring.

Bird Sightings: White-winged dove, Double-crested cormorant, Catbird, Osprey, American bittern, Pied-billed and eared grebes, Green heron, Western kingbird, Ruby-throated hummingbird, Prothonotary warbler, Yellow-rumped warbler, Northern parula, Killdeer.

Bob Mangile announced that the Kansas Herpetological Society is having its annual meeting/herp count at Schermerhorn Park this weekend. If you want to learn more about IDing reptiles and amphibians and help trap them, you can join them.

We need a president to round out the slate for next year. Please contact a board member if you're interested.

Barb Robins

DOOR PRIZES

Hummingbird Feeder - SGAS door prize won by Mary Kilcher. Dozen eggs donated by Carol Newcomb won by A O Brown. Three boxes Girl Scout Cookies donated by Julie Hartley won by Mavis Benner, Peggy Snyder and Lucy Bednekoff. Two-pack tube hummingbird feeders won by Calvin Cassidy, Dave Henness, G. Bush, Bob Sheverbush and Kris Mijares.

Critter Connections by Bob Mangile



There are several species of cicada (sometimes called Harvest Flies) in the US the one most common in our area is the Dog Days Cicada (*Tibicen pruinosa*). Most likely you've heard their late evening zio, zio, zio or weeee-oh, weeee-oh, weeee-oh song coming from the treetops during late summer. And this is the time of year we also find their cast skins on trees, buildings and foundations. Though we might refer to them as locusts they are more accurately called cicadas. "Locusts" gather in large swarms in Africa - they look like, and are akin to, grasshoppers.

Being a curious person (a friend once called me "nosey") I used to go out at night with a flashlight and

find the critters that left behind those cast skins. They look like prehistoric monsters slowly crawling up a tree or a other structure that offers a grip. derground for years sucking the roots at depths of several feet. or nymphal stage of the Cicada! on a short stick, then mount the ward (e.g., in a vise), and watch top, become immobile, and start split in the top of their shell

you want to fascinate your kids, and yourself, give it a try! The newly emerged adult must have time (several hours) to dry its wings before it is able to fly. It is a lengthy process that I recorded, in time lapse, on a VCR on my kitchen table.

As kids we would try to locate and capture the singing adults in a neighboring thicket but that task was difficult because they are great ventriloquists, producing a sound that seems to come from all directions. But they often come to night-lights where they are easier to catch. They are harmless and make steady buzzing sound when caught. Adults only live a few weeks but the entire life cycle can vary from a two years to 17 years in the Periodical Cicada (often called 17-year locust). Unlike butterflies that undergo a complete metamorphosis, i.e., the egg, larva, pupa and the adult, the cicada has no pupa stage (incomplete metamorphosis). Females lay eggs in slits she makes in tree twigs that hatch into nymphs in about six-week and fall to the ground. They grow through five instars - the fifth and final instar crawls out of the ground, which then molts into an adult. # # #



WORLD'S OLDEST DOCUMENTED WILD BIRD STILL BREEDING - Wisdom, a Laysan albatross thought to be at least 62 years old, has hatched a chick at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Wisdom was first banded in 1956 while incubating an egg and was estimated to be at least 5 years old (that is the minimum age of reproduction, though age 8 or 9 is more typical). Since then, according to Bruce Peterjohn, she has worn out 5 bird bands, logged an estimated 50,000 miles in flight, and produced 30-35 chicks.

Max Thompson, Winfield, KS

Sightings.....



The Egrets



Great egret



Common egret



Cattle egret

1 — D 2 — C
3 — B 4 — A

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

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

For first-time National Audubon membership, send \$20.00 and become a member of both organizations, receive 6 copies of Audubon Magazine annually and 8 copies of Sperry-Galligar Newsletter. Please make your check to: Sperry-Galligar Audubon.

YES I wish to become a FIRST-TIME member of National Audubon and Sperry-Galligar Audubon. (\$20.00).

For only local or renewal membership, send \$15.00 for membership of Sperry-Galligar Audubon and receive the 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 Audubon renewals: Send Audubon mailer forms directly to National.

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

Please Print



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____



**Events,
&
Miscellany**

Audubon May Picnic

Our May picnic will be May 30 from 6:00 PM till 9:00 PM at Homer Cole Community Center the same place we had it the last couple of years. The club will buy the chicken. In order for us to know how much chicken to order there will be a list sent around at our April meeting. You can also call Liz Mangle at 231-3117 or email Liz with the information at lawnmowerliz@cox.net.

Bring your own table service.

Want More Audubon?

How about a trip to the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA, July 12—15 to attend the Audubon Convention 2013?



Plenty of fun options to
explore the art and
science of birds
In-depth workshops
Fabulous fieldtrips
Delicious lunch & beer
music & great listening
Incredible scenery in the
Pacific Northwest

Learn more about the convention by visiting
<http://eidertnk.audubon.org/trk/r.emt>



**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.