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News From the Flock, Vol. 2014 Issue 5

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

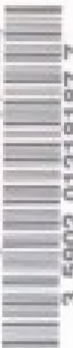
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Sperry-Galligar
Audubon Chapter

Officers 2011-2013

President:

Wayne Bockelman

Vice President:

Megan Corrigan

Secretary:

Barb Robins

Treasurer:

Liz Mangle

Newsletter Editor:

Cindy Ford

cford@pittstate.edu

May Meeting
Thursday, 6:00 p.m.
Homer Cole Center
3003 Joplin St.
Presentation

**May 19 — "Photographing
Prairie Chickens" by
Nappadol Paothong,
Columbia, MO**

Revel in beautiful photographs of one of the icons of the native prairie: prairie chickens. Nappadol will have his book available for sale after the presentation.

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

NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

May 2014

VOLUME 2014 ISSUE 5

The Year in Retrospective from your President Wayne Bockelman

Our upcoming May picnic will bring to a close another successful year of monthly programs. It's a good time to take a look at all those who made it possible and who made the job of serving as president so easy.

I don't know why my mind goes here first, but haven't the refreshments been great? We have been putting up fliers advertising our meetings this year, and it says "free and open to the public." But it doesn't mention free food. I fear if word got out, we might be overwhelmed. Let them come for the people and the program, and be surprised by the pastries. Moreover, if refreshments weren't so fine, I'm afraid that people would just take a seat and sit, instead of walking down to the front of the room and talking to each other.

Thanks to all who helped.

Oh, yes, the fliers. Each month Bob Mangle finds just the right photo to illustrate sturgeon or subspecies, muscles or martins, and adds a colorful description in red and blue text. The folks at Quick Print have come to know me as I pick up the fliers and make like Santa Claus, with a delivery to every bulletin board on campus and beyond.

Still, queen of illustration must be Cindy Ford. Take a moment to look at the pages upon which you read these words. Each month Cindy puts out a beautiful, well-designed newsletter with locally-written articles, to make our club proud. Oh yes, the articles — I thank each one of you who has written an article for the newsletter. Even more, Cindy thanks each one

of you who has written an article for the newsletter! Among those who do is Barb Robins. She not only keeps the minutes of the monthly meeting as well as the Board of Directors meetings, Barb also writes an article on each month's program. It's a joy to be able to easily look back a couple of months to find the name of that bird or fish or clam that was mentioned.

Those programs do not just happen. Megan Corrigan has done a fantastic job this year finding speakers and bringing them in from several states in the area. For our last meeting of the year, Noppadol Paothong will come from Columbia, Missouri, to show photographs of prairie chickens and sage grouse, taken over many years and published in his book. Unlike in December, we trust that this time ice and snow on the road will not be a problem.

That's something we didn't think of. We need an officer in charge of weather.

Thanks to Della for coordinating field trips, Barb for being the first

person at every meeting carrying coffee, Steve for filling in on such short notice, Diane and Liz for keeping our membership list and dues up to date, Mavis for being there for any task, Emmett for his experienced wisdom, Bob for doing more things than any of us have yet figured out, and Liz for letting him know when to stop.

We thank all of you who have attended our meetings, gone on a field trip, or helped with the annual bird seed sale. You have made Sperry-Galligar a fine chapter of the Audubon Society.



ANNUAL SPERRY-GALLIGAR PICNIC

Join us for the indoor picnic at the Homer Cole Community Center at 6:00 on May 29th. Fried chicken will be provided by the club. Bring a side dish of salad, veggie, or dessert. Bring your own table service. We will have the picnic rain or shine.

Please R.S.V.P. Liz or Bob Mangle (231-3117).
See you there.

Board Meeting Highlights Barb Robins, Secretary

Attending: Wayne Bockelman, Cindy & Steve Ford, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan.

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

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$4,224.29

Publicity: The e-mail and newspaper reminders and campus postings have possibly increased our program attendance.

Election of Officers: Will be held tonight at the general meeting. Current officers have all agreed to serve next year.

Picnic, May 29: Preparations are all made. Bob will book the Homer Cole Center for next year.

Field Trip: Wayne will announce the May 3 trip to Parsons at the general meeting tonight.

Other: Diane will have a book signing at Hastings on April 26, 1-3 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Financial Statement Liz Mangile, Treasurer

May 2014

Beginning Balance	\$4,231.59
Debits	
Newsletter Printing	\$ 7.30
Homer Cole Bldg Rental	60.00
Total Debits	\$ 67.30
Ending Balance	\$4,164.29

General Meeting Notes

Bird Sightings: Baltimore oriole, Ruby-throated hummingbird, Scissor-tailed flycatcher, shorebirds at Neosho Wildlife Area, Chipping sparrows, nesting Carolina wren, White-eyed vireo.

President Wayne Bockelman announced that the next (and last of the year) meeting will be the picnic May 29, Homer Cole Center, at 6 p.m. Missouri photographer Nappadol Poathong will be our guest presenter. Please bring a side dish and table service, and RSVP to Liz Mangile for a fried chicken count.

We have been invited by the Parsons chapter to join them at the recently-created Grand Osage Wildlife Area (formerly the Army Ammunition Plant) on May 3. We will meet to carpool at 7 a.m. on the north side of the mall parking lot, or you may meet us at 23000 and Rooks roads, Parsons.

The election of officers for next year produced the same slate as the current one: Wayne Bockelman, President; Megan Corrigan, Vice President; Liz Mangile, Treasurer; and Barb Robins, Secretary.

Barb Robins

April Meeting Presenter Bruce Hallman

From last month's program on ancient mussels, we continued in a prehistoric frame of mind to view and hear about the pallid sturgeon (paddlefish) tonight from Bruce Hallman. Bruce is an Education Specialist at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery and is always en-
chused to explain the various activities of that facility.



The hatchery has raised different fish species through the years and is presently concentrating on trout and sturgeon, as well as fish that are necessary to native mussels' life cycles. Also of the hatchery's concern are endangered cave fish, the Topeka shiner, and soon, the Ozark hellbender.

The pallid sturgeon, *Scaphirhynchus albus*, translated "white-boated snout", is native to Missouri and Kansas. It stays in our streams rather than migrating to the ocean, as other species do. It can live to 41 years of age and can reach a length of 6 1/2 feet.

The sturgeon was designated an endangered species in 1990 and is the only one of nine U.S. species that is endangered. Its population began to decline in the latter part of the 20th century; factors contributing to its endangerment include being unable to spawn until 15 years of age, habitat modification (dam building), extensive river channelization, hybridizing with the shovelnose sturgeon, and overharvesting.

Because the pallid sturgeon continues to face a very high risk of extinction in the wild, the Neosho hatchery conducts a captive breeding program; Bruce explained the steps involved. Since a female produces about 50,000 eggs, only a few will be caught in the wild each year. The eggs will be implanted in resident females, as well as monitoring chips. The fish eventually will be released in the river.

Bruce encouraged us to visit the hatchery in Neosho and see the beautiful new facility, which is a reproduction of the original 1880s house. The hatchery is celebrating its 126th year.

Barb Robins



Thanks to Donna Smith for the April refreshments and thanks again to all of the refreshment hostesses this year. We are fortunate to have good cooks in our chapter!

I really appreciate all of you who sent in articles this year. I encourage more members to contribute to the newsletter. Write about your nature experiences, your trips where you got to see special animals and plants, bird sightings, and natural musings. I will be looking forward to hearing from YOU next fall.

Bird Magnet Plants

By
Cindy Ford

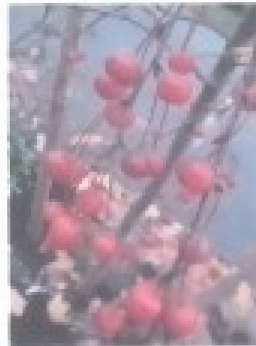
Have you wanted more birds around your house so that you could sit near a window and leisurely watch birds (close to a cinnamon roll and coffee)? Well, it is possible. Plant a few "bird magnet plants" and you will be rewarded through the years.



Do you want hummingbirds? Plant native red columbine and red buckeye and you will have hummers as soon as they arrive in the area. Plant red honeysuckle and cypress vine close to the windows and you will have hummers all summer. Don't bother with those feeders. You will not even need them.



Do you want mockingbirds and cedar waxwings in the winter? Plant deciduous holly or crab apple trees where the red berries set up a competition among birds coveting the fruit. This adds a little drama outside the windows.



Do you want orioles? Plant strawberries, cherries, raspberries. Put in quite a few plants to satisfy your family and the birds who seem to know just when the berries are ripe. (How do they do it?)



Do you want bluebirds, wrens, and phoebes? Plant a vegetable garden with a fence around it. The birds will perch on the fence looking for food in the garden, swoop down to grab a succulent insect (especially during chick-feeding time), and help you maintain the health of your veggies.



If you want to draw birds to your surroundings, trees and shrubs are necessary for cover and security. Plant different sized trees, shrubs that have flowers and berries, and arrange them in corridors or borders. Try to plant as many native plants as possible along with "tried-and-true" nursery plants that possess dual purposes: beauty and usefulness. As they mature, you will soon discover more and more birds making their appearances in your landscape.

Sightings.....



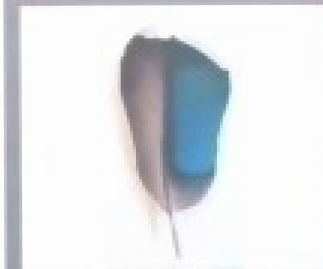
Who belongs to these feathers?



Barred owl



Turkey



Wood duck

How did you do on the quiz?

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**

**Grand Osage Wildlife Area
Fieldtrip**



The Southeast Audubon Chapter invited members of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter to join a field trip to the new Grand Osage Wildlife Area (formerly part of the Parsons Ammunition Plant east of Parsons). The 3,000 acre (approx. 4.7 mi.) area is managed by Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. The area is not open to the general public currently, but future plans include access to the grounds in a couple years.

Native Plant Sale

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery will have native plants for sale at Wildcat Glades and Audubon Center, May 24. Prairie and woodland plant selections available, along with information on growing natives around your house.



**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.