

Pittsburg State University

## Pittsburg State University Digital Commons

---

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society Newsletters

Organizations

---

5-2015

### News From the Flock, Vol. 2015 Issue 5

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/sgasnewsletter>

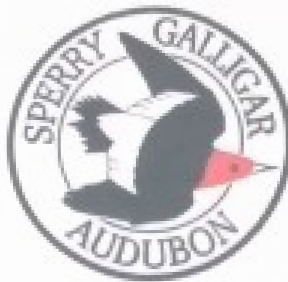
---

#### Recommended Citation

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society, "News From the Flock, Vol. 2015 Issue 5" (2015). *Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society Newsletters*. 66.

<https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/sgasnewsletter/66>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Organizations at Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@pittstate.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@pittstate.edu).



# NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar  
Audubon Chapter  
Officers 2013 - 2015

President:

Wayne Sockelman

Vice President:

Megan Corrigan

Secretary

Barb Robins

Treasurer

Liz Mangile

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

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

May 2015

VOLUME 2015 ISSUE 5

## Annual Sperry-Galligar Picnic Planned for May Meeting

Just a reminder of the upcoming picnic for Sperry-Galligar Audubon. The picnic will be May 28th, 6:00PM at Homer Cole Community Center, 3003 North Joplin in Pittsburg.

You will need to bring your own table service (plate, cup, fork, knife, and cup or glass). The club will furnish fried chicken, tea, and coffee. You are asked to bring either a dessert or side dish.

If you have not already signed up you will need to let us know if you are coming and how many will be in your party as soon as possible so the chicken can be ordered.

Contact Liz Mangile at 620-232-3117 or e-mail [lawnmowerliz@cox.net](mailto:lawnmowerliz@cox.net)

## Join us for an exciting program following the picnic.

### Passenger Pigeon Lost – Red Cockaded Woodpecker Saved?

"Passenger pigeons lived in the eastern United States from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, breeding in their northern habitats and wintering in the southern part of the range. They migrated across this range in numbers so huge that their flocks darkened the sky. A writer once described a migrating flock of the pigeons as 'A column, eight or ten miles in length...resembling the windings of a vast and majestic river.' In 1808 a single flock in Kentucky was estimated to contain over 2 billion birds. Today, in a stunning example of the human potential for destruction, the passenger pigeon is extinct." *American Museum of Natural History*

*Arkansas – An Ecological Perspective*, will address the issue of the passenger pigeon's demise, and then concentrate on a more happy note. The red cockaded woodpecker just might be saved.

While serving as a wildlife biologist on the Ouachita National Forest, Neal's work focused on the recovery for the federally-listed endangered species, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. His first-hand experiences with this noble effort are enlightening and encouraging. Mr. Neal's "good news" bird program will present an uplifting look at turning an undesirable condition into an optimistic one.



May Meeting  
Thursday, 6:00 p.m.  
Homer Cole Bldg.  
\*\*Presentation\*\*

May 28 — "Passenger Pigeon Lost—Red Cockaded Woodpecker Saved?" by Joe Neal.

See details of meeting at right.



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

Joe Neal, author of numerous books, including, *Arkansas Birds and Birds in Northwest*

## Board Meeting Highlights Barb Robins, Secretary

**Attending:** Marv Benner, Wayne Bockelman, Megan Corrigan, Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Barb Robins, Emmett & Ruth Sullivan.

**Call To Order (Wayne):** 6:10 p.m.

**Minutes:** Read to the group by Barb.

**Treasurer's Report (Liz):** Checking account balance of \$3990.62. Liz passed around the credit union's report on our CDs.

**Picnic:** Joe Neal from Arkansas will give the program. Liz will get the chicken and furnish drinks; members will bring sides and provide their own service. Bob can book the Home Cole Center for next year now; do we want him to do that? The consensus was yes.

**Gifts for Presenters:** Do we want to order more t-shirts? Wayne will ask the membership at tonight's meeting. There are now 35 more birdhouses (there was a building session at Mangile's).

**Ground Feeders:** We now have 25. Steve will bring some to the picnic for sale—price will be \$15.

Liz has an internet site for purchasing a branding iron to label our houses and feeders with our logo.

**Publicity:** Notice of our meeting was in the Morning Sun but not the Globe.

**Refreshments:** Vicky Cassidy and Barbara Simms.

**Newsletter:** We are continually grateful for Cindy's high-quality, off-issued ones.

**Herp Cages:** Materials have been received, and building will begin soon.

**Field Trip:** The Ford house is rescheduled for May 9. Joe Neal will lead a trip to the Prairie State

Park the day after the picnic.

**Microphones for General Meeting Room:** We agreed that it is a good idea to use one.

**Election of Officers:** Tonight at the general meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

## Financial Statement Liz Mangile, Treasurer

### May 2015

Beginning balance.....\$ 5,091.22

Debits.....

Newsletter \$ 7.30

KRPS PSU radio station 50.00

Staples for bluebird houses & ground feeders 37.00

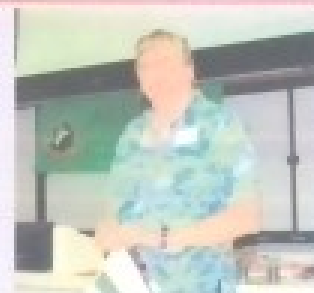
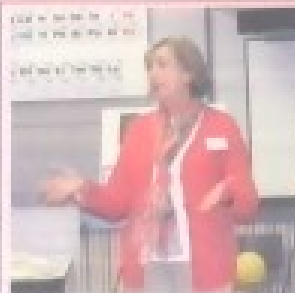
Nature Reach reptile cages 1,000.00

Credits.....

Membership credit from Nat. Audubon \$ 20.00

Ending balance.....\$ 4,026.92

## April Meeting Presenters Katherine Spigarelli & Karen Garver



Everyone loves monarchs. Truer words were never spoken, and our presenters opened their "Mystery of Monarchs" program with that statement. Missouri Master Naturalists Katherine Spigarelli and Karen Garver gave us more reasons to appreciate monarch butterflies and affirmed our love and wonder for the little Lepidopterans.

Monarchs are one of the very few butterflies to migrate long distances—50 to 100 miles a day. Overwintering in the same location in central Mexico year after year, they of course are extremely vulnerable to diminishing habitat and decreasing food sources along the way.

Although their wintering site has been protected by law, poaching of trees for lumber still occurs but seems to be getting under more control.

Because of the long distances to travel to and from wintering site and breeding grounds, monarchs pass through four generations on the journey. The greatest cause for wonder is that the same generation migrates south, overwinters, mates, and lays eggs on the return trip—a lifespan of six months. No one yet knows for certain how succeeding generations find their way back to the wintering site. Those generations have only a lifespan of two to six weeks.

Why are they important? They are pollinators, and they are unique due to their long-distance, multi-generational migration. They make an important contribution to the biodiversity of our planet; and last but not least, our lives are enriched by their beauty and mystery.

Are they in danger? Yes, because of habitat loss, herbicides, pesticides, and illegal logging. Due to global warming, monarchs are forced to migrate farther north, necessitating a longer and more arduous journey. 99 per cent of monarch eggs do not make it to the adult stage.

What can we do? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife agency is launching a program to create 200,000 acres of habitat along the I-35 corridor. We as individuals can plant milkweed, the major caterpillar food source; there are three types of milkweed that are native to our area: common, butterfly weed, and swamp. Other native plants also appeal to the monarchs, such as wild bergamot, Joe Pye weed, New England aster, and purple coneflower.

Katherine and Karen showed us a clip from a PBS video available for purchase, and provided several handouts of plant sources and general monarch facts. No one left that evening not loving monarchs.



Barb Robins

### HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING

We now have a double-screen display capability; President Wayne Bockelman encouraged members to bring their photos to display.

Next meeting is the picnic, chicken will be provided, and members are urged to bring sides and individual service. Joe Neal from Arkansas will present the program.

**Birds sighted:** Ruby-throated Hummingbird, flock of yellow-rumped warblers, Baltimore oriole, prothonotary warbler, green heron, pied-billed grebe, scissor-tailed flycatcher, white-winged dove, black vultures (near Anna), sharp-shinned hawk, nesting wood duck, barred owl.

**Field Trips:** Fords' farm has been rescheduled to May 9, and Joe Neal will lead a field trip to Prairie State Park the day after the picnic.

Wayne conducted the election of the 2015-16 officers by introducing the candidates and the committee chairmen: Wayne, president; Megan Corrigan, vice president and program cochairman; Mavis Benner, program cochairman; Liz Mangle, treasurer; Barb Robins, secretary; publications, Cindy Ford; field trips, Delia Lister; education, Delia Lister, Bob Mangle, and Donna Smith; membership, Diane McCallum; conservation and development, Steve Ford; financial, Liz Mangle; and publicity and general factotum, Bob Mangle.

### Sightings.....



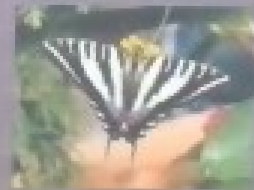
#### Our Swallowtail Butterflies



Giant swallowtail



Spicebush swallowtail



Zebra swallowtail

## Always Something to See When Outdoors

### Third Time's the Charm

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, after two postponements for weather, members and friends of the Sperry Galliger Audubon finally got to explore the Ford farm, looking for birds and other wildlife. First of all, let's get one thing straight. The Ford farm isn't a proper farm at all in the Kansas understanding of the word, having no rows of corn or soybeans in sight. Instead, they have deciduous and coniferous trees, wetlands, flower and herb gardens, and a creek - basically everything wildlife could hope for.

Steve Ford warned us immediately that with the leaves on the trees, we were more likely to HEAR a wide variety of birds than see them, and just as he said that, as if on cue, a parula warbler trilled nearby. Though we did not see the parula warbler, we saw a whole rainbow of other cooperative birds, many up close and personal despite the leaves on the trees.

The highlights were two warblers that were new birds for at least three of us. A couple of yellow warblers were hopping around up on the treetops, stopping in clearings long enough to make sure that the only things we were pointing up at them were binoculars. Then, right by the house, a prothonotary warbler was seeming to look for a cavity to nest in, but he took time out to sit on a low branch in plain sight, chirping heartily for us novices to admire. Steve says prothonotaries are the only cavity nesting warblers in the East.

Yellow wasn't the only color of the rainbow represented by the birds we saw. We had great views of an indigo bunting, an eastern bluebird, a distant Baltimore oriole, and many a red-winged black bird. Eastern kingbirds swooped by, we got a glimpse of a blue-gray gnatcatcher, and, getting back to yellow, admired a dickcissel chortling from the top of a cedar tree for a good couple of minutes.

The Ford Farm is maybe 30 minutes outside of Pittsburg. On the ride back, our carpool group went a bit out of the way to come back in to Pittsburg on 4<sup>th</sup> street. We got to see eastern meadowlarks,

scissortailed flycatchers, a barred owl, and, most excitingly, a blue grosbeak (another new bird for three of us in the car). Bob Mangle said we should check the wooden fence posts as we drive the last few miles into Fourth Street for upland sandpipers. He says they are often there this time of year. We didn't see one, but some of us will try again now that we know we should be looking. Maybe we'll be able to add yet another bird to our lists.

Highlights of birds seen May 9 at the Ford Farm (as remembered later, so not entirely complete):

Eastern phoebe  
Indigo bunting  
Eastern bluebird  
Eastern kingbird  
Bluejay  
Great blue heron  
Red-winged blackbird  
Baltimore oriole  
Great egret  
Red-tailed hawk  
Blue-gray gnatcatcher  
Northern mockingbird  
Fish crow  
Dickcissel  
Yellow warbler  
Prothonotary warbler  
Blue wing teal (!)



Yellow warbler



Prothonotary warbler

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**

**THANKS FOR THE REFRESHMENTS!**  
Vicky Cassidy and Barbara Simms

**FIELD TRIP TO  
PRAIRIE STATE PARK**

The field trip, Friday, May 29, could be an interesting day, based upon past experiences. The prairie should be covered with many species of wildflowers and pollinators. All the following are likely based upon past experiences: bison, Henslow's and grasshopper sparrows, dickcissels, Bell's vireos, and others. We could flush greater prairie-chickens (but the chance of seeing them is low). Depending upon flowering, and probably other factors, we have a good chance for regal fritillaries; we have seen them there as early as mid-May.

Joe Neal will meet anyone with an interest from Pittsburg at 6:30 AM at the Super 8 motel in Pittsburg. That should put us at Prairie SP by 7:30 AM. If you want to meet us at Prairie SP, we will gather in the parking area for Sandstone Trail, on NW 130<sup>th</sup> Lane, hopefully by 7:30; but be patient or bird the road until we get there. This meeting spot is on the east side of the park, next road to the west from highway NN. The park visitor's center is on NW 150<sup>th</sup> Lane, where there are interesting exhibits, lots of prairie info, and a clean, modern bathroom. As on all field trips, you are welcome to come and go as you see fit.



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.