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News From the Flock, Vol. 2016 Issue 2

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

Sperry- Galligar

Audubon Chapter

Officers 2015 - 2017

President:

Wayne Bockelman

Vice President:

Megan Corrigan

Secretary

Barb Robins

Treasurer

Liz Mangle

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

cford@pittstate.edu

February 2016

VOLUME 2016 ISSUE 2

TAKING TIME OUT IN WINTER

Steve Ford

Winter's tough on a lot of animals. Warm-blooded animals – birds and mammals – especially need a lot of food to replace the energy they lose as heat, but food, both plant and animal food, can be scarce in winter. Some species have the wherewithal to deal with it. Others "leave town" by migrating to friendlier latitudes. A few mammals simply excuse themselves ecologically-speaking, and hibernate. Hibernation is more than a deep sleep; it's a physiological condition whereby the heart-rate and body temperature is severely reduced. (The local reptiles and amphibians are masters at it!) Surprisingly, few Midwestern mammals hibernate, with the exception of the bats. Many bats hibernate in place, and some migrate first, then hibernate.

Woodchucks (groundhogs) are true hibernators. That said, and even though February is considered a winter month, I spotted a woodchuck Sunday, February 7. I'm pretty sure there was no correlation between its arousal and the Super Bowl that was played later that afternoon. The 13-lined ground squirrel and the jumping mouse are the only other true hibernators in our area that I can think of. Northern chipmunks hibernate, but those rare ones in this area (Schermerhorn Park, Galena), do not. Some mammals that you'd think would hibernate – moles and the tiny shrews for example – remain active, as do fox squirrels and flying squirrels.

Some mammals remain inactive for a few days when it's very cold, and some mammals, skunks for example, undergo "winter sleep," which is long-term sleep during winter, but not the profound physiological depression that is hibernation. That skunks started coming out of their winter inactivity in early February has been evidenced by road kills. Other such evidence includes my dog Peach, a big, hairy, and recently skunky beast. I love Peach more than life itself, except not so much recently. Speaking of skunk, there's always a complaint of skunk-smell around Heckert-Wells Hall on the PSU campus this time of year. As the resident wildlifer I get the implication that I'm supposed to do something about it. Well I do. I migrate from Heckert-Wells!

PLAN TO ATTEND A KANSAS AUDUBON CONFERENCE

Please plan to join other Audubon members and conservationists from across the state for the first *Audubon of Kansas Conference* to be held on April 9th at the Lawrence Holiday Inn. The conference is being called: "Silent Spring 2016: Threats to Birds, Bees and other Wildlife." Everyone who comes will leave fortified with lots of information on how you can make a difference in your yards, gardens and farms. Registration starts at 8:00 AM and the first program will be at 9:15 AM, featuring Ann Birney doing an historical performance of Rachel Carson. We will be viewing the film "When the Well Runs Dry" by Stephen Lerner with commentary by Tom Averill and Matthew Sanderson. Our lunch-time speaker, from the Xerces Society, will talk about "Pollinators in the Balance." There will be speakers who will share their experiences doing habitat restoration at various levels; another reporting on research on native bees; and Sil and Ed Pembleson talking about "Helping Your Child to Wonder." There will be a session on the status of Prairie Dogs and Black-footed Ferrets, we'll hear from Matt Bergles who wrote "Larry Saves the Prairie," a tribute to Larry Haverfield's dedication to ensuring the reintroduction of ferrets would survive the onslaught of Logan County's poisoning. We'll take a break for music and a silent auction, then wrap up with dinner and the final keynote by Dr. Leonard Krishnalka, Director of the KU Biodiversity Institute. For more details, please see the Audubon of Kansas website where you can register securely online.

Joyce Wolf

Feb 25 — "Bison Parts and Pieces", by Katy Holmer, Natural Resource Steward at Prairie State Park will bring bones, fur, hides and other bison parts and explain how the Plains Indians used these objects in their everyday life. Katy will also talk a bit about how Prairie State Park manages their bison herd.

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

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): 6:00

Minutes: Read and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$5,350.09

Birdseed Sale: Bob reported, and we saw from the written report, that we netted \$1010.28.

Mall Fountain Fundraiser: We received \$416 in coins. Wayne and Megan gained treasure hunters' experience in scraping off corrosion.

Programs: Next month will be "Bison Parts and Pieces" by Katie Holmer of Prairie State Park. In March, Rick Hines will speak on Bozwanan; April is open. The cassowary program might be scheduled for the May picnic.

Refreshments: Liz, Cindy, and Delia. Next month, Cynthia Plannenstiel and Mary Kilcher.

Publicity: Notices were in the Morning Sun, Joplin Independent, and Cityspark. Posters were displayed at PSU and PPL. E-mail reminders were sent to members and local schools.

Newsletter: Cindy had enough material for a bonus page in the latest issue. Thanks to all contributors.

Field Trips: We decided to go to the wastewater treatment pond outside Webb City on Saturday to look for long-tailed ducks that were spotted there.

First Annual Audubon of Kansas State Conference: Will be held at Lawrence in April. Watch for announcements.

Rail Fence at Sperry-Galliger Property: Steve stated that he and Cindy have purchased materials and constructed it. He thought it appropriate that SGAS gain recognition by reimbursing him and Cindy and having a plaque placed on the fence with SGAS's name on it. After Q & A and discussion, it was moved, seconded, and approved that we reimburse Steve and Cindy \$500 to pay for the fence.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40

Financial Statement

Liz Mangile, Treasurer

February 2016

Beginning balance.....\$5803.61

Credits

Mall Wishing Well, P.O. Key Return,
and Local Dues.....\$ 433.27

Debits

Newsletter.....\$ 5.77

Cedar Fence (Sperry Property).....\$500.00

Ending balance.....\$5731.11

Cindy Ford, Delia Lister, & Bird Seed Sale
Provided the refreshments at the
January meeting.

January Meeting Presenter: Delia Lister



Nature Reach-ed out to us in the form of its director, Delia Lister, known by area children as "The Snake Woman." Hailing from Winfield and learning to love nature at an early age, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees from PSU. She then took on the responsibility for injured wild animals and ones

donated by individuals who were unwilling or unable to care for them.

It all began in 1983, when a snake was donated to the Biology Department. This evolved into the founding of Raptor Reach and Nature Quest. In the mid-1980s, a raptor was acquired, and all were combined into Nature Reach in 1987. The concept of a science education center included Nature Reach in the early 1990s. Unfortunately, a devastating fire occurred in 2000, after which many animals had to be replaced. Delia began her work in Nature Reach in 2007, and since then, a new lab, raptor care facility, caretaker house, and financially supported outreach programs have emerged under her guidance.

Delia strongly believes that programs like Nature Reach are needed because of the current lack of science education in the public schools, a disconnect between kids and nature ("Nature Deficit Disorder"), and the health benefits all ages derive from being outdoors.

Of course, it takes money to run such an operation, and Delia campaigned to raise money to establish an endowment fund, she got a donated program vehicle, engendered volunteer support, started a teaching garden, and procured an intern, among other activities. This need for support is on-going. She expressed special appreciation for veterinarian Dr. Peterson's donating his services to maintain the animals' health.

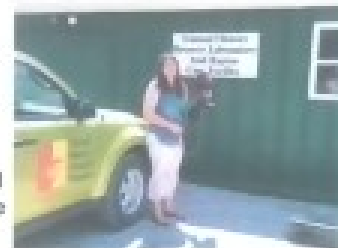
Programs at schools and public events occupy much of Delia's time; she has presented more than 700 programs to over 19,000 students and community members in five years. In 2014, she received the KACEE Award for the outstanding independent/community/non-profit organization. Not to be taken lightly are the 5,000+ hours that our Sperry-Galliger Audubon volunteers since 2000 have donated in various projects.

Delia feels that her principal challenges at present are time, personnel, and steady funding. She needs continuing operation and maintenance support and an additional staff person. She would love to see PSU have a natural history museum and a re-established the wildlife rehabilitation program.

For a real-life wildlife experience, we were then invited to walk to her headquarters on the third floor of Heckert-Wells Hall—no lions, tigers, or bears, but exciting views of raptors, reptiles, and other critters fascinating to young and old alike. SEK is indeed fortunate to claim Delia Lister as its up-close and personal

Snake Woman.

Barb Robins



Sperry-Galligar Audubon Happenings

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Birds spotted included cardinal, white-throated sparrow, red-shouldered hawk, pair of swans, many eagles at Stella. We will have a field trip to the Webb City water treatment pond on Saturday to look for a pair of long-tailed ducks that have been spotted there. Meet by the Mall Deli at 8:30 a.m.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is February 12-15. If you wish to participate, go to gbbc.birdcount.org for information and forms.

Wayne passed around a signup for new attendees to provide their names and e-mail addresses if they wished to receive regular newsletters. Refreshments tonight were courtesy of Liz Mangile, Cindy Ford, and Della Lister.

Barb Robins

A LONG LOOK AT A LONG-TAILED DUCK

Six Auduboners took advantage of the amazingly warm weather on Saturday, January 30, in a quest to see a long-tailed duck. (We all had to look it up because we'd never heard of it before.) We met at the Meadowbrook Mall parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and then set out for Webb City. After driving a circuitous route to avoid an unexpected roadblock, we finally arrived at the Webb City Wastewater Treatment Plant and drove down a gravel road toward the limb drop-off location. As we pulled in, we saw several ducks take flight and feared we'd missed our target, but we climbed out of our vehicles to take a look at what might be left on the water. There was still a rather large group of ducks on the far side. Before long, we recognized that one duck seemed to be lighter than the others. Our binoculars and scope soon confirmed that we were seeing a female long-tailed duck, which was cause for celebration. We ended up seeing two of them.

According to The Sibley Guide to Birds, long-tailed ducks typically winter "in small groups on shallow, open ocean over sandy bottom" along the East and Northwest coasts of the U.S. and Canada. They spend the summer in northern Canada in the Arctic and migrate through eastern parts of Canada and the U.S.

Those in attendance were Wayne Bockelman, Megan Corrigan, Mavis Benner, Emmett Sullivan, Martha Price and Diane McCallum. All of us were excited to add a new bird to our lists, especially one that is so rare in this part of the country. We all want to thank Larry Herbert for spotting the ducks, figuring out what they were and notifying us so we could have this opportunity. Other birds spotted on the trip included bald eagles, common goldeneyes, canvasbacks, gadwalls, scaups, mallards, a coot, ring-necked ducks, crows, kestrels, meadowlarks, red-tailed hawks and cardinals.

Diane McCallum



CHANGE IS GOOD!

We want to take this opportunity to thank Todd Ewing and the folks at Meadowbrook Mall for donating the December coins from the fountain to Sperry Galligar Audubon. The Mall is always a gracious host for our birdseed sale, but the coins were an extra surprise. We are not known as a money laundering organization, but we actually got pretty good at scrubbing lime and scale off the over 10000 coins. Fun finds were twelve pence from England, fifty are from Denmark and ten Japanese yen. We also want to thank University Bank for waiving the fee to use their coin counting machine since we are a non-profit. And thank you to any of you who tossed a coin into the fountain. We are so lucky to live in such a generous community!

Megan Corrigan

Sightings.....



Hibernate
or
Winter Sleep?

See front page.



Woodchuck



Skunk



Chipmunk

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

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

For first-time National Audubon membership, send \$30.00 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. (\$30.00).

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
816 E. Atkinson Ave
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

Please Print



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

**Events &
Miscellany**



**RID YOUR PROPERTY OF INVASIVE
PLANTS**

It is increasingly important to identify plants growing around homes, farms, parks, and roadsides. We are being invaded with plants from other geographic areas that are not well-behaved in our area.

Of course, we have brought in exotic plants for years through nurseries. It is so interesting to have strange, beautiful, or useful plants that we use in landscaping, gardens, and planters. Most of these plants are not considered invasive.

Some foreign plants are brought to our area, however, by accident or suggested by agencies as being useful. It is several years later that we discover that these plants should not have been introduced.

Invasive plants are considered those species that are aggressive in their spread since there are no natural controls like diseases or pests. They seem free to grow vigorously, often out-competing the native species of plants that should be growing in this area.

Because of their invasive nature, these plants are difficult to eliminate. They have to be controlled by herbicides or specific management strategies. This means extra time and money for land managers. If a plant has been designated a "noxious" species, the land owner, by law, must attempt to control (or eliminate) the species.

Check out the invasive species here in Kansas by looking at the following website: http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/invasive_plants.php
You may be surprised at what you find.

Cindy Ford

**Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
Newsletter**

816 Atkinson Ave.

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.)

7:00 pm to 9 pm, in Room 102, Yates Hall.

PSU Campus, Pittsburg, KS.

Refreshments served. 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.