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News From the Flock, Vol. 2016 Issue 6

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK...

Newsletter of the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

**Sperry- Galligar
Audubon Chapter
Officers 2016 - 2017**

President:

Wayne Bockelman

Vice President:

Megan Corrigan

Secretary

Barb Robins

Treasurer

Liz Mangle

Newsletter Editor

Cindy Ford

cford@gus.pittstate.edu

Sept 2016

VOLUME 2016 ISSUE 9

New Audubon Year — Wayne Bockelman, President

Welcome to another season of Sperry-Galligar Audubon. We are one of nine Kansas chapters of the National Audubon Society—between SEK Audubon in Parsons and Wildcat Glades in Joplin. Here are some of the things we do:

Our monthly program is the flagship event for most members. Volunteers come each month to talk to you. Topics include not only birds but also other wildlife and conservation subjects—we are the only nature/conservation organization in the area so we cater to a broad audience. Recent topics have included sharks, bison, mined-land reclamation, and edible wild plants.

If you can remember our meeting times you are less likely to miss a great program. It's the last Thursday of every month, September through May—that is, every last Thursday except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have one November/December program on the first Thursday of December. We'll send you an email reminder, if you wish.

We have a website if you want to look up the next meeting time or topic. It's sperry-galligar.com. You can Google "Audubon 66762" to find it. There you can see our newsletters, membership application, photos, the story of Doctors Sperry and Galligar, and more.

We're lucky to have a wonderful newsletter editor and regular contributors. We'll email a full-color newsletter to you each month, or mail a black and white printed edition, if you prefer. Write your own article for us and become a published author!

Membership dues to the local Sperry-Galligar Audubon Chapter is \$15 per year per individual or family. That supports local programs, our newsletter, and special projects. It pays for the chicken at our spring picnic each May. You can also join National Audubon for \$20 per year. That will bring you Audubon Magazine and support national programs. National membership also assigns you to the Sperry-Galligar chapter if you live in the area.

We sponsor Field Trips. It's good to get out and see birds that other birders recognize that maybe we don't. Personally, I admire those who can recognize a bird by its silhouette in flight or by hearing its song. I'm learning slowly.

A birdseed sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Each December we're in the parking lot of Meadowbrook Mall for one Saturday, selling big bags of birdseed out of a covered trailer—low overhead, low prices. Stock up. Meanwhile, inside the Mall there are bird-houses, bird-feeders, baked goods, and handycrafts for sale. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year.

You can participate by helping us sell, or by buying! There is a Board of Directors meeting each month. You're invited. It's an hour before our regular meeting, next door to Yates in the third-floor lobby of Heckert-Wells—easy to find. That's where we discuss things that keep us running throughout the year. You're welcome to come and add your two-cents worth, to come help out, or to just visit.

**Sept Meeting
Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Yates 102
Pittsburg State Univ
Presentation**

Sept 29 — "Turtles of Kansas and Missouri" by Ken Middick, Master Naturalist and staff member of Wildcat Glades Audubon Center in Joplin, MO, will talk about the native turtles in our area. Come and find out how many different kinds of turtles we have in our area.

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

Another Successful Summer!

Nature Reach started off the summer with a great Summer Day Camp for 1st-3rd graders in June. We had 16 campers who were just beyond excited to see what each day would bring. Some of the highlights were getting to watch the common snapping turtles swim to the dock, making their own animal scat out of clay, chasing insects, and even watching the turkey vulture pick through its dead rat. A huge thanks to Bob Mangle and camp graduates Meg Norman and Ella Morris for helping me. I couldn't have asked for a better student intern (Katie McMurry) to help with the week.

I also hosted a second annual reading program for 3-5 year olds. I read the group a story, and was then able to show a live animal featured in the story.



were also able to host the Zone 6 garden club. A wonderful group of people was able to see our teaching garden and learn about pollinator gardens. We had lots of great feedback, and I hope to host the group again in the future.

Della Usser

Board Meeting Highlights

Barb Robins, Secretary

Wayne called the Board Meeting to order, August 28, at the Ford residence.

Attending: Delia Lister, Steve and Cindy Ford, Emmett Sullivan, Bob and Liz Mangile, Wayne Bockelman, Megan Corrigan, Diane McCallum, Mavis Benner

Minutes of last meeting: (Delia, reporting for Barb). Read and approved.

Treasurer's report: (Liz) \$5278.69. Steve asked how much were in our CDs. Liz responded \$3000 and \$5000.

Progress Report on Programming: Megan has lined up programs through the end of the year. Many thanks to Megan for her hard work on putting this together. Delia suggested a special program speaker, Kim Heacock, an Alaskan naturalist, who may be in the area.

Publicity: Wayne is willing to send a reminder group text message to members about meetings. We will send around a sign-up at the next meeting. We do have Facebook Page established by Delia in 2011. Cindy moved (Diane seconded) to appoint Mavis as the Social Media Coordinator for Sperry-Galliger Chapter.

Membership: (Diane) An average of 40 people attended meetings last year. National membership dropped 84 to 60; local membership increased from 44 to 46. Diane explained the complicated changes to National Audubon membership procedures. Many thanks to Diane for dealing with these changes.

Newsletter: (Cindy) Thanks to all who have contributed articles. She encouraged article submission for this year. **Field Trips:** (Delia) Swift Count—Second Sunday in September. September field trip will be the Prairie Jubilee on Sept. 24.

There will be several events including guided bird hikes. Future possibilities were Prairie Fire Museum in Kansas City, and Wonders of Wildlife Museum, Springfield, MO. Contact Delia with other suggestions.

Nature Reach Summer Day Camp: (Delia) The camp was a success with 16 campers. Many thanks to Bob and student intern, Katie McMurry, for all the wonderful help. We tried to have a late July one day camp with older campers in conjunction with Dutch Oven cooking, but the camp did not fill with enough participants. A date change is suggested—perhaps earlier in the summer or a Saturday during the school year?

Bird Houses: (Bob and Steve) Krimsen Kultuur no longer has a store so we've lost a sales outlet. The bird houses and feeders will be for sale at the Bird Seed Sale.

Nature Reach Request: Delia asked for financial help with curtains in the lab at the Natural History Reserve. This will help with summer day camp programs. This will be brought up at the general meeting for help on this project.

Other: Dutch Oven Cooking held July 29, 2016 was enjoyable! It was hosted by Nature Reach. Presenter was Dr. Larry Quinlty. We had 8 in attendance, but had to pay for 15 participants. Perhaps a cooler weekend day would increase attendance.

Adjourn: 5:30pm

Delia Lister



May Meeting Presenter: Maria Minaar-Bailey

It was wonderful to see so many members and friends at our end of year picnic in May! It always seems like people would have other things to do on a Thursday night, but we are so glad that so many of you make it a priority to come year after year. We appreciate all of you!

For those of you who missed it, you missed a delightful presentation by Maria Minaar-Bailey about cassowaries. If you are in a hurry and don't want to read to the end of this article to learn all about them, the big take home message was – as beautiful as they are, they do not make good pets. They grow almost as big as ostriches and you need a shield the size of a door when approaching them because they are so ornery.

We learned that Cassowaries are pretty much only found in Papua New Guinea and the rainforest of Northern Australia. There are three species of cassowary. They all have vivid blue heads with big casques of keratin, and some have bright red or orange necks and wattles.

Australia classifies the cassowary as endangered because so much of its native rainforest habitat has been lost. One threat to cassowaries is cars, so Australia has put up road signs warning people when they are in cassowary crossings. The signs look like our deer crossing signs...yellow background, black silhouette...but such an unfamiliar silhouette!

Maria and her family went traipsing through northern Australia



for a week or so hoping to catch a glimpse of a cassowary and they were lucky enough to do so on the very last day of their trip. That may be your best chance for seeing one too. They are not often kept in zoos because of how dangerous there are. We are very grateful to Maria for sharing her knowledge and adventures with us!

Megan Corrigan

Financial Statement

Liz Mangile, Treasurer

Sept 2016

Beginning balance.....\$5671.57

Credits

Memberships.....\$30.00

Ant Molts & Wren Houses.....\$36.00

Donation.....\$ 5.00

Total.....\$71.00

Debits

Newsletter.....\$ 8.43

Chicken & supplies.....\$ 82.98

Postage.....\$ 2.41

Homer Cole Next year picnic.....\$ 60.00

Internet payment.....\$314.22

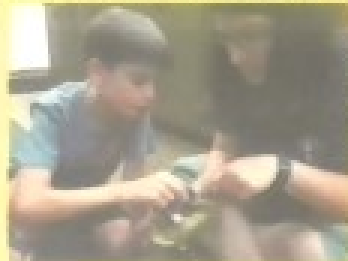
Total.....\$ 468.04

Ending balance.....\$5274.53

SPERRY-GALLIGAR Audubon Happenings

A New Set of Wheels...

Earlier this summer I read a story about a tortoise who received a prosthetic wheelchair made out of Legos. We have a Bell's hingeback tortoise who was also in need of some new "legs". So, after attempting to make them myself, I decided it would be much better to call in a real



Lego expert! After a few trials, Jack Stefanoni made our tortoise (now named "Scooter") a great set of wheels! I posted this story on our Facebook page, and it has been viewed over 3000 times. Wow! Thanks again, Jack!



Della Lister

Dutch Oven Cooking Lesson

Last fall I met Dr. Larry Quinlty (aka Dr. Q) at a National Association for Interpretation Conference. He is a Dutch oven cooking expert, and travels all over the world giving lessons to all kinds of groups. I thought it would be a fun, new event for our membership, so I invited him to give us a program. On July 29th, he did just that. He spent the afternoon telling stories and giving us a lesson on cooking in a Dutch oven. At one point we had 6 ovens going. Our meal consisted of Swiss steak, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, biscuits, peach enchiladas, and a pumpkin cheesecake. The best part of the day, of course, was getting to eat our lesson. We all came away quite full and excited to try a recipe or two out of his cookbooks. We might try this event again next Fall.

Della Lister



Birds and Blueberries

We tried something new this year and it just might become a tradition. On a Saturday in June, some of our members and friends went to Wildcat Glades Audubon Center in Joplin early on a Saturday morning to do some birding, and then we went and picked blueberries. It was a two-fer! We hiked the trails at Wildcat Glades for an hour or so. We saw the usual cardinals, swallows, blue jays, blue birds, wrens and the like, but we also saw two birds that were unusual and new to several of us. Wildcat Glades had a pair of yellow-crowned night-herons that nested there this summer and some of us saw one of them. Conditions were not ideal, and I'm not sure if I saw it or not, but other folks were certain, so I'm counting it.

Then, right in the middle of the trail ahead of us, even I could see it this time, we saw a Louisiana water-thrush! As exciting as it was it was also confusing, because it didn't look or act like a thrush. Turns out, it's NOT a thrush. It's a warbler, of all things, but it didn't look like a warbler either. So, some of us, myself included, added two new birds to our list. We also had a very cooperative red shouldered hawk pose while we stared through binoculars.

Afterwards some of us went to the Robertson Family Farm on Saginaw Road to pick blueberries. They have about 20 rows of blueberry bushes. You get a plastic bag that could probably hold 5 pounds and then just go pick till you are tired. It was a beautiful day and it felt good to support a local farmer. We will probably do this again next year. Maybe next year I'll get a better look at that night-heron.

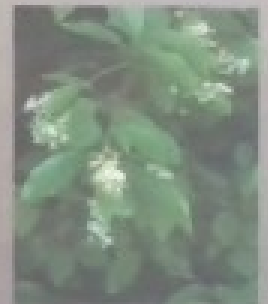
Megan Corrigan



Sightings.....



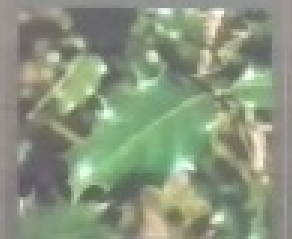
Name 3 Trees
With Good Wildlife
Fruits



1



2



3

Answers on Page 4

Send your newsletter
articles, bird
sightings, and
nature notes to
C. Ford by Oct. 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
816 E. Atkinson Ave
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

Please Print



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Events & Miscellany



CHIMNEY SWIFT COUNT

Thirteen Chimney Swift counters had a "Swift Night Out" on September 11, 2106. After some ice cream at Braum's three separate groups took up positions at three know Chimney Swift roosts in Pittsburg, KS and counted a total of 901 swifts. This is well below the 1587 counted last September. --

BLUEBIRD TRAIL MASTERS

ATTENTION: Regular Bluebird Trail Masters and any Newcomers! Please report your fledgling numbers, the number of boxes monitored and location to Bob Mangile, 816 E. Atkinson Ave. Pittsburg, KS 66762 or email <rmangile@cox.net>.

NEW BOOK PUBLISHED

Diane McCallum has published her fourth novel, *The Other Side*. This is the latest in her Penumbra series of science fiction novels.

RENEW YOUR DUES

August 31st. is the annual expiration date for LOCAL Sperry-Galligar Audubon members. For those receiving the hard copy Newsletters please check your mailing label for your expiration date. Our records indicate that Local dues for ALL of those receiving the E-Newsletter expired on August 31, 2016. National Audubon dues are renewable through their mailers. Local dues can be paid at the September 28th. meeting or mailed in.

Answers: 1. black cherry 2. paw paw 3. American holly

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.

Sperry-Galligar Members Travel the Country

Visit to Birds in Art Exhibit , Wausau, Wisconsin Steve Ford

Murphy's Law is my life, but once in a great while I do find a quarter in a parking lot. Recently Cindy and I visited an artistic friend in Madison, Wisconsin. While trying to keep up with the "artsy" conversation I happened to mention that when I first got interested in wildlife art in my early college days I became aware of a then new series of annual exhibits of high-quality wildlife art called "Birds-in-Art," located in the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin, 150 miles north of Madison. Over the years I'd seen some of the catalogs from the exhibit, and have always wanted to get there – one of those bucket-list things. Our friend looked it up and by great luck found that the exhibit started the day after we were to leave Madison. I'd found a big quarter! Instead of travelling south to Pittsburg, we headed north into the land of white birches.

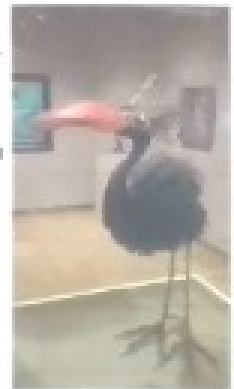
Wow, what an exhibit! I'll admit that the title, "Birds-in-Art," sounds a bit focused for an annual international art show. It may bring to mind a series of field-guide-style pictures or of cute canaries teasing kittens. It ain't. You can't imagine the diversity, astounding talent, creativity, and incredible beauty of the work – the best in the world in paintings, drawings, sculptures, and carvings from photographic realism to wild abstractions. We saw work by long-time greats such as Robert Bateman and Guy Coheleach to younger artists such as this year's Master Wildlife Artist Karen Bondarchuk, who currently specializes in diverse renderings of crows, ravens, and owls, often in huge formats of paintings and sculptures with subtle, and not-so-subtle psychological meanings. One of my favorites of another artist was a huge linocut print of a rooster. In the background were several



chicken pot pies. The artist noted that on his farm, the bad-boy roosters, gorgeous as they may be, if they harass the gentle hens too much end up in pot pies. This struck a chord with Cindy and me, as we recently found it necessary to come to a violent understanding with a couple of our overly aggressive roosters.

This was the 41st year of the exhibit. The Woodson Museum and grounds themselves are something to see. The building is a mansion – the converted home of its namesake – and the grounds of course are full of spectacular wildlife sculptures in various media. One of these represented two huge sandhill cranes made of wooden poles. Tied to the poles as feathers were hundreds of plastic bags that fluttered in the wind. The museum specializes in avian art, including exhibits of the old masters such as Audubon and Alexander Wilson, plus examples of well-known artists who from time-to-time included birds in their work, Andrew Wyeth and N.C. Wyeth for example. Art on other subjects are included at other times of the year.

People enjoy nature in many ways. The passion for birds displayed in the Woodson museum reminds us of the inexhaustible diversity, beauty, and pleasure to be had in viewing just this single aspect. The exhibit runs until November 27. Find more on line at: www.hywam.org



Birding Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado Mavis Benner

In June, Raymond and Mavis Benner visited Estes Park, CO at the Rocky Mountain National Park in this centennial year for our national parks. This was a Road Scholar group enlisted for hiking and birding. Hikes were about 4 1/2 miles along grasslands and rocky trails of the mountains. Other times birding was done from vans up the mountain. The brown capped rosy finch was spotted on



the mountain's snowy peak, this was a life bird along with several others. The trip guides lead the group to various nesting spots including the Williamson's sapsucker and Cordillera flycatcher. A trip highlight was a great horned owl nest on a cliff side in the downtown of Estes Park. The two fledglings put on a show for spectators in a parking lot as the fuzzy tots swayed and flapped their wings preparing to take flight.

The break from the high humidity in Kansas was welcome and as enjoyable as the birding and wildlife.

Up North in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska Delia Lister

Delia Lister took a group of students to Glacier Bay, AK, in July. Many of the students talk glowingly of the trip and would go back for more experiences. They not only saw many birds that are very different from species in Kansas, but also whales, bears, sea otters, and seals.

