



GOAS *Scissortail*

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter :: April 2011 :: Volume 34 Issue 4

APRIL CALENDAR

GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 12th
7:00 p.m., Quail Creek

GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 21st
7:00 p.m. Program

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

C1ZN040Z

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE

GREATER OZARKS CHAPTER

OF THE

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership in the National Audubon Society includes:

- ♦ Affiliation with Greater Ozarks Audubon
- ♦ Eight issues of the **GOAS Scissortail**
- ♦ Four issues of **Audubon** magazine

- Please enroll me as a member of NAS and Greater Ozarks Audubon.....\$20
- Introductory 2 year Membership.....\$35

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To join, make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail with this form to:

National Audubon Society
P. O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2250

Please send renewals to National Audubon. Follow instructions provided with notice to renew your membership. If you have questions, contact Mary Murphy, 863-8475, larmar34@peoplepc.net.

Log on to www.greaterozarksaudubon.org to subscribe to the GOAS newsletter online, or contact the GOAS Secretary if you want your newsletter mailed.

NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

By Myra Scroggs, GOAS Chapter President



I want to thank all of you who have helped make the last two years run so smoothly for GOAS. I have enjoyed my term as President, and appreciate the support I have received from you as we worked together on our many different projects. I know Dave will appreciate your enthusiastic support as he leads GOAS.

Our South Creek Clean-Up has become an annual event in observance of Earth Day. In 1999 the city had planned to channelize and concrete the South Creek drainage from National to Kansas. Betty Dyer and Dorothy Thurman had birded along the creek and realized what a wildlife haven it was in its natural state. The chapter decided to approach the city to protect the creek from National to Campbell. Becky Matthews wrote about the benefit of this small wildlife haven in her weekly newspaper column. Jan Horton wrote a letter to Marc Thornsberry asking the city to protect that area of South Creek. Due to their persistence and leadership, an agreement was reached with the city. GOAS, under the guidance of Kay Johnson, would be responsible for maintaining this section of the creek, and the city would leave it in its current condition.

Today the Greenways Trail follows along this section of the creek and people can enjoy the flowers, birds and other animals that visit or live along the creek. It is an oasis amid the concrete of the city. Plan to come help GOAS maintain

the creek and keep our commitment to the city. Meet at the footbridge at Holland and Downing Streets at 9:00 am on Saturday, April 9. We will work until noon. Bring work gloves, sturdy footwear and a water bottle. Light snacks will be provided.

If it is April, then our Birdathon event is rapidly approaching. Birdathon occurs during the first half of May and is a combination fund raising and birding event. Groups of birders, or even a single birder, attempt to find as many species as possible in one day. These birders solicit their friends, family and other GOAS folks to sponsor their efforts on this big day of birding. Some prefer to pledge a certain amount per species found, while others pledge a flat amount. Last year our Birdathon raised over \$2200! Thank you to all who help support this project by either participating in the birding, by soliciting, or by donating to Birdathon. The funds raised in this way support education projects sponsored by GOAS.

Becky Matthews began this tradition of fundraising for our chapter as a way to pay for furnishing Audubon Adventures kits to elementary teachers in our area. Others who have presided over Birdathon are Connie Tyndall, Martha Anderson, Nancy VandenBrink, Ray Carlson, Susan Dornfield, Alice Counts, Charley Burwick and Myra Scroggs. Our Birdathon really evolved from The Big Day, a 24 hour competition to find birds, which our chapter followed with a

FIELD TRIPS AT A GLANCE



**04-09-11 GOAS Volunteer Day
South Creek Clean-Up**
9am-noon. Park at corner of Holland & Downing
Bring work gloves, loppers, snacks and water

04-10-11 Taberville/Wah'Kon-Tah/Schell
7am-3pm. North Lowe's parking northeast side
All day trip. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks

04-16-11 Busiek State Forest-Migrants
7-11 am. MoDot parking lot, Hwy 65 & Evans Rd

04-23-11 Richwood Valley OTC-Migrants
7-11 am. MoDot parking lot, Hwy 65 & Evans Rd

04-29-05-01-11 ASM Spring Meeting
Fri-Sun. Burroughs Audubon Society, KC, MO

04-30-11 Andrew Kinslow's Farm & Palmetto
7:00 Sam's Club parking lot
7:15 Rogersville HS parking lot

05-01-11 Busiek State Forest-Migrants
7-11 am. MoDot parking lot, Hwy 65 & Evans Rd

05-01-11 Jim Fossard's Home-Orioles
1-3pm. Church parking lot National & Wisdom

05-03-11 South Creek Greenway-Migrants
8-11 am. Forest Institute parking lot

05-07-11 Busiek State Forest-Migrants
7-11 am. MoDot parking lot, Hwy 65 & Evans Rd

05-08-11 Red Bridge Road-Migrants
7am-2pm. MoDot parking lot, Hwy 65 & Evans

Please refer to our complete field trip schedule online at www.greaterozarksaudubon.org for detailed information about each field trip and meeting location.

GOAS field trips are open to anyone regardless of birding skill or chapter membership, and beginning birders are especially welcome. The times listed are departures, so please arrive promptly. We carpool on many trips, with the passengers and driver sharing the cost of gasoline. Bring snacks, drinks, or lunch, unless it is specified that we are stopping for a meal. Also bring binoculars, or notify the field trip leader if you need them. If you have any questions, contact Field Trip Chair and Bird Recorder, Greg Swick, grswick@gmail.com. Leaders, please forward checklists to Greg Swick.



Jot it Down

Announcing the Annual Meeting of the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Election of Officers and Directors

April 21, 2011, 8:00 pm
Springfield Conservation Nature Center

Slate of Officers and Directors—2011-2012

Officers

David Catlin President
Ruth Grant Vice-President
Ann Liles Recording Secretary
Ellen Burns Treasurer

Directors

Ruby Ball	Marvin De Jong
David Hamilton	Dan Liles
Greg Samuel	Sue Schuble
Dick Stiefvater	Myra Scroggs

SPRING MORNING ON SOUTH CREEK

Saturday April 9, 9:00-Noon

Join GOAS members as we pick up trash and storm debris along South Creek on Sunset between National and Campbell. We'll also be trimming saplings and small limbs. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and snacks and drinks. All spring morning outings along South Creek feature birds, so don't forget your binoculars!

BIRDATHON MAY 1-15

Annual Fundraiser for Chapter Education Projects

Join a team, sponsor a team, or make a donation to support all of our chapter's education projects. Help us provide Audubon Adventures kits to Springfield and surrounding area 3rd through 5th grade classrooms, and to host our third annual Green Leadership Academy this summer. To learn more about Birdathon, call Myra Scroggs, 883-4015.

compilation dinner to create a total list of all birds tallied on the Big Day. Some of our members continue to participate in the Big Day.

One of our education projects is furnishing the award winning Audubon Adventures newspapers to elementary classrooms, grades 3 through 5. Becky Matthews was instrumental in implementing this GOAS program, which teachers report the kids love. This year we have furnished 60 classrooms with newspapers featuring migration of all sorts of animals as the theme. That ranks GOAS among the top chapters in the nation. Each classroom kit costs \$45.65 and contains materials for up to 32 students plus the teacher. Vera Holmes, Renee Krummrich, Grace Jordan, Dorothy Thurman and Myra Scroggs all have chaired this project which at times has enrolled as many as 100 classrooms. If you know elementary teachers who would be interested in these kits, have them to contact Myra Scroggs.

As we see Bluebirds beginning to investigate our nest boxes on various trails, it reminds us that soon all nesting will be in full swing. Charley Burwick is monitoring the Purple Martin house at Close Park, hoping this year we will have nesting Martins. Dean Rising has been busy the past several years refurbishing the Prothonotary Warbler boxes at the Nature Center, setting new ones and monitoring the activities there. This Prothonotary Trail was started by Jeff Cantrell when he was in grad school. Late May will certainly find Prothonotary Warblers along the water there, thanks to Dean and Jeff.

In the past GOAS has helped with a Kestrel trail along Highway 65, and with Barn Owl boxes built and installed into old barns in areas north and west of Springfield. Then there is the multitude of boxes we all have installed in our yards for everything from wrens to chickadees.

Monitoring bird activities is something in which several of our members have professional experience. For many

years Bo Brown worked for Missouri University and the American Bird Conservancy on the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, primarily on Cerulean Warbler Assessment. He also worked on Savannah/Woodland Restorations Assessment, Grassland/Shrubland Bird Assessment, and Forest-Bird Habitat Suitability Index Models. Last year he conducted grassland bird surveys in eight counties of central Missouri, northern Arkansas and northeast Oklahoma while working for a University of Tennessee grad student. Bo has also done annual, three day Cerulean surveys on the Niangua River for Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for the last five years.

Beginning in 1993 he was the project supervisor with the Ozarks Center for Wildlife Research on a ten year habitat development/bird study around Branson. Bo spent 2004 doing a series of Cerulean Warbler surveys for MDC on almost every float stream in southwest Missouri. Prior to 1992 he did itinerant field tech work all over the country. GOAS is lucky to have Bo in our midst!

Jeff Cantrell has birded with GOAS since he was 19. He now works for MDC as an education specialist. Jeff conducts a Breeding Bird Survey in southern Barry County, as well as the International Migratory Bird Day count. He conducts three Winter Raptor Surveys, and maintains two Prothonotary Warbler nest box trails along Shoal Creek and Elk River, as well as encouraging others to put up Prothonotary boxes. Jeff encourages young people to appreciate the outdoors through his Nature Smart Clubs, and we hope many of them will follow in his very able footsteps.

Andrew Kinslow became involved with GOAS during his college days when Jeff Cantrell introduced him to the group. He began bird banding during a college internship. That led to two and a half years of working in various bird research jobs, including banding demonstrations at Whitefish Point Bird Obser-



vatory. In 1999 he started a summer bird banding research program for Rogersville high school students which continues to build momentum. In 2009 he began giving bird banding demonstrations for our GLADE program, which then led to collaboration with Dr. Janice Greene on establishing a bird banding station at the Missouri State University (MSU) Bull Shoals Field Station in 2010. Data from these banding stations is sent to the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes, CA, and to the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, MD. Andrew is very committed to quickly and ethically collecting data and releasing the birds back to live their lives unharmed.

Janice Greene became enthralled with bird banding while at a conference at the Shoals Marine Laboratory in Maine. In 2009 while on sabbatical from MSU where she is a Professor of Biology, Janice helped run two banding stations at the Welder Wildlife Foundation in south Texas. Then after watching Andrew banding at GLADE, she talked to him about setting up a banding station at Bull Shoals Field Station of which she is Director. In the spring of 2010 Janice took the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship training at Welder Wildlife Foundation to become a certified bander. She and Andrew started the bird banding station at Bull Shoals Field Station in the summer of 2010.

We appreciate the volunteer and professional expertise that all our members share with the chapter and beyond; it adds so much to our collective knowledge and enriches our lives!



GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 3231
 Springfield, Missouri 65808-3231
www.greaterozarksaudubon.org
<http://forums-greaterozarksaudubon.org>
www.greenleadershipacademy.org
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Representing:
 Cedar, Christian, Dallas, Douglas, Greene,
 Hickory, Polk, St. Clair, Stone, Taney,
 Webster, and Wright Counties in Missouri.

Our mission is to promote bird conservation in southwest Missouri through birdwatching, education, habitat preservation and restoration, and public awareness, for the benefit of humanity and wildlife.

GOAS website sponsored by
 Consulting Analytical Services.
 GOAS electronic message board
 sponsored by Drew and Tara Albert



Spring images from Marvin De Jong. Clockwise from top: Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and transitional-plumaged male Summer Tanager. These and many more neotropics are heading our way to nest, or are refueling here on their way to more northerly breeding territories.



PresidentMyra Scroggs
myrascroggs@sbcglobal.net 883-4015

Vice-PresidentDavid Catlin
Dcatlin754@sbcglobal.net 889-9940

Secretary Ann Liles
asliles@ashland.com 725-9481

TreasurerSteve Scroggs
sdsroggs@sbcglobal.net 883-4015

Membership..... Mary Murphy
larmar34@peoplepc.net 863-8475

Newsletter.....Lisa Berger
goshawk@att.net 881-8393

Program..... Dan and Ann Liles
hughdborg@aol.com 725-9481

Audubon Adventures.....Myra Scroggs
myrascroggs@sbcglobal.net 883-4015

ConservationJim Fossard
jfossard@pfjmlaw.com 883-8280

PublicityDavid Catlin
Dcatlin754@sbcglobal.net 889-9940



THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Bob Ball presents *Threatened Habitats of Missouri*

GOAS favorite, Audubon member, and photo hobbyist Bob Ball will present a Power Point program titled, *Threatened Habitats of Missouri*.

Bob will talk about habitats in the Ozarks and throughout Missouri that are diminishing due to development, pollution or other pressures. These habitats are critical to and support many species that are also threatened or endangered. He will emphasize plants, animals and birds that are found in wetlands, prairies, glades and caves. Don't miss his photographic tour of Missouri's threatened habitats!

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday April 21st for refreshments and to socialize. The program will begin at 7:00 pm, followed by the membership meeting at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, 4601 Nature Center Way (off Business Highway 65).

Dan and Ann Liles, Program Chairs

APRIL CALENDAR



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