



GOAS *Scissortail*

GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016 VOLUME 39 ISSUE 4

APRIL CALENDAR
GOAS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12th
7:00 p.m. Environmental Resource Center
GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 21st
7:00 p.m. Program
Springfield Conservation Nature Center

C6ZN040Z
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
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Attention: Chance Mueleck

Please send renewals to National Audubon. Follow instructions provided with notice to renew your membership, or **renew** through our web page.

Get the **Scissortail** in your inbox!

Contact Mary **Sturdevant**, GOAS Membership Chair with questions, or Jim **Fossard**, Secretary, if you want to receive the newsletter by mail.

FROM ANN'S AERIE

Ann Liles, GOAS Chapter President

Spring is upon us. It's been such a warm winter you'd think there would be less excitement about the coming of Spring. Not so for we birders. It will be more challenging, due to the trees leafing early, to see those incredible migrants that are or will soon be visiting us. But challenge is really a big part of birding so I'm sure this won't dampen our adventure of looking for those warblers.

I had the wonderful opportunity of making my first birding trip out of the country in late February and early March. I was able to see the start of the hawk migration. While we were birding in Costa Rica, kettles of black vultures would go overhead and occasionally we'd notice a Swanson's Hawk or two traveling with them. However as one group approached we noticed more were Swanson's Hawk's than Vultures. There were in fact dozens of them. I did some reading and found some Swanson's Hawk migratory round trip can cover 17,000 miles. On our trip we traveled less than 2,000 miles and a ship did most of the work. I was exhausted when I got home. I can only image the toll it must take on these birds.

The tiny warblers are absolute marvels traveling thousands of miles; sometimes non-stop over large bodies of water like the Gulf of Alaska or the Gulf of Mexico. I'll have to say I found it amazing that I was looking at a Black-throated Blue Warbler on Grand Cay-

man that in a couple of months might be in Maine.

Hope to see you all soon out and about in Southern Missouri enjoying the wonders of nature in this fabulous season.



The Prothonotary Warbler: What's in a name? There has always been question about the derivation of this tiny, glowing warbler's name. The online etymology dictionary states that the name prothonotary comes from the mid 15th century word for principal clerk of the court, protonotarius, who wore golden robes. However, earliest ornithologists applied the name used by French-speaking folks in Louisiana, without addressing its origin.

The warbler also has many colloquial names including, swamp candle, golden swamp warbler, and wild canary. How many others have you heard used?

Our guest speaker, Jeff Centrell, has a long affinity for the Prothonotary Warbler: They were the subject of his research, done at the Nature Center, where he established a nest box trail to collect monitoring data. Incidentally, his personal email address is swamp-candle!



GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY
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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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS UPDATES

Science Fair Winners: Ariadna Galaviz and Kanija Blackmon received the GOAS Environmental Awareness Award at this spring's Ozarks Science and Engineering Fair. The team of two young women competed in the Junior Division on a project that examined the effects of pollutants on Duckweed. Our judge, Dorothy Thurman was impressed with the project and their ability to interpret and articulate the research results. Both hail from Willard Junior High, and each received an Audubon Field Guide, and membership in the National Audubon Society and our chapter. Congratulations on your great work!

Birdathon: It's the most wonderful time of the year for birders; Spring Migration! And it's the reason for scheduling our annual fundraising event, Birdathon, to coincide with the remarkable numbers and variety of birds settling in or passing through the midwest, on their way to breeding grounds.

The Chapter raises money to operate our educational projects, including the Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems, GLADE, and to provide Audubon Adventures to grade school classrooms.

Team members solicit pledges from friends, family, and colleagues, then choose a day in May to count as many bird species as possible. We'll hold a compilation picnic May 22, 5:00-7:00 pm at the Springfield Botanical Gardens Picnic Pavilion. For more information about participation in Birdathon, contact **Myra Scroggs**. A packet of materials is available, with sample letters to solicit donations, and more. It's a great way to support the chapter while enjoying spring days and the magic of migration!



APRIL CALENDAR

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...WITH JEFF CANTRELL

Jeff Cantrell presents, *Bird Behavior, Bringing Home the Conservation Message*

He credits the Springfield Conservation Nature Center as providing the platform for his career and his life's passion, where he found mentors, and the trails served as his classroom. He is currently a Conservation Education Consultant for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Birding with his Grandma at an early age sparked Jeff's fascination with birds, especially migrants. Since then, his volunteer and professional work has always led back to bird conservation, and the enjoyment of birding with friends. He has worked as a field biologist for the Wildlife Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy, and Missouri National Guard at Camps Crowder, Clark and Macon. His work currently focuses on conservation education, showcased by his development of *Missouri's Tropical Connection, A Migration Sensation*, now a university credit course for educators.

Jeff believes that birders play a role to educate others about birds and bird conservation, while doing what birders love: Sharing birds with others. He says, "A book tells its story best when the reader is ready to hear it". Birders often tell birds' stories, many times when another person is ready to hear it.

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

Ruth Grant, Program Chair