



GOAS Scissortail

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter : : February 2014 : : Volume 37 Issue 2

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11th

7:00 p.m. Environmental Resource Center

GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20th

7:00 p.m. Program

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

DR. RUTH REPORTS

Ruth Grant, GOAS Chapter President

In the depths of January we birders comfort ourselves with wintering waterfowl, raptors and owls, while we dream of spring migration and bird song. A mallard's quacking is definitely a vocalization, but it doesn't quite qualify as song. Although it's probably a sweet song to the characters of "Duck Dynasty"!

We all look forward to the first warm days of early spring when we hear the Northern Cardinals start to melodically claim their territories. And later we may spend nights reviewing warbler songs that we have forgotten over the winter so that we can recognize their return on morning walks.

Many famous composers were entranced or inspired by birdsong as well. The Czech Antonin Dvorak spent a summer in Spillville Iowa, where he fished and listened to unfamiliar bird songs along the Turkey River. Those songs were part of the inspiration for his New World Symphony and his American String Quartet.

Most of us in the "new world" revile starlings, but Amadeus Mozart kept a pet starling for three years and wrote a poem upon its demise. Apparently starlings are great mimics and Mozart was able to teach the bird to sing a theme from his seventeenth piano concerto.

Richard Wagner's operas are associated in the popular imagination with Valkyries in Viking helmets. However in



Siegfried there is a delightful sequence with a woodland bird, portrayed by a soprano. Siegfried tries to imitate her song on a reed pipe without success. Later he slays the dragon Fafner. When he tastes the dragon's blood he can suddenly understand the bird's song and she assists him in his adventures.

Like Dvorak, Ludwig Beethoven enjoyed walking in the woods and listening to birdsongs. He memorialized some of those Austrian birds in his Pastoral Symphony. In the score of the second movement he wrote a cadenza imitating the nightingale (flute), quail (oboe), and cuckoo (clarinet). He specifically identified the birds (in German) on the original score.

Perhaps most familiar to many is the score of Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf", in which characters both human and animal are portrayed by different instruments. Once again a flute represents a bird, who aids Peter, and this time the oboe is a duck who ends up in the belly of the wolf.

This spring we may have the opportunity to participate in a piece of performance art downtown dedicated to birdsong. Keep tuned to this space and we'll let you know as it "takes off".

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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
- I'm interested in making a bequest; please contact me at the address below

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

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, or renew through our web page, <http://www.greaterozarksaudubon.org>

Get the *Scissortail* in your inbox! Subscribe here: <http://www.greaterozarksaudubon.org/publications.html>

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



GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 3231
Springfield, Missouri 65808-3231

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<http://www.greaterozarksaudubon.org>

GLADE News

<http://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.

President.....Ruth Grant
ruthgrantmd@gmail.com..... 883-5605

Vice-President..... Greg Swick
grswick@gmail.com..... 581-2757

Secretary..... Jim Fossard
jfossard@pfjmlaw.com..... 883-6829

Treasurer..... Dick Stiefvater
dstiefvater@gmail.com..... 655-1363

Board..... Lisa Berger
goshawk@att.net..... 882-1017

Board..... Jan Carter
..... 833-2211

Board..... Kathleen Cowens
kcowens@drury.edu..... 865-7427

Board..... Marvin DeJong
cjdejong@earthlink.net..... 485-0206

Board..... Andrew Kinslow
homesteadspringsfarm@gmail.com..... 300-3374

Board..... Emily Samuel
mobirdnerd@gmail.com..... 767-2241

Board..... Greg Samuel
pls@arczip.com..... 767-2241

Board..... Mary Sturdevant
marysturdevant52@gmail.com..... 830-9298

Board, past president..... David Catlin
dcatlin754@sbcglobal.net..... 889-9940

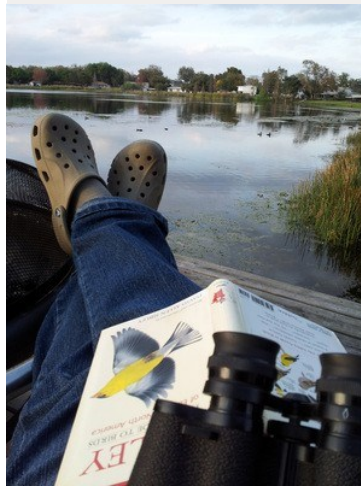
17TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Get your GBBC On!

When: Friday-Monday, Feb 14-17

Where: Your yard, a park, a conservation area, all of these, and more! Or, join GOAS at the Nature Center on Friday and Saturday, 9:00-11:00 am.

Learn More: www.birdsource.org/gbbc



2014 South Creek Work Days

Kelsey Rumley photo



- Feb. 8 1-4 pm—Meet at Campbell and Sunset, NE corner
- Feb. 22 1-4 pm—Meet at Campbell and Sunset, NE corner
- Mar. 8 1-4 pm—Meet at Holland & South Creek, either side of creek
- Mar. 22 1-4 pm—Meet at Holland & South Creek
- Apr. 19 1-4 pm—Meet at Holland & South Creek
- May 17 1-4 pm—Meet at Holland & South Creek
- May 31 9-12 am—Meet at McDaniel Park, National and Sunset

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Kara Tvedt, Fisheries Management Biologist with MDC, presents a program about the invasive aquatic plant, Hydrilla. The plant is found in all southern tier and coastal states, and in some mid tier states, including Missouri.

Tvedt oversees management of small impoundments, including Lake Springfield, helps landowners with pond and stream questions, assists communities and organizations with aquatic habitat issues or restoration efforts, and censuses fish communities in prairie streams.

She has just completed the first year of a multi-year attempt to eradicate Hydrilla from a cluster on ponds in Greene County. On the personal side, Kara and her husband Rodney, with their two dogs, enjoy time outdoors, home improvement projects, and traveling.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday February 20th 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