



GOAS *Scissortail*

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter :: January 2010 :: Volume 33 Issue 1

NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

By Myra Scroggs, GOAS Chapter President

Here we are in a brand new year! We want to thank all of you who helped make our birdseed sale a huge success. We had orders for nearly 12,000 pounds of seed! We may outgrow our big truck. Thanks especially to Greg Samuel whose eye-catching display of feeders and houses helped attract passing traffic. GOAS acted as a dealer for Greg's handsome products. Seed sales and donations raised \$2500.00 in profits to support our various programs for the coming year. Way to go everyone!

Mark your calendars now for Saturday February 6 when we will hold our second Volunteer Day for trail building and glade restoration at Lake Springfield. We will work in the area of the Greater Ozarks Audubon Trail near the boathouse. GOAS is partnering with The Parks and MDC on this event. It will begin at 9 am at the Lake Springfield Boathouse. MDC will provide hot dogs, drinks and chips for lunch and GOAS will provide morning snacks. Activities will conclude at 2 pm. Bring your work gloves and come on out to "our" trail.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will take place Presidents' Day weekend, February 12-15. GOAS encourages all our members to participate in this event! You can count at home, or anyplace you want. You can count for as little as 15 minutes, or all day if you like. For those of you less familiar with the GBBC, it's led by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and it provides an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about birds and the environ-

ment we share. Visit www.birdcount.org for details.

Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time during your count period. When you have your data, enter it on the Great Backyard Bird Count website above, and view what people across the country are seeing in their backyards!

GOAS will host four days of Great Backyard Bird Count activities. All activities start at 9 am and conclude at 11 am. Join us in the Springfield Conservation Nature Center bird viewing room where a GBBC demonstration and training will be held on Friday. On Saturday, Charley Burwick will lead a GBBC count at the Nature Center. On Sunday and Monday, Charley will also lead GBBCs at the Lake Springfield Boathouse. Come out and join us on any or all of these fun days.



A small number of newsletters will continue to be published and mailed to members desiring a print format. Because a reduced number of pieces will require first class postage, members requesting mailed newsletters will be assessed \$5.00 annually to cover postage.

Here's how we'll transition:

- ✘ All Chapter communications will be published and emailed electronically beginning with the October 2010 newsletter. Notice of this change will be announced at regular meetings, and published in the newsletter and on our website, with instructions for registering online to receive chapter communications by email.
- ✘ Members that request to receive chapter communications and newsletter by USPS delivery must provide the GOAS Secretary with contact information (and update when changes occur), and agree to pay \$5.00 annually to cover postage.
- ✘ Members who do not register to receive chapter communications online or provide contact information for USPS delivery, will be deemed to have opted-out of receiving chapter communications. These members may register at any time to receive communications electronically.
- ✘ Log to our website, www.greaterozarksaudubon.org. Registration instructions are at the top of the middle column. Direct questions or problems with sign-up to Lisa Berger, goshawk@att.net or 881-8393. **Save the birds. Sign up now!**

GOAS SCISSORTAIL MOVES TOWARD ONLINE FORMAT

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Board is promoting a more sustainable future for our chapter and the planet by publishing and distributing our newsletter and other communications electronically. We will conserve paper, trees, habitat, postage, chapter funds, and reduce newsletter compilation time.

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BUILDING A SECURE FUTURE FOR GOAS

By David Catlin, GOAS Vice President and Development Chair

Since its inception as an organization in 1962, the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society has been more than just a bird-watching club. From our earliest days, we have worked to conserve birds and other wildlife. We have provided scholarships for wildlife management students, funded teaching materials for local classrooms, built and monitored local bluebird trails, and gotten our hands dirty on hundreds of clean-ups, plantings, and other conservation projects. Last year, we took a leap forward with the creation of the GLADE program and a series of well-attended volunteer work days.

The work we have done has taken both energy and money. As we look to the future, we trust we'll always have energy! Soon, we will have the chance to ensure that we always have funding as well.

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) launched a "Stewardship Ozarks Initiative" in 2007 that includes a \$1 million "Challenge for Conservation" grant program. It works like this: Conservation organizations that wish to create an endowment will receive a 1:1 match for every dollar raised, up to \$10,000. That means if we can raise \$10,000 by June 30, CFO will give us another \$10,000. They will hold and invest the entire amount, and GOAS will receive an annual interest payment in perpetuity. We will take our place among other important conservation organizations that have joined the "Challenge for Conservation," groups that include Ozark Greenways, the Missouri Prairie Foundation, the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, the James River Basin Partnership, and others.

The GOAS Board has already pledged existing funds to match the first \$5,000 that our members contribute. That means that we as members can turn \$5,000 into \$20,000!

We will begin our effort to create an endowment beginning in February. Watch next month's Scissortail for more details, and plan to help us build our conservation future!



A White-throated Sparrow's portrait is captured by Marvin De Jong.

Officers Directors and Chairs 2009—2010

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**Notice of Proposal to Amend GOAS By-Laws
at the GOAS Membership Meeting
February 16, 2010 8:00 pm, Springfield Conservation Nature Center**

The GOAS Board of Directors proposes that the By-Laws be amended:

That the following text be added to the end of Article V, Section 9:

If any action is taken without a meeting, the consent of each director to said action may be made in writing or by electronic transmission, such as a fax or an email, acknowledging such consent. Within 30 days following said action, a written consent signed by each director shall be submitted and kept in the records of

That Article IV, Section 4 be replaced with the following amended Section 4:

Notice of the April annual meeting, special meetings, and regular meetings, at which SOCIETY business is to be transacted, shall be given not less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty (60) days before the date of the meeting. Such notice is given when transmitted electronically by email and directed to the member at his email address as it appears on the record of members maintained electronically, or deposited in the United States mail, with postage thereon prepaid and directed to the member at such address as he may request in writing to the Secretary of the Society. Notice of such meetings may be published in the SOCIETY'S newsletter or other regular publication, (such as newspapers, or web site) provided such publication is transmitted electronically or mailed according to the provisions stated hereinabove. The SOCIETY will not be required to provide meeting notices to a member who does not provide email or postal address as stated hereinabove and said member will not receive chapter communications.

Please contact Myra Scroggs to request a copy of the current GOAS By-Laws.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

From Alaska to Antarctica, tens of thousands of volunteers participated in the longest running Citizen Science survey in the world, Audubon's 110th annual CBC.

The Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 when founder of *Bird-Lore* (the progenitor of *Audubon* magazine), Frank Chapman, suggested an alternative to the "side hunt," in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most game, including birds. Chapman proposed that people "hunt" birds only to identify, count, and record them.

CBC data not only help identify birds in most urgent need of conservation action; it reveals success stories, as well.

Approximately 40 plucky volunteers braved cold temperatures and brisk winds tallying birds December 19 for the Springfield Christmas Bird Count, while 29 folks faced even colder conditions on January first's Taney County count. Three GLADE grads participated, too!

Springfield highlights included numerous

Red-bellied, but only one Red-headed Woodpecker. Turkeys were seen by almost every group, and Cardinals and Blue Jays were plentiful. Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were low. This northern species is nomadic and may "invade" in relatively large numbers in winters when conifer seed crops are poor. Brown Creepers were also few and far between. No Quail were tallied, as habitat suitable for this species is scarce in suburban Springfield.

Under a full blue moon on a crystal clear night, Screech and Barred Owls responded well to recordings on the Taney County CBC. Spotting a Merlin is always a treat, and two Red-breasted Nuthatches were notable. Good numbers of American Tree, Fox, Savannah, Song, and White-throated Sparrows were observed. Both Turkey and Black Vulture numbers were down. Vulture roosts appear to be dispersed this year, with some individuals wintering further north, as recorded on the Springfield count.

The *GOAS Scissortail* is published by the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society eight times a year. There are no issues in June, July, August, and December.

The Newsletter deadline is the third Tuesday of the month. Send articles to Lisa Berger, 1947 S. Kings, Springfield, MO, 65807, goshawk@att.net.

Articles and images may be reproduced with credit given to the author and GOAS.

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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
- Lifetime Membership.....\$1,000

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. If you have questions, contact Mary Murphy, 863-8475, larmar34@msn.com.



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

www.greaterozarksaudubon.org
<http://forums-greaterozarksaudubon.org>

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 ELECTRONIC
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 ALBERT

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Register now to receive the GOAS Scissortail by Email

See article and instructions on the front page of this newsletter, then go to our website, www.greaterozarksaudubon.org, and follow the directions



JANUARY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th
GOAS BOARD MEETING
 7:00 pm, Springfield Conservation Nature Center

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19th
GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 6:30 pm refreshments; 7:00 pm program

FRIDAY-MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12-15th
GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
 Field Trips and Bird Count Activities

Pioneer Forest and the L-A-D Foundation: A Model for Sustainable Forest Practices

Printed on recycled paper

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Jerry D. Vineyard, former Deputy State Geologist with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and GOAS member, will present the program ***Pioneer Forest and the L-A-D Foundation***.

In 2004, a unique St. Louis-based foundation became the owner of a 140,000-acre working forest in Missouri's Current River country. Known as Pioneer Forest, it was given to the L-A-D Foundation by Leo and Kay Drey of St. Louis, and ***Time*** magazine recognized it as one of the top philanthropic acts of the year.

Pioneer Forest came with a staff of professional foresters utilizing a time-tested formula for increasing the value of a forest while harvesting timber to pay its own way. Pioneer Forest practices grow a sustainable forest, provide clean water, clean air, and solitude, in a world where these values are becoming increasingly rare.

Bonus Loon Program: Marvin De Jong will show 2-3 minutes of photos he shot of Loons on Fellows Lake on November 23.

Come at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, January 19th for refreshments and to get acquainted with GOAS members and visitors. The program will begin at 7:00 pm, followed by the membership meeting at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center.

Dan and Ann Liles, Program Chairs