



# GOAS *Scissortail*

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter :: March 2011 :: Volume 34 Issue 3

## MARCH CALENDAR

### GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 8th  
7:00 p.m., Quail Creek

### GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 17th  
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](mailto:larmar34@peoplepc.net).

Log on to [www.greaterozarksaudubon.org](http://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 continue to recognize our numerous and willing volunteers who conduct the activities that make our organization what it is today.

The GOAS Adopt a Street project began in 1990, led by Betty Dyer until her death in 2002, followed by Art Elbert. Betty Johnson has chaired the committee for 7 years. Lending a hand are Ruby Ball, Dorothy Thurman and Sue Schuble. Six to eight times a year, cold or hot, volunteers have removed trash along Jefferson Avenue from Seminole to Bennett. Want some exercise? Join the group on March 17 at 10:00 am. Meet at the Southern Heights Bible Church parking lot on South Jefferson and bring your gloves! Betty has also led a street cleanup at the Nature Center for 13 years, and was recognized this spring as an Earth Hero by the Dickerson Park Zoo for all her earth-friendly volunteer activities. Betty currently serves as GOAS Historian, keeping archives of all our activities.

Field trips are one of many fun chapter activities. Our field trip committee plans a variety of trips, fall and spring, sometimes 2 a weekend when spring migration is going strong! Greg Swick is our current field trip chair, and has served in the past. In fact, Greg's son Nathan was co-leader with Greg, and many will remember Nathan growing up in our chapter. He is an outstanding birder today. Charley Burwick chaired the committee last year, and in the past as well. Jerry and Marge Williams led field trips for several years, following Bob Ball. Charley Noble

has served as field trip chair, following Betty Dyer, Randy and Sally Williamson, and Betty Johnson. Thanks to all for arranging so many good outings. Plan now to attend our first spring trip, Saturday, March 12 at 5:00 pm to see Woodcock courtship display.

Greg has also assumed the role of Bird Recorder. He follows in Dean Rising's footsteps. Dean very ably maintained our bird records for years, and we thank him very much for that. Prior to Dean, bird recorders were Charley Burwick, Phil Krummrich, Renee Krummrich, Martha Anderson, and Jeff Hayes. Remember to drop Greg an email or phone call when you have a rare sighting!

The Important Bird Area (IBA) program began in Europe in the 1980s. Since then 156 countries have adopted the program. In 2003 Lisa Berger chaired a large committee of GOAS members who nominated sites to be considered for IBA designation in southwest and central Missouri. Members of this committee were Jerry and Marge Williams, Jackie West, Myra Scroggs, Sue Schuble, Mary Murphy, Jan Horton, Janice Greene, Ruth Grant, Alice Counts and Charley Burwick. In 2004, the White River Glades and Woodlands, Western Cherokee Prairies, Golden Grasslands, El Dorado Prairies, Osage River Bottoms, and Shell Knob Glades and Woodlands were designated IBA sites based on this committee's many hours of collaborative work and research.

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

#### SPRUCE-UP LAKE SPRINGFIELD DAY

Saturday March 12, 9:00-1:00

This community *Volunteer Day* event is sponsored by Greater Ozarks Audubon, Missouri Department of Conservation, Springfield-Greene County Parks, and Volunteers for Outdoor Missouri. We will clear and haul cedars from glade areas, mulch trails, and add interpretive signs. Lunch will be served, so please call 864-1051 to register. Don't forget work gloves and sturdy shoes, and clothing appropriate for the weather!

#### NATURESCAPING SYMPOSIUM

Saturday April 3, 8:00-4:00

Stop by the Springfield Conservation Nature Center and get some tips about landscaping for wildlife, alternatives to using pesticides and herbicides, and information about incorporating native plants in your landscape. Lectures scheduled during the day, and native plants will be on sale. The GOAS display will have lots of hand-outs about green gardening and alternatives for a healthier yard and landscape.

#### 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!

## FIELD TRIPS AT A GLANCE

03-12-11 Bois D'Arc CA—Woodcock/Owls  
5-9pm. No. Lowe's parking northeast side

03-17-11 Adopt-A-Street Clean-Up  
10am. Church, corner of Jefferson & Seminole

03-20-11 Fellows Lake—Waterfowl/Shorebirds  
8-11am. East end parking lot

04-03-11 Lockwood/Golden City Area—Plovers  
7am-1pm. Wal-Mart lot Sunshine & West Bypass

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

See our complete field trip schedule online at [www.greaterozarksaudubon.org](http://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](mailto:grswick@gmail.com). Leaders, please forward checklists to Greg Swick.



## Science Olympiad Gold Medal Winners

Fordland middle school student, Emily Samuel took the gold medal for ornithology for the second year in a row, while Kelsey Rumley, 2010 GLADE graduate and Ozark senior, won gold medals in both ornithology and ecology sections in the high school division.

Our young women rock!



# Of Raptors, Snow, and the Rare: 2011 Winter Wonderland



Bob Ball



David Ringer



Greg Swick



Bob Ball



Marvin De Jong



Marge Williams

Winter wonderland 2011 clockwise from top left: First winter Red-shouldered Hawk with a mole in the Ball's backyard; David Ringer's portrait of a Vesper Sparrow (a record),

right and a Savannah Sparrow, left; Bob Ball captures a first winter Rough-legged Hawk as it takes flight; Marge Williams' recent image of one of three Greater Prairie Chickens still present near Lockwood (also photographed by Greg Samuel); Marvin De Jong's image of a Merlin near Lockwood; center: Greg Swick's "Valentine's" Short-eared Owl with heart-shaped pupil damage.

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Our field trips visit a variety of places within these IBAs, and our GLADE summer academy is located within the White River Glades and Woodlands IBA site.

Seasonal and breeding bird surveys are an important tool for gathering data on the status of bird populations. David and Barbara Blevins began birding in 1986 when they became involved with

the Missouri Breeding Bird Atlas Project. David assumed the role of Southwest Regional Coordinator for the project, and later the South Central Coordinator until 1996, when the project was completed. Chapter members gathering the data for this work included Susan Dornfeld, Marilyn Owens, Renee and Philip Krummrich, Rebecca Matthews, Bonnie and Charley Noble, Dorothy Hagewood, Dorothy Thurman, and

Connie Tyndall.

In 2001, Charley Burwick led a committee of GOAS birders charged to survey multiple southwest Missouri sites during the spring and summer to update the Missouri Department of Conservation's Heritage Database. Chapter participants included Bob and Ruby Ball, Kay and Betty Johnson, Zelda Ellison, Lisa Berger, David Ringer, and Marge and Jerry Williams. *Continued on page 4*



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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

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The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) program, started in 1965 to assess the effects of DDT and DDT recovery, monitors long-term trends in breeding bird populations. Routes are 24.5 miles long, where participants record numbers of birds seen and heard at each half mile stop.

Jan Horton, Nancy VandenBrink, and Connie Tyndall formed the first group in our chapter to adopt a BBS route. When Nancy retired, Betty Johnson joined Jan and Connie.

Today, David and Barbara Blevins survey a route NW of Stockton. Since June 2004 Jackie West, Dorothy Thurman and Zelda Ellison have surveyed a route in the Conway area. Dean Rising has surveyed Wilson's Creek National Battlefield for several years, and this past June, Dorothy Thurman, Myra Scroggs and Ann Liles carried out that survey. Since 2004, Lisa Berger and Charley Burwick have collected BBS data on a route that includes Glade Top Trail, and have surveyed 2 routes since 2001 in a BBS-style Grasslands Focus Area study. Charley Burwick and Larry Rizzo have counted a BBS route near Stockton for 15 years.

Our chapter initiated cane restoration

along Fox and Bee Creeks in the Drury-Mincy conservation area as part of our IBA project. A long-term survey to assess the effects of habitat restoration on breeding birds is conducted each spring using 3 separate counts. Collecting this data since 2006 are Jerry and Marge Williams, Steve and Debbie Martin, Nancy and Hammons Schanda, Don Moll, Sue Schuble, and Charley Burwick.

Other ongoing surveys include a quarterly, seasonal survey conducted by Jerry Williams at Roaring River State Park since 2005, a Bull Shoals Field Station database compiled by Lisa Berger since 2000, and checklist compiled for the Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill headed by Jan Horton.

Dorothy Thurman surveyed Close Park for a 5 year period, creating a park bird list of 122 species, then designed an informative sign showing representatives of the site's birds, which was installed by the park.

Over 15 years ago David and Barbara Blevins began participating in the North American Migratory Count, now International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). The count is held the second Saturday in May. Dean Rising, Dorothy Thurman, and April McDonough also participate in the Greene Co. IMBD.



**THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...**

Edge Wade will present an explanation of the Audubon Society of Missouri's (ASM) CACHE and SPARKS programs, and a demonstration of bird sighting data entry and retrieval. The value of CACHE and SPARKS for use by Missouri birders will be explained.

Edge Wade began birding in the Columbia area about 15 years ago after seeing a small flock of birds in a park and realizing she had no idea what they were. She set a goal of learning to identify two new birds a day. That soon led to the desire to see all the birds in the field guides she studied. She has birded in every county in Missouri and, when possible, travels to remote corners of the country to see species new to her.

Edge, as ASM's Conservation Partnership Coordinator, works with the Department of Conservation and Department of Natural Resources to help make the CACHE and SPARKS programs valuable to professionals and to recreational birders.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday March 17th 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).



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*Dan and Ann Liles, Program Chairs*

**MARCH CALENDAR**