

GOAS *Scissortail*

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter :: March 2013 :: Volume 36 Issue 3

TWEETS

David Catlin, GOAS Chapter President

During last month's Great Backyard Bird Count weekend, I left the monitoring of our backyard feeders to my wife Ann for a while, and headed to South Creek, to see what birds might be there.

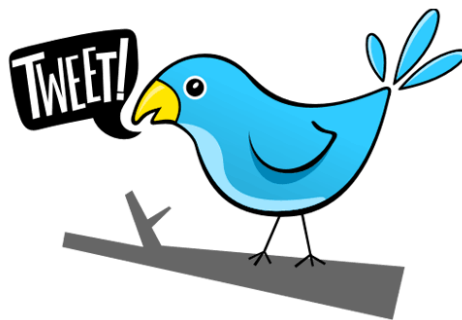
South Creek is an urban stream in Springfield, running west from near Battlefield Mall to its junction with Wilson's Creek. The closest stretch is about a mile from my house.

A significant portion of South Creek runs down a concrete gutter, banked on either side by green lawn that gets mowed every couple of weeks during the warm months. As you might imagine, it's not a great place for birds, other than a few indiscriminating mallards and an occasional killdeer or migrating snipe.

But upstream of Campbell Avenue, it meanders in a natural channel all the way from National. Willows and buttonbush and patches of cattails shade it, and a couple of small woodlots adjoin it. The South Creek Greenway winds alongside.

And here, too, intersect the three elements of the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society's conservation mission: habitat management, education, and advocacy.

The habitat management might be the most obvious, at least to the trained eye. Invasive weeds are rarer in this stretch, and native prairie wildflowers grow along the banks and in a small garden along the trail. GOAS members are responsible for much of this work. The education has occurred at special events held along the creek, including some involving students from nearby Holland Elementary, which is within walking distance. GOAS members



have organized these.

The advocacy is perhaps the least evident, but arguably the most important. There was a time when the City of Springfield considered putting this stretch of South Creek into a concrete gutter, too. GOAS, led by the tireless Kay Johnson, worked with the Public Works Department to keep this stream natural. So it remains, and the City is now a proponent of a greener variety of stormwater management, one that has room for birds and other wildlife.

As a result, I found a mockingbird there, along with other "country" birds. Last spring, a ruby-throated hummingbird built a nest overhanging the trail, and migrating warblers sang in the adjoining woods.

Because we have been so involved with this section of stream over the years, GOAS has a sense of ownership. We hope you will share it with us. One great opportunity comes this month. On Saturday the 23rd, from 9am until noon, Myra Scroggs will lead a Volunteer Work Day on South Creek. Plan to meet us in the parking lot of McDaniel Park at South National and Sunset. Bring work gloves, water, and a snack.

And you might want to tuck a pair of binoculars into your backpack, too—to enjoy the birds attracted by the work of all the folks who have come before you.

MARCH CALENDAR
GOAS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 5th
7:00 p.m. Quail Creek Center
GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 21st
7:00 p.m. Program
Springfield Conservation Nature Center

C3ZN040Z
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

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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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GOAS Nominating Committee

Ruth Grant, Chair, Myra Scroggs, and Marvin DeJong present the
2013 Slate of Officer and Board Nominees

Ruth Grant.....President
Greg Swick.....Vice-President
Jim Fossard.....Secretary
Dick Stiefvater.....Treasurer
Lisa Berger..... Director
Emily Samuel..... Director
Jan Carter..... Director
Mary Sturdevant Director and Assistant Secretary

Elections will be held at the annual meeting, 7:00 pm, April 18, 2013

SPRING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES—TIME TO GET OUTDOORS!

South Creek Clean-up and Work Day

Mark your calendar for Saturday March 23! For more than 10 years, GOAS has maintained South Creek as an urban stream that provides an oasis of native habitat for wildlife. During spring migration many neotropical migrants can be seen in the trees there, butterflies flit among the flowers and frogs can be found in the water. Maintaining this habitat requires help from a lot of folks, so join the group for a satisfying morning of pitching in!

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the McDaniel Park at National and Sunset. We will pull out downed limbs and debris, including trash. Wear heavy work gloves and waterproof footwear if possible. Bring a water bottle and tools. We will work until noon. See you there!

Lake Springfield Spruce-Up Day

The Springfield-Greene County Parks Department and GOAS will again host a Volunteer Day event April 6 (rain date, April 13) 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meet at the Lake Springfield Boathouse. Participants will cut and remove cedar trees, haul chips, and maintain trails. Bring heavy work gloves, and wear sturdy boots or shoes. For more information about volunteering, call Dave Catlin, 889-9940.

The Parks Department will furnish lunch and drinks! Please call Ellen, 864-1051, to reserve your lunch, so they know how much food to purchase and prepare!

MARCH CALENDAR

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Join Biology teacher and nature photographer Art (A. D.) Daniels on a nature adventure, *Oh the Places You'll Go*. This nature journey will include (but is not limited to) images from Kansas, Florida, Acadia National Park, and our beloved Ozarks. Some of the photos were taken while attending GOAS field trips: Kansas marshes, Table Rock Lake pelagic, the Day & Night Shift near Lockwood, and the frigid waters at the confluence of the Mississippi & Missouri Rivers. Other locations will feature nature encountered on recent trips to New England & Florida. It should prove to be a whale of a time. If you have a passion for nature, this down to earth presentation will be right up your alley.

Disclaimer: Although most of the presentation focuses on birds, there will be some shots of other animals and a few landscapes.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday March 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



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