



GOAS Scissortail

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DR. RUTH REPORTS

Ruth Grant, GOAS Chapter President



photos are generally larger than in the preceding book, and will help with both close-up and distant identification.

Digging Deeper with Bird Books

For most of us birding apps have added a wonderful new dimension to our birding, by providing a ready reference in our pocket, by helping us learn bird-songs, or by luring birds to us as our phones masquerade as territorial males. Books, however, remain important, as the dog-eared guides that kick around in our cars and backpacks will attest.

I'm looking forward to the second edition of "The Sibley Guide to Birds", due out in March. While we're all waiting for the new Sibley, I have some other books to recommend.

Are you frustrated by companions (you know who you are) who can spot and ID hawks at great distance? Usually while I'm scratching my head and asking "How far above the horizon?" "Hawks at a Distance" by Jerry Liguori provides numerous photographs of raptors in flight so that you can become accustomed to their profiles and color patterns. Fair warning: you may feel like you need your binoculars or a magnifying glass to look at the pictures!

An easier book to use for raptors may be "The Crossley ID Guide, Raptors", by Richard Crossley, Jerry Liguori, and Brian Sullivan. As in his eastern field guide, Crossley displays a montage of photographs against an appropriately scenic background to illustrate many examples of each species. He covers all thirty-four species of diurnal raptors. The

Another excellent guide to birds in flight is the "Peterson Reference Guide to Seawatching", by Ken Behrens and Cameron Cox, which covers Eastern Waterbirds in Flight. When I ordered it, I expected a guide to seabirds, but it includes ducks, gulls and terns as well. It is jam-packed with photographs, as well as range maps, and a guide to places along the east coast that are great for sea watching from land.

For those who like to go to Riverlands or to Niagara Falls in winter to scrutinize the flocks of gulls, Peterson has another reference guide, "Gulls of the Americas", by Steve Howell and Jon Dunn. It devotes over 500 pages and thousands of photographs to the 36 species of gulls known to occur in North America. It shows every conceivable plumage and many subspecies...enough to give even a gull lover a headache.

Lastly, my newest acquisition is "Rare Birds of North America", by Steve Howell, Ian Lewington and Will Russell. It doesn't cover threatened and endangered birds (for which see, "The American Bird Conservancy Guide to Bird Conservation"). It is a guide to birds from Europe, Asia and Latin America, which show up on our shores periodically as vagrants. It looks like a handy book to have along on trips to Alaska or southern Arizona.

Of course the best place to study birds is in the field. So look at our new spring and summer field trip schedule and join our leaders in the field!

MARCH CALENDAR
GOAS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 11th
7:00 p.m. Environmental Resource Center
GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 20th
7:00 p.m. Program
Springfield Conservation Nature Center

C4ZN040Z
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
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Contact Mary Sturdevant, GOAS Membership Chair with questions, or Jim Fossard, Secretary, if you want to receive the newsletter by mail.



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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 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 8 South Creek Work Day meeting location has been changed to the NE corner of Campbell and Sunset, 1-4 pm.
- Learn where we'll be birding this spring. [Get](#) your copy of the Spring Field Trip Schedule available now. **Maps included!**
- First time GOAS Road Trip to Arkansas' Red Slough, April 12-14. Call Charley Burwick, 860-9505 for lodging details. Highlights of other new trips: Niangua River rafting, Bird Banding with Andrew Kinslow, and a Mother's Day field trip for Moms.
- GLADE staffers recognized for excellence: Andrew Kinslow received the 2014 American Birding Association Chandler Robbins award for Education and Conservation, and was also named the 2014 Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) Conservation Educator of the year. Kelsey Rumley, 2010 GLADE graduate and GLADE residential assistant for 3 years, was named CFM's 2014 Youth Conservationist of the Year.
- Major Grant Funders for 2014 GLADE Season:
 - L-A-D Foundation—2 student scholarships \$2,500
 - Audubon Society of Missouri—2 scholarships \$2,500
 - White River Valley Electric Cooperative—\$2,000
 - Project Learning Tree, through MSU—\$990

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

GOAS members Sue Schuble and Myra Scroggs recently participated in a birding tour in Colombia, South America, the country with the highest number of avian species in the world! Sue will present a program titled, **The Birds of Colombia**, at the March membership meeting. Not all 1800+ species were spotted, however, they recorded over 400 and checked off numerous endemics. The duo managed to ward off biting insects and avoid major landslides, resulting in a memorable experience along the Caribbean coast and in the mountains. Hope you can join us for an "arm chair birding tour" of Colombia!

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday March 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

MARCH CALENDAR