



# GOAS *Scissortail*

GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016 VOLUME 39 ISSUE 3



## DAVID RINGER JOINS US IN MARCH!

GOAS's own David J. Ringer is Chief Network Officer at the National Audubon Society, a new senior-level position focused on developing Audubon's unparalleled network of chapters, partnerships, advocates, volunteers, and nature centers. He has previously served as Audubon's national communications director, overseeing public relations and social media, and as Audubon's communications lead for the Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi Flyway. He was Audubon's front-line PR manager in Louisiana during the 2010 BP oil disaster.

Before joining Audubon, David did PR and a wide variety of other communications and media work for several NGOs that work on sociolinguistic issues around the world, an experience which took him to more than 25 countries on six continents. He has worked as a web developer and a biological field technician, and he authors articles on bird taxonomy and systematics, and other natural history topics.

## FROM ANN'S AERIE

Ann Liles, GOAS Chapter President

The end of February is also the end of our Fall/Winter field trip schedule. Typically I know I enjoy the variety of ducks that spend the winter with us. They can really brighten up the cold months. This year they have been rather scarce in our corner of the world. However our visiting Raptors have been wonderful this Winter. Our Winter field trips to the Lockwood and Golden City area are among my favorites. We had a treat on one February trip to see several Merlins and a Prairie Falcon all in one field. We also were fortunate at sunset to see the Harriers go down and the Short-eared Owls come up at Niawathe Prairie; a really awe inspiring sight.

So now we enter March the in between time. Not yet Spring but not really Winter either. Some Winter visitors are still here and a few early migrants pass through, but otherwise a slim birding month. My suggestion for this time of year is get out on the pretty days and the others dust off the bird books and study, clean up the optics and get ready. Spring Migration is almost upon us. The Field Trip Committee has put together another robust schedule for the Spring and Summer. Check it out.

Oh yes, and be sure to join us for Timberdoodle 'Sky Dancing' on March 12!

**Preeent!**



## MARCH CALENDAR

### GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 8th

7:00 p.m. Environmental Resource Center

### GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 17th

7:00 p.m. Program

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

## C6ZN040Z

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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To join, make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail with this form to:

**National Audubon Society**  
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10014  
Attention: Chance Mueleck

Please send renewals to National Audubon. Follow instructions provided with notice to renew your membership, or **renew** through our web page.

Get the **Scissortail** in your inbox!

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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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.....Ann Liles  
amerey11@aol.com ..... 522-4844

Vice-President.....Janice Greene  
janicegreene@missouristate.edu... 862-4381

Secretary ..... Jim Fossard  
jimfossard@yahoo.com ..... 883-6829

Treasurer .....Charley Burwick  
ozarkbirder@gmail.com ..... 860-9505

Board ..... Lisa Berger  
goshawk@att.net ..... 860-9108

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

Board ..... A. D. Daniels  
naturelens@aol.com ..... 823-9966

Board ..... Jill Hays  
mohumbird@yahoo.com ..... 840-2485

Board ..... Sherri Hedgpeth  
sherri\_hedge@icloud.net ..... 861-1772

Board ..... Nikki Hummel  
n\_hummel@hotmail.com ..... 840-5791

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

Board ..... Greg Swick  
grswick@gmail.com ..... 581-2757

Board ..... Brooke Widmar  
brookewidmar@yahoo.com ..... 459-6526

Board, past president .....Ruth Grant  
ruthgrantmd@gmail.com ..... 883-5605

## CHAPTER NEWS: AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Two Greater Ozarks Audubon members were just honored with significant awards; and our Chapter garnered one, too!

Every organization is fortunate if it has a deep pool of active, dedicated volunteers. Our chapter is one of them. We're doubly lucky that some of the most energetic members are teens! They are full of ideas, aspirations and fresh perspectives; and they eagerly share them. Spanning years, youthful members have served on the GOAS Board, led field trips, organized volunteers and chaired events, written articles for the Scissortail and social media, and contributed to Citizen Science through the CBC and Great Backyard Bird Counts. We could go on.

One unforeseen outcome of GLADE, our week-long conservation academy: Graduates have checked us out and some have jumped into our deep pool. Others prior to and after GLADE's inception made splashy cannonballs!

➤ **Klee Bruce** entered the American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year competition again this year. Last year she scored third in two modules. This year she took Third Place in the North American Junior Division, competing with kids her age across the continent. Klee excelled in Nature Writing and Community Project categories, where she developed a bird-themed, literacy and teaching program for elementary grades. *Cannonball!*

➤ **Brooke Widmar** received the Conservation Federation of Missouri's (CFM) Youth Conservationist of the Year award. She is a 2013 GLADE alum, and serves on the GOAS Board, having just signed on to represent the chapter in the Community Foundation of the Ozarks *Give Ozarks Day* fundraiser, and currently is the Missouri Stream Team Coalition's paid Executive Assistant. And this is a short list of her conservation, volunteer and social activism work. *Cannonball!*

➤ **GLADE alums** have now garnered the CFM Youth Conservationist of the Year title for three consecutive years. *Cannonballs!*

➤ **Greater Ozarks Audubon** Society was named the CFM Conservation Organization of the Year! We collaborate on several projects with the Springfield Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists organization, which was recognized for this prestigious award, last year. Conservation is thriving in our part of the state!

## MARCH CALENDAR

### THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...WITH DAVID RINGER

#### WHERE DOES A WOOD THRUSH GO WHEN IT SNOWS?

*Conserving America's Birds Across the Flyways Through the Power of Local Action.*

Green Herons along clear streams and Common Nighthawks calling on muggy evenings help define summer in the Ozarks. And what's a better signal of autumn than Snow Geese high overhead, or of spring than the first Ruby-throated Hummingbird? Our birds move through the seasons on the great migratory flyways of the Americas, sometimes traveling thousands of miles on powerful but fragile wings.

David Ringer will take us on a journey across the seasons and the flyways to learn more about the birds we know and love and about the people working to save them wherever they roam. GOAS is part of an Audubon network stretching from the high Arctic to Tierra del Fuego, and David will show us how our work joins with that of thousands of others to protect birds throughout their lives. He'll also tell us about cutting-edge new opportunities to expand our work and our impact here at home and across the hemisphere.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday, March 17 for refreshments. The program will begin at 7:00 pm at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, 4601 Nature Center Way (off Business Highway 65). *Ruth Grant, Program Chair*