



GOAS *Scissortail*

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter :: May 2010 :: Volume 33 Issue 5

MAY CALENDAR

GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 11th

7:00 p.m., Nature Center

GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 18th

7:00 p.m. Program

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

COZN040Z

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 _____

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@peoplepc.com.

Log on to www.greaterozarksaudubon.org to subscribe to the GOAS newsletter online, or contact the GOAS Secretary if you want your newsletter mailed.



We interrupt Myra's column with this important message: Time is Running Out!

The September issue of the GOAS Scissortail will be the last mass mailed newsletter! After September, the newsletter will be published online. Don't miss a single issue with news about field trips, upcoming conservation activities, or all the entertaining and informative programs presented at membership meetings. Subscribe through Vertical Response to receive the online version, OR notify the GOAS Secretary that you require a mailed version. Go to www.greaterozarksaudubon.org/publications.html to get the newsletter online, or contact Lisa Berger, 882-1017 for more information. *Don't let this be your next to the last newsletter!*

NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

By Myra Scroggs, GOAS Chapter President



The spring neotropical migrants are here for our enjoyment! Stephen and I were fortunate enough to extend our spring birding season by a month this year, when we birded in Belize in March. Many of the same species we are seeing now passing through the Ozarks were spending the winter in Belize. However, we noted there were some major differences. The species were the same but their actions certainly were not. Ear-birders would be frustrated, for rather than singing their hearts out as they are now, they were silent except for some chip calls. Another difference was that we were not afflicted with warbler neck. Rather than being in the top of the canopy as many species are here, they were conveniently hunting in low growing shrubs and bushes. In fact, one Yellow-throated Warbler in glorious breeding plumage hung out ON the outside of our lodge dining room, everyday. Its niche seemed to include hunting the walls, roof, around the light fixtures, gutters and even the patio area for insects. Abundance was also a contrast. Redstarts seemed to be everywhere we looked, as were several species of orioles. We had 25 species of

warblers during the 10 days. At Crooked Tree Lagoon the abundance of water birds was amazing. We have literally spent hours searching for Snail Kites in Florida to no avail, but each morning at Crooked Tree dozens flew in from their nighttime roost to hunt snails, right in front of our cabin! The unfamiliar tropical birds were colorful and exotic. Parrots, trogons, motmots, manikins, euphonias as well as many others were abundant and wonderful to see. For tropical birding in a birder friendly, English-speaking country that accepts U.S. dollars, give Belize a visit.

Birdathon time is coming! If you want to join a team for a great day of birding in early May, just give me a call. We will connect you to one of our Birdathon teams. The teams will go out on a day of their choosing to find as many species as possible. Those team members will solicit their friends, relatives, and GOAS members for donations to support their birding efforts. Some people will pledge an amount per species seen, and others will pledge a specific amount. All these efforts go to support the GOAS education programs, including Audubon Adventures and GLADE.

GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY
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<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.

The GOAS website is sponsored by Consulting Analytical Services. The GOAS electronic message board is sponsored by Drew and Tara Albert

MAY'S ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS

Dr. Janice Schnake Greene
Cynthia Abbot

The Endowment Committee offers our heartfelt thanks to the folks who have generously contributed to the campaign

GOAS NEWS AND NOTES

A total of sixty volunteers participated in their choice of one, two or both Earth Day events hosted by our chapter on April 10. We held a South Creek Clean-Up where volunteers picked up trash, lopped branches, and pulled weeds in flower beds, and were rewarded with desserts for their efforts.

The second event took place at Lake Springfield where construction continues along the Greater Ozarks Audubon Trail. Volunteers built trail segments, and hauled cut cedar branches to chippers. We partnered with the Springfield Parks Department, who generously supplied lunch for the volunteer crew. Thank you to all who joined us for Earth Day and to everyone who provided food and desserts for the volunteers.

The recipient of the Greater Ozarks Audubon Environmental Awareness Award at the recent Ozarks Science and Engineering Fair was Lexi Sherman from Mansfield High School. Lexi compared several naturally occurring peroxidase enzymes to see which best digested wood pulp fibers. She found turnip extract worked very well. Paper recyclers take notes from this young scientist! Thank you to Dorothy Thurman and Dan Liles for judging this year's Science Fair.

A big thank you to Betty Johnson for staffing the GOAS display at the Grow Native and Nature Symposium event held

at the Nature Center. Thanks also to Greg Swick for representing GOAS and our Green Leadership Academy project at the Science Fair and at the Nature Center's Chemistry and Birds program.

Our very own Emily Samuel won the Gold Medal in Ornithology at this spring's Science Olympiad, Junior Division at MSU. Emily is a seventh grade student at Fordland. Emily then went to the state level of competition for the Science Olympiad. Way to go Emily!

Charley Burwick was our chapter's award recipient at the annual Choose Environmental Excellence Awards luncheon and ceremony. He was honored for his leadership and service to our chapter and his representation of our chapter on numerous boards and conservation committees.



A Northern Parula Warbler along Lookout Road near Chadwick: Marvin De Jong.

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MAY PROGRAM

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

GOAS's own Bob Ball will treat us to his photographic magic this month.

Bob Ball is a retired economist and nature photo hobbyist with over 35 years of experience. He is a self-taught naturalist and interested in everything in the natural world. He enjoys turning others on to the wonders of nature through his photographs. His photos have been published in several regional and national magazines, sometimes accompanying articles he has written.

He has participated in a number of juried craft shows including several years in the Easton, Maryland Waterfowl Festival and the Artists in Action Program on the Mall in Washington, D.C. He has also exhibited his prints in numerous locations throughout Missouri.

Bob has served as a volunteer naturalist at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center for over 13 years where he has performed many tasks including presenting photography and natural history programs, greeting and assisting visitors, walking trails, and performing in educational nature skits.

Come at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 18th for snacks and social time. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by the membership meeting at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, 4601 Nature Center Way (off Business Highway 65).

Dan and Ann Liles, GOAS Program Chairs



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