



GOAS *Scissortail*

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter : : MAY 2014 : : Volume 37 Issue 5

DR. RUTH REPORTS

Ruth Grant, GOAS Chapter President

Prairie Chicken Scratchings

Extirpation: The eradication of a species from an area where it previously occurred. Thirty years ago we sponsored an annual fieldtrip to the Lockwood area to view prairie chickens at a very active lek on private land. Last year our members found only one prairie chicken in the area, the well photographed "lonesome chuck". This year no prairie chickens were seen in the area.

We face the very real possibility that Greater Prairie Chickens will be extirpated from southwest Missouri in our lifetime. Currently they survive at Taberville and Wah'Kon-Tah prairies thanks to the efforts of the Missouri Department of Conservation, which just completed a five-year program of translocating greater prairie chickens from west-

ern Kansas and releasing them in suitable habitat here. But the long-term sustainability of these populations remains uncertain.

Missouri prairie chickens were doomed by the plow that broke the plains (with apologies to Virgil Thomson), the suppression of fire, and the widespread introduction of fescue as pasture grass. Their habitat is now degraded and fragmented, thereby reducing their nesting success and exposing them more frequently to predators.

A small population persists in northern Missouri at the Nature Conservancy's Dunn Ranch, but that population is being supplemented by transferred birds this spring as well. If you want to see booming prairie chickens for now you'll have to travel to Kansas. Or you can travel to the Springfield Conservation Nature Center Thursday May 15 to see the beautiful photography of Noppadol Paothong at our membership meeting.

Please remember that his program will be in the auditorium and is co-sponsored by the Nature Center. Therefore you must call the Nature Center beginning May 1 to register. Refreshments before and after will be available in our usual meeting room across the hall from the auditorium.



Marvin DeJong

MAY CALENDAR

GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY MAY 13th

7:00 p.m. Environmental Resource Center

GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 15th

7:00 p.m. Program

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

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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, or renew [online](#)

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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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SUMMERTIME ANNOUNCEMENTS & SCHEDULE

☀ There's still time to conduct a Birdathon big day count, or to make a pledge to teams who will be counting through May 15. The donations fund GLADE and Audubon Adventures conservation education projects. Winners will be announced at the summer planning meeting. Contact Myra Scroggs, 883-4015, for more information.

☀ GOAS doesn't take the summer off, but we do take a break from board and membership meetings, and the newsletter. After May's meetings, the next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 12. The next membership meeting will be Thursday, September 18—The GOAS annual meeting and elections.

☀ Don't forget to mark you calendars for our spring pot luck picnic, Wednesday, May 28, 5-7:30 pm at Nathaniel Greene-Botanical Center picnic shelter. Bring a dish to share; service and drinks will be provided. [MAP](#)

☀ While you still have your calendar and marker out, highlight Saturday, June 14, 9-noon. We'll hold our annual summer planning meeting out on the porch at Sunshine Valley Farm. This is a great time to get back together, and share ideas for the 2014-2015 year.

☀ The sixth season for the Green Leadership Academy's, *A Week in the Woods*, will run from June 22 through June 28. We've always had great help from GOAS volunteers for bringing/sending desserts, and for helping with meal preparation. We are counting on you again! It's also a wonderful opportunity to see what this conservation camp is all about.

☀ The spring field trip schedule is running at full capacity through mid-June, including field trips, and a Niangua River float trip. We've also scheduled a field trip in each of the months of July and August. Check out the Field Trip [Schedule](#), if your copy is missing in action.

☀ Nathan Zabek won the GOAS conservation award at the Ozarks Science and Engineering Fair, for his study of stream bank erosion along the Roubidoux River.

Who says GOAS takes the summer off? We just throttle it back a notch in July!

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Nature And The Arts: The Photography Of Noppadol Paothong

Wildlife Photographer, Noppadol Paothong, returns to share stories from his 11-year journey creating his long-awaited book, *Save the Last Dance—A Story of North American Grassland Grouse*. He spent over a decade documenting these highly endangered birds and recording captivating images of their mating rituals and habitats. This book strives to rescue grassland grouse from the brink of extinction by showing the world what it stands to lose if these species are allowed to disappear. Whether you're interested in photography, conservation in general, or grouse specifically, you're sure to be captivated by this presentation cosponsored by GOAS and the Springfield Conservation Nature Center and. Ages 12-adult. Registration begins May 1. Call 417-888-4237.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday May 15th for refreshments and to socialize. The program will begin at 7:00 pm in the auditorium, followed by the membership meeting at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, 4601 Nature Center Way (off Business Highway 65).

Dan and Ann Liles

MAY CALENDAR