



GOAS *Scissortail*

GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MAY 2016 VOLUME 39 ISSUE 5

FROM ANN'S AERIE

Ann Liles, GOAS Chapter President

Well, it's already time for the last newsletter before we take a break for Summer. It seems like just yesterday that I was writing my first newsletter article. This year we've had some spectacular monthly meetings with some of our largest crowds. A couple of months we've had upward of 75 people in attendance.

So I thought I'd share a few things I took away from some of our speakers: Becky Wylie kicked off the season with her wonderful pictures and stories from Yellowstone. Doug Ladd from The Nature Conservancy presented a very thought provoking program. While walking us through the origins of our planet to the present, he said: One of the biggest challenges for humans, is to view ourselves as part of nature not apart from nature. I see examples all around us of the consequences of this disconnect.

David Ringer, National Audubon Chief Network Officer, shared an update on National Audubon's Strategic Plan. That might sound dry, but if you've ever heard David, you'd know his talk was anything but dry. He covered so much, I could devote my entire column to his presentation, but I'll just share one tidbit that spoke to me. He told of scientists and conservationists from all over the world coming together and finding ways to protect habitats for migrating birds. These people meet and work together for the birds in spite of the fact that some come from countries that are at war with each other.

Jeff Cantrell's talk on Bird Behavior reminded us that if you closely observe even the most common and well known bird, there are still things we can learn, and be



Nate Swick in Honduras

amazed and enriched by them. His example was the American Robin.

After hearing Janice Greene and Jill Hays's program, I'm ready to pack for Brazil! I still can't get my head around a river wide enough that you can't see the banks from your boat.

Bob Ball renewed our wonder and fascination with birds' behavior in and around the nest. He gave us a touch of Spring in January with his beautiful pictures.

Of course, we participate in our own renewal each year with the annual program presented by our most recent GLADE class alumni. Hearing this ever-changing group of young people talk of their experiences from the previous Summer makes me a little envious this wasn't available when I was their age. It also gives me great hope for the future.

Thank you to all who attended our meetings. A big thank you to each of our speakers, and a special thank you to Ruth Grant our Program Chair who put together an outstanding slate of programs this year. I look forward to seeing you at our May meeting featuring Nate Swick and amazing birds called tubenoses. Read more details about Nate in the program section of this newsletter. Enjoy your Summer!

MAY CALENDAR

GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 10th

7:00 p.m. Environmental Resource Center

GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 19th

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

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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

TreasurerCharley Burwick
ozarkbirder@gmail.com 860-9505

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

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

BoardA. 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 presidentRuth Grant
ruthgrantmd@gmail.com..... 883-5605

DO YOU BIRDATHON? JOIN/SPONSOR A TEAM!

Birdathon starts right NOW! It's the most wonderful time of the year for birders; Spring Migration! And it's the reason for scheduling our annual fundraising event, Birdathon, to coincide with the remarkable numbers and variety of birds settling in or passing through the Midwest, on their way to breeding grounds.

The Chapter raises money to operate our educational projects, including the Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems, GLADE, and to provide Audubon Adventures to grade school classrooms.

Team members solicit pledges from friends, family, and colleagues, then choose a day in May to count as many bird species as possible. We'll hold a compilation picnic May 22, 5:00-7:00 pm at the Springfield Botanical Gardens Picnic Pavilion. For more information about participation in Birdathon, contact [Myra Scroggs](#). A packet of materials is available, with sample letters to solicit donations, and more. It's a great way to support the chapter while enjoying spring days and the magic of migration!



The GLADE Peeps Birdathon Team in action, raising funds for next year's Green Leadership Academy class of '17.

MAY CALENDAR

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...WITH NATE SWICK

Nate presents, *Birding the Blue Desert: Life in the Gulf Stream*

We are delighted Nate Swick will join us this month! His early birding passion led to the Swick family's long and current contribution to our Chapter. In 1995, GOAS, the Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM), and the American Birding Association (ABA) sponsored Nate's scholarship to Camp Chiricahua in Southeast Arizona; a week-long camp for youth birders.

Nate Swick is the editor of The ABA Blog and social media manager for the American Birding Association, an environmental educator and interpretive naturalist, and current Chair of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee. He is the author of *Birding for the Curious* (2015, Page Street Publishing) and the upcoming American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas (2016, Scott & Nix). Nate lives with his wife Danielle and their two children, Noah and Julia, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

An incredible world lies just beyond the blue horizon, one with flying fish, whales, and an amazing group of birds called tubenoses. Where do these birds come from? Where are they going? And what is so special about this patch of blue in the middle of the western Atlantic?

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday, May 19th 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