



# GOAS *Scissortail*

GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MAY 2018 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 5

## MAY CALENDAR

### GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 8th

7:00 p.m. Environmental Resource Center

### GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 17th

7:00 p.m. Program

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

### C8ZN040Z

*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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Get the **Scissortail** in your inbox!

Contact **Mary Sturdevant**, 830-9298, with questions, or **Lisa Berger**, 860-9108, to receive the newsletter by USPS mail.

## CHATS WITH JANICE

Janice Greene, GOAS Chapter President

As migration starts to wind down, nesting season winds up. The whole process of mating and nesting is complicated. Males have to establish and protect a territory by singing and chasing competitors off. Females choose their mate by judging the health of the male and the quality of his territory. One way male birds demonstrate their health (and good genetics) is by singing more complicated songs. To us, they may not sound very different but to a female, there are differences.

There are several mating systems of birds as well. Monogamy is one system that we hear about more than the others. Pairs can be monogamous for a breeding season or for life. Some of the best examples of monogamy are Canada Geese and Eagles. However, many monogamous birds are "socially monogamous" which means that a male may mate with one female and help take care of the young, but he will mate with another female or two while female #1 is incubating the eggs. He probably won't help female #2 very much but will help #1 a lot.

There are only 2% of all birds (only 14 species in North America) that are overtly polygynous or have multiple mates. These are usually birds that have isolated habitats, and the male spends a lot of time defending the resources. Marsh birds are the most common of the polygynous birds. The male defends a good territory in the marsh, and females mate with the male



who has the best resources.

There are cooperative breeders like the Florida scrub jays where offspring will delay reproduction and help raise the young (siblings). There are the nest parasites like the brown-headed cowbird. The brown-headed cowbird has to lay their eggs in another's nest; they never raise their own chicks. There are also the cheaters; those females who don't want to raise their young so they "dump" their eggs in another female's nest – some ducks and coots do this.

Another interesting group are those where the male and female exchange roles; it is called polyandry. The females are more brightly colored and defend a territory while the males are duller colored and will incubate and feed the young. Phalaropes are a great example of this group.

There is a lot of variety in the bird world. This is a great time of year to get out and just watch and listen. Enjoy the summer. We have one more meeting this month, then we are off for the summer. Watch for our Newsletter and Field Trip Schedule in September!

Baltimore Oriole: Becky Swearingen Image





GREATER OZARKS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 P.O. BOX 3231  
 Springfield, Missouri 65808-3231

Connect with **GOAS**  
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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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# Birdathon—Support a Team!

Supporters can donate online this year

Welcome to Birdathon! This is your chance to help Greater Ozarks Audubon Society raise funds that support our conservation education work here in the Ozarks! You'll be making possible our respected **GLADE** leadership academy for high school students, as well as the **Audubon Adventures** curriculum materials we supply to elementary classes throughout the Ozarks.

## There is more than one way to net a bird

You can form a team of one, or recruit up to four team members. Then **Name your Team!**

- 🐦 Each team member contacts friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to ask for pledges of an amount per species, or a total for the Big Day.
  - 🐦 Teams set their big day date, and head-out to the field. Soon after, each team member reports the results of their Big Day to their sponsors.
  - 🐦 Folks who aren't counting birds: Please sponsor GOAS Birdathon teams, who go from dawn to dusk to raise funds for GOAS!
- Contact Dave Catlin, 417-861-8875 for details and resource materials**



A stay at the Kipfer's Cabin at Bull Mills is offered again as an incentive to the Birdathon Team that raises the most Birdathon funds this May. Last year The Warbler Wizards won, and they are starting 2018's Birdathon at the cabin! Which team will win this year? This is your chance to support friends, GOAS, GLADE, and all our conservation education projects in the Ozarks. Go Teams! And a big thank you to Bob and Barbara Kipfer, for their generosity.

## MAY CALENDAR

### THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Becky Swearingen shares her stunning nature photography with GOAS at May's program, **Where in Missouri is Patagonia?** Perhaps it's in our own backyard!

Southwest Missouri has hosted a string of vagrants and rarities this year. What's up? It's most likely the *Patagonia Picnic Table Effect*: After an exciting rarity was discovered in Patagonia, Arizona, an influx of birders turned up all kinds of goodies nearby. Birds' abundance and distribution had not changed, but the intense level of scrutiny and coverage by birders had skyrocketed.

Becky has been a serious nature photographer for eight years; the last four spent with increased focus on birds, as she gradually intersected with GOAS and witnessed our passion. She is a member of the Springfield Plateau Master Naturalists, and has taught Literacy Education at MSU since 1994. Originally from Tulsa, Becky earned a doctorate in 1988 from Oklahoma State University.

If you'd like to socialize before the meeting, join us at 6:30 pm, Thursday, May 17th for refreshments. The program starts at 7:00 pm, followed by the membership meeting at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, 4601 Nature Center Way (off Business Highway 65).  
*Ruth Grant, Program Chair*