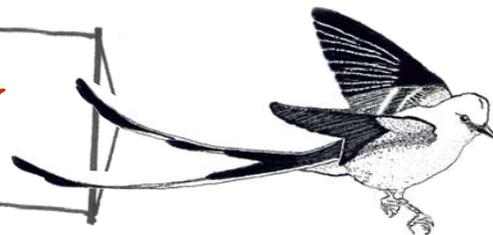


GOAS *Scissortail Flyer*



Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter :: OCTOBER 2010 :: Volume 33 :: Issue 7

THOUGHTS FROM THE TRAIL

By Myra Scroggs, GOAS Chapter President



Our new year of programs got off to a great start with David Ringer's presentation on the importance of the coastal wetlands. David is so knowledgeable and such a good communicator that I was sorry to see the program come to an end. One of our members told me this was the best program she had seen at Audubon! We hope David will be able to come again in the future and give us good news regarding the recovery of the coastal wetlands of Louisiana.

The topic of wetlands was prominent in my thoughts as several of our members had just returned from a birding trip to the Pantanal of Brazil, the world's largest wetland. The Pantanal is a huge basin in the interior of southwest Brazil which receives the runoff of several rivers but has only one outlet. During the rainy season, November through March, the basin fills with water until roughly 80% of the terrain is covered. As the rains decrease, the water slowly drains away and plants flourish. The plants in turn feed an abundance of animal life, including an estimate of 1000 bird species. The Hyacinth Macaw is the iconic bird species of the Pantanal. The largest member of the parrot family by length, this species has become endangered due to smuggling to supply the pet trade. We were excited to see our first hyacinths just outside the dining hall of the ranch where we were staying. Several of the birds were noisily calling just past daybreak. As the light increased we could see the rich blue of their feathers with just a hint of purple in the blue. Their enormous beaks can crack even a coconut! Their eye is



surrounded by a yellow ring which has the effect of making the macaw seem to be staring at you.

Pousada de Alegre was formerly a cattle ranch but now caters to eco-tourists while still maintaining some cattle. The owner of the ranch has planted a species of palm trees that are the favorite food of the hyacinths. He has also planted many trees which, when mature, will provide natural cavities the macaws use for nesting. Nesting boxes are used in some areas to provide cavities for the macaws. These conservation practices are resulting in increasing numbers of the hyacinths on this ranch, an encouraging sign.

We visited the Pantanal during the dry season so most of the water had drained away leaving only scattered small water holes. These contained an abundance of fish, and in turn were surrounded by amazing numbers of birds. Huge Jabiru Storks were common, often seen standing in their nests in tall trees. Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, Snail Kites, Great and Snowy Egrets, Wattled Jacana, and several species of ibis, herons and kingfishers were so abundant I hardly knew where to look first. The abundance of bird life was truly amazing. In addition to the great variety of birds, we saw many mammal species including the Giant River Otter, Giant Anteater, Crab-eating Foxes, Capybara, Coati, Marsh Deer, Tapir and several species of primates. The richness of life in this wetland ecosystem, as well as our own wetlands, is a perfect example of why wetlands around the world need protection. They are too great a resource to lose!

MOXIE TO SCREEN GHOST BIRD

Ghost Bird, a film about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, will be screened at the Moxie on October 19. You can find out more about show times by visiting www.moxiecinema.com.

OCTOBER CALENDAR
GOAS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12th
7:00 p.m., Nature Center
GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19th
7:00 p.m. Program
Springfield Conservation Nature Center

COZNO40Z **Membership Application**

- ◆ 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 request; 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.

19th Annual Bird Seed Sale **November 20, 2010**

Smilie's IGA Corner of Glenstone & Bennett 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Tell your friends or family and watch for your order form later this month. Order deadline is November 5.
Volunteers welcome!



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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 education, habitat preservation and restoration, and public awareness, for the benefit of humanity and wildlife.

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GOAS NEWS NOTEBOOK

Owl Prowl Fall Social

The annual Owl Prowl and Fall Social will be held Saturday November 6, 5-8 pm. We'll meet at the northwest corner of the Walmart parking lot, Sunshine and West Bypass at 5 pm, and carpool to Bois D'Arc Conservation Area where we'll try to call up Screech, Barred, and Great Horned Owls. After the owl prowling, stay for the tail-gate party for warm refreshments with snacks and treats. Plan to join in the fun!

TogetherGreen Grants Awarded to GOAS

Greg Swick is one of 40 individuals nationwide selected as a 2010 TogetherGreen Fellow. Each Fellow receives \$10,000 toward a community focused project. Greg will write a comprehensive sourcebook addressing all operational aspects of the Green Leadership Academy (GLADE) project.

GLADE is the only project to receive funding for three consecutive years! GOAS was awarded \$15,000 toward GLADE 2011, with emphasis on our new Mentor Team component that brings a new partner, the Springfield Plateau Master Naturalist group on board.

Botanical Center Grand Opening Events October 11-17

GOAS members will be leading field trips and interpretative events during the week. Highlights include butterfly house and Gray-Campbell Farmstead tours, outdoor concerts, prairie and bird walks, star-gazing and more.

2010 Bluebird Trail Stats

Lake Springfield: 115 Bluebirds, 33 Tree Swallows
Fellows Lake: 73 Bluebirds, 46 Tree Swallows, 6 House Wrens, 2 Carolina Chickadees, 6 Carolina Wrens
Chesterfield: 14 Bluebirds

November Meeting Program

The November program will feature the 2010 Green Leadership Academy 2010 graduates, who will talk about their week at camp and their community projects. Please join us to support these exceptional young conservation leaders.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Greater Ozarks Audubon's Marvin De Jong will treat us to a photographic tour featuring the people, scenery, and wildlife of the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador, where he and his wife Claudia traveled in April, 2010.

Marvin De Jong (pronounced dee young, accent on the "young") taught Physics at College of the Ozarks for 36 years. The Nobel Prize in Physics has eluded him for an equal length of time. More recently, he has taught on-line courses at MSU and Drury University. Since retiring, he and Claudia have volunteered for six months in Sitka, Alaska and for five months at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in south Texas. They have also done some traveling to Alaska, the Southwestern United States, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Including traveling, they enjoy canoeing, sailing, hiking, birding, and almost any other outdoor activity. They live on a small farm south of Ozark, Missouri, and a river runs through it. You are all invited to come out in the spring and look for wood warblers.

Come at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, October 19th for snacks and social time. The program will begin at 7:00 pm, followed by the membership meeting at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, 4601 Nature Center Way (off Business Highway 65).

Dan and Ann Liles, Program Chairs

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OCTOBER CALENDAR