

GOAS Scissortail

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter :: October 2011 :: Volume 34 Issue 7

C1ZN040Z

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

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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, lmurph34@gmail.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.

OCTOBER CALENDAR
GOAS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11th
7:00 p.m. Quail Creek Center
GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20th

7:00 p.m. Program
Springfield Conservation Nature Center

TWEETS

David Catlin, GOAS Chapter President

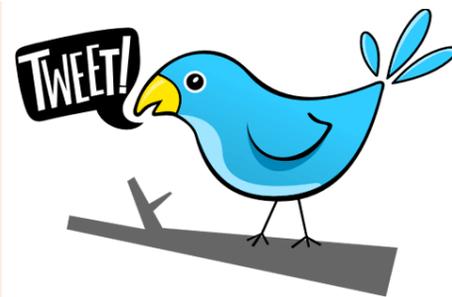
You probably know lots of people who enjoy watching birds. They're not even Audubon members—they just like putting out seeds in the cold months to see what shows up. According to surveys done in conjunction with the U.S. Census, this sort of birdwatching is the second-most common outdoor pastime in the U.S. (after gardening).

Watching birds around your house is a very mainstream activity. No one is embarrassed to admit they do it. The people you know bring the subject up at parties, where they describe some new sighting to you. "Sounds like a white-breasted nuthatch," you might say.

But at the other end of the birdwatching spectrum are the hard-core listers—the compulsive counters, the hotline followers, the rare-bird-chasers. They strive to tally as many species in Missouri as they can in a year, for instance, inviting themselves into the houses of complete strangers to see if that rufous hummingbird will show up again at the feeder. Or (like one fellow I met in Michigan) they refuse to rest until they have seen at least 100 bird species in every county of the state. (That's 83 counties, for those of you keeping score).

These folks—and forgive me if you count yourself among them—generally don't talk about their passion at parties, unless they are speaking with like-minded birders or don't really care about being invited back. Their hobby, dare I say it, is *not* mainstream.

Or it wasn't until this month.



On October 14, a new film about competitive birdwatching will be opening at a theater near you. It's called *The Big Year*, and it is based (if a bit loosely) on a nonfiction book of the same name that follows three characters as each strives to see a record number of bird species in North America in a single calendar year.

You might expect a film about competitive birding to be a documentary, filmed on a shoestring budget and appearing only on one of those small screens at the Moxie in downtown Springfield. But *The Big Year* stars Steve Martin, Jack Black, Owen Wilson, and a host of supporting players whose field marks you will recognize, even if the names escape you. It will be as mainstream a movie as they make.

So you secret listers can rejoice! You can come out of the closet, and admit that you are just like Steve Martin and his cronies—a bit eccentric, perhaps, but in a big-budget Hollywood sort of way. You can wear your Greater Ozarks Audubon Society t-shirts to the film's opening night, and I think you'll be able to count on being looked upon with newfound understanding and admiration by all the other theater patrons.

Just don't hang out in the lobby afterward, critiquing the bird calls on the soundtrack. That would be pushing your luck.



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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.

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

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BLUEBIRD NEST BOX TRAIL STATS FOR 2011



- Chesterfield**
- ◆ 12 Bluebirds
- Lake Springfield**
- ◆ 85 Bluebirds
- ◆ 32 Tree Swallows
- ◆ 4 Carolina Chickadees
- ◆ 6 House Wrens
- Fellows Lake**
- ◆ 138 Bluebirds
- ◆ 16 Tree Swallows
- ◆ 6 Carolina Chickadees
- Rutledge Wilson**
- ◆ 11 bluebirds
- ◆ 5 House Wrens
- ◆ 4 Carolina Chickadees



20th Annual Bird Seed Sale November 19th, 2011
Smillie'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!**



Springfield and Taney County Christmas Bird Count Planning Meeting:
Thursday December 8, 7:00 PM
Springfield Conservation Nature Center

OCTOBER CALENDAR

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Brad Jacobs will speak about bird Conservation in Central America.

Brad is an Ornithologist and Wildlife Ecologist with MDC. He chairs the USA-Partners-in-Flight's Implementation Committee. Brad serves on the Southern Wings Task Force of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to promote USA state fish and wildlife agency involvement in on-going bird conservation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.

He received a BS from Cornell University and a MA from University of Missouri, Columbia. He was a volunteer in the USA Peace Corps in Colombia, and has authored three books including *Birds in Missouri*, 2001.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday October 20th for refreshments and to socialize. 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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