

GOAS Scissortail

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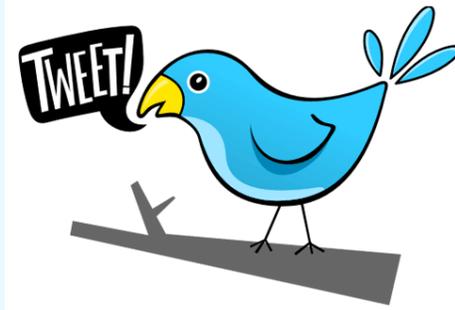
TWEETS

David Catlin, GOAS Chapter President

A birthday over the summer (my 57th) got me thinking about the way that subtle changes with each passing year begin to add up. I think I'm about the same person I was yesterday, or even a month ago. But when I look back further, I begin to realize that time has changed me. The drugstore reading glasses I bought in 2006 aren't strong enough anymore, and, while I can still manage a pretty long bike ride, I now require a serious nap when I get home.

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society has been changing over the years as well. GOAS isn't quite as old as I am, but close: We'll celebrate our 50th anniversary next year. The group started with a field trip at Lake Springfield in 1962, nine members with a shared passion for birds.

The shared passion for birds hasn't changed . . . but the organization sure has! Its year-to-year metamorphosis has been incremental, too, but substantial. We now have 850 members (up from 662 just two years ago). Instead of shared carfare, we now have an annual budget in five figures. Last year, inspired by a challenge from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, we established an endowment to help provide financial support for our conservation work—an endowment that, bolstered by another generous anonymous gift over the summer, is now approaching \$50,000.



That conservation work has grown over the years as well. Now we help monitor and manage the White River Glades and Woodlands Important Bird Area, provide conservation education through our GLADE project and Audubon Adventures for teachers, and partner with organizations like the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Watershed Center, the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department, and others on a variety of projects and initiatives. And those are just some of the highlights.

Despite the growth and new directions, though, we remain fundamentally a group of people passionate about birds. To share in that passion, just join us for one of the excellent slate of field trips Greg Swick and his committee have set up for this fall and winter (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Or attend one of the diverse and fascinating programs scheduled for upcoming monthly meetings by Dan and Ann Liles.

I guess you could say that the more things change, the more they stay the same. And it isn't hard to argue that they even get better. Think about what nice, long naps I'm getting now!

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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 _____

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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, larmar34@peoplepc.net.

Log on to www.greaterozarksaudubon.org to subscribe to the GOAS newsletter online, or contact the GOAS Secretary if you want your newsletter mailed.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR
GOAS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th
7:00 p.m. Quail Creek Center
GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th
7:00 p.m. Program
Springfield Conservation Nature Center



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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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NEWS AND NOTES

Your board and committees have been busy as bees this summer, so what's on the horizon for members and visitors this fall?

To start with, check out the fall field trip schedule. We've added some new trips to our

fall line-up. The entirely new trips invite beginning birders to join us and feature a social during or after the trip. Others bring new focus to our chapter's conservation and education objectives for a fresh look at familiar birding destinations. We hope one or more of our field trips will spark your interest. Newbies are welcome, so please join us!

Have you ever watched Chimney Swifts funnel into a roost? Our new trip, *Swifts and Sundaes*, starts at Columns IV Apartments in the adjacent Tel Com parking lot on east Sunshine. Meet at 6:30 pm and participate as a Citizen Scientist by counting swifts on their dusk return. We'll gather at Andy's Frozen Custard for a cool treat after the count!



Our chapter will host two Volunteer Days events this year, with help from a \$2,500 *TogetherGreen GoGreen* grant. Audubon and Toyota launched a five-year initiative in 2008 to fund conservation projects, train leaders, and offer volunteer opportunities, especially to folks new to environmental volunteerism. This is the second Volunteer Days grant we've been awarded, and our goal is to connect 50 new volunteers to nature.

The first event will be held September 24, 8:30-noon, where we will partner with the Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill to install a bubbler water feature for wildlife viewing behind the center's new building. Opportunities to work on trails and to plant trees will also be available.

Contact event coordinator, Charley Burwick, ozarkbirder@gmail.com, or Mike Kromrey, mike@watershedcommittee.org, to learn more about the project or to sign-up to volunteer. Returning volunteers: Please wear your *TogetherGreen* T-shirt to this event!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM...

Mark Hutchings, MDC Private Lands Conservationist, will discuss his work in Lawrence and Dade Counties, Missouri. He will update us on the joint program with Kansas to trap, radio collar, relocate, and monitor Greater Prairie Chickens in Wah'Kon-Ta Prairie. Information and an invitation to MDC's Quail program will also be included.



Mark has worked with MDC for 29 years, with a B.S. degree in Wildlife Conservation and Management from Missouri State. In 2005, he began working in MDC's Public Lands Services Division. A large proportion of his time is spent working within the southwest region's Greater Prairie Chicken and Quail Focus Areas.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday September 15th 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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