



GOAS *Scissortail*

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society Newsletter : : SEPTEMBER 2014 : : Volume 37 Issue 6

DR. RUTH REPORTS

Ruth Grant, GOAS Chapter President

Northwest to the Aleutians

Each summer many of us take off on birding adventures. My husband and I went on a "different" Alaskan cruise, one that started in Seward and traveled to Kodiak, the Aleutians including Attu, and the Pribilofs, ending in Petropavlovsk Russia.

The trip wasn't like the trip to Attu in the film the Big Year. The Coast Guard has pulled out of Attu, although their buildings remain, as do rusting remnants from the Japanese WWII invasion. The island is now inhabited only by wildlife (and ghosts) so you can't fly there anymore to bird for Asian vagrants during fall migration.

We weren't looking for Asian vagrants, although we found one, a Bar tailed Godwit. We were looking for nesting birds, seals, whales and wildflowers and we were amply rewarded by clouds of Auklets and fields of lupine.

Environmental problems were in evidence too. The Anchorage City Museum had a sobering exhibit called Gyre about the plastic waste in our oceans which is caught in circular ocean currents called gyres and then flung on coastlines. Plastic from wilderness Alaskan shorelines was collected by an expedition of artists and scientists and turned into this fascinating exhibit.

Laysan and Black Footed Albatross,

which nest on Midway Island near the North Pacific Gyre, feed on the surface of the ocean and frequently pick up plastic objects circulating in the gyre, which they feed to their chicks resulting in a high mortality rate.

On a happier note we observed Steller's Albatross, which nest in Japan. These birds were once thought to be extinct, but were rediscovered in 1954 and now have a worldwide population of over 2,000 breeding pairs. We also met a birder who was involved in the rediscovery of the Cahow or Bermuda Petrel, another bird once thought to be extinct, but now with a population of 105 nesting pairs.

Come to our September meeting and share what you learned on your summer vacation!

Upcoming Programs

October 16
Bob Ball

November 20
GLADE

January 15
Open

February 19
James Robinson

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

GOAS BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9th

7:00 p.m. Environmental Resource Center

GOAS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th

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

- 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 _____

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, or renew [online](#)

Get the **Scissortail** in your inbox! [Subscribe](#)

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
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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 Nominating Committee—Notice of Annual Meeting
Myra Scroggs, Chair, Greg Swick, and Jim Fossard present the
2014-2015 Slate of Officer and Board Nominees

- Ruth Grant..... President
- Ann Liles..... Vice-President
- Jim Fossard..... Secretary
- Charley Burwick..... Treasurer
- Lisa Berger..... Director
- Jan Carter..... Director
- Kathleen Cowens..... Director
- Janice Greene..... Director
- Jill Hayes..... Director
- Emily Samuel..... Director
- Greg Samuel..... Director
- Greg Swick..... Director
- Mary Sturdevant..... Director

David Catlin continues to serve on the chapter’s board as the immediate past president. Elections will be held at the annual business meeting, following the program at 7:00 pm, September 18, 2014, SGF Conservation Nature Center.

- President.....Ruth Grant
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- Board, past president..... David Catlin
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Northern Saw-whet Owl banded at Bull Shoals Field Station, 2011

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

THIS MONTH’S PROGRAM...

Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke, founders of the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO), will present, ***The Northern Saw-whet Owl in Missouri: More Common Than We Ever Dreamed!***

The tiny Saw-whet Owl is a breeding resident of the northern US and Canada, but was rarely recorded as far south as Missouri. Beginning in 2010, the Missouri River Bird Observatory began documenting Saw-whets via netting and banding in central Missouri. Dana and Ethan have also captured these little owls as far south as Rolla and Springfield! Other bird-banders throughout Missouri have taken up the effort, and together have added greatly to the knowledge of the Saw-whet’s distribution in the state. On September 18th, they will share details of their owl banding project with our chapter and discuss the fascinating life history of this charismatic species. Learn more about [MRBO](#).

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday September 18th for refreshments and to socialize. The program will begin at 7:00 pm, followed by the annual membership meeting at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, 4601 Nature Center Way (off Business Highway 65).

Ruth Grant, Program Chair