Welcome back after a summer packed full of birding! I hope you saw amazing birds and have great stories to share. Of course, the field trip committee (chaired by Greg Samuel) has planned some wonderful field trips to help us to continue to see wonderful birds. Check out the field trips online. Ruth Grant has also put together a great slate of speakers for the year.

One of the exciting things that I have to share is the result of our summer planning meeting. We conducted a strategic planning session and came up with some goals for the next 5 years. We started with the four targets in our mission statement – Public Awareness, Education, Habitat Protection and Restoration, and Bird Watching. We, then, established 2-4 goals for each. At the first membership meeting on September 20, we will have handouts of our strategic plan and invite comments.

The September meeting also marks our Annual Meeting where we elect officers and board members. As always, we appreciate those people willing to volunteer to serve and represent the group. We value our membership and offer many opportunities for all of you to volunteer.

Special thanks to Lisa Berger and Jill Hays who are exiting the Board for now. I am excited to be your President for another year, and look forward to getting to know many of you better this year. See our slate on page two.

Congratulations to Lisa Berger and Jill Hays who have devoted so much time and effort to the GOAS. Thank you for all you have done for GOAS. Our next President will be your current President, Janice Greene. Janice thank you for your leadership.

State Ornithologist, Sarah Kendrick will present our September program.

My Summer as a Missouri River Bird Observatory Intern—Klee Bruce

This summer I had the pleasure of spending nine weeks at the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO) in Arrow Rock, Missouri as their summer Education Department Intern. My experience with MRBO was nothing short of fantastic, and I am incredibly grateful for all the skills I acquired and the experience I gained in the field that means so much to me: Bird Conservation.

MRBO’s office is located in a historic homestead on the Arrow Rock State Historic Site, within walking distance of the Jameson Island unit of the Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge. Being so close to the refuge gave me the opportunity to fall in love with the Missouri River, and I spent many evenings patrolling it’s...
Janice Greene ................................................................. President
Greg Swick ................................................................. Vice-President
Becky Swearingen ...................................................... Secretary
Wendy Vit ................................................................. Treasurer
Klee Bruce ................................................................. Director
Charley Burwick ......................................................... Director
Jim Fossard ................................................................. Director
Kendell Loyd ............................................................ Director
Jeannie McLaughlin .................................................. Director
Greg Samuel ............................................................ Director
Myra Scroggs ............................................................ Director
Brooke Widmar ........................................................ Director
Ann Liles continues to serve as the immediate past president.

Elections will be held at the annual business meeting following the program at 7:00 pm, September 20, 2018 at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center.

Sarah Kendrick, State Ornithologist for Missouri Department of Conservation
(MDC) will present Technology and Tracking Bird Migration: What We Are Learning and How You Can Help!

Tracking birds during migration is a burgeoning field of ornithological study to advance technologies that improve each year. Tracking devices small enough to be placed on songbirds, bats, and even large insects are transforming what we know about where birds are migrating, the paths they take to get there, and how we target areas that birds use along the way for conservation efforts. Come learn more about these technologies, bird migration, and how you can help in this effort and be part of this exciting study.

Sarah is a Missouri native, earning both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Missouri. For her Master’s research, she hiked around the beautiful Missouri Ozark hills studying Eastern Wood Pewee breeding demography on savannah and woodland restoration sites. She worked in MDC’s Wildlife Division for three years before landing her dream job of State Ornithologist in March 2017. She loves hiking, birdwatching, her husband Kip, and their two-year-old son Abram (not in that order, for better or worse). Sarah will also update the group on other projects that she’s involved in.

Come at 6:30 pm, Thursday September 20th for refreshments and to socialize. The program begins 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