Chats with Janice
Janice Greene, GOAS Chapter President

Spring migration is in full swing! Even today, as I write this in March, I read on Facebook that someone has seen a Brown Thrasher. This is an exciting time for all of us birders.

If you missed Brad Jacobs’ presentation last month, he discussed some new technologies in the hunt to learn more about the exact routes birds migrate, their destinations, and where they stopover. The partnerships that we are trying to build in Latin America, will be able to focus all conservation work with more specificity.

Another big item focusing on migration is our upcoming Bird-A-Thon. As most of you know, this is one of the big fundraising events for GOAS. The money raised goes to support the chapter’s education programs including Audubon Adventures and the Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems (GLADE). This is GLADE’s 10th year, which has now impacted over 134 students, many of whom are working in conservation-related careers today.

If you’re not familiar with Bird-A-Thon, teams or individuals get friends, family, and colleagues, to pledge a dollar amount for every bird species seen on a particular day (or just a set amount of money). Then you or your team pick a day and count as many bird species as possible. It’s a fun way to see the migrant and resident birds with friends and earn some money for our education programs.

This year, there will be an electronic way for people to give as well as the traditional check writing. We will send out a link as soon as we have it.

There are also multiple field trips scheduled to see the migrants as they arrive. Be sure to check out the field trip schedule and come along.

The ASM Spring Meeting is all about engaging the next generation, with Broke Widmer helping organize a Missouri Young Birder’s group. The Missouri River Bird Observatory will host this spring’s meeting at Arrow Rock State Park. Klee Bruce is among younger birders presenting at the Friday night opener. Register and learn more on ASM’s webpage.

See you in Arrow Rock!
Welcome to Birdathon! This is your chance to help Greater Ozarks Audubon Society raise funds that support our conservation education work here in the Ozarks! You’ll be making possible our respected GLADE leadership academy for high school students, as well as the Audubon Adventures curriculum materials we supply to elementary classes throughout the Ozarks.

There is more than one way to net a bird
You can form a team of one, or recruit up to four team members. Then Name your Team!

_teams set their big day date, and head-out to the field. Soon after, each team member reports the results of their Big Day.

Folks who aren’t counting birds: Please sponsor GOAS Birdathon teams, who go from dawn to dusk to raise funds for GOAS!

Contact Dave Catlin, 417-861-8875 for details and resource materials

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(This Month’s Program…)

_Birding by Ear_ is a familiar phrase to many birders – but just how is it learned, if you weren’t born an ear birder? Alison Kondler joins us in April to share her techniques: _How to ID Birds by Their Sounds._

She first became interested in birds when she learned to imitate their songs. Since then, Alison has created hundreds of mnemonics for North American birds, sharing her methods through workshops, as a bird guide and naturalist, and nature advocate. She has also done stand-up comedy! A field app is in the works. More information is available on her website birdingbyear.com.

After gaining skills Thursday evening, we’ll test drive them in the field Friday and Saturday with trips to Busiek and Valley Water Mill Park, respectively; both 8-11 am. Details and directions are in the Field Trip Schedule.

If you’d like to socialize before the meeting, join us at 6:30 pm, Thursday, April 19th for refreshments. The program starts 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_