



## THE CHAT

*SERVING AUDRAIN, BOONE, COOPER, HOWARD,  
MONROE AND RANDOLPH COUNTIES*

### Mike Leahy, Unique Nature Areas in Missouri Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30 pm

Meeting at the Unitarian-Universalist Church  
2615 Shepard Blvd. Columbia

Mike Leahy, Nature Areas Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation will share with CAS on Wednesday, February 18th, several unique nature areas. He will bring to life some of the hidden charm found in the nature areas for which he serves as the Coordinator. Providing details on how to reach the areas, the amenities of each site and examples of the birds that can be found at each site. This is a



great opportunity for each of us to broaden our bird watching locations and to add to our birding history records.

Mike's extensive knowledge of Missouri's nature areas will give you a chance to ask one of your pressing questions regarding a specific site you may have visited or wish to visit in the future. Join us as we discover new places to go birding.

The CAS Board will meet at 6:15 pm. All are welcome.

### Prairie Home Conservation Area Field Trip

Saturday, February 14 at 7:30 a.m., Bill Clark and Edge Wade will provide the leadership for a day of birding at the Prairie Home Conservation Area. The group will head out from Parkade Plaza Parking lot. The southwest corner is the meeting spot. Please be prompt, wear the appropriate clothing for the forecasted

weather, don't forget your binoculars, your bird diary, and any other items that you might need for the day. The field trip will return in the early afternoon with lunch at a local restaurant near Prairie Home to discuss the day's findings. Contact Bill Clark at 573-474-4510. Bill can be seen on Friday, February 13th at 11:00 a.m. on Pepper



and Friends discussing Columbia Audubon Society and his most recent birding adventures.

## CAS Board Meeting January 21, 2009

The minutes of the November 19, 2008 were approved with several items noted: tractor repair for \$2,800; the Hinkson Watershed Project is being monitored by David Bedan; and John Besser and a volunteer flagged a nature trail.

No meeting was held in December, 2008.

The board approved a letter to be signed by CAS President Bill Palmer urging the City of Columbia to select Option 2 for the proposed "Gans Creek Recreation Area" master plan. The letter referred to the unique resource of the Gans Creek Wild area and CAS's desire that the wild and natural character of that part of the state park not be compromised. Also indicating that the land along and south of Gans Creek should be managed only for low impact activities that will not impact the ad-

joining Gans Creek Wild Area in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. Dave Bedan, CAS Conservation Chair, continues to monitor the City's plans for this project. See the city's proposals at [gocolumbiano.com/ParksandRec/Parks/Crane/reg\\_park\\_planning.php](http://gocolumbiano.com/ParksandRec/Parks/Crane/reg_park_planning.php)

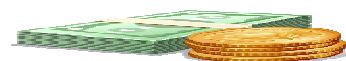
A donation of \$100.00 was made to Lisa Schenker for her classroom work with Project Feederwatch. Lisa's students are researching the boreal forest and songbirds. A field trip is planned to Rock Bridge Park in the spring..she was hoping for a trip to a boreal forest...not this year!

A representative from the Missouri Naturalist proposed a Hummingbird Garden be established at Wild Haven in memory of Troy Gordon. It was determined that a memorial butterfly garden is in the same area. The two would be combined to include plaques, a walk way, and na-

ture plants. CAS and the Naturalist would construct and maintain the area jointly. Plans are to begin the work by the end of February.

Vanessa Melton, Membership Vice President, reported the following membership:

- 45 Local Members
- 82 Local and National Members
- 533 National Members



### Treasurer's Report

As of 1/21/09

Summary	Month	Year to Date
Income	\$1,760.69	\$ 6,092.33
Expense	\$ 272.93	\$11,710.94

For additional information, please contact CAS Treasurer Eric Seaman at 573-442-2301/[grooved@people.com](mailto:grooved@people.com).

## Columbia Audubon Society Board 2008-2009

### Board of Directors

President Bill Palmer  
 Vice-President Vanessa Melton  
 Secretary Bonnie Heidy  
 Treasurer Eric Seam  
 Communications Margaret Muegenburg  
 Directors: John Besser  
                   Steve Heying  
                   Mariel Stephenson  
                   One open position  
 Past President Bill Clark

### Committee Chairs

Nature Areas: John Besser  
 Membership & Hospitality: Vanessa Melton  
 Field Trips Coordinators: Bill Clark & Edge Wade  
 Conservation: Dave Bedan  
 The Chat Editor: Margaret Muegenburg  
 Publicity: Fred Seaman  
 Education: Lisa Schenker and Bill Clark  
 Website: Mary Dodds McCarthy  
 Trailside Center: Denny Donnell

### CAS Board Meetings

All Welcome

The Board Meetings are held at 6:15 pm prior to the regularly scheduled General Meeting at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia.

Copies of the minutes and financial statements are available upon request.

Contact President Bill Palmer at 573-657-1076/[Palmer1076@aol.com](mailto:Palmer1076@aol.com)  
 Vice-President Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905/[vanndawn@yahoo.com](mailto:vanndawn@yahoo.com)  
 The Chat Editor Margaret Muegenburg at 573-234-7313/[maggiemueg@aol.com](mailto:maggiemueg@aol.com)

# News and Notes

The CACHE Wednesday morning trips continue with Bill Clark meeting at Parkade Shopping Center, southwest corner, at 7:30 a.m. until noon. Bill reports the following CACHE visits and sites over the years:

	Visits	Sites
Edge Wade	1,189	310
Kathleen Anderson	913	105
Bill Clark (3 Years)	585	166

Missouri Votes Conservation (MVC) is promoting Missouri Conservation Lobby Day on Tuesday, February 17th. The event convenes citizens who represent a diversity of conservation interests,

from environmentalists, scientists, students and business owners to hunters, anglers and farmers. You can meet with key lawmakers to explain your areas of interest in the care and preservation of our environment. Contact MVC at 314-725-9494. This organization is affiliated with the League of Conservation Voters.

Tuesday, March 10th at the Columbia Public Library in the Friends Room, energy experts from the Water & Light Department, Boone Electric Coop, and other community representatives will provide cost-cutting and



information about utility programs and rebates for home energy improvement. The League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County invites you to come at 6:30 pm for refreshments and a close look at the energy-wise model house and other special exhibits. For information: 573-445-4663.



## Membership to the Columbia Audubon Society and

### The National Audubon Society

PO Box 1331 Columbia MO 65205

Vanessa Melton Vice-President Membership

573-864-3905 vanndawn@yahoo.com

### Columbia Audubon Society Membership and Dues Form

### National Audubon Society Membership Form

Local dues are voluntary. Your local dues support functions such as *The Chat* and the Christmas Bird Count. Membership is for 12 months beginning with the day you join or renew.

#### Chapter N007XCH

New Introductory Rate \$20.00  Renewal \$35.00

Student \$10.00  Individual \$15.00  Family \$25.00

Donor \$50.00  Friend/Business Sponsor \$300.00

Membership includes a year subscription to the *Audubon Magazine*. For renewals, in order to avoid duplication, please complete the form exactly as it is on your *Audubon Magazine* mailing label.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like your name included in the CAS Directory, check here.

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Make your check payable to the Columbia Audubon Society (CAS) and mail with this form to CAS PO Box 1331, Columbia MO 65205.

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## ASM 2009 Spring Meeting—Hosted by CAS

The Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) Spring Meeting, May 1, 2, and 3, 2009, will be hosted by the Columbia Audubon Society, at the Quality Inn Motel.

The task force for this event includes Joyce Bathke and Edge Wade, who were on the task force that planned the ASM Spring Meeting held in Columbia in 2002, and Vanessa Melton, Eric Seaman, and Susan Hazelwood.

Planning is underway. Eric has prepared a preliminary budget. The keynote speaker is Dr. Jim Rising, author of several books on sparrows. He will also lead a workshop on sparrows Saturday morning. Denny Donnell has agreed to display his Migratory Bird Stamp Collection and his tribute to Roger Torey Peterson and the development of field guides.

Typically, between 80 and 110 people attend the ASM Spring Meeting. Included in the weekend are field trips, a silent auction, speakers Friday and Saturday evening, and a banquet Saturday evening.

Task force members will contact CAS members for help with specific aspects of the weekend. Volunteers will be needed for such tasks as leading or assisting with field trips; obtaining items for, setting up and monitoring the silent auction; assembling registration packets; staffing the registration table; obtaining or assembling table decorations; and providing food for the Friday night carry-in dinner as participants arrive.

If you have suggestions and/or wish to volunteer for a specific task, please contact one of the task



Force members.

The field trip schedule and the registration form for the event will be in ASM's quarterly, *The Bluebird* (March issue), and on the ASM web page [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org) soon after February 1.

Task Force Members can be reached:

**Edge Wade** [edgew@mchsi.com](mailto:edgew@mchsi.com)

**Eric Seaman** [grooved@people.com](mailto:grooved@people.com)

**Vanessa Melton** [vann-dawn@yahoo.com](mailto:vann-dawn@yahoo.com)

**Susan Hazelwood** [hazelwoods@mchsi.com](mailto:hazelwoods@mchsi.com)

## Christmas Bird Count 2008 Results

Jim Gast has provided a summary of the 2008 Columbia Christmas Bird count included in this month's *The Chat*. A total of 98 species and 38,240 birds were counted. The participation by CAS members, friends and family are impressive for the count on Saturday, December 20th.

Bird species requiring documentation were noted including the Carolina Chickadee and the Sedge Wren. The Sedge Wren

was seen by three different parties. At the Chili Supper it brought laughter believing there might only be one Sedge Wren but that he or she had a busy travel day flying within CAS's bird counting radius.

In-field participants numbered 68 with 6 feeder watchers. The parties efforts were coordinated by Susan Hazelwood. The names of the CBC teams are included on CBC Results list. It was a great day with the event

topped off by the Chili Supper. We look forward to this year's CBC and hope you'll plan to enjoy the fellowship of fellow birders in Columbia.





THE CHAT  
 COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 PO BOX 1331  
 COLUMBIA MO 65205

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 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Columbia MO  
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Wednesday February 18th, 7:30 PM

Mike Leahy  
 Nature Areas Coordinator,  
 Missouri Department of Conservation  
*Unique Nature Areas in Missouri*

6:15 PM CAS Board Meeting

We're on the Web  
[columbia-audubon.missouri.org](http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org)

## 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count

“Count for Fun, Count for the Future” is the theme for the Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology scheduled for February 13th through the 16th (President’s Day weekend). Last year over 85,000 checklists were submitted along with 635 species identified with hundreds of stunning photographs forwarded reflecting the birds of the earth.

Visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) for easy to follow instructions, in-



cluding tips for identifying bird species. You can download a checklist of bird species for the Columbia area.

The wonder of this project is that children and adults of all ages can participate easily within their own backyard or neighborhood. The lists will help scientist understand more about how the distribution and abundance of birds are changing through

time. Rare birds are spotted in locations that may not be their natural habitat along with the very familiar cardinals, juncos, and woodpeckers in their year-round homes.

You can count birds each day and submit your data on separate lists to illustrate the birds movement within you area. It is recommended that you spend at least 15 minutes watching in one place to record your results. The tabulations will be available online during and after the count. You can submit digital images of the birds you snapped with your camera for the online gallery and photo contest at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).