



THE CHAT

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

Jonathan Pons, My Favorite Missouri Bird Pictures Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30 PM Meeting at the Unitarian-Universalist Church 2615 Shepard Blvd. Columbia

Columbia Audubon Member Jonathan Pons will provide a collection of his bird photographs for the March 18th meeting at 7:30 pm. He will bring a slide show to illustrate the wide variety of birds found in our state. His most favorite bird photos are those that grab his attention and make him happy. As an avid birder, he knows the sky is not the limit to his profound joy in this pleasurable avocation. Jona-



than plans to share the best spots to find these birds plus tips on taking your own stun-

ning photographs for your birding memory book.

Please join us for an evening of spectacular beauty as we once again enjoy the fellowship of birding. This might be a great meeting to bring a friend who would become addicted to this wonderful way to enjoy all of life.

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

Danville Conservation Area Field Trip

Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 a.m., Bill Clark and Edge Wade will provide the leadership for a day of birding at the Danville 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. Walking, if any, will be on flat land in dry areas. The field trip will return in the early afternoon with lunch at Crain's in Williamsburg to discuss the day's findings. Contact Bill Clark at 573-474-4510. Bill can be seen on Friday,



March 13th at 11:00 a.m. on Pepper and Friends discussing Columbia Audubon Society and his most recent birding adventures.

CAS Board Meeting February 18, 2009



John Besser, Nature Area Chair, presented a plan to show the revitalization of the Wild Haven Park to include a hummingbird garden in memory of Troy Gordon. The Missouri Naturalist are assisting with this project that will also include new plantings for the butterfly garden. Work is expected to begin in April. A water edge garden is

planned along with mulched and moved paths to give visitors easier access to the area. A list of flora and fauna for each of the designated areas has been developed. CAS members will be asked to pitch in on the work days with the Naturalist. Also if you have planting that you won't be using in your own garden, think about donating them for this project. A ground breaking event has been planned for the May Picnic Meeting. More details will follow.

The board approved the expenditure of funds to replace the printer used by Margaret Muegenburg, The Chat Editor.

Membership data will be updated at the March Board Meeting positions.



Treasurer's Report

As of 2/18/09

The treasurer reported that the CDs

Summary	Month	Year to Date
Income	\$583.56	\$ 7,175.86
Expense	\$728.38	\$12,421.34

are renewing at 2% less than last year. For additional information, please contact CAS Treasurer Eric Seaman at 573-442-2301/ 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

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

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.

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.

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.



The Great Backyard Bird

Count's website is being updated daily with March 1, 2009 as the deadline. As of 2/23/09 the count is as follows:

Checklists Submitted: **87,133**

Total Species Observed: **603**

Total Individual Birds Counted:

11,208,798.

Check out the website:

Great Backyard Bird Count in early March for the final numbers.

Reminder, Edge Wade and the CAS Host Committee for the Audubon Society of Missouri's May meeting will be contacting you for assistance.



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

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.

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

Donor \$50.00 Friend/Business Sponsor \$300.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

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

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

National Audubon Society Membership Form

Chapter N007XCH

New Introductory Rate \$20.00 Renewal \$35.00

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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

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

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

Letters of Thanks from Grant 4th Graders

Dear Mrs. Wade and CAS,
Thank you for books for our classroom! Thank you Mrs. Wade for telling CAS and thank you CAS for the donating the money for the bird books. Now we can learn more up to date information on the birds.

Sincerely, Sam

PS Thank You. You ROCK!!

PPS When I studied the tufted titmouse It is a really interesting bird.

Dear Mrs. Wade and CAS,
Thank you for the books for our classroom! They are soooo interesting. My favorite bird is the blue jay! I hope you will have a wonderful valentine's day.

Sincerely, Zoe

PS I did research on the ruby crowned ringlet from the Bo-real forest! Its soooo cute!

Dear Mrs. Wade and CAS,

Thank you so much for the books! I'm sure our class will use them over and over. Birds are nice to learn about. Thank you so much. There are so many kinds of birds in the world, and you



Dear Mrs. Wade and CAS,
Thank you for the awesome bird books/guides for our classroom. They are so detailed and I love the pictures. We dearly appreciate your kindness. Thanks again!

Sincerely, Ellen

PS I studied the indigo bunting, the junco, the barn swallow and the tree swallow.

Dear Mrs. Wade and CAS,

Thank you for the books for our classroom. The books are cool and I like how they are set up. Also, what does CAS stand for? So thanks for the books.

Your friend, Mamin

P.S: For our second presentation I did the Horned Grebe.

Dear CAS and Edge,
Many thanks for the fabulous additions to our classroom "bird" library! My students have been excitedly pouring over the guide-books, especially. I will use the other 2 sources to supplement my lessons. By the end of the school year we'll even have a great start on life lists, using the Brundt book as a model.

I am grateful for your generous support, as always!

Most sincerely,

Lisa Schenker

And Grant 4th Graders



THE CHAT
COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 1331
COLUMBIA MO 65205

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Columbia MO
Permit 54

Wednesday March 18th, 7:30 PM

Jonathan Pons

Slide Show Presentation

“My Favorite Missouri Birds”



6:15 PM CAS Board Meeting

We're on the Web

columbia-audubon.missouri.org

Address Service Requested

Nature Areas Chair John Besser

Serving Nature Area Chair, John Besser has brought his management skills to the properties held by CAS. An interest in natural history, along with a friend's family, introduced him to bird watching around his hometown in western Wisconsin. He had a number of memorable birding trips to Crex Meadows in NW Wisconsin and to Hawk Ridge, Duluth Minnesota. His life birding list grew on family vacations adding new species with each trip.

Pursuits in canoeing, fishing, sports and education let the bird watching slide. John finally kick the addiction to graduate school, finding work as a research biologist gave him more time to chase

the birds. Employment with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and his present position with the U.S. Geological Survey Administration keeps him in touch with his life long love of the outdoors.

John's wife, Cathy Richter, and their 9 year old daughter, Valerie, spend may hours searching for the next bird to add to their lists.

The first CAS Christmas and spring-migration bird count introduce him to the Columbia Audubon Society. John has served for over 10 years as a CAS Board member. His current responsibilities of the management and maintenance of the properties have brought many challenges that he has stepped forward and accepted



with great enthusiasm and muscle power. He adds, “I am a firm believer in the value of these areas as habitats for birds and other wildlife providing prime locations not only for CAS members and the surrounding communities. Outreach through education is vitally important to maintain the beauty and natural wonder of our state for the children and families of Missouri. I look forward to working with our members this spring as we prepare each area for the many summer visitors.”