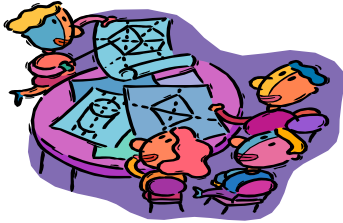


CAS Board Meeting April 20, 2009



Reports from the various Committee Chairs provided updates on current issues.

Eric Seaman, Treasurer presented the CAS Proposed Budget for FY2010. The Board approved the budget.

John Besser continues to work with the Master Naturalist to construct the Hummingbird Garden in Troy Gordon's name. He is still accepting mulch, plants, and other items to be planted in

both gardens—Hummingbird and Butterfly. If you have items to donate, contact John at jbesser1@gmail.com. See article on page 5.

Vanessa Melton, Vice President—Membership presented CAS' membership numbers:

75 Local/National A.S.
41 CAS only
549 National A.S.

Bill Clark indicated that the May field trip will be the last one until September. The CACHE will continue to take place each Wednesday.

The migratory bird count is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th.

If you would like to assist with the project, contact Susan Hazelwood at 445-4952/hazelwoods@mchsi.com.

The Board is preparing a list of candidates for 2009-2010 to be voted on this summer.



Treasurer's Report As of April 15, 2009

Summary	Month	Year to Date
Income	\$1,780.26	\$10,551.35
Expense	\$543.46	\$14,734.48

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.



THE CHAT

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

Annual May Picnic Wednesday May 20th 6:00 PM Wild Haven Nature Area

Join CAS members for a picnic in the park — Wild Haven Nature Area on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:00 PM. This annual tradition as we celebrate the “year’s end” before we break for summer. Bring a dish to share along with your bug spray to ward off the ticks and a lawn chair for comfort. We will have an opportunity to view the work that is being done to complete the Troy Gordon Memorial Hummingbird Garden. The site is in pro-



gress as the Boone’s Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalist and CAS members join together to provide a beautiful spot for hummingbirds. The combined groups are updated the butterfly garden. If you feel really ambitious, come

early, John Besser will find a spot on the team. You will also be able to see the Chimney Swift Tower. Wild Haven is located on Route B north of US 63. After crossing the RR tracks (about 1 mile), turn right on Brown Station Road. After the stop sign, turn right onto O’Rear Road, through the gravel, the Wild Haven sign and gate on the right about 1 mile from Brown Station. See you there!

Van Meter State Park Field Trip

Saturday, May 16th at 7:30 a.m., Bill Clark and Edge Wade will provide the leadership for a day of birding at the Van Meter State Park. A large water fowl refuge area will provide you with a wide variety of birds to add to your life list. 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 a local restaurant to discuss the day’s findings. Contact Bill Clark at 573-474-4510. Bill can



be seen on Friday, May 15th at 11:00 a.m. on Pepper and Friends discussing Columbia Audubon Society and his most recent birding adventures.



THE CHAT
COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 1331
COLUMBIA MO 65205

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

Wednesday May 20th 6:00 PM

Annual May Picnic
Wild Haven Nature Area
Bring your favorite dish.
View the progress of the
Troy Gordon Hummingbird Garden

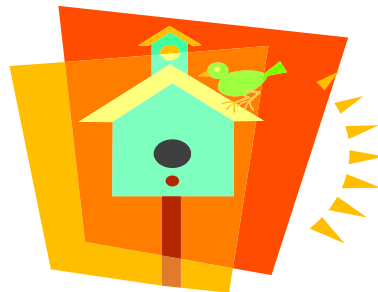


We're on the Web
columbia-audubon.missouri.org

Address Service Requested

Starling Nesting Ecology Study

If you drive around South Farm this Spring you may notice several groups of next boxes attached to tress. No, these are not bluebird boxes, but instead they are starling boxes! Ok, I know what you are saying, "What in the world?", but these boxes are a critical component of a study being conducted by Walter Wethje, UM-Columbia on starling nesting ecology. He and Bob Pierce with the University Extension are trying to establish if different grazing systems attract more starlings than other systems. South Farm is



considered the "control site", and volunteers from the Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalist and the Columbia Audubon Society are monitoring the boxes for nesting activity. If you would like to help out contact Vanessa Melton at 573-864-3905 or vann-dawn@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Vanessa Melton



I want to thank everyone who provided snacks and treats for our members to enjoy at the end of each meeting. Because of you our meetings are more enjoyable and provide an opportunity for our members to catch up on others' birding adventures. Plus they were downright yummy. Thanks go out to Dolores Clark, Marty McCarthy, Laura Hillman, Eric Seaman, Fred Seaman, Nancy Bedan, Bonnie Heidy, Marth Donnell, Mariel Stephenson, and Lisa Schenker.

Vanessa Melton
Vice President

News and Notes

Bluebird Houses

Fred Seam check the bluebirds nest, Russell Area, during April. He checked all 8 house in which he found:

- 1 Wren nest with 3 eggs
- 2 Bluebird nest, completed, no eggs.
- 1 Sparrow nest, removed it
- 4 empty nests.

He noted that there were the beginnings of wasp nest with he removed.

He logged in the following birds: Wren, Pair of Bluebirds,

Red Tailed Hawk, Cardinals, Gold Finch and a Vulture. He also heard Meadowlarks. If you would like to monitor the bluebird house, contact Vanessa Melton at vanndawn@yahoo.com

Kathleen and Howard Anderson noted the following birds and nest at the Albert Area: 1 hatchling bluebird and 4 additional eggs, 4 bluebird nests, tree swallows starting nesting activities, seen an Eastern Phoebe, Blue-winged teal and heard a blue-gray gnatcatcher, song and field sparrows.

Global Birding

AARP reported that a global website is available for ardent birders when you are traveling. It list local bird watchers all over the world who will treat you to a birding expedition when you're in their neighborhood. And they do it for free! Volunteers are listed by country, state, town or region; language spoken, and availability.



You can e-mail them directly to make arrangement for your adventure: www.birdingpal.org.

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.

Troy Gordon Memorial Hummingbird Garden

Sponsors: Boone's Lick Chapter-Missouri Master Naturalist / Columbia Audubon Society

Contact: Suzanne Wright, 573-446-2217 Suzwright@centurytel.net John Besser, jbesser1@gmail.com .

Description: Participants will help plan and establish a Missouri native plant hummingbird garden at the Columbia Audubon Society's Wild Haven Wildlife Refuge Property located on O'Rear Road, in conjunction with CAS members. Depending on the season, this project may need to be completed by a committee of the Master Naturalist Program. There will be four parts to the garden: A – Moist Swale, B – Formal Garden, C – Buckeye Island & D – Pond Edge. A memorial plaque and benches will be added.

There will be four to six work sessions of about three hours each. Area A: This area borders an existing Butterfly Garden. Additional shrubs will be planted and a path created and mulched to connect the two gardens. Flat rocks will be laid to create a walkway/natural bridge over the drainage area. Area B: Improved dirt will be trucked in and spread for the area designated as the formal garden. Native Missouri wildflowers and shrubs will be planted in this area according to the landscaping plan. The garden will then require mulching. Area C: The established area designated as the buckeye island will need some general maintenance, weeding, the possible planting of some additional wildflowers and re-mulching. Area D: An area near the existing pond will need to have shrubby brush removed to create a path which will be mulched. Bottomless containers of marsh plants will be set in place along the pond edge.

Estimated time to complete the project: The garden design should be complete by mid-April. Application of herbicide to kill present vegetation along planned paths will be the first step along with the addition of top soil for the format garden. There will be work days scheduled specifically for site work and some specifically for planting wildflowers and shrubs with each participant working a total of 10 to 20 hours. After that, additional opportunities will be available later in the summer or early fall if anyone is interested in working additional volunteer hours, but these are not required to complete the capstone project.

Time Frame: The work sessions will be scheduled at times that are convenient for as many people as possible. Note it is not necessary to participate in all work sessions to do this capstone. It is expected volunteers will participate only on the dates that fit with their schedule although it is hoped each participant will attend as many sessions as possible to complete this project in a timely fashion.

Resources Provided: The Boone's Lick Chapter and Columbia Audubon Society will provide all necessary plant identification books, improved soil, wildflowers plants and shrubs, mulch, containers, and chemicals for this project. Volunteers will be encouraged to bring their own gloves and gardening tools needed for that days work. Volunteers will want to dress appropriate for field work (sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, and head covering are recommended). Insect repellent and sun block are suggested and volunteer should bring water bottles.



The hummingbirds are waiting in the wings!

