



The Chat

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Columbia Audubon Society

October 2010

<http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/>

Serving Audrain, Boone, Cooper, Howard, Monroe and Randolph Counties

COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY FALL PICNIC

DATE: Sunday afternoon, October 3

TIME: Meal time, 5:30 pm

Explore Spring Valley Nature Trail
either before or after the meal.

PLACE: • Picnic meal will be at Fairview Park Shelter, 1001 Fairview

Directions: From Broadway go south on Fairview about one mile; park on street.

• The Spring Valley Nature Trail is part of our Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary about one half mile west of the Fairview Park Shelter.

Directions: From Fairview Shelter, go south on Fairview a few hundred yards; turn right on Bray about one half mile; turn right on Cunningham; enter gate.

(Some may walk from the Shelter through Fairview & Bonnie View Parks.)

FOOD & BEVERAGES: • Iced tea and lemonade will be provided.

• A variety of sub sandwiches and fried chicken will be catered, \$3 per person.

• Everyone please bring one or more favorite dishes to share.

UTENSILS: Everyone please bring tableware and drink containers. Some may choose to bring a lawn chair and insect repellent.

WHAT IF IT RAINS?? The decision to cancel will be made at 3:00 pm and announced via Audubon Email; or call Howard Hinkel, 573-442-3408 or Cleo Kottwitz, 573-446-0799.

CAS MEETING: THE COLUMBIA PARK SALES TAX

• Weds, October 20, 7:30

• Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd.

Mike Hood, the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Columbia since 1998, will speak with us about the Nov. 2 vote on the Columbia Park Sales Tax (Proposition 1 on the ballot). This tax is a dedicated sales tax for local parks applied to all retail sales made within the City of Columbia that are subject to taxation under the provision of Sections 144.010 to 144.525 RSMo. All revenue received from the local Park Sales Tax is used solely for local parks for the City, in order to purchase, improve and manage parks, trails and natural lands for water quality, wildlife, tree preservation, and recreation purposes.

The current Park Sales Tax rate in Columbia is $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1%, or simply $\frac{1}{4}$ of one penny. This $\frac{1}{4}$ -cent is further divided into two separate categories:

a. $\frac{1}{8}$ of 1 cent is permanent, generates about \$2.4 million/year.

b. $\frac{1}{8}$ of 1 cent is renewable, with a five-year sunset. This $\frac{1}{8}$ -cent tax is scheduled to expire March 31, 2011, unless Columbia voters approve its extension at the November 2, 2010 general election. This part generates about \$2.4 million/year or about \$12 million over a five-year period.

COLUMBIA PARK SALES TAX, ctd.

Passage of this tax extension is vital to the interests of CAS. At its September 15 meeting the Columbia Audubon Society Board voted unanimously to support the 2010 Parks Tax. In addition we agreed to donate a minimum of \$100 to the Friends of Columbia Parks to help in their support of Proposition 1. At the ensuing general meeting members voted 30 to 0 to support the Parks Tax and to consider individual donations to CAS which could be added to the \$100. The immediate and generous response allowed the Treasurer

to send a check for \$225 to Friends of Columbia Parks.

Please come to the meeting and bring friends, family, and neighbors. You will learn about the Parks Tax and how we might best inform our fellow Columbians about its importance.

Next meeting, Nov 17: THE WELL-EQUIPPED BIRDER: ESSENTIALS, EXTRAS, & FLUFF. A birding fair, where you can see and try out new equipment, and ask questions of experienced birders.

**FIELD TRIPS: LATE SEPTEMBER THROUGH OCTOBER**

Columbia Audubon Society field trips are free and open to anyone interested in birds. All trips are probably "a go" even in light rain. If in doubt, contact a trip leader the evening before or one hour before the scheduled meeting time.

What to bring on an autumn field trip: Binoculars, field guide, water, snack, layered clothing.

September 28, Tuesday afternoon and evening**PERSHING STATE PARK & SWALLOW SPECTACLE, Linn County**

Leaders: Edge Wade & Steve Kinder

RSVP: [edgew\[at\]mchsi.com](mailto:edgew[at]mchsi.com) or 445-6697. This is necessary so we know how many cars/drivers will be needed.

Departure: 1:00 p.m. from southwest corner of the Parkade Center lot, Bus. Loop 70.

Bring water and snacks.

Dinner will be after the swallows, at a restaurant before we return to Columbia.

Return will be late, possibly 10:30 p.m.

We will bird Pershing State Park in the afternoon, then drive to the swallow roost location (it changes as corn is harvested). Several hundred thousand swallows converge at dusk (about 6:30 p.m.). They come from feeding many miles away, swirl in a massive cloud, then begin "raining" down into the cornfield. Roger Tory Peterson said of a similar event, "I have seen a million flamingos on the lakes of East Africa and as many seabirds on the cliffs of the Alaska Pribilofs, but for sheer drama, the tornadoes of Tree Swallows eclipsed any other avian spectacle I have ever seen."

September 30, Thursday morning**EAGLE BLUFFS, CONSERVATION AREA, Boone Co.**

Leaders: Kathleen Anderson [andersonka\[at\]centurytel.net](mailto:andersonka[at]centurytel.net), and Sandy Elbert

Meet: 8:30 a.m. at the McBaine Katy Trail parking lot

This will be a drive through Eagle Bluffs with stops to view birds.

Participants will be encouraged to share rides to reduce the number of vehicles. Bring a scope if you have one (leaders will have scopes). Bring an FRS radio, if you have one, to keep informed of what is being seen. Additional radios will be available.

The group will have the option of eating lunch together after the trip.

More field trips on next page...

October 4, Monday afternoon**BRADFORD FARM LE CONTE'S SPARROW SEARCH, eastern Boone Co.**

Leader: Brad Jacobs

Meet at the Bradford Farm headquarters (the cluster of buildings off the main entrance road on Range Line) at 4:00 p.m. Take Broadway (Rt. WW) or New Haven Rd. east to Range Line and turn right (south) to the Bradford Farm entrance.

Bring: Footwear you don't mind getting wet (ground may be very wet), and be prepared for multiple sticktights (fuzzy clothing not recommended).

We will work as a team to locate the sparrows. You'll learn the technique and be prepared to find them on your own in the future. You'll also learn what to expect when and where at Bradford Farm (Short-eared Owls and longspurs, for example).

Trip duration: We'll be done by 6:00 p.m.

October 5, Tuesday morning**LITTLE DIXIE LAKE CONSERVATION AREA, Callaway Co.**

Leader: Edge Wade 445-6697

Departure: 8:00 a.m. from the 63/AC commuter lot (SE corner of US 63 and AC/New Haven Rd.). Or join us at the main Little Dixie lot on the SW corner of the lake between 8:20 and 8:30.

We will drive to the 5 parking lots, walk some on trails (including the asphalt trail on the southeast corner), and learn about the diverse habitats of this area. Bring a scope if you have one.

Trip length: We'll be done between 11 and noon.

October 21, Thursday morning**COLUMBIA AUDUBON NATURE SANCTUARY**

Leaders: Bill Mees & Howard Hinkel 445-7781

Meet: 8:30 a.m. at the CANS entrance at the stub of Cunningham Dr., off Bray. Bray goes west from Fairview Rd. between Rollins and Chapel Hill.

We will walk the new trail, learn about the nature sanctuary, and identify and count the birds seen as the beginning of the CANS checklist. Beginners are especially welcome. Experienced birders will help with i.d., binocular use, and offer birding tips.

We anticipate finishing the walk about 10:00.

October 28, Thursday all day**THOMAS HILL RESERVOIR CONSERVATION AREA, Randolph & Macon Co.**

Leader: Susan Hazelwood 445-4925

Departure at 8:00 a.m. from the overflow parking lot on the west side of the McDonalds located on N. 763 / Rangeline and Smiley Lane.

If birding is slow at Thomas Hill CA we may choose to visit Long Branch State Park and Macon City Lake in a BDR trip home.

Bring snacks, lunch, and beverages for an all-day trip. We'll return to Columbia in time for supper.



The Audubon Missouri Fall 2010 Quarterly Newsletter is now posted for viewing at this address:

http://mo.audubon.org/files/Audubon%20Missouri/documents/AM_Fall_10_Edition.pdf

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Columbia Audubon Society members and guests enjoyed two field trips in mid September in ideal weather.

The September 11 trip to Tower Grove Park in St. Louis and Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in St. Charles County produced life birds for several of the 17 participants. Of the more than 50 species seen, those producing the biggest smiles were a female Black-throated Blue Warbler, two stunning Golden-winged Warblers, the really cooperative Olive-sided Warbler (all at Tower Grove), and Eurasian Tree Sparrows and Little Blue Herons at Riverlands. The ballet of more than 1,000 American White Pelicans performed against an autumn blue sky generated some heavy adjectives, among them: magnificent.

More than 20 species were found at the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary on the morning of September 16. None of the 18 participants saw every bird, but everyone tried. A particularly sneaky Magnolia Warbler foiled most attempts at a good look, but a jaunty Wilson's Warbler did his best to make up for it. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo didn't seem to mind being stared at as it gobbled a caterpillar. The woodpeckers made a great show with Downy, Red-shouldered, Red-headed and Northern Flicker putting in appearances. A flight of 20 Common Nighthawks provided a finale to the outing.

Join us on our next field trip! See the field trip schedule for dates and sites.

FIELD TRIP ETIQUETTE

Edge Wade, CAS Field Trip Coordinator

Good field trip etiquette helps make field trips more enjoyable for yourself and others.

1. Chip in for gas on a field trip even if there was no gas stop during the outing.
2. If you are driving in a caravan, make sure others are staying with the group, especially after turns (FRS radios help).
3. Don't slam the car door! Close it gently, especially when around waterfowl, or expect to practice identification by flight style.

4. When spotting scopes are shared, take your look then step out of the way so others may enjoy the bird. It'll usually stick around long enough for you to get a second or even third look.

5. Sometimes foliage or other obstructions limit the space from which a bird can be seen.

Look around; if others can't see the bird from their position, step aside and take turns.

6. Watch those elbows! Learn to hold your binoculars with your elbows in front of you, not out to the sides. This small change may allow three people to see a bird rather than only one when space is limited (and it is less tiring on your arms).

7. Pay attention. If someone is looking at a bird, don't walk in front of them. If it is unavoidable, a soft, "Excuse me," will be appreciated.

8. QUIET! Most beginning birders rely primarily on sight to find a bird; many experienced birders rely on their ears. When the action gets a little slow, we often fill the "void" with conversation. This is especially irritating to birders who are listening intently, trying to find a bird for the group to see. It's also doubly counter-productive because not only are birds not heard, but they may leave the area because of the noise.

9. Use pishing sparingly. Usually only the leader pishes unless others are invited to join.

10. Watch that branch! Don't let it snap back into the face of the person behind you.

11. Walk, don't run. When a special bird is found and you are yards away, a smooth, quick walk will get you there without spooking it.

Running is guaranteed to get its attention, a look at tail feathers only, and the glares of others who missed the bird.

12. Share your field guide with those who have none or have a different guide. Comparing illustrations and texts is a great learning technique.

13. Save the celebration of the sighting until the bird is gone or your group has left the area. Whoops and leaps are appropriate, but not where birds could be disturbed.

CAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE**CHAIRS**

* indicates a voting member

*President : Howard Hinkel
(Acting)

*Vice-President: Alice Reese

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*Laura Hillman

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Field Trips: *Edge Wade

Natural Areas: *John Besser (Wild Haven)

Harold Anderson (Albert Area)

Cleo Kottwitz (CANS)

Hospitality: Dolores Clark

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Allison Vaughn (see above)

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**Deadline for submission of articles to *The Chat* is the
Monday following the monthly general meeting.**

Submit articles to [schenkerd\[at\]missouri.edu](mailto:schenkerd[at]missouri.edu) or to 107 Westwood Ave. Columbia, MO 65203.

To receive *The Chat* and updates on CAS events between newsletters by e-mail, send your e-mail address to jgast@centurytel.net

The Chat
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Columbia Audubon Society Membership and Dues Form

Local annual dues are voluntary. Dues support Columbia Audubon Society Functions such as *The Chat* and Christmas Bird Count. The membership is for 12 months. Make checks payable to the Columbia Audubon Society and mail this form to P. O. Box 1331, Columbia, MO 65205. Check a category: Student (\$10.00) Individual (\$15.00) Family (\$25.00) Donor (\$50.00) Friend/Business sponsor (\$300.00)

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Please deliver *The Chat* via e-mail to: _____

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