



The Chat

Volume 53 Number 5 Columbia Audubon Society February 2011

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

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

FEBRUARY 16 CAS MEETING

7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church,
2615 Shepard Blvd

CAS BOARD NEWS: Wildhaven House and Board Openings

Howard Hinkel

At a special meeting of the Columbia Audubon Society Board, January 24, 2011, the rental house at Wildhaven was the main subject of discussion. Judging from several (4) bids including one updated the day of the meeting, as well as judging from 2 recent inspections and from another inspection dating back to April, 2001, Board members determined that the cost of roof and other repairs to make the house habitable would approach \$25,000. We tried to weigh those costs versus the fact that the house over the past ten years has provided a net income of about \$3600 per year.

However, two separate inspectors could not give assurances that their recommended repairs would solve the house's problems. The Board further calculated it would take between 5-7 years of continuous rent to replenish the CAS treasury if the contemplated repairs were made. This assumes no further repair expenditures would be made during that 5-7 year interval, which everyone agreed seemed unlikely.

In this context a motion to repair what is currently wrong with the house failed by a vote of 6 to 1. A subsequent motion to allow the current occupants to remain in the house until the lease expires May 31, 2011, but to allow

them to move earlier if they choose to do so with no penalty passed 7 to 0.

We will bring these matters to the membership for discussion and action at the February meeting along with some options, now being explored, for what to do with the house if it is no longer rented. All attending Board members emphasized the desire to continue the improvement and restoration projects on the land itself.

On another subject of importance, in accordance with our By-laws, I will be appointing a nominating committee so that we may fill elected positions that come vacant as well as an auditing committee. Please consider volunteering to serve on behalf of our Columbia Audubon Society.

A BETTER BONNIE VIEW PLAN: Meeting FEBRUARY 17, 7PM at the ARC

Bill Mees

The Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary has seen some major changes in the past 12 months. It has been the hope of many members of Columbia Audubon Society (CAS) that the city will develop its properties (Bonnie View Park and Fairview Park) in tandem with us. It was with that goal in mind that CAS designated a committee to talk with Columbia's Parks and Recreation Department.

Last year the CAS committee met with Parks & Rec to discuss the development of a restored natural area for the 135 acres. The original thinking, years ago, of Parks & Rec was development that mirrored many of Columbia's

other parks: children's playground equipment and athletic fields. The passage of time and the expressed desires of neighbors, including CAS, have worked their magic on the future shape of the city's property. No longer a sports and playground-themed park, Bonnie View's 90 acres will be developed and restored as a nature area. Current plans show parking will be available on the North end of the property adjacent to Rollins. Restroom facilities, mowed foot trails, a shelter area, and several acres of restored prairie will all be constructed in the initial phase of development. Although there will still be an 8 foot concrete sidewalk, it no longer passes through Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary. Plans show the sidewalk starting at the end of Weaver and going north to Rollins. Its path has also been shifted east, toward the trees separating Bonnie View Park and Fairview Park and not through the center of Bonnie View as originally planned. All these changes are more in alignment with the hopes and wishes expressed by CAS and the other neighbors.

This new proposed plan from Parks & Rec now goes back for public comment on January 26 at the ARC from 6:00-8:00 pm. The next step in the approval process is a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission (February 17 at 7:00 pm at the ARC) for a formal Public Hearing. The Commissioners can recommend changes to the plan. If you support this new proposal, it is important that you show your support to the Commissioners by attending the February 17th meeting. The new plans are very close to what CAS has worked for and deserve CAS support. This plan will protect Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary and act as a buffer to future adjacent development. Restoring Bonnie View's land and re-establishing a native prairie and savannah will provide habitat for wildlife. That translates into more birds in Columbia's future. The plans are available on line at gocolumbiamo.com under the heading "What's Happening?" "New" "Bonnie View/Fairview Park Planning Meeting". Check it out, your support is important. I hope to see you February 17th at the ARC.

TIPS FOR TYROS: FIELD CLOTHING

Edge Wade

"Oh, dear, what shall I wear?" This question is as appropriate for an upcoming birding outing as it is at the receipt of an invitation to the social event of the season.

These are suggestions for your comfort and to improve your chances of seeing birds in the field. They are not intended to take away your individuality. The last thing we'd want is a uniformed cadre of lock-step birders; we're strange enough as it is.

Let's start at the top--your head. Sunshine is wonderful, but brings some downside matters of concern with it. You need to protect your skin against those harsh rays, and you need to give some glare relief to your eyes. Wear a hat or cap. Remember to protect the back of your neck with a 4-inch brimmed hat or a bandana. If it's cold and or windy, you'll last a lot longer with your head covered. If you absolutely hate hat hair and just can't bring yourself to wear a hat, opt for a visor.

Basic shirt: Wear what is comfortable for you. It may be a t-shirt or a simple short-sleeved shirt or blouse.

Overshirt (can also serve as the basic shirt): Long sleeves are de rigueur for many of us in most outdoor settings. Some of us are really sensitive to sunlight, others want the added protection from insects or protruding branches or thorns. Often this is a layer for warmth (or cooling--think of those desert robe wearers).

There are some styles with pockets and air vents and UV protection nylon/polyester fabrics for warm days, and shirts of microfleece (pullover or cardigan) for cool days.

Vest: There are two types to consider. One is a "birder's vest" similar to a trout fishing or hunter's vest, but with pockets designed to hold field guides and the other paraphernalia we find useful. The second is for those cool/cold days--microfleece or down (the latter not recommended for wet conditions).

Jacket, coat, raincoat, windbreaker: Your choice, but avoid noisy "swishing" fabrics unless you want to send every bird in the neighborhood into hiding. Consider a raincoat that doubles as a windbreaker.

Fieldpants: Jeans are o.k., but remember they do not dry quickly and wet cotton wicks heat from your body. In summer, lightweight nylon or nylon polyester slacks with good, big pockets work well. Some birders prefer shorts, but if you're sensitive to poison ivy, or may be off-trail, long pants are better. For cool weather, cotton/poly blends of varying weights (often with longjohns) will keep you warm.

Footwear: Sandals are inappropriate for most birding venues. Tennis shoes are fine for well-manicured paths; they may be inadequate for other conditions. There is a wide array of styles and weights of hiking boots available.

Color: Whatever your choices for any of the above items, think about the effect the color will have on the birds you and your birding companions will be looking for.

Birds see color. Birds are very aware of color.

Birds react to color. If you do not want to send birds into hiding or into flight away from you, avoid all bright colors, including white. This doesn't mean you should wear camouflage; it does mean that muted colors are most appropriate in the field.

Smartness: One does not need to dress frumpily to be a good birder. Several [well 2 or 3, maybe] natty, trimly neat and tidy dressers are among Missouri's best birders. Crisply ironed shirts and birding vests, shined boots, and even freshly applied lipstick [other than Passion Pink] do not send birds into the brush.

BE YOURSELF: Apply the tips toward your choices to dress comfortably for the conditions and appropriately for the activity.

WHAT MAKES AN EAGLE?

Bill Mees

As birders, how many times have you been asked, excitedly, "Did you see the Eagle?" You answer, politely but without excitement, "Yes, I saw it." But this time I'm asking you about a different kind of Eagle---an Eagle Scout. In the past 12 months Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary has been the grateful beneficiary of the efforts of two aspiring Eagle Scouts. So what makes an Eagle? Only 2% of boys joining Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle. These boys

first must achieve the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life.

The requirements to advance from Life Scout to Eagle are: 1) Be active in the troop and patrol at least 6 months as a Life Scout. 2) Show scout spirit. 3) Earn a total of 21 merit badges. There are scores of merit badges from which to choose, but 12 of the 21 are required and preselected by the Boy Scouts of America. 4) The Life Scout must serve actively in a leadership role in his troop. 5) While a Life Scout, plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to your religious institution, school, or community. The project idea must be approved by the scout's Scoutmaster and troop committee and reviewed by the council or district before the scout starts the project. And 6) Take part in a Scoutmaster conference.

It is requirement #5 the "Eagle Project" that is the most daunting of all the requirements. This is where the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary and Columbia's nature enthusiasts have benefited.

At this time, two Eagle Projects have been completed at the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary, 4 trail side park benches (Alex Doane, Troop 533, troop's sponsor is Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) and 2 bridges (Jordan Asher, Troop 52, troop's sponsor is Grace Bible Church). In both cases the young men selected the project, developed, and designed plans which required CAS approval. The scout then developed the project in excruciatingly detailed steps, each step specifying materials, tools, personnel, and allotted time. The aspiring Eagle doesn't do this project himself, since that would be too easy. He has to demonstrate "leadership" of others who will complete the project. And just to make sure the job is done correctly, it must be completed to the satisfaction of the beneficiary (CAS), the scout's troop, and the Council. The process involved in the satisfactory completion of an Eagle Project is something many adults have never done.

Now you know how to make an Eagle. Not a simple thing! But this Eagle is truly worthy of a CAS birders' excitement.

CAS FINANCIAL REPORT from Treasurer Eric Seaman

As of 12/31/2010:

Summary	Month	Year to date
Income	\$806.71	\$6,589.12
Expense	\$345.35	\$3,980.44

Thanks to all who have sent in membership renewals. Reminders will be sent out to all others.

**COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS – February and early March, 2011**

Field trips are to find, enjoy and learn about wild birds. These free trips are appropriate for adults and children 9 years old and above who have shown an interest in birds. Children aged 9 through 11 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

February 15, 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 to add to the developing 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.

February 26, Saturday**WHETSTONE CREEK CA, Callaway Co.**

Leader: Susan Hazelwood, 445-4925

Leaving at 8:00 from Patricia's Supermarket lot on I-70 Drive SE and Keene St.

Lunch will be at Marlene's or Crane's Store in Williamsburg before our return to Columbia by mid afternoon.

March 6, Sunday**SCRIVNER RD. CA, Cole Co.**

Leader: Susan Hazelwood, 445-4925

Leaving at 8:00 a.m. from the Hwy. AC/ Grindstone Pkwy./ New Haven Rd./ US 63 commuter parking lot (southeast corner of the intersection).

Bring a lunch (and of course water and snack). Return to the commuter lot will be mid-afternoon.

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We anticipate finishing the walk about 10:00.

CAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

* indicates a voting member

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Harold Anderson (Albert Area)
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Cleo Kottwitz (CANS)
cdk13@socket.netHospitality: Dolores Clark
474-4510Bird Counts: Laura Hillman (see above)
Allison Vaughn (see above)Past President: *Vanessa Melton
vanndawn@hotmail.co

Emily Dickinson, mid-nineteenth century American poet, has noticed both the fervor with which her bird forages and the grace with which it takes flight. She did not attach titles to her poems so it is common to identify them with reference to the first line. The species?

A Bird came down the Walk—
He did not know I saw—
He bit an Anglemorm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw,

And then he drank a Dew
From a convenient Grass—
And then he hopped sidewise to the Wall
To let a Beetle pass—

He glanced with rapid eyes
That hurried all around—

They looked like frightened Beads, I
thought—
He stirred his Velvet Head

Like one in danger, Cautious,
I offered him a Crumb
And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home—

Than Oars divide the Ocean,
Too silver for a seam—
Or Butterflies, off Banks of Noon
Leap, plashless as they swim.

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