

The Chat

Volume 54 Number 6

Columbia Audubon Society

March 2012

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

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

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

by Howard Hinkel



To prepare for the upcoming election of two officers (President and Treasurer) I am putting together a Nominating Committee consisting of one current Board member and two non-Board members. Laura Hillman, now a Board member, has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee.

Article VII B of the Bylaws explains the duties of the Nominating Committee: "to construct a slate of candidates for officers every two years, and for one elected director each year. Nominees may be suggested by any member of the Society. The committee shall report its nominations for officers and elected director to the Board of Directors, no later than the March Board meeting. The membership shall be notified of the slate of candidates at least 15 days before the April election."

Changes in Board personnel over the past two-and-a-half years have resulted in all three current directors this year completing only the second year of their three-year terms.

Two other Board positions will need to be filled—the Chairs of the Conservation Committee and the Field Trip Committee. These are not elected positions but are appointed by the President, subject to Board approval.

Please note that Article IV, section 2 of the Bylaws state nominations from the floor [at the April meeting] "will be accepted if accompanied with evidence the nominee is willing to serve."

MARCH MEETING

by Julie Fisher

Wednesday, March 21, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Boulevard, Columbia

"DISCOVERING MISSOURI'S NATURAL AREAS."

Join Mike Leahy for a virtual tour across the state to learn about Missouri's Natural Areas and their associated bird life. Mike will also provide information on mid-Missouri's natural areas that are good places to learn about Missouri's natural heritage.

Mike is the Missouri Department of Conservation's natural areas coordinator and has worked for state natural resource agencies for 17 years after graduating with a BS and MS in forestry from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Michigan State University. Mike is the author of: Discover Missouri's Natural Areas: A guide to 50 great places

Hosts: Bonnie Heidt and Eric Wood

Inside this issue.....

Field Trips Saturday Science Book Review	2
Tips for Tyros	3
Wild Haven Update Birding Course at Osher	4
Half Day with Nature	5
Website Update	6



FIELD TRIPS

By Edge Wade



SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2012

Location : Hinkson Woods Conservation Area

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Details : Trip co-sponsored with Songbird Station. Beginners especially welcome. Meet at Songbird Station at 8:00 a.m. to caravan over to the Twin Lakes parking lot. We'll walk around Twin Lakes and then a short distance west on the MKT trail to Hinkson Woods. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Return to the store about 10:00 a.m. for coffee and donuts.

Contact persons: Lottie Bushmann 573-808-0661 bushmann5@mchsi.com or Laura Pintel 446-0920 lpintel@hotmail.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012

Location: Fayette area lakes (D.C. Rogers and Peters) and Possum Haw

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Details: We'll go to D.C. Rogers and Peters Lakes, then stop by Possum Haw on the Fayette square to peruse the natural history books over a cup of coffee. Participants may return to Columbia or have lunch in Fayette.

RSVP by March 22 so we know how many will stay for lunch

Departure point: Lot south of McDonald's on Stadium

Contact Person: Edge Wade 445-6697 or edgew@mchsi.com

VULTURE VIEW

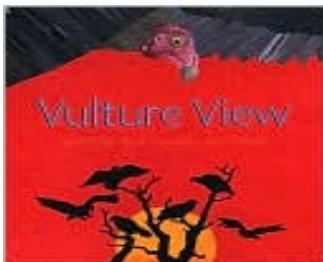
by April Pulley Sayre

illus. by Steve Jenkins

Review submitted by Lottie Bushmann

This gorgeous children's book is indeed a feast for the eyes as well as a wonderful learning tool. It portrays vultures in all their majesty as well as teaching children about the role that vultures play in our world. Children love the concept that an animal actually prefers stinky, putrid food. I also have found it to be particularly engaging because children can actually spot and identify Turkey Vultures as they soar through the sky with their familiar rocking motion. This is a wonderful book to share with a child of your own, or a grandchild. It is a non-fiction book that reads like a story book which is particularly effective with young children through 2nd grade.

Vulture View is a 2008 Bank Street
"Best Children's Book of the Year"



SATURDAY SCIENCE

by Eric Seaman



Want to make the most of a Saturday morning? Here is a great opportunity free of charge!

Mar. 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Monsanto Auditorium, Bond Life Sciences Building

Saturday Morning Science:

CONSERVATION WHEN SEAS ARE RISING

Presented by Dylan Kesler

Assistant Professor of Fisheries and Wildlife

Climate change will cause many Pacific Islands to disappear beneath rising seas during the next century. Redistributing the regions' threatened birds is a monumental task. This talk will discuss programs, challenges, and ethical dilemmas involved in translocating birds of Pacific Oceania.



TIPS FOR TYROS

Edge Wade

Remember the line in the ad about chicken tenders, "Parts is parts"?...well, sorta.

No one has to know the names of the parts of a bird to enjoy looking at it, but it sure helps to know the name of the part if you are trying to describe just where that white line or rusty area was on the bird you had difficulty identifying.

All bird field guides (and a personal favorite supplement, Enjoying Missouri's Birds) have a section near the front, usually called "Parts of a Bird". There is a good reason this section is at the front. If we are to communicate, we need to be speaking the same language. The field guide authors must use the part names to describe the birds; we must know the names to understand the descriptions.

Test yourself. Do you know where on the bird you will see these parts?

Lores, Supercilium, Median Coverts, Greater Scapulars, Rectrices, Remiges, Malar

If you weren't able to answer and picture these parts in your mind, go to the bird parts section of your favorite field guide and concentrate on locating just those above that you are unsure of. Don't try to memorize all parts in one sitting. Learn one new part. When that one is firmly set in your mind, learn one more. Put the book down.

The next time you are thinking about bird parts, recall the two you've learned, then pick up the book and learn two more. Repeat the process until you feel confident that you can picture in your mind the parts a speaker is describing if he says something like one of the following:

The median crown stripe was gray; the malar stripe was black. [Song Sparrow]

The primaries are white, with black tips; there's no orbital ring. [Bonaparte's Gull]

The speculum was purple, wing linings were light. [American Black Duck]

Knowing the proper names of the parts of birds is not an esoteric exercise. Learning the lingo is an essential part of the process of being able to communicate. As we share the same language, we can share the joys of birding and describe that special bird to others.

And there is a bonus benefit: If you have the name and location of a bird part firmly planted in your mind, when you view a bird, you will see it as a whole and as a compilation of parts. This two-level mental image can become a natural, unconscious instant recognition and recall filing system.

To activate the instant recognition and recall filing system requires practice. Set this process in motion the next time you look at a bird at your feeder or on a bird walk. As you watch the bird, study it. Take time to talk to yourself, noting the features, such as "yellow undertail coverts" or "rusty, unstreaked crown, no malar stripe".

Get in the habit of thinking of birds as whole creatures and, simultaneously, as distinguishable parts. It will make identification easier and viewing enjoyable on an additional level.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WILD HAVEN?

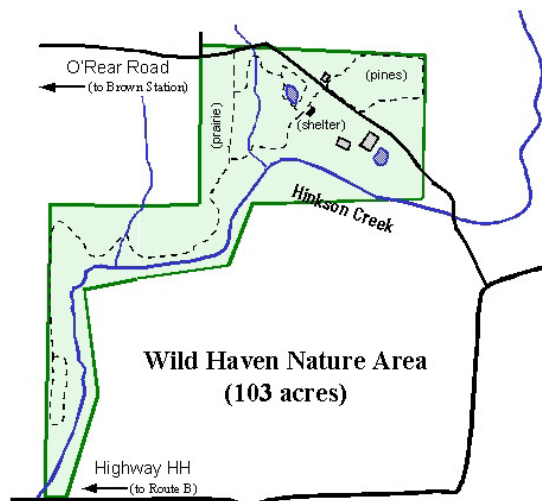
by John Besser, Nature Areas Chair
besser1@gmail.com

With all the recent interest in the new-and-improved Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary, it is easy to forget about our largest and oldest nature area, Wild Haven. At over 100 acres, with a mile of frontage on upper Hinkson Creek, Wild Haven has a wide diversity of wildlife and habitats. The demolition of the former rental house last summer has left the area even wilder than before, and even more open for exploration.

A field trip this spring, tentative date May 5, will be a great opportunity to get to know Wild Haven better. There should be lots of birds and spring wildflowers on display.

Another way to get to know the area would be to participate in one of several volunteer workdays planned for 2012. There will be a 'spring clean-up' to remove a garden fence at the former house site, to repair an outhouse damaged by a fallen tree, and to get the picnic shelter ready for the May chapter picnic. This summer we will clean up the workshop and work on mowing and trail maintenance. Tasks for a fall work day will include targeted control of invasive plants and preparation of fire lines for a controlled burn in early winter

Look for more details about field trips and workdays in the upcoming CHATS. For more information on Wild Haven, including directions and a trail map, check out the CAS web site (<http://columbia-audubon.org>).



BIRDING COURSE AT OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

by Edge Wade

Birding Beyond the Backyard: Basic and Intermediate Field Techniques

Thursday mornings, April 5, 12, 19 and 24,
8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Class work will be at the Stephens Lake Activity Center, field birding will be in Stephens Park. The instructor is Edge Wade.

Course description:

Our four April sessions (2.5 hours each) will be divided between classroom and field experience. In the classroom, we'll explore resources and tools available to birders; outdoors, in nearby Stephens Park, we will put those resources and tools to use to improve birding skills as we seek resident and migrating birds.

Indoors, hands-on exercises are aimed toward getting the full value from bird field guides as we get to know the new National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Sixth Edition. We'll practice using additional printed materials, and discuss the value and appropriate use of electronic birding tools. The American Birding Association's *Code of Birding Ethics* will be distributed, discussed, and adhered to.

Species of special focus for the course will be our central Missouri resident birds and the migrating wood warblers, vireos and thrushes. We'll learn what to look for when, where and how, as we begin the peak of spring migration in Missouri.

Our field activities will concentrate on use of binoculars, bird finding and identification as we improve birding techniques. Photography is not a component of this course. Bird photographers are welcome to attend, but please bring binoculars, not a camera.

Required: All participants please bring the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Sixth Edition, to class. This book may be purchased from Amazon.com for less than \$20, and is also available at Songbird Station.

See the OLLI website, <http://extension.missouri.edu/learnforlife/> for additional information and the registration form.

Editors note: Edge Wade will be the course instructor. There is a fee for the course.

A HALF DAY WITH NATURE

by Bill Mees

The following bullet points will give you a thumbnail summary of an exciting program that is in the planning stages for Fall 2012. Howard Hinkel has discussed some of the particulars of this project at the past two monthly membership meetings. The February CHAT also contained an article giving initial information on the project. Based on encouragement from the CAS membership, planning continues to move forward. As developments occur, the membership will continue to be informed. As you read the following, save the dates and consider becoming a volunteer. This is your opportunity to share your enjoyment of and enthusiasm for nature and the out of doors with our local youth.

Who: All Columbia Public School 2nd Graders (approximately 1300)

What: A Half Day with Nature (a science curriculum field trip)

When: September 26-27-28, 2012 Rain dates: October 3-4-5, 2012 (all dates are tentative at this time)

Where: Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary (CANS)/Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary

Why: Missouri 2nd grade science curriculum includes objectives related to habitat, adaptation, and survival. This event will reinforce and enhance classroom studies in an outdoor setting.

Why at CANS: Local venue minimizes the expense and time for transportation and maximizes on-site learning time. CANS provides a nature experience unavailable at a community park.

Planning Partners:

- Mike Szydowski, K-12 Science Coordinator for Columbia Public Schools (CPS)
- Betsy Blake, Conservation Education Consultant, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
- Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke, Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO)
- Meredith Donaldson, Columbia Outdoor Classroom Project
- Columbia Audubon Society (CAS): Planning Committee Lottie Bushmann, Julie Fisher, Howard Hinkel, and Bill Mees

Activities:

- Students will rotate between 4 stations, approximately 25 minutes per station, with curricular activities highlighting adaptation, survival, and habitat.
- Curricular activity stations will be developed by MDC and CPS. In addition, Missouri River Bird Observatory will conduct bird banding demonstrations and Raptor Rehab from Mizzou's School of Veterinary Medicine will display and discuss the lives of large raptors.
- CPS and MDC will conduct science curriculum in-service training for CPS teachers in mid August. The in-service will also familiarize teachers with CANS and the fall field trip.
- Volunteers from CPS schools, CAS, and other interested parties will staff the event.

Funding:

- MDC will pay for transportation costs
- MDC will staff and fund the August education programs for teachers
- Corporate sponsorships or grants will be solicited to cover miscellaneous costs: tee shirts for volunteers, port-a-potties, lunch for volunteers
- CPS will pay for instructional supplies for the activity stations.

"THE GREAT DIVIDE"

by Doug Miller, CAS Webmaster

This is actually an article about the CAS website, <<http://columbia-audubon.org/>> but I'll start off by making reckless generalizations about old and young people.

It's fair to say that most CAS members are older, not younger. I'm sure that most of us who grew up in an age before websites spent our childhoods playing outdoors, on the ground, in the leaves. If we didn't live near some sort of wild and natural area where we could spend plenty of unstructured time, we visited older relatives in the country. As children we may not have been paying very close attention to the plants and animals around us, but we learned what the natural world looked and felt like. With that experience we're able to recognize when the land around us changes, to notice when birds and animals start to disappear, and to worry that future generations might think that "nature" is a city park full of turf and three kinds of birds.

On the whole, younger people have not been given the same opportunities to experience nature. Most of our population now resides in urbanized areas without access to intact natural landscapes. More and more parents believe that unattended children spending time outdoors are necessarily in danger. But I believe the biggest generational divide in the perception of the natural world is due to technology. When young people develop in a world where pervasive technology constantly mesmerizes them with entertainment, games, and moment-by-moment contact with their friends, and where it seems as if the whole world exists only through a screen, how can our receding natural world compete for attention?



It's because of these generational differences that nature and environmental groups today are suffering from a shortage of young, active members to carry missions forward -- and that older members find themselves having to carry a heavier burden of participation than they might want. What can we do to change this? If nothing else, we can provide a doorway to those people who learn about the world mainly through the internet. My principle for the CAS website is that we should fully present our projects and contentious issues online; by not doing so, we make the group and its mission invisible to anyone under 40. Older members seem to be engaged and active in the CAS despite websites and e-mail; hopefully they can also continue to engage with younger people who haven't been able to experience the natural world to the same degree.

That being said, following are some additions we've made to the website. First of all, I hope the overall design looks a little more organized. I've added a "*News & Issues*" section on the front page to showcase current projects and discussions. Besides a listing of upcoming meetings and field trips, the front page now also includes a section of "*Other Local Events of Interest*" put on by other organizations. Whenever there are specific dates there will also be a "*Work Days*" section to invite people to help restore the natural areas, or to help out with CAS events. Links to the minutes of previous meetings are now included on the "*Monthly Meetings/Speakers*" page (as well as a link to one of the presentations.) And finally, one can now start or renew a membership online with a credit card or PayPal account. There's still much more to do, but we've already welcomed a number of new members who found us and joined online.

Finally, almost all local members are now receiving The Chat newsletter and CAS correspondence by e-mail. If we don't have your current e-mail address yet, please send it to Jim Gast (jgast@centurytel.net). If you filter your incoming e-mail, make sure that Jim and membership@columbia-audubon.org are listed as trusted addresses.

Editor's note: The new website is very attractive and informative. Put it in your "Favorites" list. Thanks to Doug for the ongoing hard work on this important link for CAS!

**CAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2011-2012**

<p>*President Howard Hinkel <i>hinkelh@missouri.edu</i></p>	<p>Membership *Doug Miller <i>the@bigthe.com</i></p>	<p>Field Trips *Edge Wade <i>edgew@mchsi.com</i></p>
<p>*Vice-President Julie Fisher <i>julie8401@tranquility.net</i></p>	<p>Communication *Allison Vaughn <i>allisonjv@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p>Natural Areas *John Besser (Wild Haven) <i>jbesser1@gmail.com</i> Nicholas March (Albert Area) Bill Mees (Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary)</p>
<p>*Secretary Alice Robinson <i>RobinsonR@missouri.edu</i></p>	<p>Chat Editor Jan Mees <i>jandbmees@mchsi.com</i></p>	
<p>*Treasurer Eric Seaman <i>eseaman68@yahoo.com</i></p>	<p>Website Douglas Miller <i>the@bigthe.com</i></p>	<p>Hospitality Dolores Clark 474-4510</p>
<p>Directors *Bonnie Heidy <i>bheidy@earthlink.com</i> *Laura Hillman <i>HillmanL@health.missouri.edu</i> *Bill Mees <i>jandbmees@mchsi.com</i></p>	<p>E-mail List Jim Gast <i>kgast@centurytel.net</i></p>	<p>Bird Counts Laura Hillman (see above) Allison Vaughn (see above)</p>
	<p>Outreach & Education Lottie Bushman & Lisa Schenker <i>lbushman@columbia.k12.mo.us</i></p>	<p>Past President *Vanessa Melton <i>vanndawn@hotmail.com</i></p>

According to the Missouri Department of Conservation's "Natural Events Calendar 2012" lots of things start happening in March for and with our avian friends:

- Bald Eagle chicks begin hatching in southern Missouri
 - Begin setting up Eastern Bluebird nest boxes
 - Phoebes begin to return in March
 - Field Sparrows being arriving
 - Raise Purple Martin houses



COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Dues support Columbia Audubon Society functions such as the nine issues of our newsletter (The Chat *), the Christmas Bird Count, educational initiatives with schools, and property maintenance. The membership is for 12 months. Make checks payable to the Columbia Audubon Society. Mail the check with this form to: Columbia Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1331, Columbia, MO 65205.

Check membership category: ___ Student (\$10.00) ___ Individual (\$15.00) ___ Family (\$25.00) ___ Donor (\$50.00)
 ___ Friend/Business sponsor (\$300.00) ___ Accept my donation of \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*Email address: The Chat is only delivered via email _____



Upcoming events

- March 3: CAS Field Trip**
March 10: Saturday Science
March 11: Backyard Bird Feeding Basics*
2:00 p.m. at Songbird Station
March 8: Café Songbird*
10:30 a.m. at Songbird Station
March 21: Regular Meeting
March 24: CAS Field Trip
March 25: Hummingbird Seminar*
2:00 p.m. at Songbird Station
April 18: Regular Meeting
April 21: Clean up CANS/Bonnie View
April 27-29: ASM Spring Meeting
May 5: Wild Haven Field Trip

**Songbird Station programs*

Columbia Audubon Society wants to
thank our corporate sponsor:

Songbird Station

Songbird Station invites everyone to “Café Songbird” on Thursday March 8 at 10:30 a.m. to share bird stories and photos and to hear what other backyard birders are seeing in their yards. Coffee and refreshments will be provided as fellow birders swap stories. Songbird Station is located at 2010 Chapel Plaza Court, Suite C, Columbia MO 65203. Phone 573-446-5941 or on the web at www.songbirdstation.com

Columbia Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1331
Columbia MO 65205