

The

Gnat

Volume 55 Number 2

Columbia Audubon Society

September 2012

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

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

The mission of Columbia Audubon Society is to preserve the natural world and its ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and the earth's biological diversity, through education, environmental study, and habitat restoration and protection.

BOARD'S EYE VIEW

What a fantastic month September has been and not just because of rain. A new year began for Columbia Audubon Society (CAS) when 35 people came to hear Mike Szydlowski, K-12 Science Coordinator for Columbia Public Schools, talk about how science education is changing, especially compared to how some of us more "mature" members remember.

That brings us to the "Band With Nature" 2nd grade field trip that was held at Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary on September 20th. This nature science field trip provided 260 students the opportunity to swarm through 4 activity stations learning about habitat, adaptability, bird banding and raptors. The weather was perfect, the volunteers and educators enthusiastic and the kids were learning. It was too much fun to be "school." One teacher mentioned she had 2 students who had never been in the woods before. Take a look at Page 7 for pictures and the names of the many volunteers who made this project such a success. Thank you all! I would be remiss if I didn't mention the partners who organized this event: Columbia Public Schools, Missouri Department of Education, Missouri River Bird Observatory, Songbird Station, and your own Columbia Audubon Society. Thanks to David Lile and KFRU for interviewing Mike and me about "Band With Nature."



The September membership meeting resulted in another major step for Columbia Audubon Society. After a thorough discussion, the Board unanimously decided to ask the membership to support becoming a "Partner Friend" with the Columbia Public School's Science Department. The members' decision to become a partner with the Science Department was unanimous.

And oh, by the way, Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary has its own parking lot. CAS owes a huge debt of gratitude to Crockett Engineering and Emery Sapp and Sons for donating their expertise to design and construct this facility. The property now has a visible and welcoming front door for visitors.

Stand by as the future continues to unfold.

Bill Mees, President

CAS 2012-2013 Officers

- Bill Mees, President & Manager, Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary
- Julie Fisher, Vice President
- Alice Robinson, Secretary
- Eric Seaman, Treasurer
- Lori Hagglund, Director
- Bonnie Heidy, Director
- Laura Hillman, Director & Bird Counts
- John Besser, Manager, Wild Haven Nature Area
- Lottie Bushmann, Outreach & Education
- Dolores Clark, Hospitality
- Jim Gast, e-Mail Coordinator
- Howard Hinkel, Past President
- Jan Mees, Chat Editor
- Doug Miller, Membership & Webmaster
- Lisa Schenker, Outreach & Education
- Allison Vaughn, Communications & Bird Counts

General meeting

October 17, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Boulevard

Program:

Nature photographer, Noppadol Paothong will discuss his book *Save the Last Dance: A Story of North American Grassland Grouse*.

Hospitality provided by
Lori Hagglund and Alice Robinson

Please join us October 17th, 7 P.M. when award-winning nature photographer Noppadol Paothong will present his work on the making of the important new book, Save the Last Dance: A Story of North American Grassland Grouse by Noppadol Paothong and noted outdoor writer, Joel M. Vance. Nop traveled 70,000 miles across the prairies and plains of America, spanning a 10-year period, and has chronicled the efforts in a stunning, 204 page hardbound edition that will be available for purchase and author's signature after the meeting (or you can bring your previously purchased copy.) It's not too early to think about Christmas gifts!

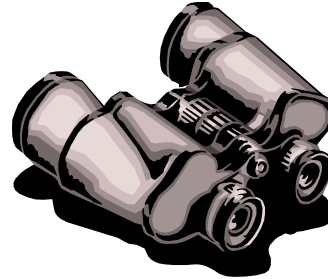
FIELD TRIPS 2012-2013

Sept. 29, 2012—Saturday

Leader: Bill Mees 445-7781
Destination: MKT Trail---3M Reclamation site
Meet at Songbird Station at 8:00 A.M.

Oct. 27, 2012—Saturday

Leader: John Besser 874-5675
Destination: Twin Lakes and Hinkson Creek CA
Songbird Station Anniversary field trip.
Meet at Songbird Station at 8:00 A.M.



Oct. 27, 2012—Saturday All Day Field Trip (See article on Page 3)

Leader: Edge Wade edgew@mchsi.com or 268-3714
Destination: Knob Noster State Park & Perry Memorial CA
Departure at 6:30 A.M. sharp. Return to Columbia between 5 and 6 P.M.
Meeting place: Columbia Mall parking lot near Wendy's on Stadium (restroom & coffee available)
R.S.V.P. Please email Edge edgew@mchsi.com or call 268-3714 by Tuesday, October 23

November 2, 2012—Saturday

Leaders: Lottie Bushmann (445-3942) and Lori Hagglund (445-8025)
Destination: Forum Wetlands
Meet at Songbird Station at 8:00 A.M.

CAS 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.

These trips are appropriate for adults, teens and children who have demonstrated an active interest in birds. Few children under age nine will benefit from these walking trips. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

FALL EVENTS

October 6, 2012 (Saturday): Columbia Audubon Society Work Day with Boone's Lick Master Naturalists 9 A.M. to noon (See article on Page 3)

October 17, 2012 (Wednesday): CAS Monthly meeting, 7:00 P.M.

October 26, 2012 (Friday): Songbird Station, as part of its Anniversary celebration, is sponsoring an "Evening with Audubon" with wine and cheese and friends from 6:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M.

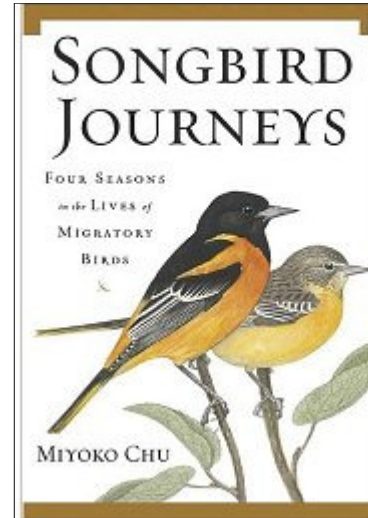
November 14, 2012 (Wednesday) CAS Monthly meeting, 7:00 P.M. **Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, please note change of date for November meeting!**

December 15, 2012 (Saturday): Christmas Bird Count and Chili Supper (details in upcoming Chat)

BOOK REVIEW

by Alice Robinson

You will have a greater appreciation for our feathered friends that migrate after you read Songbird Journeys – Four Seasons in the Lives of Migratory Birds by Miyoko Chu (available at the Columbia Public Library.) She is an ornithologist and staff writer at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Using published research she delves into the remarkable lives of migratory birds through their journeys, where they go and what they do in these different habitats dictated by the seasons. She also makes a strong case for conserving their environments and how humans have altered these. The appendices offer information on Songbird Migration Hot Spots, Citizen-Science Projects (such as Christmas Bird Count and Great Backyard Bird Count) and recommended resources. You'll enjoy this book and learn much about the miracle of bird migration.



A SPECIAL ALL DAY FIELD TRIP

by Edge Wade

Plan to join us for a very special day of bird watching. Saturday, October 27th, we will join members of the Burroughs Audubon Society for an all day field trip to Knob Noster SP and Perry Memorial CA. Mike Leahy of MDC will lead the birding.

Our caravan will depart the Columbia Mall parking lot near Wendy's on Stadium promptly at 6:30 A.M. (restroom & coffee available) so we can meet our companions at 8:00 A.M. at the Knob Noster State Park Visitor Center. **Please email edgew@mchsi.com or call 268-3714 if you plan to go** so we can arrange for enough cars and drivers.

We'll explore the varied habitats of the park in the morning and the conservation area in the afternoon as we seek autumn species like Kinglets, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Orange-crowned Warbler, as well as a variety of sparrows and waterfowl. We'll be listening and looking for lingering birds and hoping for recent arrivals of swans or other surprises.

Lunch will be at the Panther Steakhouse (definitely more a café than steakhouse). This is one of the cafés on Bill Clark's list of best Missouri eateries. The food really is pretty good--I like their reubens. Others rave about the smothered chicken and green beans, open-faced beef sandwiches, or tacos. The menu is in hillbilly, but most can figure out the English equivalent. The Coca-Cola memorabilia are genuine. They accept credit cards.

COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY WORK DAY

by John Besser

October 6, 2012 (Saturday): Columbia Audubon Society Work Day with Boone's Lick Master Naturalists

When: Saturday, October 6, 9 A.M. – 12 noon

Where: Wild Haven Nature Area (directions below)

What: Meet at the picnic shelter by 9 A.M. We will be cutting woody sprouts and saplings in the prairie remnant west of the shelter (across the small creek valley) in preparation for a burn later in the year. Bring water, loppers, pruners, work gloves, sunscreen, insect repellent (and don't forget water!) CAS will supply herbicide and applicators for treating the cut stems.

Directions: North on Route B – Right on Brown Station Rd. – Right on O'Rear Rd. – O'Rear Rd turns to gravel – look for Wild Haven sign & entrance on right

Contacts (for questions or to arrange car-pool): Jane Fore, 875-5966, jfore@centurytel.net OR John Besser, 874-5675, cell 529-6186, jbesser1@gmail.com



FIELD TRIP ETIQUETTE

Many beginning birders hesitate to go on field trips because they don't know what to expect. Beginning birders are always welcome on field trips, even ones that aren't billed as "especially for beginners".

Good field trip etiquette helps make field trips more enjoyable and productive for yourself and others. This is a repeat column of tips to help new birders feel comfortable with what is expected, and to remind others of things sometimes forgotten.

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. Take your cue from the trip leader's as to when it is appropriate to talk.



Use pishing (making noises to attract birds' attention) sparingly. Usually, in group birding only the leader pishes unless others are invited to join in.

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 the bird's attention, a look at tail feathers for you and the glares of others who missed the bird.

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.

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).

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.

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

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

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.

If this is a field trip with group travel:

If you are driving in a caravan, make sure others are staying with the group, especially after turns.

Don't slam the car door! Close it gently, especially when around waterfowl, or expect to practice identification by flight style, rear view only.

Chip in for gas on a field trip even if there was no gas stop during the outing.

MEET SOME OF THE 2012-2013 BOARD MEMBERS

Name: Lori Hagglund

Board position: One of three Directors

Family: Husband Kris Hagglund, daughter Lindsey Hagglund, son-in-law Cory Gillispie, and grandson Nate Gillispie



Profession: Medical copyeditor most recently; doing whatever I love now

Hobbies: Gardening, reading, grandson-spoiling

How long have you lived in Columbia? Since 1989

How long have you been a member of CAS? Doug couldn't find any record of past membership, though I swear I've belonged for awhile, so I joined/rejoined just this month. I've been a member of NAS for years, though.

What do you like best about CAS? The opportunity to interact with and learn from others who share my passion for conservation in general and birding in particular.

How did you get interested in birding? It grew out of a lifelong interest in nature and environmental issues. Birds are so fascinating, varied, and present.

Most exciting bird ever seen: The one I didn't expect to see on any given day.

Most recent "lifer": Mississippi Kite, here in Columbia, last month

Name: John Besser

Board position: Nature Areas Chair

Family: Wife, Cathy Richter; daughter, Valerie (12)



Profession: Environmental Toxicologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. (I conduct research on the effects of toxic chemicals on fish and aquatic invertebrates.)

Pets: Cat (Maggie)

Hobbies: Birding; gardening (with native plants); skiing; fishing; watching soccer; drinking good beer.

How long have you lived in Columbia? Since 1982 (minus a few years of grad school)

How long have you been a member of CAS? Since 1996

What do you like best about CAS? Exploring and working in CAS nature areas.

How did you get interested in birding? Field trips with a middle-school friend and his father, an expert birder.

Most exciting bird ever seen: Elegant Trogon (Cave Creek, Arizona)

Most recent "lifer": Akiapola'ua (woodpecker honeycreeper; Big Island, Hawai'i)

• Thank you Keith and Dean •

Columbia Audubon Society gives special thanks to **Keith Lindaman** who spent 10 hours trimming dead tree limbs hanging over the trail at Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary (CANS).

Dean Ravenscraft has kept the trails at CANS mowed for the past 3 years. He made a special trip from Fulton to mow the trails and activity areas on Monday prior to the 2nd grade field trip.

Your work helps ensure visitor safety!

Nature facts for October from Missouri Department of Conservation *Natural Events Calendar 2012*

- Most ruby-throated hummingbirds have left Missouri
- Early Wintering sparrows arrive
- Juncos arrive from Canada



MEET SOME OF THE 2012-2013 BOARD MEMBERS



Name: Bonnie Heidi

Board Position: One of three Directors

Family: Two brothers who live in Colorado (where I was raised), one daughter and two sons who live in Columbia, and a large step

family that live in Columbia, Texas, and California.

Profession: Retired Administrative Assistant at University of Missouri

Pets: Cleopatra short haired, small all black cat and Anthony long haired large black and white cat

Hobbies: Birding—also a passion

How long have you lived in Columbia: 49 years

How long have you been a member of CAS? 12 years

What do you like best about CAS? Originally it was a way to find other people who were interested in birds. As the time went on, it was a way to see friends and develop new ones. Being a member made me more aware of the changes in our world. It has also become an organization that shows ways of learning to improve the world and support those who are improving habitat.

How did you get interested in birding? I was always somewhat interested but a trip to North and South Dakota where we were learning about the whole environment made my children and me more aware of the birds.

Most exciting bird ever seen: We were climbing up a canyon—it was hot and very rough going over boulders. I was ready to quit (this was my second try) when two British gentlemen came down and told us where IT was and where to find IT. IT turned out to be an adult and a baby Spotted Owl.

Most recent lifer: Baird's Trogon in Costa Rica this year.



Name: Howard Hinkel

Board position: Past President

Family: In Columbia: wife Gail, daughter Alyssa and her 2 daughters, son Myles and his two sons

Profession: Retired MU English professor (1968 – 2006)

Pets: We share our home with all sorts of critters who come through the cracks of a home built in 1908—mostly mice and Brown Recluses

Hobbies: making a comeback (a lame one, to be truthful) on the trumpet; music in general; some nature writing for my amusement

How long have you lived in Columbia? 44 years

How long have you been a member of CAS? 6 years

What do you like best about CAS? It all starts with people and birds. I also like the focus CAS has had on nature education since the get-go.

How did you get interested in birding? Backyard “bird watching” is in my genes. My parents fed and housed birds while I was growing up (which last two words is a process I keep working on). Retirement and joining CAS have allowed me opportunities to bird rather than watch.

Most exciting bird ever seen: I'll go with the Brown Creeper I saw on my first field trip with a small group at Grindstone Nature Area in November of 2006. Its industriousness and foraging demonstrations sparked my interest in learning more about a bird's behavior and ability to adapt. Thanks, you tiny, yet big example of hard work and resourcefulness.

Most recent “lifer” At last year's Rio Grande Valley Birding festival I picked up about 45 lifers, so I'll guess that it was the Tropical Parula that I saw on the last day of the festival.

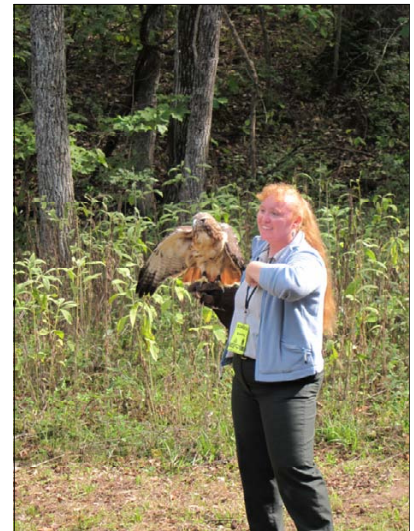
"Band with Nature" Field Trip

Thank you volunteers!

- Lori McCurdy
- Meredith Donaldson
- Janice Gaston
- Sandy Elbert
- Alice Robinson
- Denny Donnell
- Nancy Bedan
- David Bedan
- Bonnie Heidy
- Eric Wood
- Laurie Shawver
- Jim McKee
- Howard Hinkel
- Melissa Bedford
- Meg Melanic
- Becky Gerdes
- Aleshia Fremgen
- Emily Wilson



Into the woods.....



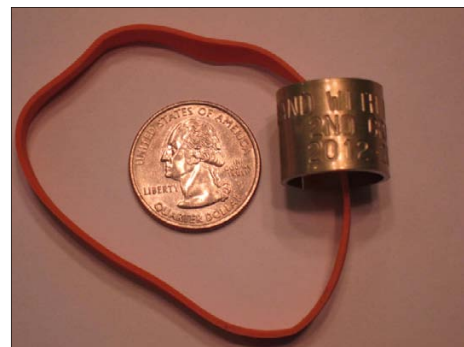
A Red-tailed Hawk from Raptor Rehab held by Amber Edwards of MDC



Banding with Missouri River Bird Observatory



RBHS students with teacher Jamie McSparin (on right)



All participants received their own commemorative band.

Evening with Audubon

Columbia Audubon Society's corporate sponsor, Songbird Station, has planned a special wine and cheese "Evening With Audubon" from 6 til 8 P.M., Friday October 27, for members and the public to socialize and talk about their favorite subjects: birds, education and conservation.

Plan to stop by Songbird Station, 2010 Chapel Hill Plaza Court, for a relaxing evening.

Columbia Audubon Society wants to thank our corporate sponsor:



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Columbia MO 65203.
Phone 573-446-5941 or on the web at
www.songbirdstation.com

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