

# The Chat

Volume 55 Number 8

**Columbia Audubon Society**  
<http://columbia-audubon.org/>

April 2013

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

### APRIL MEETING

**Wednesday**  
**April 17, 2013**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Bill Rowe**  
Missouri Bird Records  
Committee

**Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**2615 Shepard Blvd.**  
**Columbia, Missouri**

**Hostess: Alice Reese**

Research has found that if students haven't been introduced to nature by the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, they may never appreciate its importance. So what is Columbia Audubon Society (CAS) doing to make a difference?

CAS is sponsoring Columbia Public School teacher Kim DeVorss to attend National Audubon's Hog Island summer camp. CAS is also sponsoring Reed Gerdes, a high school student, to attend an American Birding Association summer camp. This ABA program sharpens birding skills and exposes participants to a variety of career opportunities in wildlife study.

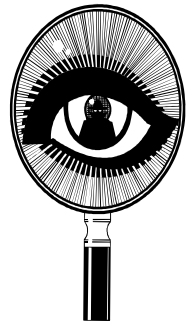
Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary (CANS) is the beneficiary of its first "education oriented" project. Trees, habitat, geology, ecosystems, and wildlife are all highlighted in a new brochure. This Gold Award project, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, is courtesy of Courtney Grimes from Troop 30325.

Fourth grade students from Grant Elementary School recently visited Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area (see page 3). Thanks to a grant from CAS, these 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will also visit Rock Bridge Memorial State Park later this spring.

This year CAS became a "Partner Friend" with the Science Department of Columbia Public Schools. It is this relationship that has resulted in the Band With Nature field trip to CANS in April. Over 800 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will participate.

This May, CAS and Songbird Station will conduct a field trip just for 6-12 year olds. This field trip will concentrate on "birding by sound", an IMPORTANT first step to bird identification.

So what is Columbia Audubon Society doing to make a difference? I'd say plenty, with more to come. All the activities above were made possible thanks to the volunteering spirit of CAS members. Join CAS, have fun, and make a difference!



Happy bird watching,  
Bill Mees, President

## APRIL MEETING

“Each state has a committee whose responsibility is maintaining a state checklist of birds and reviewing reports of rare and unusual bird sightings. Missouri is no different and The Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) has a standing committee known as the Missouri Bird Records Committee (MBRC).

The MBRC performs many important functions in monitoring the status and distribution of Missouri's birds. Many of their tasks revolve around the evaluation of rare bird reports which may be through the ASM website. Also on the ASM website, one may check the “Review List” to learn which birds are considered casual or accidental in our state. You will also find products from their work, such as the annotated state checklist, scattered throughout the site.” (Mobirds.org)

Please join us April 17, 7:00 pm when Bill Rowe, a long standing MBRC member and current secretary, discusses how records committees in general fit into the history of birding, and the MBRC's history and the issues it faces.

## FIELD TRIPS

### APRIL 13 - Saturday - Wild Haven

Leader: John Besser (jbesser1@gmail.com)

Wild Haven Field Trip, 8-11 a.m.

Early spring is a great time to explore Wild Haven, CAS's largest nature area. We'll explore a variety of habitats -- open woodland, glade, bottomland forest, meadow, and savanna -- looking for spring wildflowers, birds, and other wildlife. We'll also have a chance to see the results of CAS's habitat management activities, including meadow/savannah plantings, invasive-plant removal, and prescribed fire (including our recent woodland burn). Terrain is mostly easy walking with a few short hills, and we'll be moving pretty slow. We'll meet at the Wild Haven Picnic Shelter at 8 a.m. and explore until about 11 a.m., but you are welcome to come early or stay late (pack a lunch!) to see more of the area. Maps, plant and bird lists, and more information about Wild Haven are available on the CAS website under 'Nature Areas'.

Directions: Take Route B north of US 63. After crossing RR tracks (about 1 mile), turn right on Brown Station Road. Stay on this road through stop sign, then take the next right turn onto O'Rear Road. Follow O'Rear until it turns to gravel, then look for the Wild Haven sign and gate on the right (about a mile from Brown Station).

**MAY 3, 4, 5, 2013** –Friday thru Sunday—ASM Spring Meeting, St. Joseph, MO (see page 4)

### MAY 18-Saturday —3 Creeks CA

Leader: Eric Seaman

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**APRIL 10-11, 2013** Marsh Bird Survey training  
Eagle Bluffs CA—sponsored by Missouri River Bird Observatory

**MAY 11** - Saturday - Migratory Bird Count

**MAY 15** - CAS Annual Picnic - 6:00 p.m. - Bonnie View Park - Rollins Road (see page 4)

**MAY 18** - Kids' Day at Songbird Station

Grant School 4th graders and teachers are singing the praises of CAS volunteers for ensuring that our birding adventure to Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area on March 13 was a huge success. We thank Edge Wade for organizing everyone and being our fearless leader; we thank Sandy Elbert, Howard Hinkel, Kevin Wehner, Kathleen and Harold Anderson, Bonnie Heidi, and Eric Wood for their expertise, equipment, and good humor. As Edge articulated so clearly, "this field trip was a success, despite cold, wind, and very limited numbers of birds. Setting those tripods down to kid level worked well. Kid after kid got great looks at coots, several duck species and that eagle on the nest! We can be thankful that a variety of birds put in appearances--some too brief for all to see, but providing exciting views for many. Among these were a persistent American Kestrel; the blue form Snow Goose that stood on a log, then swam lazily away was a good introduction to the later flying "wavies"; Greater and one Lesser Yellowlegs; Red-winged Blackbirds on territory, a Great Blue Heron; those beautiful singing Western Meadowlarks;, and a Red-tailed Hawk on a power pole. Thank you all for once more sharing the joys of birding with those who will be enjoying Eagle Bluffs for many years to come."



## COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY FACEBOOK GROUP

Just a quick announcement to let everyone know that the Columbia Audubon Society now has a dedicated Facebook group you can join.

The group is open to all. You can use it to post photos, field trip announcements, bird sightings, event details, etc. It's also a great place to hang and network with local birders while online.

The group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/columbia.audubon/>

If you have any questions about the group or need assistance, please feel free to message the group manager, Kevin Wehner on Facebook or e-mail him at [kevinwehner@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwehner@gmail.com).



# ASM SPRING MEETING AT ST. JOSEPH

5/3/2013 - 5/5/2013

You may register online at <http://mobirds.org/ASM/Meetings.aspx>

All birding enthusiasts are invited to participate in the ASM Spring Meeting 2013. This year's meeting will be hosted by the Midland Empire Audubon Society. The meeting will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. **The Deadline for registration is April 12, 2013.**

Weekend highlights include:

Field trips to Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Bluff Woods Conservation Area, Wallace State Park, as well as hot birding spots around the St. Joseph area.

There will also be a bird mist netting and banding demonstration.

A program will be given on Friday featuring Betty Grace, Cartoonist for *The Missouri Conservationist*. This presentation will begin at 7:30. Arrive early or stay after to visit with Betty, and participate in her book signing.

Peter Kondrashov, professor, researcher, and photographer, will provide the program on Saturday evening. He will share his expertise following the banquet.

There will be a silent auction, in the banquet room, beginning Saturday at 4:00.

A social hour will be held Saturday, from 5:30 to 6:30 in the Holiday Inn's smoke-free bar.

Saturday evening's dinner will be provided by 36<sup>th</sup> Street Restaurant, which is located in the Holiday Inn. The banquet will begin at 6:30.

The registration fee is \$45, which entitles participants to participate in field trips, programs, and Saturday night's dinner. Box Lunches will be available for Saturday field trips for \$8.

For more information contact Peggy Voltz at 816-362-4702 or [Voltzfamily@hotmail.com](mailto:Voltzfamily@hotmail.com). You may also contact Donna Chance at [dhchance@hotmail.com](mailto:dhchance@hotmail.com).

The registration desk will be located at Holiday Inn from 3 - 10 p.m. on Friday. Late arrivals may pick up their packets at the front desk on Saturday.

## ANNUAL CAS PICNIC AND YEAR END MEETING

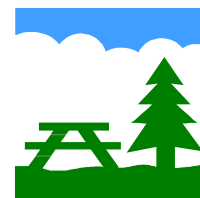
**Mark your calendars !!**

**CAS ANNUAL PICNIC**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary—3300 Rollins Road**



**Please bring a covered dish or dessert and your lawn chairs. Drinks and paper goods will be provided. The evening's entertainment will be BIRD TRIVIA! Come enjoy food and fellowship with fellow Audubon members and test your bird knowledge!**

Contact Julie Fisher with questions: [julie8401@tranquility.net](mailto:julie8401@tranquility.net)

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

**Name:** Edge Wade

**Board position:** none at present, but 3 stints as field trip chair (about 10 years worth)

**Family:** In Columbia, husband Jerry and daughter Kim, son-in-law David, grandchildren Elliot and Sophie (both graduates of Lisa Schenker's 4<sup>th</sup> grade).

**Profession:** Birding Bum

**Pets:** Biscuit (as in Powder Milk Biscuits), rescued from Prairie Home Conservation Area (her two siblings live with Elliot and Sophie), and Terra, adopted from Columbia Humane Society because, "All cats need a playmate and I can't keep up with Biscuit's needs," wheezed Jerry. Both are 100% indoor cats.

**Hobbies:** I have many interests, but none that I'd put in the category of "hobby." Birding is a way of life, a lifestyle, rather than a hobby.

**How long have you lived in Columbia?** I came to MU in the fall of 1962, Jerry in January 63. We spent 7 years in Illinois in the 70s, and returned to Columbia in 79.

**How long have you been a member of CAS?** I think I joined in 1994, after taking Tim Barksdale's adult ed birding class. Sandy Elbert and Janice Gaston were in that first class, too, and we joined CAS at the same time.

**What do you like best about CAS?** Field trip opportunities, the chance to "catch up" with others at meetings, informative programs, and Dolores Clark's windmill ginger cookies.

**How did you get interested in birding?** After a March of mostly housebound surgery recovery, I took a hike at Rock Bridge Memorial SP and encountered several birds that I couldn't identify. I realized I knew very little about birds, despite a lifetime of outdoor activities, went home, picked my not-so-good field guide and began a study program to learn 2 species a day. By fall migration, I was ready to go in the field and have some idea what I was seeing. Tim's class and CAS field trips were there to feed the craving for more birding knowledge and encounters.

**Most exciting bird ever seen:** That's a toss up—the bird I just saw, or the next one I'm anticipating seeing.

**Most recent "lifer":** A February 2,000 mile round trip to New Jersey was successful as a "three-fer." We found three Northern Lapwings and a Pink-footed Goose in NJ, and a Barnacle Goose on Long Island, NY.



**Name:** Rachel Navarro

**Family:** husband, Sean; 2-year-old daughter, Justina

**Profession:** Museum Educator at the University of Missouri Museum of Art and Archaeology

**Pets:** Beagle/Coonhound mix, Pan

**Hobbies:** Birding, Art History

**How long have you lived in Columbia?** 4 years.

**How long have you been a member of CAS?** Less than a month, but I've been meaning to pay my dues for a while. I attended the Christmas Bird Count!

**What do you like best about CAS?** I like that you are all so involved in the community. When I gave my bird tour of the museum, I was surprised to find that at least three of the docent volunteers at the museum are also Audubon members!

**How did you get interested in birding?** I was raised to love nature. My mother taught my brother and me to identify the birds in our backyard and at our feeder. I remember telling my little brother made up stories about how goldfinches were very rich because when they plucked their feathers, they turned to gold. I started studying birds in art when I began my MA in Art History in 2009.

Last fall, I joined the MO-Birds listserv and read about the "irruption" of birds that are usually rare in Missouri this winter and was so fascinated that I was determined to see crossbills before the winter was over.

I still consider myself pretty amateur, but I am learning quickly. I am in search of a birding buddy who doesn't mind going out on Friday afternoons while my daughter naps in the backseat!

**Most exciting bird ever seen:** Red crossbills at Lee Elementary about a week ago, after a winter-long search!



**Most recent "lifer":** Yellow-rumped warbler at our feeder! Since I just recently started paying closer attention, I pick up "lifera" pretty frequently.

**GEARING UP FOR SPRING**

The birds are coming, the birds are coming! Dreams of spring migration sustain many a birder through long winters, but dreaming doesn't prepare us to make the most of Spring's largesse. Here are some tips to get you ready to bird long daylight hours and enjoy every moment.

**Study NOW, before the migrants arrive.**

Listen to bird songs and review field marks.

Review the bar graphs in *ENJOYING MISSOURI'S BIRDS* depicting arrival times.

**Get comfortable with your equipment NOW.**

If you have a new app, field guide, binoculars or scope, practice using it.

**Get the car ready NOW.**

A basic first aid kit is essential.

Keep a bottle or two of drinking water in when danger of freezing is over.

Put in a snack supply (and remember to refresh it).

Maps or apps, have the necessary navigation materials ready for use.

Got a box for reference materials? You might include wildflowers and trees.

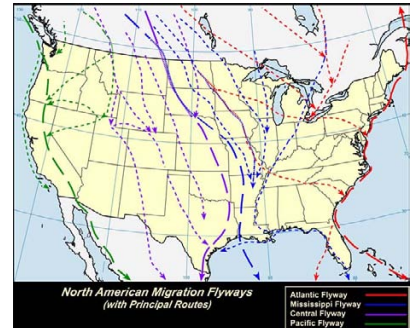
Put in an old pair of shoes or boots and an extra pair of socks.

Consider keeping a full change of clothes in a small bag in the car.

If you don't have an old jacket in there, put one in.

If you use insect repellent, may sure it's in.

Add a roll of masking tape for the easiest seed tick removal method.

**Watch birds NOW.**

Enjoy the birds that are here now!

**Nature facts for April from Missouri Department of Conservation*****Natural Events Calendar 2013***

- ◆ Northern Bobwhites begin calling.
- ◆ Ospreys begin to migrate through Missouri.
- ◆ Baltimore Orioles begin to arrive.
- ◆ Juncos depart for breeding grounds in Canada.  
Editor's note: Goodbye Winter!
- ◆ Whip-poor-wills begin calling.
- ◆ Warbler migration peaks.



## **A PARTNERSHIP**

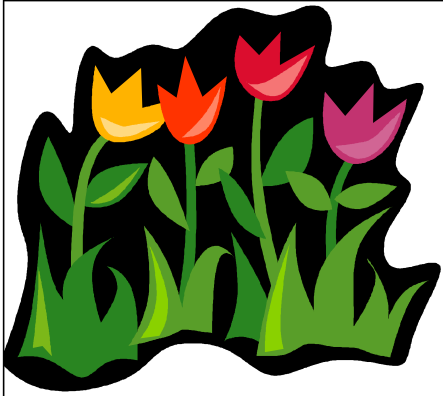
**by Allison Vaughan**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is requesting funds from the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative to enable Missouri State Parks to assist with accomplishing a native landscape restoration project at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Funding from grant sources would allow for a two person stewardship crew to remove small brush from an upland flatwoods natural community at the Ozark Caverns unit of the park. This natural community is rare in Missouri, characterized by clay soils that hold water during spring and winter months. At Ozark Caverns, the flatwoods is dominated by stunted and gnarled black-jack oaks, post oaks, and an understory of warm season grasses and perennial forbs. It remains a premier example of this landscape type in the Missouri Ozark Highlands. However, despite 25 years of regularly occurring prescribed fire in the flatwoods, some larger brush continues to exist causing excessive shading in certain parts of the area. Small brush removal will allow the warm season grass component to thrive as it did upon the first land survey in the area conducted in 1843.

The Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) is a multiagency partnership that works to enhance and restore bird populations and wild bird habitat in Missouri. Ozark Caverns is widely recognized among conservation agencies as a significant resource for many species of birds, several of which are declining across their range due to inadequate habitat. The flatwoods restoration project would be a continuation of a similar project in the park funded by MoDNR which involved clearing small brush from adjacent woodlands. Grant funding would also allow for the installation of firelines on designated burn units.

The Columbia Audubon Society has agreed to serve as a partner with MoDNR on this MoBCI grant by providing a bird survey following the brush removal project and prescribed fire implementation. No funds will be administered by CAS to MoDNR. This partnership will involve fieldtrips to the work site to conduct bird surveys in May 2014. It has been proposed that CAS visit the site before work begins to establish baseline data of bird populations using this upland flatwoods as it exists today. This partnership represents the first of its kind between CAS and a Missouri State Park. Grant awards will be announced in May, 2013.





Columbia Audubon Society wants to  
thank our corporate sponsor:

**Songbird Station**

2010 Chapel Plaza Court, Suite C  
Columbia MO 65203.

Phone 573-446-5941 or on the web at  
[www.songbirdstation.com](http://www.songbirdstation.com)

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