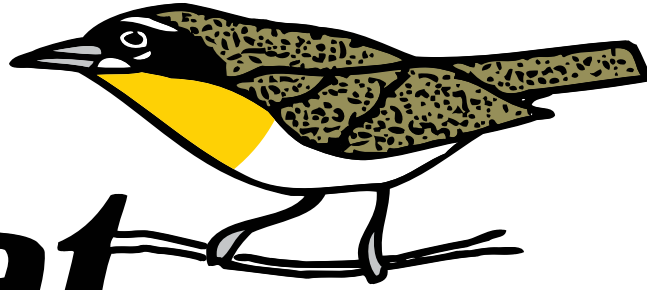


The

Chat



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

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

The mission of the 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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Why does Columbia Audubon Society exist, besides our mutual love of birds? For many years our focus has been on educating the public, especially children. We have been sponsoring a teacher going to Hog Island, National Audubon's educational program, for over five years. Our Vice President Lottie Bushman was the first and she has gone back as a volunteer every year since. We have heard their reports that it was a good experience. But with all that needs to be squished into a child's school day, does it translate?

At September's Columbia Audubon meeting, I was convinced that it did. The first speaker, Ann Kome, discussed how Hog Island helped her draw on many years of teaching experience to understand how to weave nature into the classroom. The second speaker, Whitney Adams, a younger teacher with incredible energy, brought multiple pictures illustrating how they were taught to incorporate nature into all of their teaching. She is beginning a new job which will have her working with other teachers at many grade levels. I was glad to hear how these teachers helped children get outside on a regular basis. Bird feeders outside windows and using Feeder Watch were important teaching tools. And finally, if you are a second grader, the biggest treat yet to come is the trip to the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary for the annual 2nd grade nature field trip. - by Laura Hillman

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2016-2017 BUDGET INFORMATION

The Columbia Audubon Society's mission as shown on the first page of this newsletter is "to preserve the natural world...through education, environmental study, and habitat restoration". In support of this mission, CAS has budgeted for these highlights for fiscal year 2016-2017:

- \$4,000 or 32% of the total budget for teacher and student grants to obtain specialized nature training.
- \$3,750 or 30% of the total budget for "Banding with Nature" field trips and for classrooms to participate in Project Feederwatch.
- \$2,000 or 16% of the total budget for habitat and facility maintenance at the CAS-owned Nature Areas.
- The remaining budget goes to general required expenditures such as insurance, newsletter printing and postage, and facility rentals for Society events.

Local membership dues and support from National Audubon only provide one-third (33%) of the annual budget; gracious donations from our members and contributors through CoMoGives allow us to support our mission. Our officers, board, and other involved persons are all volunteers who are provided no salary or compensation from Society funds.

The fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31 annually. The Board approves a budget prior to May 31. If you have any questions regarding the Society's budget please contact treasurer Eric Seaman at eseaman68@yahoo.com. - *by Eric Seaman*

COMOGIVES CAMPAIGN 2016

CoMoGives is a December fund-raising campaign for not-for-profit organizations, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Central Missouri. This event, held in December, provides a convenient "one-stop-shop" online venue through which the public can make tax-deductible donations to their favorite charities. Columbia Audubon Society (CAS) participated for the first time last year, along with 72 other organizations. In 2016, 91 organizations will take part.

The article above highlights the funds required to support CAS's activities, including sending local teachers to National Audubon's Hog Island Teachers Camp, helping local high school students attend the Tetons Science School, and sponsoring the Band With Nature field trip for 1,500 second graders. Membership dues alone do not cover CAS's day-to-day expenses plus the costs of these programs.

You will be hearing more about the 2016 CoMoGives campaign as December approaches. Please consider how a donation from you will help continue these sponsorships and even allow consideration of other projects that fit into the CAS mission statement on this newsletter's masthead. - *by Bill Mees*

BIRDERS' GUIDES TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

Birders' Guides to Missouri Public Lands are birder-oriented site descriptions. Entries appear in serial form in *The Bluebird*, the quarterly journal of the Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM), and as a frequently-updated set of entries on ASM's website, www.mobirds.org, under the home page banner head "Birding Locations."

The purpose of the guides is to provide birders with basic introductory information about sites, including good detailed, up-to-date driving directions. Entries are intended to answer birders' questions as they consider a site visit. Is there a road through it? Are there trails? Are there special features of interest to birders? Are there toilets? Are there hazards? Do conditions or other birders' experiences suggest unusual species might be present? Is the site worth a visit anytime of year, or would a visit at a particular season be especially rewarding?

The series, with details written by more than thirty birders, includes conservation areas and accesses, state parks and historical sites, national wildlife refuges, national forests, university-owned lands, city parks and other public lands open to birders. Many entries provide step-by-step bird-finding tips.

Among the more than 175 birding locations now online are six Boone County sites: Bradford Farm, Finger Lakes SP, Hart Creek CA, Lick Creek CA, Rocky Fork Lakes CA, and Three Creeks CA. Howard County sites with birders' guides are: Boone's Lick SHS, D.C. Rogers Lake, Franklin Island CA, Moniteau Creek CA, Peters Lake, and Rudolf Bennitt CA. Cole County guides online are: Binder Community Lake, Clark's Hill/Norton SHS, Scrivner Road CA, and Stringtown Bridge Access. Thomas Hill Reservoir is included in the Randolph County site list.

Take a look at the guides. You may learn about a site nearby that you've hesitated to visit because you didn't know what to expect. Print a guide or download it on your phone before you head to a site. If you think you already know a site, you may find something new about it in a guide, or be able to add to one already online.

Additions to the series are welcomed! Corrections or additions to online guides are encouraged. A template for writing a guide is in the Birding Locations dropdown menu listed as "Add new site guide." For additional information about the guides (and especially about writing a new one) contact Edge Wade, series editor, at edgew@mchsi.com.

- by Edge Wade



This photo series, taken by a remote camera, shows a female cardinal raiding sorghum heads on our farm. No wonder I'm a Royals fan!

- Eric Reuter

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd, Columbia.

Wednesday, October 19th, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Presenter: Susan Flader

State parks and the Parks and Soils sales tax on the November ballot.

Wednesday, November 16th, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Presenter: Julianna Jenkins

From nest to migration: fledgling songbird behavior and survival. Researchers have studied nesting birds for hundreds of years, but the question of what happens after birds leave the nest is still largely a mystery. The post-fledging period, the interval between leaving the nest and first migration, is a critical time for juvenile migrant songbirds. Once out of the nest, fledglings need to gain the skills to survive on their own. It is during this time that the majority of mortalities occurs. If dangers and habitat requirements shift significantly between nesting and post-fledging, conservation plans may not be supporting species' needs throughout the season. To better understand fledgling behavior, movements, and survival, Jenkins monitored nests and used radio telemetry to observe post-fledging juveniles from 2012-2015. The two species studied occupy similar nesting habitats in central Missouri forest fragments, but have different natural histories.

Saturday, December 17th, 2016

Annual Christmas Bird Count and chili supper

Wednesday, January 18th, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Presenter: Lori McCurdy, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture

Lori will talk about the programs CUA runs with Columbia Public Schools, as well as her outdoor classroom program.

BAND WITH NATURE 2016

Help us introduce over 1,000 schoolchildren to birding and the outdoors at the annual Band With Nature event. This year's event will run for three days, from Tuesday October 11 through Thursday October 13, at the Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary. We are hoping to have every CPS school participate!

Volunteers are needed and can serve half day or all day, on any day. Morning sessions are 9:00 a.m. to noon and afternoon sessions are noon to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided for anyone who volunteers all day. Volunteers are encouraged to attend the activity stations as their interests dictate. To sign up or learn more, please get in touch with Bill Mees at jandbmees@mchsi.com or 573-445-7781.

2016 FIELD TRIPS

Eric Wood, Field Trip Chair: ewood802@yahoo.com or 573-673-0215

3M Flat Branch-Hinkson Creek Wetlands

Date & Time: Saturday, October 1st, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Departure Point: Songbird Station, 2010 Chapel Plaza Court #C, Columbia, MO

Leader: Lottie Bushmann, (573) 808-0661

This trip is especially for children 7 years old and up (accompanied by an adult). We ask that you leave your stroller in the car and dogs at home. Meet at Songbird Station's parking lot at 8 a.m. We'll walk the 3M Wetlands and then return to the store at 10 a.m. for refreshments and cookies.

Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Date & Time: Sunday, October 9th, 7:20 a.m.

Departure Point: Moser's Discount Foods, 4840 Rangeline St., Columbia, MO

Leader: Edge Wade, edgew@mchsi.com or 573-268-3714

This is the Grand River Audubon Society's Big Sit, held at the viewing platform at Swan Lake NWR. It is a popular day-long event; folks set up grills and cook brats, etc., for lunch. CAS people are asked to bring side items (and contribute a bit toward the cost of the entree). Bring binoculars, and scope if you have one, along with a side dish or dessert for lunch to share, and plate, utensils, & cup.

Bradford Farms

Date & Time: Saturday, October 15th, 8:00 a.m.

Departure Point: Bradford Farms Visitor's Center, 4968 S Rangeline Rd, Columbia

Leader: Brad Jacobs, robertbjacobs@gmail.com

We will leave the Auditorium parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to explore Bradford Farms. We will be looking for a late Nelson's Sparrow or LeConte's Sparrows and Virginia Rails. Also White-throated, White-crowned, Savannah, Vesper, Fox, Swamp, & Harris's Sparrows as well as Sedge & Marsh Wrens, and Sora.

Rocky Top Trail - Lake of the Ozarks State Park

Date & Time: Saturday, October 22nd, 7:30 a.m.

Departure Point: AC commuter parking lot, off US 63.

Leader: Allison Vauhgn, allisonjv@yahoo.com

We'll carpool from the parking lot on the southeast corner of the AC exit off Hwy 63 on Lenoir St. If you're not joining the carpool, meet at Rocky Top Trail-head at 9:00 a.m. After the trip we'll have lunch at Shawnee Bluff Winery. Rocky Top Trail is a wonderful example of just how important fire is to maintaining native glades and woodlands that once dominated the landscapes of this region. It consists of 2 loops, totaling 2 miles of nature viewing. For a map of the trail please visit: <http://mostateparks.com/trails/lake-ozarks-state-park>



Columbia Audobon Society wants to thank our corporate sponsor:

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