



# River Bluffs Audubon “The Timberdoodle”

*River Bluffs Audubon Society, Jefferson City, Missouri  
is a Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

## November to Illumine the Mysteries of Mr. Bobwhite

Inquiring minds want to know...“What’s Happening in the Life of Mr. Bobwhite?”

You won’t find the answer in a tabloid at the grocery store, or on bad daytime TV. The only way to learn more about the life of Mr. Bobwhite and his whole family—it’s quite a story!—is to come to Elsa Gallagher’s fascinating

“insider’s” presentation on November 10, 2004.

The presentation will begin at 7:00 at the Runge Center on Highway 179 in Jefferson City. Please note that November 10<sup>th</sup> is a WEDNESDAY. (The meeting was moved due to the holiday the next day.)

Gallagher, from the

Missouri Department of Conservation, will tell all about quail. She will be reporting the most recent news about their everyday lives, and the continuing saga of their struggle for survival. It’s the kind of news that could fill a whole book, so be sure to attend and learn.

The chapter’s regular monthly meeting will follow the presentation.

## Plan now to do the Christmas Bird Count

Rushed? Busy right before Christmas? Give yourself the gift of time spent birding! The annual Christmas Bird Count will probably be held December 18, 2004, though final arrangements are pending.

Be sure to let Julie Lundsted know if you can participate. Call her at 573-635-2976. Get all the details about where to meet and what to bring.

Instead of “smelling the roses,” pause, step back, and view the cardinals this holiday season!

Photo of camp robber

## Have you seen one of these birds?

*Probably so, if you’ve been to the mountains in western states. But how about a Red-billed Pigeon? A Clay-colored Robin? A Pink-footed Goose? A few people travel far and wide to see rare birds. Fewer still try to identify as many birds as possible in one year. Learn more about the quest for the North American birding record in the article on page 6.*

## Take Care In the Woods

Remember to wear orange if you venture to Conservation Areas or other wild places during deer season. Firearms season for deer is November 13-23, 2004. This is a statewide season. A second gun season will be held in 74 counties, including those in mid-Missouri, from December 11-19.

# When it Comes to the Environment, Actions Speak the Loudest of All

Looking out the kitchen window on a golden October morning, I spotted a monarch butterfly stopping to sip nectar on the purple butterfly bush beside the fence. A pit stop, no doubt, on its long journey south. I felt a warm feeling of satisfaction, recalling exactly when I planted that bush two years ago. But the fact that fewer and fewer monarchs are visiting our yards each year is a concern that my neighbor and I share.

At a time when good news about the environment is hard to come by, it is easy to feel down and discouraged about the fate of the planet. Simply hearing a news report that globally, frogs are disappearing can throw me into feelings of hopelessness. The earth's problems are so big, and we are so little.

But a friend suggested a different way of thinking about this problem.

She suggested remembering, acknowledging, and celebrating the small things all of us are doing to take care of the earth.

Remember, she said, how we feed the birds in winter, how we set up nest boxes in our yard, how we plant bushes that supply winter food for birds. Think of the plants for butterflies and hummingbirds we have included in our gardens.

Think of the times you contacted a legislator or wrote a letter to the editor about an environmental issue. Recall how many trips you have made to the recycling bins or the times you picked up trash along a stream or river.

Recall the times you shared your love of nature with a child— together, marveled at the exquisite design of an orb weaving spider, searched for Orion the Hunter in the winter sky.

We do these things, often without thinking about them. Our efforts may be small, but collectively, we are making a difference.

Recently, while swimming in the Gulf with two friends, we noticed a brown pelican floating nearby. We were clearly “in his space.” Try as he would, he simply could not lift himself out of the water. Incited to action, two of us kept in range while one of us called the Seacoast Bird Sanctuary. Their truck and helpers arrived shortly. An experienced handler captured the pelican and brought him to the shore. Once out of the water, the pelican's problem was quickly evident: he was hopelessly tangled in monofilament fishing line. Once cut free, the bird arose, and accompanied by cheers and claps from a gathering crowd, he soared high above the shore into the air.

One day on a beach. One fettered brown pelican gloriously aloft.

Somewhere there's a metaphor here: when entangled by negativity and feelings of hopelessness, cut the lines of pessimism and inertia. Fly again, knowing that however small your efforts, you can and do make a difference.

—Barbara Yates

## RIVER BLUFFS AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD

### 2004-2005 OFFICERS

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Vice President: Celeste Koon (636-5593)

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Secretary: Jan Griffin (636-6480)

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Field Trip Chair: Jim Nordstrom (635-8024)

Membership Mailing List: Cecilia Campbell (657-2357)

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Mailing: Amy Callison (634-2075)

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West Edgewood: Randy Sarver (635-2693)

### DIRECTORS

Roger Randolph (635-6018)

Carla Sarver (635-2693)

Kay Coleman Kasiske (782-3483)

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the River Bluffs Audubon Society is to educate, inform, and inspire the local community so they will actively conserve and restore habitat for birds and wildlife.

The River Bluffs web site address is <http://rbas.missouri.org/>. The *Timberdoodle* is published at the beginning of Sept., Nov., Jan., March, and May. Deadline for articles is the 25th of the preceding month. Send them to <celestekoon@hotmail.com>.



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# Spectacular New Book Focus of December Meeting

Jim Rathert, Missouri Department of Conservation, will speak about the publication of his new book at the chapter meeting on December 9, 2004.

The new book, titled *In Focus*, showcases the work of Rathert, who has been a photographer for the Conservation Department for 19 years. The book contains some of Rathert's most riveting images of wild Missouri. Plus, the narrative shares Rathert's philosophy and knowledge.

The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Yen Ching Restaurant, 2208 Missouri Blvd. in Jefferson City. (Since the Runge Center no longer allows meals, the program and Christmas dinner have been moved.) It is sure to be a treat since Rathert's work features views of Missouri prairies, wetlands, forests, and streams. Plus, Rathert will be able to

Cover of book

autograph books if anyone purchases one as a Christmas gift.

The chapter's holiday dinner will precede Rathert's presentation. Dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. The menu is egg drop or hot sour soup, egg rolls, crab rangoons, steamed rice, Yen Ching beef, sweet and sour chicken, hot tea and fortune cookies. The cost is \$8.25 per person, and with tax and tip the total will be \$10.10 for

adults. Children are welcome and the cost for children under 12 is \$5.75.

You do not have to attend the dinner to attend the presentation, and arrangements can be made for vegetarian or other meals if necessary.

Once again, a silent auction will be held. Remember to bring an item that you are willing to donate, and plan to have a lovely time. Invite a friend.

## Open Burning of Cardboard, Paper May Be Revisited

The Jefferson City Environmental Quality Commission is planning a public forum to gather comments about a ban on backyard trash burning. The date of the forum was originally set for 5:30 p.m. November 18 at City Council chambers; however, the event may be rescheduled.

Presently, city residents can burn cardboard and newspaper as well as yard debris. The proposal presently being discussed would eliminate cardboard and newspaper in

burn barrels since household trash is often burned with these items.

Councilman Dean Martin, who is a chapter member, is one of the chief supporters of the measure.

Open burning of trash releases fine particles and other air pollution. This pollution is harmful to many people's health, causing asthma and other respiratory problems. Although many studies have shown that yard waste also poses substantial health problems when it is burned, members of the Environmental Quality Commission are not sure that the present yard-waste

drop off sites offer some residents a convenient way to dispose of yard waste. Some people have no way to deliver their yard wastes. So the commission has been reluctant to pursue a ban on all open burning unless there is substantial public support for such a ban.

Those wishing to comment to the Environmental Quality Commission should watch the paper or call city hall to learn the final date of the forum. Written comments can also be sent to: Environmental Quality Commission, 320 E. McCarty, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

# Update: Audubon Missouri Hosts Congressman Clay

The St. Louis Chain of Rocks Bridge was the site of the annual meeting of Audubon Missouri on September 18. The Audubon Missouri state office staff is working with St. Louis Audubon chapter members and city leaders to evaluate the feasibility of building an Audubon education center next to the Chain of Rocks Bridge, which is now a bicycling and pedestrian crossing over the Mississippi River.

St. Louis Congressman William "Lacy" Clay was the featured guest. Congressman Clay expressed strong support for the proposed education center and spoke eloquently about the premier role the Mississippi River has played in our regional and national history.

The proposed education center would link up with the National Audubon Society's Mississippi River campaign and focus educational efforts on the river, its habitat and its importance to the environment.

The Audubon Missouri board of trustees met the day following the annual meeting. Here are highlights from the board meeting:

The board heard details about the Corps of Engineers' proposal to build five new larger locks on the Mississippi River. The National Audubon Society is asking Congress to allocate \$5 billion for habitat restoration along the Mississippi River, and National Audubon does not support construction of the new locks.

On the Kansas City side of the state, Audubon Missouri has started preliminary work to begin a Missouri River corridor project focused on excellent parcels of habitat along the Missouri River between Kansas City and St. Joseph.

The first set of Important Bird Areas for Missouri has been selected. IBA is a major initiative of Audubon Missouri and it focuses on core Audubon priorities — preservation of birds and bird habitat. River Bluffs member Rick

Thom was on the committee that evaluated and selected Missouri's IBA sites.

In Joplin, architects are designing the Audubon education center that will be built on Wildcat Glades. Fundraising continues, and construction should begin in spring 2005.

Audubon members were asked to write to the U.S. Forest Service before November 15 in support of the Roadless Rule. This rule helps protect national lands from excessive construction of roads.

— Anita Randolph

## Short History of the Christmas Bird Count

artwork

The Christmas Bird Count is one of the most effective ways to monitor the status and distribution of bird populations across the western hemisphere. The counts are run from December 14<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>. This count has been held since 1900. According to the Audubon Society, over 52,000 observers participate in this daylong event each year! The number of counts has grown from 25 in 1900 to 1,823 in 2000.

The original Christmas Bird Count was founded in 1900 by Frank Chapman. It consisted of twenty-seven birders from Canada to California with a total of ninety species counted at 25 different sites! Before the turn of the century, people hosted Christmas "Side Hunts." Whoever brought back the most feathers won the competition. Chapman believed people should count birds rather than shoot them. Because of his efforts, we have the Christmas Bird Count tradition that has grown and flourished for over a century!

## Condolences

Sympathy is extended to members Lloyd and Ann Grotjan who lost their baby, Iris, shortly before birth on October 4, 2004. If you had not heard about this and you want to send the family a card, the address is: Grotjans, 59110 Redbud Road, California, MO 65018.



# River Bluffs Audubon Society Calendar

## Field Trip Participants

- \* Guests and non-members are always welcome.
- \* Always call the trip leader so you will know about any last-minute changes in plans.
- \* On all trips bring appropriate clothing, including rain gear, and wear sturdy boots on hikes. Also, bring binoculars and bird-identification guides. In warmer weather bring water.

## NOVEMBER

### 6—Saturday—Field Trip to Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area

Plan to meet, eat, and go birding. Contact Rich George for more information. Phone: 573-896-5659; or email, [richgeorge3@mchsi.com](mailto:richgeorge3@mchsi.com).

### 10—Wednesday—“Mr. Bobwhite”

Elsa Gallagher will speak on quail at 7:00 p.m. at the Runge Nature Center on Highway 179 in Jefferson City.

### 17—Wednesday—Birding at Binder Lake

Meet at noon at the parking area by the former Bait Shop to bird for 30-45 minutes. For more information, including directions, contact Celeste Koon at 573-636-5593.

## DECEMBER

### 1—Wednesday—Birding at Binder Lake

Meet at noon at the parking area by the former Bait Shop to bird for 30-45 minutes. For more information, including directions, contact Celeste Koon at 573-636-5593.

### 9—Thursday—Program on Jim Rathert’s New Book

Meet for the chapter’s holiday dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Yen Ching Restaurant, 2208 Missouri Blvd. in Jefferson City. Jim Rathert’s presentation on his new book, *In Focus*, will begin at 7:00 p.m. A silent auction will be held.

### 18?—Saturday—Christmas Bird Count

Final arrangements are pending. Be sure to let Julie Lundsted know if you can participate. Call her at 573-635-2976.

# Field Trips R Fun! Favorite Place Pleases Again

It appears that Scrivner Conservation Area near Russellville is quickly becoming a favorite haunt for River Bluffs Audubon members. Having had a wonderful field trip at Scrivner this past spring, we decided to give it another try on Saturday, September 11. Another beautiful morning greeted us as we enjoyed a morning of birding and savoring the outdoors. This field outing was every bit as pleasant as the spring visit. Scrivner

offers a serene and enjoyable destination near Jefferson City for birding and enjoying the company of friends.

Barb Duncan, Maggie Schmidt, Jim Nordstrom, Rich George and I sauntered through wood and meadow looking alternately upward for sightings of winged creatures and then downward to spot native plants that show their best as the fall season approaches. Our bird sightings were Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Bluebird, White-eyed Vireo,

Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Cardinal, Brown Thrasher, Chimney Swift, Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Peewee, Pileated Woodpecker, Indigo Bunting, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler (exciting!), Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Turkey Vulture and Field Sparrow.

Among the plants were thistle, boneset, pokeweed, goldenrod and black-eyed Susans. Oh, yes, and we also spotted a blue-colored skink and a tree frog.

It seemed we had strolled, visited, watched for wildlife for quite a long time and traveled quite a distance. Deciding we'd better turn back before our energy was spent, we found the walk back passed much too quickly! It was a thoroughly pleasant morning's adventure.

—Anita Randolph

## Trip to Three Creeks Memorable For Learning About Land Use

Kay Kasiske, Jim Nordstrom and I turned out for an October 2 walk at Three Creeks Conservation Area, north of Ashland. Josh Stevens, a forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), and Chris Newbold, who manages other MDC areas to the east, led the trip. The area is managed mainly for recreational use (vs. timber cutting) because of its proximity to a large number of users from Columbia and Jefferson City.

We hiked a beautiful part of a trail near deep, forested ravines in the northern part of the area. The birding was rather slow—besides some common woodland species, we saw an early Yellow-rumped Warbler and heard a Red-shouldered Hawk.

Especially interesting to me was the professional managers' ability to discern the history of the land's use, and to see possibilities for future management to effect a return to a more natural state. For example, under-story maples, though attractive, may indicate an unnatural condition and may not be desirable in large numbers.

Thanks to Josh and Chris for leading the trip!

—Rich George

## Announcing A Fine Field Trip For Waterfowl

Another excellent adventure in birding is scheduled for November 6, 2004. Plan to go to Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area to view waterfowl. Contact Rich George to find out where to meet. You can call him at 573-893-5659 or email him at: richgeorge3@mchsi.com. So far, the plan is to meet, eat, and then go to Eagle Bluffs from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Be sure to let Rich know if you can attend. A variety of species is anticipated on this trip.

### Birdseed Orders Help Chapter with Goals

Thanks to all who ordered birdseed. The River Bluffs Audubon Society gained a profit of \$309.00 from birdseed sales this year. This will enable the chapter to continue to fund various projects. For example, last year the chapter contributed \$300 of materials for nest box repairs at Binder Lake. Jim and Julie Lundsted did the work, and the chapter helped provide lumber.

# Book Review: *The Big Year* by Mark Obmascik

The real title of this book should be “Extreme Birding.” It is a fascinating account of three birders who took a year out of their lives to try to set a record seeing the most birds in North America. The book jacket proclaims, “For three men in particular, 1998 would be a whirlwind, winner-takes-nothing battle for a new North American birding record.”

Although true, the book reads like fiction. The three major characters are introduced one by one, and the reader learns a great deal about their quirks, ambitions, and lifestyles. You also learn about their strengths as exceptional birders.

Of course, all of the main characters in this book have an obsessive interest in birding. They are members of the American Birding Association, which the author describes: “Meetings were reminiscent of an Alcoholics Anonymous session, except that everybody here was proud of their addiction—and looking for more.”

The narrative starts on January 1, 1998, and proceeds through the months of the year as the birders visit Vail, the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Dry Tortugas, Attu, Minneapolis, a landfill, and many other places. Suspense builds, fueled by excellent descriptions of birds, birding, and the passion of the participants. The winner of the “Big Year” competition remains undisclosed until the end.

Just as people who walk around the block sometimes dream of climbing Mount Everest, anyone who watches birds at a feeder will be mesmerized by the immense goal of the birders in this book. A hardy few have gone there—past

the limits of reason—and it’s nice to know how and why they did it. *The Big Year* is an interesting book, not full of profound thinking, but full of entertainment, with many details on birds.

—Celeste Koon

## National Audubon Taking Comments on Chapters’ Roles, Responsibilities

*(Editor’s Note: This is an electronic email that was sent to chapter officers. Ever since the National Audubon Society underwent strategic planning, chapters have been concerned about various issues, including financial support for local activities. Finally, a committee was appointed to address these concerns. This email discusses the resulting report and recommendations. Read it and give your comments to chapter President Anita Randolph or send them to the National Audubon Society.)*

September 23, 2004

TO: Chapters, State Boards, State Offices

FROM: Bill McQuilkin, Chair

SUBJECT: Audubon Ad Hoc Chapter Committee Preliminary Report and Draft Recommendations

The National Audubon Society Ad Hoc Chapter Committee has been working on Chapter-NAS Partnership issues for over a year, and we are now sharing with you our draft recommendations for strengthening this partnership. Our preliminary report, including draft recommendations and appendices, is now available for your review on the Web at <http://www.audubon.org/local/cso/adhoccom/>. In addition, we will mail a hard copy early next week to all Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents.

You are strongly encouraged to share these materials with other Chapter leaders who have an interest in the recommendations. Over the next several months, we will be making extensive efforts to contact all Chapters, State Boards, and State Offices to get further feedback and open a constructive dialogue around these draft materials. Your careful consideration of these new ideas and partnering approaches will help make this process successful for all of us.

The comment and discussion period will run from now through November and end on December 1. During December, the Committee will integrate the Chapter and staff feedback into the final report and then present the final recommendations to the NAS Board of Directors for approval at the January, 2005 Board meeting in Naples, FL.

How to Contact Us: There are two “800” numbers to call for questions and information: 1) Lynn Tennefoss, NAS Chapter Services, Sacra

*(continued on page 8)*

# National Audubon Taking Comments *(from page 7)*

mento, CA 800-542-2748 2)  
Kristen Berry, NAS Public  
Policy, Washington, DC 866-  
680-9041 Website Address:  
[www.audubon.org/local/cso/  
adhoccom](http://www.audubon.org/local/cso/adhoccom) <[http://  
www.audubon.org/local/cso/  
adhoccom](http://www.audubon.org/local/cso/adhoccom)>/. This site contains  
the Committee Report, with  
transmittal letter, recommenda-  
tions and appendices, plus the  
Power Point Presentation used  
in Chapter meetings, Event  
Calendar, and Committee  
contact list.

How to Comment:  
Please send your written or  
email comments to any of the  
following:

1) Regional Directors,  
National Audubon Board of  
Directors (listed at <[http://  
www.audubon.org/nas/board/  
regional/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/nas/board/regional/index.html)>)

2) Ad Hoc Chapter  
Committee Members (listed in  
Appendix VII), or 3) Lynn  
Tennefoss, National Audubon  
Society, 711 University Av-  
enue, Sacramento, CA 95825;

[ltennefoss@audubon.org](mailto:ltennefoss@audubon.org)  
<<mailto:ltennefoss@audubon.org>>;  
Fax: 916-649-7667; Tel: (800) 542-  
2748.

The story of Audubon for  
over a century is the story of  
people engaged in community  
action, education and advocacy,

and grassroots conservation. Our  
purpose, now, is to build on and  
strengthen this vital Audubon net-  
work so we can collectively accom-  
plish our conservation goals. Your  
participation and contributions in this  
important task are most appreciated.  
Thanks!

## Membership Coupon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Identification Number: NO9  
7XCH

Members of the National Audubon Society who live in Callaway,  
Cole, Maries, and Moniteau Counties are automatically members of  
the River Bluffs Audubon chapter. Members receive Audubon  
magazine and the chapter newsletter.

For a first-time membership, mail this form with a \$20 check (pay-  
able to the National Audubon Society) to: Cecilia Campbell, 201B  
S. Wood Ct., Ashland, MO 65010. For repeat memberships, send a  
check for \$35. Your name will be placed on our local mailing list,  
and your payment and name will then be forwarded to the National  
Audubon Society for processing.

## THE TIMBERDOODLE

**Celeste Koon, Editor**

**1017 Holly Dr.**

**Jefferson City, MO 65109**

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