

## **Wednesday, December 12**

Sixteen people signed in at the only public listening meeting of the week that wasn't postponed because of the ice storm. The Refuge received four written comments at the meeting that expressed various priorities for Refuge management. The comments are paraphrased in the following paragraphs:

A representative of the St. Louis Audubon Society four points for management to consider in the CCP:

- Wildlife should be the number one priority.
- Wildlife of particular concern include shorebirds and neotropical migrants, and wetlands and riparian woodlands should be restored with these species in mind.
- The CCP should strongly recommend that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conduct a spring draw down of the Missouri River.
- The Refuge should look for opportunities to partner with local government and non-government organizations.

Another individual advocated restoring habitat to presettlement conditions and balancing management between the needs of game and non-game species. The writer asked that more attention be paid to managing for shorebirds, including Least Terns, Snowy and Piping Plover, Least and American Bittern, and other wildlife.

Two comments complimented Refuge staff on the public listening meeting.