



IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

The illustration is an outline drawing taken from an ancient Egyptian painting which clearly shows that the habit of cats to catch birds was well known in those olden times. There she is, one bird in her mouth, and two held by her paws. Was the painting intended to teach a lesson in bird protection, or was it only a successful attempt to paint an artistic, life-like cat? At any rate, it would serve our purpose now in our attempt to give the birds a chance for life, by reducing the number of these felines.

Notice, too, the butterflies, which we are told, resemble those of the genus *Cethosia*; relatives of the fritillaries of our own part of the world. The plants are strange in appearance. If any of our readers have an idea as to what plants they might be, we should like for them to inform us.

The age of the painting can be placed at about 2700 to 3000 years.

LIVE INSECTS WANTED.

For live specimens of female moths of the genus *Apantesis*, Mr. H. I. O'Byrne will give specimens of other moths or butterflies in exchange. This is a good chance for entrants in the collection contest to enlarge their collections.

Eggs, larvae, and pupae of the Monarch Butterfly are wanted in large numbers by both O'Byrnes. The larvae of this butterfly feed on milkweed, so, naturally, they will be found on these plants.

LUNAR PHOTOGRAPHY.

On April 12, 1930, that wonderfully clear moonlight night on which the sun-earth-moon combination gave a late hour exhibition of a somewhat disappointing partial eclipse, the Astronomy Group assembled at the Jones residence, where telescopes and cameras were set and ready on the lawn for the event.

Three cameras were used, one an 8 x 10, one a 4 x 5 and one a 2 1/2 x 3 1/2. The results were surprising, in that every negative was over-exposed even though the longest exposure was only 10 seconds and the shortest 3 seconds. The images on the negatives were strongly brought out, but the halation caused by over-exposure eliminated the small shadow of the eclipse on the face of the moon, with the exception of four short exposures on a single negative by Mr. Mueller's camera, which showed where the shadow bit out a small dark portion of the lower part of the moon's face.

The experience gained by these attempts, however, shows that much can be done with both lunar and stellar photographs on the extra fast modern photographic plates and films.

That the evening was pleasantly and profitably spent, was attested by the fact that most of the members present lingered until long after 11:30 in the evening to see the trials through. - Espy Jay.

AT THE BOY SCOUT ENCAMPMENT.

The Boy Scouts of Webster Groves held a week-end encampment, May 3 and 4, at Hillsboror, Mo., on the Holekamp Farm. Nature-study held an important place on their program and several of the members of our society were present in the capacity of nature leaders.

Messrs. Satterthwait, Petersen, Heinze and Harold O'Byrne led groups of scouts through the woods on nature-hikes and at night Mr. Stuart O'Byrne led in a discussion of the constellations. All phases of nature-study were touched upon by one or another of the groups. The keen interest of the boys was evident from the many questions that they asked.

NATURE NOTES

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CURIOSITY KILLED A - CRICKET.

The curiosity was that of one of our members, who wanted to see the chief musician of his night-chorus in action. He found by the aid of a flashlight that it was a ventriloquist; that it could lead the chorus by scraping its raised wings together in cadences that sounded something like "three-three-three"; that its neighbor could do the same thing in a different cadence and pitch without causing discord; that it could scrape away continuously for half a minute or more with scarcely a second's intermission. He found that its sound came from half a dozen places at once and then found that it was not any of them.

He saw it raise its wings at right angles to its back and, like an orchestra leader raising his baton, pause a while before starting the aria. He found that if he touched the twig where it was playing, it would stop, wings still upraised, waiting for the audience to quiet down; but if it was disturbed a second time the wings would slowly settle on its back and the concert would be over. You must see its wings in motion to appreciate its song. It was curiosity to see how its transparent diamond patterned wings worked, that cost the cricket its life.
- Espy Jay.

REPORTS ON ECLIPSE OBSERVATIONS.

At the eclipse meeting of the Astronomy Group held on April 12, the members came armed with their telescopes, field glasses and cameras. Although the eclipse technically began at 9:43 P.M., it was some time before the earth's shadow made any appreciable difference in the brilliance or color of the moon. It was first noticed on the southeast limb and gradually crossed the lower limb toward the west, almost covering the great crater called Copernicus. The color of the covered area changed to a reddish brown while the other portions of the moon, not within the penumbra, changed very slightly to a yellowish color. Three telescopes were used having apertures of 4, 3 and 2 inches respectively. Everyone enjoyed watching the eclipse through these instruments.

(Continued, column 2.)

WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY THROUGH the best part of the year for nature-study work and no doubt many of you readers have lots of suitable material that should be published in Nature Notes. From some of the communications received we know that Nature Notes has taken an important place in the work of the Webster Groves Nature-Study Society. We have even gained new members through its publication. Our old members, many of them, now look forward to each issue as a clearing house of observations. We must continue publishing and it all depends upon you. Get your material ready and send it to the editor. Let us make Nature Notes more valuable to all.

THE LODGE.

The housewarming at the new Lodge took place so near to the date that Nature Notes goes to press, that we are unable to give any account of that important event in this number. But, look for the July number in which we expect to have many interesting things concerning the Lodge and the grounds around it. These things will be in the form of reports by the various leaders on that day.

REPORTS ON ECLIPSE OBSERVATIONS

The solar eclipse of April 28 was observed by an impromptu party of four assembled at the U. S. Entomological Laboratory. A pair of very dark photographic negative were used to protect our eyes from the sun's strong rays. In general seeing was very good although clouds bothered some.

My little two-inch telescope was set up with a screen to receive the projection of the sun's image, together with a small camera having a portrait attachment affixed. With this equipment and much patience on the part of Mr. Lange and myself, we succeeded in getting two poor pictures of the sun during eclipse. Both negatives are very weak, one especially so. This near-failure was due to not having a convenient room with a southern exposed window through which to work.

The most striking phenomenon was the covering of a large sun-spot by the moon. The limb of the moon approached within less than a hair's-breadth of the spot (the sun's image was about six inches in diameter) when the spot disappeared with extreme suddenness.

- Stuart L. O'Byrne.

Webster Groves Nature-Study Society

A BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN NATURE-STUDY SOCIETY

(Organized in 1920)

Webster Groves, Mo.

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Editor

NATURE NOTES

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday June 1: A Trip To Mrs. Martin's Farm, near House Springs.
Meet at the Post Office at House Springs on Highway 30
(Gravois Road) at 9.00 AM, leaving there promptly at 9.30
for the Farm. Bring basket lunch and field glasses.

Sunday June 22: A Repeat Trip To Marriot's Farm, near Barnhart, Mo.
Meet at Cochran's Filling Station on Highway 61, 16 miles
South of St. Louis and one mile south of Imperial, at 8 AM.
Bring basket lunch. Late arrivals can ask for directions
to the farm at the filling station.

GENERAL MEETING.

Friday Evening, June 6, 8 PM: At the U.S. Entomological Labora-
tory, 527 Ivanhoe Place, Webster Groves.
Prof. Lawrence H. Conrad of the John Burroughs School will
read Nature Poems. A rare treat indeed. Be sure to come,
and bring - your - friends.

GROUP MEETINGS.

NATURE MELODY, Monday Evening June 2, 8 PM, at the Laboratory
as above. Presentation Analysis in general, with inter-
pretations of sounds in nature by some of the members.

PHOTOGRAPHY, Monday June 9, 8 PM, at the Rau home, 549 East
Argonne Drive, Kirkwood. Demonstration in toning. Bring
photo prints.

GEOLOGY, Thursday June 12, 8 PM, at the Laboratory. Miss Marty
is arranging a good program.

MICROSCOPY, Friday June 13, 8 PM, at the Laboratory.
A demonstration of Tissue Sections. Bring microscopes.

ICHTHYOLOGY, Monday June 16, 8 PM, at the Laboratory.
"Luminous and Electric Animals."

ASTRONOMY, Friday June 20, 8 PM, at the Jones residence, 690 Bon-
ita Ave., Webster Groves. "What Bright Star Is That?"
A way for anyone to answer the question rather than ask it.
Later in the evening a systematic search for double stars and
other worth while field-glass objects. Bring field glasses,
star maps and telescopes.

BOTANY; Monday June 23, 8 PM, at the Laboratory.
"Pictures and Microscope Slides of Algae";- Mr. Mueller;
"Cacti", Miss Martha Rau; "The Identification of Trees
through Leaf Characteristics," Mr. Bradley.

ENTOMOLOGY, Friday June 27, 8 PM, at the Laboratory.
"Fabre's Experiments on Wasps" by George Hawkins; "His Exper-
iments on Grasshoppers" by Miss Boyer; "On Beetles" by
Mr. Jones; "On Spiders" by Mr. Pinkus; "On Caterpillars"
by Mr. O'Byrne."

ORNITHOLOGY, Monday June 30, 8 PM, at the Laboratory.
"Distonguishing Features of Birds of Farm and Orchard."- and
"A Demonstration of the passing of the Boy Scout Bird Study
Merit Badge".

JUNIORS will meet as usual on the ~~third~~ third Wednesday afternoon,
(June 18). Mrs. Pickens will notify the time and place
by phone.

Dont forget to visit the "NATURE-STUDY LODGE" on any of the other
Sundays not set aside for the two Field Trips mentioned above.

Anne A. Jones, Secretary.