

WHEN THE WIND BECOMES PLAYFUL.

As the wind, one of the most powerful of natural forces, sometimes becomes quite playful and even destructive, in the latter case impressing itself greatly upon the minds of men, it would be well to have on record in this bulletin, the fine observation of a tornado by Mr. Will Keller of Greensburg, Kansas, which follows.

Mr. Keller relates that on the afternoon of June 22, 1928, he noticed the approach of a dark cloud and saw that it consisted of three tornadoes. After hurrying his family to the cyclone cellar, he paused to watch the approach of the funnel-shaped clouds.

"Two of the tornadoes looked like great ropes dangling from the clouds, but the nearest one was shaped like a funnel, with ragged clouds surrounding it. I saw that the lower end was beginning to rise and knew that if the tornado again dipped I could drop down and close the door before being harmed.

"At last the great shaggy end of the funnel hung directly overhead. Everything was as still as death. There was a strong, gassy odor and it seemed that I could not breathe, a screaming, hissing sound came directly from the funnel. I looked up and to my astonishment I saw right into the heart of the tornado. There was a circular opening in the center, about 50 or 100 feet in diameter, and extending straight upward for a distance of at least one-half mile. The walls of this opening were rotating clouds and the whole was made brilliantly visible by constant lightning which zigzagged from side to side.

"Around the lower rim small tornadoes were constantly breaking away. These looked like tails. It was these that made the hissing noise. The great whirl was anti-clockwise, but the small twisters rotated both ways. The tornado was not travelling at a great speed. I had plenty of time to get a good view of it, inside and out.

Write some news for "Nature-Notes".

OUT-OF-SEASON VISITORS.

The six members of our party got a real thrill at Red Rock (Hughes Mountain), on October 26, when we found Vaccinium stamineum L. (Deerberry Squaw Huckleberry) in bloom. Ordinarily, the plant blooms in the early spring and the fruit is ripe by the middle of June, so that it was a real surprise to find the plant in bloom so late -- or early??

Then, at the Royal Gorge, (Mo.) on November 2, I saw Hamamelis virginiana L. (Witch-hazel), in bloom for the first time. Another surprise that day was Viola pedata L.

And, though probably not out-of-season visitors, but deserving mention nevertheless, was a flock of purple finches seen by three of the members of our party.

- D.A.B.

NEW PROJECT FOR ASTRONOMY GROUP.

It is not only true that the amateur astronomer can make real worthwhile observations of positive scientific value, but such observations are eagerly sought for by several astronomical societies and published with due credit to the observer. Most of this material is published in Popular Astronomy.

The fields in which the amateur can work are meteors, zodiacal light and variable stars.

These can be worked with the naked eye, field glass or small telescope.

A committee under the chairmanship of Mr. S. P. Jones was appointed to determine whether or not it would be practicable for the group to take up some of this work as a group project, and if so, to present plans for such to the group.

This committee will meet sometime this month and report at this month's meeting if they will have met before that date.

Several members have voiced their desire to take part in this work, and others who may be interested are urged to attend the astronomy meetings so as to get in on the "ground floor".

NATURE NOTES

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A NATURE HIKE OF INTEREST.

(Continued from December number)

Out of the woods a little bit further we found the Black Locust. It had bark that was black and rough and the compound leaves were very lace-like. Right under the Black Locust was the Scarlet Haw. It has smaller fruit than its cousin, the Red Haw.

Mr. Myers said that his place had once been under the sea and he showed us some coral that looked like a honey comb. As we were walking we saw oaks that we had already found and Mr. Myers reviewed us on them. A little farther on we found some very heavy and thick moss. It had blossoms on it that were very interesting. To the naked eye they looked like the antennae of a butterfly. Their color is a pinkish mixed with green.

We were nearing the quarry but the rocks were rather ordinary so there is not very much to tell about. But in the lower part of the quarry, in a little place like a cliff, we found a nest. It may have been a Cliff Swallow's nest, but I do not know. Also, down in the quarry we found a blue flower that we were told was one of the Campanulas. The ten-petaled sunflower was growing very close to the Campanula; it was very pretty.

Mr. Myers showed us the moss plant, and the little leaves, as most people call them, were not leaves at all but were little separate plants with leaves of their own. He showed us the Poison Ivy and told us that you could not get poisoned unless the juice of it gets on you. We also found the wild Crab Apple, but it was a little one. We also found the Virginia Creeper and Mr. Myers showed us the five leaves and the difference between it and the Poison Ivy. We found the Golden Rod a little farther on, which everyone should know. We also found Sweet Everlasting which is white.

Then Mr. Myers showed us a tree and asked us what it was. It was the Chestnut Oak which looks much like the Chestnut, from which it gets its name. Next we saw the Sumac that was just turning red.

We also found a little lavender

FRAGRANT BUTTERFLIES.

Do you know - that some butterflies have scents as sweet and fragrant as any flower?

Do you know - that this is true of some of our most abundant and best known species?

Do you know - why they possess this pleasant and attractive quality?

These questions will be answered at the January meeting of the Entomology Group, and those who are present then will undoubtedly find the subject so interesting that they will be seen testing their sniffing talents on the butterflies all next summer.

HEAR BIRD SONG RECORDS.

Members who attended the Nature Melody meeting on Monday Evening, November 10th, had the privilege and pleasure of hearing six of Mr. Edward Avis' phonograph records of Bird Songs, with the opportunity to hear each two or three times.

(A NATURE HIKE OF INTEREST).
ender flower, but I can not find out what it is. Then we found the Snake Root. This spring when the cows were producing impure milk Snake Root was the plant that poisoned it. On one of the plants we saw the Monarch Butterfly. It is the most common butterfly in this part of the country. Also on the plant was the Painted Lady Butterfly. My sister found a pod that looked like two pods that had grown together at the ends, but I think they were deformed. Just as we were about to walk into the yard we found a persimmon tree. The persimmons were the size of a man's watch and were rather flat. The persimmons were good,-- and how!

I think we all learned very much for one day and we had a very lovely time.

-Mary Louise Ellison.

NEW "LODGE" OFFICERS

At the last meeting of the Nature-Study Lodge Unit, Dr. Edwin C. Meiners was elected Camp Director, to succeed Mr. Stockwell. He, together with Mr. Charles Stones and Mr. William Pickens, will compose the Executive Committee and assume charge of the Lodge management.

Mr. Stones will act as Secretary and Mr. Pickens as Treasurer. More about this in the next issue.

Roads are paved to the Lodge now, and members of the Society can spend enjoyable, healthy winter days in the Rankin Woods, using the Lodge and its cheerful warmth for shelter.

Webster Groves Nature-Study Society

A BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN NATURE-STUDY SOCIETY

(Organized in 1920)

Webster Groves, Mo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY, 1931

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Webster Groves, Mo.
(Webster 831-J)

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Microscopy

DAVID RAU
Nature Photography

WALTER PALMER
Ornithology

STUART L. O'BYRNE
Editor

NATURE NOTES

GROUP MEETINGS

Microscopy Group: Friday evening, January 9, 8 PM. At the U.S. Entomological Laboratory, 527 Ivanhoe Pl., Webster Groves. "Further microscopical examinations of blood", by Dr. Edwin P. Meiners, chairman. Bring microscopes.

Astronomy Group: Saturday evening, January 17, 8 PM, at the Jones residence, 690 Bonita Avenue, Webster Groves. "The Variable Stars". Mr. S. O'Byrne and Mr. Miller. General discussion later.

Botany Group: Monday evening January 19, 8 PM, at the Entomological Laboratory. This meeting will be of unusual interest, for the Society will have the rare opportunity of again meeting and hearing MR. JOHN KELLOGG.

Ornithology Group: Friday evening January 23, 8 PM, at the Jones residence, 690 Bonita Avenue. "Reports on observations of birds seen this winter", and other topics. General discussion.

Entomology Group: Monday evening January 26, 8 PM, at the Entomological Laboratory. "Fragrant butterflies". Mr. Harold O'Byrne, chairman.

GENERAL MEETING.

On Friday evening, January 30, 8 PM., again at the U.S. Entomological Laboratory, 527 Ivanhoe Place. "A visit to the Scilly Islands" with DR. EDGAR ANDERSON as guide.

Dr. Anderson has recently returned from England, where he has been for over a year, and brings back an extremely interesting account of these islands, located just off the coast of England. Illustrated.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Junior Group will have two meetings, on "Our winter birds and how to feed them". One on Wednesday afternoon January 28 for the Bristol school group after school closes at the home of Mrs. Pickens, 72 Marshall Place. The other on Friday afternoon January 30 for Avery School group, after school closes, at the home of Mrs. Tschannen, 301 Clark.

NATURE-STUDY LODGE.

Dr. Edwin P. Meiners has been elected Camp Director of the Lodge, with Mr. William Pickens and Mr. Charles Stones to serve with him on the Executive Committee. These gentlemen will have charge of the Lodge affairs for the coming year.

Anne A. Jones, Secretary.