

The Bulletin of the Webster Groves Nature-Study Society.

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March, 1931.

MR. KELLOGG SPEAKS TO BOTANY GROUP.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Botany Group in January, the members of this group had the unusual opportunity to hear Mr. John W. Kellogg of the Missouri Botanical Gardens speak. He brought along some rare wild flowers which he has collected in this State and gave very interesting accounts of the habits, habitats, and peculiarities of some of them. The members present had an opportunity of seeing a specimen of *Cynoscia-dun digitatum* D.C., a plant which had never before been found in Missouri and which was collected by Mr. Kellogg, the "Patriarch", at Kennett, Dunklin County, Mo., June 9, 1930, inhabiting sandy swamps. This specimen puzzled Mr. Kellogg for some time, he said, since the characters possessed by the plant did not tally with the keys in Britton and Brown and Gray. Later, he found that these two authorities do not list it. Another rare specimen was *Aca-cia angustissima* var. *hirta* which, so the "Patriarch" says, is very rare even where found, and which, until he proved differently, was believed not to inhabit this State. There were two specimens of *Psacap-itata*, the male and female, showing a vast physical difference; indeed the plants were so different in structure that an amateur would take them for two entirely different species. An interesting little fern was the *Polypodium polypodioides* * which grows among the rocks just south of St. Louis and likes to grow in trees about Bloomsdale, then prefers logs in the swamps around New Madrid. The speaker provided entertainment by telling of the intensely interesting field trips he has taken scouting for rare, wild children of the kingdom of Flora. Altogether, forty-two specimens were shown, all of them rare, including several Orchids and a number of ferns of which Mr. Kellogg says, "most of the ferns seem to like an acid soil and get it in sand, chert, or limestone soil which they follow in definite belts across the country."

Secretary, Botany Group.

Note- * See N-N. Vol.2, p 9.
(Sept. '30.)

BIRD LIST FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY.

The following birds, as listed, were seen on January 2, 1931, near Oetters, Franklin County, Missouri, about 40 miles west of St. Louis.

Barred Owl	1
Screech Owl	1
Meadowlark	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Sparrow Hawk	3
Bluebird	10
Robin	50
Goldfinch	25
Black-capped Chickadee.....	20
Carolina Chickadee	10
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	7
Tufted Titmouse	15
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10
Red-winged Blackbird	200
Crow	100
Bluejay	2
Downy Woodpecker	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Flicker	15
Cedar Waxwing	15
Slate colored Junco	50
White-throated sparrow	20
Song Sparrow	30
Tree Sparrow	50
English Sparrow	25
Killdeer	1
Carolina Wren	3
Cardinal	50
Total species	30

- Julian Steyermark.

ADDITION TO CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS.

Walter Palmer and Julian Steyermark made a Bird Census on December 21, 1930, following practically the same route (Creve Coeur and Boschertown Districts) but not in company with the group which already reported. They report six additional species: Red-tailed Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, Blue Jay, Fox House Sparrows and Mockingbird, bringing the total number of species to 23 for the Nature Study Society Census, and the approximated number of individuals, 1554.

-Mrs. E. A. Satterthwait.

AN INTERESTING INCIDENT

A rather interesting thing happened here in the laboratory the other day which some of the herpetologists might like to hear about. There is a garter snake here in a terrarium. She recently (3 weeks ago) produced 9 young and the members of the department have been kept busy ever since providing enough earthworms to keep the family contented. The other day I was present when they were fed a few worms after a fast of six days. The mother of course showed the greatest readiness to eat but the young ones were not far behind and were soon trying hard to surround worms half as large as themselves. Two snakes happened to tackle the same worm and were battling most vigorously, writhing, dragging each other back and forth but not making much progress in swallowing. This attracted the mother's attention so she seized a loop of the worm and gulped. One youngster let go but the other would not give up and so he started down the mother's esophagus along with the worm. Down he went in spite of his struggles until about two inches of his body projected from the mother's mouth. Then he succeeded in gripping her just back of the head with this free tail and she seemed to be unable to break this grip. However she really seemed to be trying her best to finish the job for she dragged her head along the sand in the bottom of the cage, apparently trying to rub off the loop. The little one seemed to be weakening and we were all ready to say farewell when the mother made a convulsive effort, opened her jaws very wide and out came the little snake with the speed of a coiled spring. But he left the worm inside the mother. I am still at a loss to explain this for the mother made no effort to molest him again although two of the young bit him and hung on for a time, I suppose because of his earthworm flavor and coat of mucus. Did the mother hold him only until he gave up the food? He really appeared to be unharmed in spite of his strenuous experience.

Dr. Chas. K. Sibley,
Canton, N.Y. Laboratory.

OBSERVATION OF GEMINID METEORS.

On December 11, 1930, I watched the sky for 1 hour 6 minutes, between 10:54 P.M. and 12:00 midnight, C.S.T., that evening being the time of greatest display of the Geminid swarm of meteors. The results are tabulated below:

Total time	66 minutes.
No. of meteors	10 (9 Geminids)
Rate per hour	9.1
Percentage factor	0.3
Corrected rate	30.3 per hour.

Individual records.

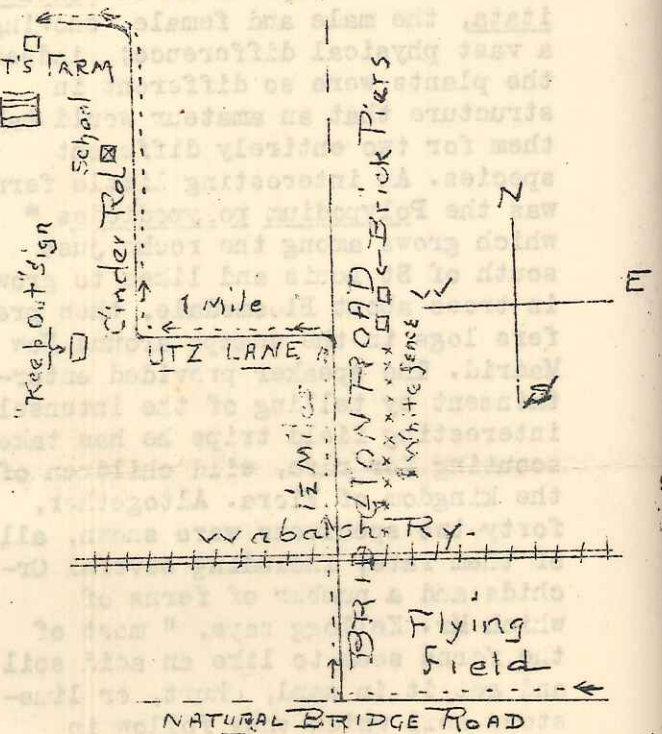
No.	Time	Magn.	Dur.	Length	Color	* M. Tr.
1.	10:54	-2.	1.5s	16	w, g	
2.	11:00	-1.5	0.5s	10	w, r	
3.	11:10	5.	0.25s-	9	? ?	
4.	11:14	4.	0.25s	5	? ?	
5.	11:31	5.	0.25s-	2	? ?	
6.	11:43	1.	1.5s	13	w b	
7.	11:46	3.5	1.0s	9	? ?	
8.	11:50	5.	0.25s	2	? ?	
9.	11:57	5.5	0.25s	2	? ?	
10.*	11:59	5.5	0.25s-	3	? ?	

*Length of trail, given in degrees.
Color: w, white; g, green; r, red; b, blue. M., Meteor; Tr., trail.
Duration, given in seconds. Minus sign following s, "less than".

*No. 10, only meteor not belonging to the Geminid group.

-Stuart L. O'Byrne.

INVITATION TO BELDT'S FISH FARMS.
Meet at the farm at 9 A.M. March 1.
Direction of Route: West on Natural Bridge Rd, North on Bridgeton Rd, cross Wabash Ry. Keep going north about 1 1/2 miles to white fence on east, at the 2 brick piers turn west, this is Utz Lane (macadam). West 1 mile on Rock Rd. At "Keep Out" sign, turn north on cinder road; pass school house on west side of road. Beldt's farm is just north of school house. This is a wonderful place and the only chance you will ever have to see it. Mr. Beldt offers a pair of Oriental fish to all attending- So come, and come early. It will take about three hours to go through the green houses. Fish - Aquatic plants- Snails.



NATURE NOTES

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