

Nature Notes

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Studies in the Fauna of the Ranken
Tract.

1. Myriopoda.

The Region forming the Ranken Tract offers unusual opportunities for studies in the fauna of Missouri. Situated, as it is, in the Meramec valley and at the same time its hills comprising part of the foot-hills of the Ozarks, we find a topography in a small area representative of the geography of the state as a whole. With the location of our lodge, as well as the cabin of the St. Louis Entomological Club, on this tract, the region is being collected over and studied by our naturalists in various branches of Nature Study. It seems to me, therefore, that short articles in Nature Notes covering especially such Classes and Orders that are not represented by groups in the Webster Groves Nature Study Society would not only prove interesting, but would be a nucleus for future compilation of the Flora and Fauna of Missouri. True, some groups have already been well worked up for the state and published. Much of this has been done many years ago and needs revision and addition.

As an example of what still can be done it is interesting to note that in 1928 a small collection of Myriopoda collected near St. Charles, Mo., was submitted to R.V. Chamberlain, the American authority in this group for determination. Thirteen species were represented in this collection, of which three proved to be new species and one represented a new genus. In hopes that others working with little known groups will list their findings, I am giving herewith a few notes on our Myriopoda and a list of species that I have found at Ranken. The Myriopoda actually belong to two classes of invertebrata: the Diplopoda and Chilopoda. The Diplopoda are the millipeds and are recognized by having two pairs of legs to each segment of the body. The Chilopoda are the centipedes, and have but one pair of legs to a segment.

The following families and species have been taken at Ranken. This list is not complete and will be added to as more of my material is identified.

Class Diplopoda.

Family, Polydesmidae

Fontaria virginiana Drury

Euryurus erythropygus Brandt

Family, Iuliidae

Spirobolus marginatus Say

Lysiopetalum lactarium Say

cont. next column.

Class Chilopoda.

Family, Scutigerae

Scutigera forceps Raf.

Family, Scolopendridae

Scolopocryptops sexspinosus Say

Teatops spinicauda Wood

" postica Say

Family, Lithobiidae

Lithobius transmarinus Koch

Family Geophilidae

Geophilus mordax Meinert.

Dr. Edwin P. Meiners.

A Word From The Lodge.

Visitors at the Lodge have been puzzled over what to do with tin cans, garbage and other refuse. With intent to make conditions there as sanitary as possible, the following suggestions are offered:

1. Anything that will burn, such as paper plates, paper napkins, boxes and news-papers, should be burned at the fire place near the building.

2. All except the most liquid garbage can be entirely consumed by throwing it upon burning paper.

3. Tin cans may be placed upon the fire to burn out any fragments of food that they contained; however, if allowed to accumulate in the fireplace they will provide breeding-places for mosquitoes.

4. Anything that will not burn, such as bottles, should be buried or else taken back home. Do not, under any circumstances, leave bottles, cans or garbage exposed near the Lodge, as such objects are not only eyesores, but are certain to cause the place to become infested with flies and mosquitoes.

5. The last person to leave the Lodge should see that no water is left standing in the buckets, to safeguard against pests.

Please cooperate with us in keeping the Lodge a pleasant and attractive place to go.

The Lodge Unit.

A Sedalia, Mo. Bird List.

Miss Nellie Matlock, sends in the following: Birds observed near Lake Tebo, June 21, 1931.

Cardinal, 3; Maryland Yellow, 1; Crow, 15; Screech Owl, 3; Morning Dove, 5; Towhee, 4; Robin, 9; Brown Trasher, 6; Titmouse, 3; Quails, 5; Blue Bird, 2; Purple Martin, 2; Blue Jay, 5; Tree Swallows, 5; Flicker, 2; Purple Grackle, 5; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Indigo Bunting, 1; Catbird, 1; Kingbird, (family); Yellow Warbler, 1; Kingfisher, 2; Goldfinch, 2; Nuthatch, 1; Redheaded Woodpecker, 1; Chickadee, 2; Whip o will, 1; Hummingbird, 1; Barn Swallow, 6; Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Orchard Oriole, Family and nest. Red wing Blackbird, 2; The second bird is Maryland Yellowthroat.

Webster Groves Nature-Study Society
A BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN NATURE-STUDY SOCIETY
(Organized in 1920)
Webster Groves, Mo.

MISS ANNE A. JONES
Secretary-Treasurer
690 Bonita Avenue
Webster Groves, Mo.
(Webster 831-J)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST, 1931

The only meetings scheduled for this month will be---

DR. O. W. BRANDHORST
President

MISS NELLIE MATLOCK
Vice-President

HAROLD I. O'BYRNE
Vice-President

MRS. JASPER BLACKBURN
Flower Exchange Secretary

DR. IRENE BLANCHARD MUELLER
Health Secretary

MRS. WILLIAM PICKENS
Junior Secretary

MRS. A. F. SATTERTHWAIT
Nature-Melody Secretary

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Astronomy

MISS EDITH E. GLATFELTER
Botany

MISS DOROTHY BOYER
Entomology

MRS. ARTHUR FEAGER
Geology

PIERRE A. VOGEL
Ichthyology

DR. EDWIN P. MEINERS
Microscopy

ARTHUR E. MUELLER
Nature Photography

MISS NELLIE MATLOCK
Ornithology

R. C. LANGE
Editor

NATURE NOTES

DR. EDWIN P. MEINERS
Camp Director

A FIELD TRIP on Saturday/Sunday August 8/9 to the Schnedelbach Cottage at Allenton, Mo. The best route is Manchester Road to the Allenton Road, then South on Allenton Road to Allenton. Directions will be left at Gross' Grocery as to the route to the Tom Evans Cottages about a mile or so out from Allenton.

On Saturday night the Astronomy Group will observe celestial objects, so bring your telescopes, field glasses and star maps. Also bring cots, blankets and food.

The NATURE MELODY GROUP will hold an informal meeting on Monday evening August 24th at the Satterthwait home, 118 Waverly Place, Webster Groves, to observe whatever sounds in nature that may be heard at that time in the gardens. Flash lamps may come in handy at this meeting, so bring them along.

The JUNIORS on Wednesdays August 5 and 19 for Girls Group and on Thursdays August 6 and 20 for the Boys Group.

Date of a Field Trip, and the time and place of all the Junior meetings will be announced by phone.

Anne A. Jones, Secretary