



nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

September 1998 Vol. 70, No. 7

Angels at September

Meeting!

Doug Corbett

Welcome again to another year of lectures at our general meetings. WGNSS general meetings take place on the second Friday of each month, September through April, excluding December at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, near Lindbergh and Clayton, in the west meeting room at 8:00 PM. In December, we meet at Tyson Research Center along with the St. Louis Audubon Society.

We will meet this September 11 at 8:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Neil Andre. He is the leader of Earth Angels here in St. Louis. Neil will speak on this environmental group's programs with children. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. ∞

Greetings from the

President

Sue Gustafson

I hope all of you are having an enjoyable summer. I'm looking forward to starting my second "term" as WGNSS President. I continue to be amazed at the enthusiasm of the board—I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with. Over the summer WGNSS came out with a new butterfly checklist thanks to the efforts of Jim Ziebol, Marshall Magner, and Randy

Korotev who working with Phil Koenig in putting it all together. We haven't had a butterfly checklist since the 1930's, and believe it or not, Marshall Magner worked on that one also! Be sure to pick up a checklist at one of our general meetings.

Please join us Friday, September 11 at 8 for our first general meeting of the "new" year. For those of you who have never been to one, it isn't really a "meeting" like those burdensome things at work—it's more of a social get-together highlighted by a speaker on a nature-related topic. So mark your calendars for the second Friday of the month—we have some interesting speakers lined up. Join us in Sept. to meet Neil Andre, Director of Earth Angel, who will tell us about that amazing group of children who are making a difference in their efforts to protect the planet. Neil's group is receiving substantial recognition and

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currently has a display at Powder Valley Nature Center entitled, "Give Birth to a Better Earth." What a great way to start off our new year! We're looking forward to his presentation. I hope to see you there! ~

Membership Renewals

Linda Virga

A renewal envelope was included in the June issue. If you have an address change or correction, or if you are not receiving *Nature Notes* properly, please contact me. Also, if you do not plan to renew, please send a card of call:

Linda Virga, Membership
9734 Antonia Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63123
phone: 544-3313.

To renew your membership, please send a check for \$15 to:

Randy Korotev, Treasurer
800 Oakbrook Ln.
St. Louis 63132.

The board has decided that **dues are delinquent on September 1**. If we do not have your renewal *before* that date, our new membership directory will not be mailed to you nor will your name be listed. Renew now—we'd like to see your name there! ~

Recycling Tip

Randy Korotev

Now, I'm not saying it's worth going out and spending \$30 on one of the things just to make mulch. However, last fall I happened to buy one of those "cheap" paper shredders you see at the office supply stores because I kept bringing stuff home from work and didn't want to haul it back. It started with a big proposal the NSF asked me to review, then "destroy." It hurt a bit feeding someone else's hard work into the thing. But then, the postman brought us a load of junk mail, and since then I've been a crazy guy shredding all the non-glossy paper and en-

velopes. I put the shredded paper in the compost bin we've maintained for years and mix it in with the potato peels, coffee grounds, and grass clippings, which is just where it belongs. All those WGNSS dues envelopes you folks sent me are now feeding the worms. Betty took some of the shredded paper and laid it down as mulch on our banana pepper and sweet basil garden. It lets the rain in and keeps the weeds down. We've also used the shredded paper as packing in boxes we've sent by mail. All in all, the shredder has become a useful recycling aid, although our cats view it with the same contempt they view the vacuum cleaner. ~

WGNSS Web Site— ETS Info Wanted

Randy Korotev

I've been working on constructing a Internet web site for the Webster Groves Nature Study Society <http://levee.wustl.edu/~rlk/wgnss/>. We don't have enough computer-active members for it to be a useful way to exchange information among ourselves, and I don't expect it to be an active site that is frequently updated. However, if someone outside the area wants to know, for example, about nature organizations in St. Louis or what kinds of birds occur here, the Internet is becoming the first place to look. So, if somebody searches the net, I want them to find the WGNSS site so they can learn about us.

One idea I had was to provide as much information as possible about where and how to find the Eurasian Tree Sparrow. As compiler of the Christmas Bird Count consistently reporting the largest numbers of ETS in Missouri, I get letters and calls frequently from out-of-town birders who want directions and maps. Why not put it on the Internet? I've started such a web page, but I need information.

If you know of a consistently good place to find the ETS, one where out-of-town birders would be welcome and one where we can easily direct them, please let me know (the web site will have maps). In particular, I'd like to know about accessible feeder operations in the metro area. What's the closest place from the airport? Also, what are the best areas in the middle of the summer, when many people drive through St. Louis on their way to somewhere else? (I, believe it or not, don't think I've ever seen an ETS in July.)

Presently, I've described the following areas: Dogtown, North Riverfront Park, the Missouri Bottom and Aubuchon Roads (is this really a good spot?), St. Charles Co. (generally, not specifically, except for Riverlands), and the Horseshoe Lake area.

Please write me and include as much information as possible (see end of newsletter for my address) or send the info by e-mail: rlk@levee.wustl.edu

WGNSS Sends Local Teacher to Audubon Ecology Camp

Sue Gustafson

Every year WGNSS awards a scholarship to and area teacher to attend an Audubon Ecology Camp during the summer. The selections committee is headed up by Betty Kellerman. this year's recipient was Mr. Tim Morrison who choose to attend the ecology camp in the Rocky Mountains. Mr. Morrison teaches chemistry and physics in the Parkway School District. We hope to have Mr. Morrison attend one of our upcoming general meetings to share his experience with us. Here is the letter WGNSS received after Mr. Morrison was informed that he was selected to attend the camp:

"I want to thank you and your organization for sponsoring me for the Audubon Field Ecology Camp in the Rockies this summer. I have always loved the Rockies. I am anticipating a great experience. Jerry Castillon, a colleague and Audubon member, had suggested the camp experience after he joined me in working with Envirocorp. Envirocorp is in its fourth summer as a class for area high school students offered through the Parkway-Maryville Summer Academy. We've assisted local county parks, primarily Lone Elk Park, in meeting some of their environmental needs through service and manpower for which they are short. In addition to water and soil analysis and plant identification, we have constructed two miles of the White Bison trail, demolished and rebuild the bison-elk corrals and medic station, and repaired the bison compound. Students completing the course have been fully engaged in an outdoor classroom with a genuine feeling of accomplishment and a stronger commitment for the preservation of our natural resources. It is my hope as we continue to expand our efforts and build on our experiences that I will bring back new innovative ideas from this camp along with an enriched understanding of ecology and the environment. As a chemistry and physics instructor, I would describe myself as a "lifetime learner," always a student!

"I apologize for not getting this letter to you sooner, but with finals, solar-bike racing, planning for Envirocorp, and Habitat for Humanity projects through the South, I simply got buried. I look forward to meeting you in the future. I have enjoyed conversations with Betty Kellerman over the telephone. Again, thank you for your time and consideration. I'm looking forward to this opportunity!

Sincerely,
Tim Morrison" ∞

Spring Botanizing

Carl Darigo

The Botany Group welcomed spring by continuing the weekly Thursday outings, with the following attending one or more times, Father James Sullivan, Sandy & Dave Alspaugh, Leonard Blake, Marvin Boisseau, Marco Brewer, David Bruns, Marge Chappuis, Jeanne & Gene Clauson, Dorothy Cole, Carl Darigo, Catherine Filla, Vicki Flier, Karen Haller, Pat & Jack Harris, Louise Langbein, Marian & Harold Meyer, Betty & Bob Nellums, Tom O'Gorman, John Ruprecht, Marge & Jim Ruschill and Suzy & Dick Russell.

March 5, Busch Conservation Area and Weldon Spring Conservation Area, St. Charles County—perhaps the surprise of rain/snow being taken out of the weather forecast accounted for miscommunications, resulting in two parties of two each, going separate directions on a tolerable 40° day. One group toured the new Hackberry Trail, then part of Weldon Spring Hiking Trail, while the others walked several trails at Busch. At Hackberry Trail's Cypress Lake, river birch (*Betula nigra*) and several stately bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) trees were found. The woody "knees" with tops resembling bald heads, undoubtedly were origin of the common name. Hooked barbs on seeds of *Hackelia virginiana* (Virginia stickseed) and *Geum canadense* (white avens) explained their affinity for hiker's trousers. *Cuscuta gronovii* (Gronovius' dodder) was again twining on *Lespedeza cuneata* (sericea lespedeza), making at least three times this combination has been discovered on recent trips. Near the trail's end, a bird nest of rough twigs was noted in a bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), with a more conventional nest in an adjacent multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) bush; maybe these nefarious plants do serve some useful purpose. The Weldon Spring trail had numerous tree trunks with

Lepraria lobificans (powder lichen), but close inspection revealed no lichen-bearing insects, as had been found several years ago at another site.

March 12, Bee Tree Park, St. Louis County—after the original plan of visiting Flamm City Meramec River Access in Jefferson County was dropped due to high water, five persons braved 20° - 25° temperatures and a partial snow cover in traversing Crow's Roost Trail, as well as parts of other trails. The winter day was made somewhat pleasant by the complete absence of wind, as evidenced by the vertical steam plumes emitted from the nearby power plant. Flowering plants were difficult to find, including only red maple (*Acer rubrum*), Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*), wayside speedwell (*Veronica polita*) and one, lonely dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). The *Cornus* caused some confusion, as initial keying pointed to swamp privet (*Forestiera acuminata*). However, later research by Father Sullivan determined that the plant was polygamous (perfect flowers with male and female parts) as compared to the dioecious (male and female flowers on different plants) swamp privet. This particular dogwood species is a European native with bright yellow flowers which appear in early spring before the leaves.

March 19, Queeny Park, St. Louis County—a steady 45° drizzle did not deter eight participants from touring parts of Owl Creek Trail behind the main building and along Goose Lake. Flowering plants were again in very short supply, with the only candidates being dead nettle (*Lamium purpureum*), common chickweed (*Stellaria media*), jagged chickweed (*Holosteum umbellatum*) and daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*), the latter at an abandoned home-site. Father Sullivan found that the only remaining leaves of a *Celtis occidentalis* (northern hackberry) tree, were held in place by psyllid (*Pachypsylla venusta*) galls.

A large deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*) tree sported showy red berries, while several dead logs revealed interesting growths: *Physcia stellaria* (smooth blister lichen) with copious black fruiting bodies, shiny brown wood ears (*Auricularia auricula*) and brilliant orange jelly (*Dacrymyces palmatus*). The latter two fungi are allegedly edible, despite their questionable appearance.

March 26, Katy Trail State Park, Warren County—an abrupt weather change to sunny and windy 80° brought out the year's high of 15, including new participants Vicki Flier and John Ruprecht, who toured the trail southeast of Dutzow. The warm day also encouraged flowering plants as 15 were seen, the more interesting being Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), pale corydalis (*Corydalis flavula*), and common violet (*Viola sororia*). A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the toxicity of *Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock), whose parsley-like green leaves were abundant. Two related, fruiting mosses from the same family, *Physcomitrium pyriforme* (urn moss) and *Funaria hygrometrica* (charcoal cord moss), were quite showy alongside the trail. The first species' name originates from the capsule shape and the second from the tendency to inhabit burned areas. John Ruprecht pointed out bobcat tracks near an abandoned homesite, explaining the lack of claw prints. More variety was added when two snakes were encountered. No reptile experts were in the crowd, but the black eye patches on a juvenile probably belonged to the eastern hognose (*Heterodon platyrhinos*). A three-foot black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*) remained still long enough for David Bruns to photograph, thus obtaining evidence to add this species to the record books for Warren County.

April 2, Washington State Park, Washington County—a typical 60° spring day was the setting for a large group of 17 (including Jeanne Clauson's husband, Gene) to check out the Big River bottomland, then a glade below the Boy Scout campground. Spring flowers were so profuse to defy counting, with spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) in extraordinary abundance, many blossoms being pink instead of white. Other notable species seen in the bottomland were *Erythronium albidum* (white trout lily), *Dicentra canadensis* (squirrel corn), *D. cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches), *Mertensia virginica* (bluebells), *Stylophorum diphyllum* (celandine poppy), *Collinsia verna* (blue-eyed Mary), *Viola pubescens* (yellow violet) and *Uvularia grandiflora* (large bellwort). Dorothy Cole pointed out adjacent spice bush (*Lindera benzoin*) plants, one with female flowers and the other with male flowers. Father Sullivan identified shiny leaf beetles (*Gastrophysa cyanea*), which were thriving on dock (*Rumex sp.*) leaves. On the glade and nearby forest were found *Lithospermum canescens* (orange puccoon), *Ranunculus fascicularis* (early buttercup), *R. harveyi* (Harvey's buttercup), *Anemonella thalictroides* (rue anemone) and *Prunus mexicana* (big tree plum). Jack Harris found the season's first flowering sedge (*Carex sp.*), but fruit needed for identification had not yet formed. Jim Ruschill spotted several birds, Louisiana waterthrush, yellow rumped warbler and bluebird (heard, not seen), and along a forest trail, Louise Langbein observed ants manipulating a cricket into their burrow.

April 9, Hawn State Park, Ste. Genevieve County—the weather turned sour, as 10 persons braved a drizzly 45° and a cold picnic table lunch, to cover a portion of the Pickle Creek Trail. *Luzula bulbosa* (wood rush), a member of the Juncaceae or rush family, was quite com-

mon along the edge of the picnic area. On the creek bank a surprising number of Endangered smooth white violet (*Viola macloskeyi* ssp. *pallens*) plants were seen; in Missouri, this plant occurs only in Ste. Genevieve County, near the southernmost range limit in North America. Decorating the granite ledges above the trail were numerous *Saxifraga virginiana* (early saxifrage), while other interesting finds were *Antennaria parlinii* (pusseytoes), *Arabis laevigata* (smooth rock cress), *Ranunculus hispidus* (hispid buttercup), *Viola triloba* (cleft violet), *Oxalis violacea* (violet wood sorrel) and *Hedyotis crassifolia* (small bluets). Jack Harris spotted *Sphagnum lescurii* (beaded-leaf peat moss) along the creek bank; *Sphagnum* is unusual in Missouri, with this species being the most common.

April 16, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles County—another chilly day in the low 50's didn't stop a nice group of 14 from trekking northeast from the Weldon Spring trailhead to the quarry and back. Slopes above the trail furnished showy displays of *Phlox divaricata* (blue phlox), *Geranium maculatum* (wild geranium), *Uvularia grandiflora* (large bellwort), *Delphinium tricornis* (dwarf larkspur) and *Staphylea trifolia* (American bladdernut). Other interesting flowering plants were *Senecio glabellus* (butterweed), *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pulpit), *Viola missouriensis* (Missouri violet), *Asimina triloba* (pawpaw), *Podophyllum peltatum* (May apple), plus numerous green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) leaves. Two *Cerastium* species, *C. nutans* (nodding chickweed) and *C. glomeratum* (clammy chickweed) were successfully field keyed; the first is native and second introduced. While numerous amphibians, including leopard frogs, toads and peepers, were serenading with bird-like calls from their watery homes, several morel (*Morchella escu-*

lenta) hunters were encountered, scouring the adjacent forest for this delectable edible.

April 23, Engelmann Woods, Franklin County—the year's record total of 18 took advantage of a fine, 70° spring day, to tour the hills and valleys of this natural area. Some steep slopes were muddy and slippery, but Vickie Flier solved a deep creek by expertly crossing on a log. A resident morel hunter said that locals called the deep bottomland, "Eddy Hollow", named for currents at a time when the Missouri River was close by. *Phlox divaricata* (blue phlox), *Stylophorum diphyllum* (celandine poppy) and *Trillium flexipes* (white trillium) put on their usual showy displays; a white form of the *P. divaricata* was also found. Other plants of interest were *Osmorhiza longistylis* (anise root), *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum* (woolen breeches) along with many leaves of *H. canadense* (broadleaf waterleaf), *Athyrium pycnocarpon* (narrow leaved glade fern) and *Myosotis verna*, inappropriately called scorpion grass. The *Carex* season opened with *C. albicans* (early spring sedge), *C. blanda* (woodland sedge) and *C. jamesii* (James' sedge). Jack Harris spotted the coral root orchid (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*) and Father Sullivan found the elusive one-flowered cancer root (*Orobanche uniflora*).

April 30, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—eight people turned out on a 65°, rain-threatening day to walk an old road in the north end of the park. Some of the more interesting plants observed included *Calycanthus floridus* (strawberry shrub), *Trillium recurvatum* (purple trillium), *Galium triflorum* (sweet scented bedstraw), *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist), *Botrychium virginianum* (rattlesnake fern), *Valerianella radiata* (corn salad), *Erysimum repandum* (bushy wallflower) and *Arenaria serpyllifolia* (thyme leaf sandwort). Father Sullivan spotted larvae of the rare Phlox leaf beetle on *Phlox divaricata* (blue phlox) and adults

of the *Dasistoma* flea beetle feeding on leaves of *Dasistoma macrophylla* (mullein foxglove). A clear-winged sphinx moth stayed around long enough to give all in the group a good look.

May 7, Meramec State Park, Franklin County—eight persons enjoyed the Natural Wonders Trail on a 65° day, as the forecast rain never arrived. This trail has a variety of habitats, including upland forest, caves, glade and low creek bottomland, resulting in the year's largest plant list. Some interesting plants seen were *Actaea pachypoda* (doll's eyes), *Hybanthus concolor* (green violet), *Krigia biflora* (false dandelion), *Vicia caroliniana* (wood vetch), *Cynoglossum virginianum* (wild comfrey), *Salvia lyrata* (lyre leaved sage), *Senecio obovatus* (squaw weed) and *Camassia scilloides* (wild hyacinth). Numerous *Viburnum rufidulum* (southern black haw) trees were in full bloom; "snowball tree" could be an alternate common name due to the round flower clusters. Father Sullivan pointed out the "bulblets" below leaves of *Cystopteris bulbifera* (bulblet fern), while Jeanne Clauson took photos of several devil's urn (*Urnula craterium*) cup fungi, found near a cave entrance. Sedges were abundant with many *Carex* species, one being *C. shortiana* (Short's sedge), plus *Fimbristylis puberula* (hairy fimbristylis) found on the glade. Other glade species included orange puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), red Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*), yellow star grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*), wood betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*) and robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*).

May 14, St. Joe State Park, St. Francois County—record 92° temperature and the 13 year cicadas did not keep a group of 11 from walking sections of the bicycle path. The trip goal of sighting *Nemastylis geminiflora* was achieved, with Bob Nellums

finding the first of many. Bob's sharp eyesight scored again as he spotted a single large yellow lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*) in the forest not far from the trail just as the lunch stop was called. Leonard Blake was delighted as his favorite plant, *Scutellaria leonardii* (Leonard's skullcap) was found several times. Abundant displays of Ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*) and pale beard tongue (*Penstemon pallidus*) were seen. Also found were three *Senecio* species, *S. obovatus* (squaw weed), *S. plattensis* (prairie ragwort) and *S. aureus* (golden ragwort), as well as two milkweeds, *Asclepias viridis* (green flowered milkweed) and *A. quadrifolia* (whorled milkweed). Other notables of interest were *Taenidia integerrima* (yellow pimpernel), *Heuchera americana* (hairy alum root), *Eleocharis compressa* (flat stemmed spike rush), *Thaspium barbinode* (hairy jointed meadow parsnip), *Carex meadii* (Mead's sedge), *Dioscorea quaternata* (whorled leaf wild yam) and very large spikes of about-to-bloom *Swertia caroliniensis* (American columbo).

May 21, Cuivre River State Park, Lincoln County—a cloudy 80° greeted 12 participants, including new members Sandy & Dave Alspaugh, who walked the Prairie Trail, then an old road leading to the Big Sugar Creek Trail. The group had grown accustomed to the noisy cicadas, but failed to appreciate the prairie's abundant ticks. In Father Sullivan's absence, some time was spent field-keying an Apiaceae family plant at the Prairie Trail roadside; Pat Harris came up with the correct answer, *Perideridia americana* (American squaw root). *Rosa carolina* (pasture rose) and *Baptisia bracteata* (cream white indigo) were also seen, as well as native *Danthonia spicata* (poverty grass), which was very abundant along the trail. The Nellums' continued their orchid-spotting success, with

Betty finding a colony of large yellow lady's slippers (*Cypripedium calceolus*) in the forest along the old road. Jack Harris noticed *Carex vulpinoidea* (fox sedge), with one of the longest inflorescence spikes of the *Carex* species. Also seen here was *Tradescantia virginiana* (Virginia spiderwort) and another abundant native grass, *Bromus pubescens* (Canada brome). As the day ended with a vigorous thunderstorm, several of the more mathematically-inclined wondered if failure to win the previous day's, media-hyped \$175 million Powerball lottery meant the probability of being struck by lightning would be higher.

May 28, Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles County—a hot 85° trip to mosquito-infested Howell Island was scrubbed at the last moment when a rainstorm 100 miles north caused an over-night four foot rise in the Missouri River, obliterating the causeway access. Some of the group of 12 (including first-timer Marco Brewer) speculated on the distinct possibility of being trapped on the island, while noting the treacherous nature of a river's floodplain. While debating alternative sites, Father Sullivan found white campion (*Silene pratensis*) near the parking lot, then exhibited bugs (*Pachypsylla venusta*) incubated from larvae found in hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) galls. Adjourning to Busch, the group toured the Dardenne Creek Trail and an old road near the Shorebird Viewing Area. Cicadas were abundant and at one point completely covered a tree trunk, affording good photos. Many flowering *Cornus drummondii* (rough leaved dogwood) trees were seen, as well as *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canary grass), *Thalictrum revolutum* (wax-leaved meadow rue), *Aristolochia tomentosa* (woolly pipevine), *Amorpha fruticosa* (false indigo), *Carex squarrosa* (squarrose sedge) and a showy display of *Penstemon digitalis* (smooth beard tongue). A successful search

for the pipevine resulted from Father Sullivan finding a pipevine swallowtail larva on common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*); Jeanne Clauson then discovered the characteristic "pipe" flowers after wading through poison ivy to replace the larva back on the proper host plant.

Thanks to Betty Nellums and Jeanne Clauson for contributing to this article.

Wanted: Seed Collectors Forest Park Savanna Update

Sue Gustafson

The WGNSS board and numerous individual members made generous financial contributions towards the Kennedy Woods Savanna Restoration Project. The project is well underway. Coordinator Ken Cohen has provided us with the following update:

Dear Friend of the Kennedy Woods Savanna Project:

Your organization's contribution has helped us fund 5 acres of savanna restoration in Forest Park. Gary Schimmelpfenig of DJM Ecoscapes will be the project manager. His schedule is as follows:

June/July—site inventory and assessment

Aug.—mowing

Sept.—herbicide

Oct. 10 or 11—seed collection at the

Arboretum Actual date to be announced later. Start at 9:00 AM.

Bring a lunch.

Oct. 24—seed collection day at the Litzinger Rd. prairie. We need about 4 experienced collectors.

Nov. ?—Seed processing day. We'll need about 20 people.

Dec./Jan.—seed drilling; hand raking & seeding

We are forming an advisory board to consult with Gary and to help keep the contributing organizations current about the savanna's progress. The board will consist of one member from each organization.

Seed collection can start now. A list of plants selected by Gary for the savanna follows. Anyone experienced in seed collecting can do so following Gary's identification instructions. The group collection day at the Arboretum will provide supervision for those who are beginners.

Native Prairie/Savanna Seed Protocol

Collect ripe seed from local populations—within 100 miles of St. Louis.

Store dry seed in paper bags.

Label species, date collected, location where collected; ex., *Asclepias tuberosa*, Butterfly Milkweed, Roadside Hwy. FF, Franklin County.

Suggested Forest Park

Prairie/Savanna Species List

Aruncus dioicus pubescens	Goat's Beard	Erythronium mesochoreum	Prairie Dog-tooth Violet
Andropogon scoparius	Little Bluestem	Gentiana andrewsii	Closed Gentian
Asclepias hirtella	Tall green Milkweed	Gentiana flavida	Yellowish Gentian
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed	Geranium maculatum	Cut-leaved Cranesbill
Asclepias purpurascens	Purple Milkweed	Helenium autumnale	Sneezeweed
Asclepias quadrifolia	Four-leaved Milkweed	Helianthus hirsutus	Oblong Sunflower
Asclepias sullivani	Prairie Milkweed	Helianthus mollis	Downy Sunflower
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Milkweed	Helianthus strumosus	Pale-leaved Sunflower
Asclepias verticillata	Whorled Milkweed	Heliopsis helianthoides	False Sunflower
Asclepias viridis	Green-flowered Milkweed	Hystrix patula	Bottlebrush Brass
Aster anomalus	Blue Aster	Lespedeza capitata	Round-headed Bush-Clover
Aster drummondii	Drummond's Aster	Liatris pycnostachya	Prairie Blazing Star
Aster laevis	Smooth Blue Aster	Liatris scariosa	Savanna Blazing Star
Aster novae-angliae	New England Aster	Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower
Aster oblongifolius	Aromatic Aster	Lobelia siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia
Aster tubinellus	Prairie Aster	Lobelia spicata	Pale Spiked Lobelia
Baptisia australis	Blue Wild Indigo	Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot
Baptisia leucophaea	Cream Wild Indigo	Monarda russeliana	Bradbury Beebalm
Bidens polyepis	But Marigold	Oenothera pilosella	Prairie Sundrops
Blephilia ciliata	Ohio Horse Mint	Penstemon cobaea	Showy Beard Tongue
Bouteloua curtipendula	Sideoats Grama	Penstemon digitalis	Foxglove Beard Tongue
Cacalia atriplicifolia	Pale Indian Plaintain	Penstemon pallidus	Pale Beard Tongue
Cacalia muhlenbergii	Great Indian Plaintain	Petalostemon candidum	White Prairie Clover
Callirhoe involucreta	Purple Poppy Mallow	Petalostemon purpureum	Purple Prairie Clover
Camassia scilloides	Wild Hyacinth	Phlox divaricata	Blue Phlox
Campanula americana	Tall Bellflower	Phlox paniculata	Garden Phlox
Caryx sp.	Sedges (assorted)	Phlox pilosa	Prairie Phlox
Claytonia virginica	Spring Beauty	Physostegia virginiana	False Dragonhead
Coreopsis lanceolata	Sand Coreopsis	Pycnanthemum pilosum	Hairy Mountain Mint
Coreopsis palmata	Prairie Coreopsis	Pycnanthemum tenuifolium	Slender Mountain Mint
Delphinium tricornis	Larkspur	Ratibida pinnata	Gray-headed Coneflower
Dodecatheon meadii	Shooting Star	Rosa carolina	Pasture Rose
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	Rosa setigera	Prairie Rose
Elymus canadensis	Canada Wild Rye	Rudebeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan
Elymus virginiana	Virginia Wild Rye	Rudebeckia subtomentosa	Sweet Black-eyed Susan
Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master	Rudebeckia triloba	Brown-eyed Susan
		Ruellia strepens	Wild Petunia
		Scutellaria incana	Downy Skullcap
		Scutellaria ovata	Heart-leaved Skullcap
		Senecio glabellus	Butterweed
		Silene regia	Royal Catchfly
		Silene stellata	Starry Campion
		Silphium integrifolium	Rosin Weed
		Silphium laciniatum	Compass Plant
		Silphium terebinthinaceum	Prairie Dock
		Solidago rigida	Stiff Goldenrod
		Solidago speciosa	Showy Goldenrod
		Solidago ulmifolia	Elm-leaved Goldenrod
		Sorghastrum nutans	Indian Grass
		Sporobolus asper	Rough Dropseed
		Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed
		Swertia caroliniensis	American Columbo
		Tradescantia ohiensis	Ohio Spiderwort
		Tradescantia virginiana	Virginia Spiderwort
		Tridens strictus	Longspike Tridens
		Verbesina helianthoides	Wing-stem
		Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's Root
		Zizia aurea	Golden Alexander

Revised St. Louis Area Bird Book Now Available

Paul Bauer

Birds of the St. Louis Area—Where and When to Find Them has been revised and reprinted. Copies are now available from all local Wild Bird Centers, Wild Birds Unlimited, Wildbird Marketplace stores, the Missouri Botanical Garden bookstore and the Shaw Arboretum shop, as well as some local garden supply stores and book stores. By mail, the book is available as catalog #308 from the American Birding Association (ABA). Call 1-800-634-7736. You may charge it with a credit card.

So if you already have a copy of the original book, should you consider getting the revised copy. Let me tell you what has been added, revised and improved. Actually about 80 revisions have been made to the text and maps; that is how much has changed in our birding world in just 4 years since the original records were closed!

We added 4 new birding locations and revised directions and instructions for several others, so the total birding locations described now exceed 125 places. Numerous revisions were necessary to the 17 colored maps to fit the revised directions.

If possible, revisions were made in the existing text space, but when necessary the longer changes were added to an appendix, which adds 10 pages. The book now has 202 pages.

The Appendix includes the above mentioned corrections and additions to birding locations, changes in AOU species names, significant new bird records, general lodging information for visitors, and a checklist of 357 species of birds seen in the St. Louis area since 1940.

The individual species reviews now total 380 species that have ever been reported in

our area. Nine new species were added in this revision. See the new book to find out which ones! The colored seasonal occurrence bar graphs provide detailed visual information on what birds should be expected, and how common they are for each 10 day period during the year. Best of all the book has a spiral binding so it can lay open on the front seat of your car, or an window sill at home.

So if you have *any* interest in birds, where to find birds, when specific birds should be expected here, and the historic records of rare bird sightings around St. Louis, make it a point to go out and buy this beautiful book *soon*. The first 3,000 books sold out in 15 months. How long will the 2,000 copies of the revised book last? If you have question call Paul Bauer at 314-921-3972. ☺

New Bird Checklist Also Available

Randy Korotev

The new checklist differs in several respects from the old. First, I've made the checklist a bit less confusing by not including those species that have only been seen on one occasion since 1940. Dick prepared his checklist before the publication of *Birds of the St. Louis Area—Where and When to Find Them* and wanted the checklist to be a complete record of all birds seen in the St. Louis area. The book now serves that function better than any checklist can. The checklist is used mostly for keeping a record of a day's observations, or perhaps a year list or yard list. The new checklist, which is entitled "A Field Checklist of the Birds of the St. Louis Area" to reflect the change in emphasis, does include spaces for write-ins, however.

Second, I've tried to make the new checklist more informative by indicating for every species whether it is common, uncommon, rare, or very rare. Common

species, for example, are listed in bold typeface whereas the very rare species are listed in light italics.

We will try to have the new checklists available for purchase at \$0.25 a piece at WGNSS events. Alternatively, you can obtain them by mail from me at these rates:

- 2 for..... \$0.84
- 4 for..... \$1.57
- 10 for \$3.76
- 25 for \$8.69

In addition, a copy of the checklist on eight 8.5" x 11" sheets of paper or a computer diskette (IBM format) are available for \$2.00 each.

Make your check payable to "WGNSS," indicate what and how many you want, and send to: Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Lane, St. Louis, MO 63132.

Note: WGNSS butterfly checklist by Phillip E. Koenig is now available! **Pick it up at the Sept. 11 meeting at St. L. Co. Library.**

Identifying the Skipper Butterflies of Missouri

Phil Koenig

Did you ever wish that there was an easier way to identify Skippers? Some different species look very much alike while natural variation within a species can make two specimens of the same species look different. Which characteristics are definitive and which are subject to variation within a species are rarely explained in books. Keys, when available, usually do not start with a characteristic the investigator recognizes as being unusual in the specimen to be identified.

A computer program call *Skipper Butterflies of Missouri* assists in identifying the 59 Skippers. The easy-to-use Windows program is intended to be useful to beginners and professionals alike. The program uses a process of elimination based on the

information given to it. Since the males and females of many species look different 95 possible solutions are initially offered. Information is entered by clicking on menu items and lists of attributes. An analysis button calls a menu that will help the user determine what additional information is need to further reduce the number of possibilities. the help button gives instructions on how to use the program while the "selection help" explains the purpose of the menu or attributed highlighted. The "species list" button displays the remaining possibilities that can be examined individually with the "selection help" button. Information on distinguishing characteristics is given. Structure require dissection are not included. References are given to some popular field guides for further study.

The complete version of the program has pictures of all 95 possibilities showing both the dorsal and ventral sides. The program without pictures is available for \$49.95. The optional pictures are an additional \$39.95. Sales tax is additional for Missouri customers. Shipping and handling are free.

For more information or ordering:

Phillip E. Koenig
823 Lauralee Drive
O'Fallon MO 63366-2152
phone: 314-281-1313
fax: 314-281-1349
pkoenig@mail.win.org

New Butterfly Count



Yvonne Homeyer

WGNSS is now sponsor of an annual national butterfly count, under the auspices of the North American Butterfly Association. The first NABA count in which WGNSS participated took place on July 5 at Busch Wildlife, Weldon Springs and Lost Valley Trail. The count was organized and led by Jim Ziebol, in coordination with Bill Branthorst. Participating in the count were

Jim Ziebol, Bill Branthorst, Sue Gustafson, Yvonne Homeyer, Kraig Paradise, Linda Virga, Mike Treffert, Dennis Bozzay, and Vicki Flier. A total of 41 species and 345 individual butterflies were seen. Highlights of the day were Olive Hairstreak, Gray Hairstreak, and 6 species of Swallowtails. Special thanks to those of you who also showed up on the 4th and got rained out. You were real troopers! The North American Butterfly Association count is an annual 4th of July event, so we hope to see even more of you next year. ☺

A Cerulean Warbler's Tale

Jim Ziebol

I am a three-year old male Cerulean Warbler, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful creatures that has ever existed. It is February, and I am wintering on the lower slopes of the Andes. Hormonal changes have begun and a recent contour molt has left me in resplendent breeding plumage. I have become nervous and developed an enormous appetite. Very soon, I will begin a journey that my species has been making for thousands and thousands of years. This is the journey that billions of other neotropical migrants also make every spring. I will gather together with a large flock of other migrants in the northern part of South America. The first long flight will take me from Colombia to Central America where I must make my first stop, usually in Nicaragua or Belize. But the old growth forest that I need and look for is disappearing, with 60% of it already gone, and this year, many areas were ablaze.

Ornithologists refer to my species as a trans-Gulf migrant. The next step of my flight is from Belize across the Gulf of Mexico's waters to the Gulf coast of the US. This can be a relatively safe trip, or it can be a nightmare. The sudden appearance of a cold front can force millions of birds down on the oil rigs in the Gulf. This year, mas

sive fires in Mexico and Central America sent huge clouds of smoke over the Gulf, obscuring the stars which I use to navigate on my nightly flights. When I reach the north Texas coast, I am exhausted. Many of my kind fall exhausted into the ocean and drown, while others reach the shore too tired to defend ourselves against predators. The lucky ones fly inland and once again rest for the next leg of our flight. The urge to migrate is very powerful and during the day as I feed for my nocturnal flight, I am constantly working northward from tree to tree.

Depending on the weather, I may be on my breeding grounds in a few days or a few weeks. By now, I have traveled about 5,000 miles! This is quite a feat for a 5" bird that weighs only as much as a twenty-five cent coin. We are faithful to our breeding grounds but more and more we are returning only to find that urban development has taken our chosen spot. This is a bad time for all warblers and neotropical migrants. The tall trees I need are rapidly disappearing in Central and South America, as well as in the US. Deforestation due to logging, urban development and expanding agriculture seems unstoppable. The rivers and streams alongside which I make my nest are now ruined by pollution and poisons. Our migration flights are at night and fatal lights attract migrant songbirds to lighted high-rise buildings, where millions

of us crash and die every year. When I do manage to find a suitable breeding location, I have to contend with Cowbirds that lay their eggs in my nest. We are stressed both in our winter and summer homes as well as in migration. My species hasn't been replacing itself successfully since the turn of the century, when old growth forests were cleared along the Mississippi River, but the decline has gotten worse in the last few decades. Each year, my buzzy, haunting song is heard in fewer and fewer places in the United States.

I am a young male Cerulean Warbler, and I am one of the most beautiful creatures that has ever existed. ∞

WGNSS Birding Report

Starting with this newsletter, Yvonne Homeyer and myself will be doing the birding column. Kevin Renick will aid us in this project. Please mail reports or call in to Jim Ziebol at 781-7372.

Please try to report your sightings as soon as possible with pertinent details. We will be trying to include reports from the entire area as well as oddities.

Jim Ziebol
3900 Berger Ave.
St. Louis MO 63109
781-7372 ∞

May 98 Birding Report

Jim Ziebol, Yvonne Homeyer &
Kevin Renick

May proved to be a very unusual month. Many veteran birders thought this spring was the worst in their collective memories. Some common species were very low in numbers (Redstart, Black-and-white, Magnolia and Chestnut-sided Warblers), while others were almost nonexistent (Canada, Golden-winged and Blackburnian Warblers and some Thrushes.)

Reports of American Bitterns showed two at MTC on May 4 (L&MW), one on

May 4 at Riverlands (CM) and one at Sauget on May 9 (NB, BK). Other herons were reported in typical numbers with Green Heron in above average numbers. An adult Glossy Ibis was a good find on May 31 along the South Levee Roads in Illinois (RK). Many migrating ducks remained in the area for Big Day on May 9. A Red-breasted Merganser, a Ruddy Duck and Canvasbacks were still present at Riverlands on May 25 (DB). Wood Ducks had a good breeding year in the area. The hawk migration was generally slow except for 48 Broad-winged Hawks on May 2 at the Arboretum (JM). This is a good number approximately two weeks after the normal peak. Two Ospreys were present at Riverlands on May 9 (MP, JMn). Falcons were represented by Merlins (FH) and tundra Peregrine Falcon (MP & JMn) at Horseshoe Lake and the Borrow Pit on May 9. Mississippi Kite was reported on May 14 at Tower Grove Park (CA). Virginia Rail was seen in Collinsville on May 9 (PB, KR, MT, AM). King Rail returned to Sauget the week of May 1 and another King Rail was seen on May 9 at Horseshoe Lake (FH).

The shorebird migration was erratic in May but strong at some points. On May 3, Short-billed Dowitchers, Dunlin and four peeps were seen on Rooney Road in St. Charles County (J&CM). Many peeps, Black-bellied Plovers and Stilt Sandpipers were seen on May 16 at Mertz Road (TB, CA). Nine Hudsonian Godwits were observed at Heron Pond on May 17 as well as Baird's, White-rumped and Stilt Sandpipers in St. Charles County (DC). Ruddy Turnstones were observed on May 17 (DB) and May 31 (CM) at Riverlands. May 17 was an exciting and variable day at Riverlands, with different species seen throughout the day. Semipalmated, Western and White-rumped Sandpipers were present at Dwiggens Road on May 27 (T&GB). Dunlin peaked on May 19 at

Riverlands with 84 seen (PB). Ten Spotted Sandpipers were at Riverlands on May 25 (DB). Gulls were hit and miss until May 18 when two adult Laughing Gulls were seen at Riverlands and hotlined (JMo & JS). Franklin's Gulls were sparingly recorded with two present on May 26 (T&GB). Three Least Terns were observed on May 17 (JVB). Other tern species were fair with Common Tern not appearing until June 1. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were sparse in migrations but are up in numbers on the breeding grounds (MB). Western Kingbirds were seen on May 8 along Bend Road (JZ) and on May 9 along the Katy Trail Access (JVB). An early Alder Flycatcher was seen and heard on May 9 (CM). Vireos came in fairly well with Solitary Vireo making an especially good showing. A few years ago, only a few were seen each spring. Philadelphia Vireo was seen on May 13 (VB) and on May 17 (T&GB).

Many warbler species were conspicuously absent at the beginning of May, with some species having a no-show on Big Day. Formerly abundant species became uncommon or rare. Dan Kassabaum reported that the same species were absent in Southern Illinois as well. On May 10 in Kennedy Woods, 28 Nashville Warblers were counted (RK). Three Hooded Warblers were in Tower Grove Park on May 10 (YH). Topping that on the same day at Tower Grove Park was a singing male Black-throated Blue Warbler, making a rare St. Louis spring appearance (TB, GB, LB). Quick action taken by Yvonne Homeyer (and Pedro) in tracking down and alerting groups of Forest Park birders put a new spin on the traditional Hotline. In all, more than 50 birders saw this rare spring event. Many species wintering in the northern part of South America were present in very low numbers. Blackburnian Warblers were not seen until May 13 (CM, SW) and only sparingly after that. May 13 was also

the date of the first of many Connecticut Warblers (RK). Mourning Warblers peaked at three seen on May 19 at Tower Grove Park (BK) and a Brewster's Warbler was also seen that day in Forest Park (RK). Connecticut Warblers were seen daily from May 20 to 28 in Tower Grove Park, a record. Several birds of this usually shy species put on a show for persistent birders who stayed around the bubbler on May 24 (JZ, YH, CA, TB). The Mourning and Connecticut Warblers were the standouts of an otherwise slow warbler migration.

Blue Grosbeaks were seen at Weldon Spring on May 4 (T&GB). A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at the Arboretum on May 2 (JM). Henslow's Sparrows were seen at Weldon Springs on May 4 (JM) and at the Arboretum on May 10 (JJ). Clay-colored Sparrows were seen throughout the area from May 2-10. The sparrow migration occurred earlier than usual, and species seemed to pass through more swiftly than usual. Some very good blackbirds were noted this year. A female Yellow-headed Blackbird and a female Brewer's Blackbird were seen on May 9 on Bend Road. (PB et al). A Brewer's Blackbird was also at Cora Island Road on May 31 (TB, GB). Great-tailed Grackles were first seen in the area on May 17 along Mertz Road (JVB).

A "yellow-headed" Red-headed Woodpecker was a surprise to those who saw it in Tower Grove Park on May 6 (Art Kram & m.ob.). A Screech Owl and its 3 "branchlings" were observed in the park on May 10 by Tom Bailey. Vicki Flier had a red-morph Screech Owl at her home.

Here are a few more migratory sightings, spilling into the first half of June as the slow spring migration of 1998 continued. On June 1 there were seven species of warblers in Tower Grove Park, including Blackburnian (BW) and on June 9 a Mourning Warbler was seen. (BW). At Riverlands, good terns were found on June

6, with Least, Caspian, Common and Black Terns (JVB), on June 14 with 22 Black, Caspian and Common Terns (JMo & CM), and an adult Laughing Gull on the same date (CM). On June 13 there was a very unusual late adult White-throated Sparrow in Tower Grove Park. Late warblers in Tower Grove Park include a young male Black-and-white Warbler and a male Bay-breasted Warbler at the bubbler on June 19 and a female Redstart on June 23 (JZ).

Contributors: (CA) C. Alwood; (LB) L. Barber; (T&GB) T. and G. Barker; (PB) P. Bauer; (DB) D. Becher; (TB) T. Bormann; (DB) D. Bozzay; (MB) M. Brady; (VB) V. Buchholtz; (DC) D. Coles; (FH) F. Holmes; (YH) Y. Homeyer; (JJ) J. Jackson; (DK) D. Kassebaum; (BK) B. Kleiger; (RK) R. Korotev; (J&CM) J. & C. Malone; (A M) A. McCormack; (JMo) J. Moe; (JMn) J. Mohrmann; (MP) M. Peters; (KR) K. Renick; (JS) J. Solodar; (MT) M. Treffert; (JVB) J. Van Benthuyzen; (L&MW) L. & M. Wells; (BW) B. Wetteroth; (SW) S. Whitworth. Also thanks to B. Bailey, D. Garcia, and L. Schriewer. ∞

June and July '98 Report

Jim Ziebol

A very late Common Loon (basic plumage) was seen at Horseshoe Lake on June 10, as well as six Common Terns, ten Forster's Terns and twenty Black Terns (DK). Two Double-crested Cormorant nests have been found there, and twenty-six Snowy Egrets were seen (FH). Summer visitors to Horseshoe Lake included Ruddy Duck, Redhead (female), and Hooded Merganser (FH, DK). On June 30, six Forster's Terns were observed at the Causeway (FH). Six Lesser Yellowlegs were observed at Barwise Road on June 31 (J&CM). An Upland Sandpiper was seen on June 1 along Mitchie Road (BW). Mississippi Kites were reported from all over the area, with two at Sublette Park on June 24 (RK) and a juve-

nile with an adult at Kaskaskia on June 27 (R. Bodman, J. Chain, J. Cook).

A late Alder Flycatcher remained at the Arboretum until June 9 (JVB). An unexpected Western Kingbird was observed in Busch (Lower Archery) on June 14 (KR, M. Auer). A Parula Warbler was observed in Tower Grove Park on June 24 and 30 (BW). A Cerulean Warbler and a Worm-eating Warbler were found at Lost Valley Trail on June 2 (TB). Many Lark Sparrows were observed on Hopewell Road on June 8 (J. Chain, et al.). Lark Sparrows were also found at Kraut Run in Busch, along with breeding Woodcocks, on June 6 (DC).

The following sightings were reported at Carlyle Lake on June 25: one Osprey (no evidence of nesting activity), Bald Eagle (nest area vacant, young have probably dispersed), 100+ Wood Ducks (probably local birds staging), Bell's Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (one of its most southern breeding populations in Illinois), and Great Blue Herons on their nests within the Double-crested Cormorant breeding colony (DK). According to Vern Kleen, Illinois state ornithologist, Great Blues had abandoned their old nesting colony (possibly due to displacement by Bald Eagles) but this year they have returned and are once again nesting at Carlyle Lake. The present Cormorant colony exceeds 200 pairs (DK). Two Bald Eagles fledged at Carlyle Lake around June 7 (DK). An injured Purple Gallinule was found in Dow, Illinois and turned over to a wildlife rehab center on June 29, where it eventually died.

Ten American White Pelicans appeared at Riverlands on July 5 (J&CM). Over fifty Little Blue Herons were seen along Barwise Road on July 8 (J&CM). Five young Green Herons were found at the Lily Pond in Tower Grove Park (BW). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were well represented on the East side, having successfully nested near

Horseshoe Lake (FH). An immature White Ibis was a nice surprise at Riverlands on July 18 (T&GB). Willets were seen on July 4 (J&CM) and July 14 (T&GB) at Dwiggin's Road. Otherwise the shorebird migration was slow because of unusually high water in the area. Many reports of fledged Kestrels were received. An early female Northern Harrier was observed on July 14 in Clinton County, Ill. (DK).

A migratory Phoebe was seen near a breeding Catbird on July 20 in Tower Grove Park (BW). Two Black-and-white Warblers were found in Tower Grove Park on July 5, 11 and 20 (attempted nesting?) (BW). A female Redstart summered in the park (BW). A Blue Grosbeak was seen in the Spanish Lake area on July 22 (MT).

On July 25, an adult White-faced Ibis and its two chicks were discovered on the Levee Road south of Outlet Road in Illinois (T&GB). The next day, three immature White Ibis were on the same Levee Road north of Outlet Road (DK, A. Seppi). An adult Glossy Ibis spent June and July at Frank Holten State Park in an area accessible only by canoe (K. McMullen).

Contributors: see May Report above. ~

Birding-by-Ear Class

Charlene Malone
did you ever want to know what bird is waking you up at 5 AM every morning in the spring? Or while on your evening walk wondered what bird is calling off in the distance? Maybe during this last spring you heard more birds than you could see because the dense canopy of foliage obscured the migrant and you haven't gotten around to memorizing the entire Peterson's *Eastern Bird Songs* yet. Well, maybe I can shed a little light in that direction. Come join me this fall, when I will help you to demystify birding by ear. I will reveal some of the little tricks many birders use to remember the hundreds of vocalization of the birds

that migrate through and breed in Missouri. This call will be aimed toward beginners—intermediate birders with little to no background learning the vocalizations, but will progress quickly through the common birds to the less than common sound-alikes. If you are up for the challenge, the class will be held at St. Louis Community College, Florissant Valley, on Thursday, September 10, 7–9:00 PM. Don't forget to bring an eastern bird field guide and your thinking caps. Registration information is as follows:

Title: Introduction to Missouri Bird Song
BIO: 712 550 A 234
Thurs. 7–9 PM 1 session
fee: \$5

Call the Continuing Education Dept. of the St. Louis Community College—Florissant Valley at 595-4444 for more information and to register. You can also call me for more info about the class at 314-536-1119, 9:00 AM–9:00 PM. Be there, or forever be doomed to be saying on birdwalks—like a certain birder that shall remain nameless, TB—“What was that?” ~

Audubon Society of MO's

Fall Weekend Meeting 9/25–7

The annual fall meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri will be held at Camp Clover Point within Lake of the Ozarks State Park on September 25, 26, 27.

The Saturday night program will be Dr. Jane Fitzgerald, Midwest Regional Coordinator of Partners in Flight. Jane will talk about targeted species in MO, selection criteria, and strategies for their preservation. Saturday and Sunday mornings will each offer 4 or more differing birding field trips.

This weekend adventure is always: good birding, good food, good program, and very good fellowship. It is a wonderful chance to develop friends with similar interest in nature and wildlife from all across

Missouri. Also, the price is extremely reasonable since we use group cabins at Camp Clover Point. For program and directions, call Paul Bauer 314-921-3972. ~



Oct. Deadline: Sept. 11



Since we mail our publication on the third Monday and the month begins on a Tuesday, we have a late deadline for the next issue. Take advantage of this time and send an article! Submissions—handwritten, typed, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122. Computer wizards: It's safest to send a printout along with your disk. ~

Need directions?

Forest Park, Kennedy Forest

- Highway 40 to Hampton north, follow signs to St. Louis Zoo's Living World. Kennedy Forest is about 1/4 mi. West.

Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area

- From I-270 in north St. Louis County, take Hwy. 367 north to Alton.
- Turn right into Riverlands at the Fisca service station, just before the approach to the Clark Bridge over the Mississippi River.

West County Shopping Center

- Located at 270 & Manchester.
- Meet at the south (lower) parking lot, near Penney's, at lamp post #1.

1997-8 WGNSS Board

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Tyson Nature Line

Call 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Jack Van Benthuysen, 961-3390 ~

*In the end, we will conserve only what we love,
we will love only what we understand,
we will understand only what we are taught.*
Baba Dioum, Senegalese conservationist

Conservation: John Molyneaux, 7822 Garden Ave., St. Louis MO 63119, 961-5181.

Ornithology: David Becher, 12829 Mariners Pt Ct., St. Louis MO 63141, 576-1146.

Ornithology: Kevin Renick PO Box 31785, St. Louis MO 63131, 918-1085.

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MEETINGS

Monday, Aug. 31

Reminder! Membership renewal is due!
Please send a check for \$15 to:
Randy Korotev, Treasurer
800 Oakbrook Ln.
St. Louis 63132.

Wednesday, Sept. 2

7:00-8:30 PM Board meeting at Kirkwood Library on Jefferson in Kirkwood. All members welcome.

Friday, Sept. 11

8:00 at St. Louis Co. Library HQ; our guest speaker will be Neil Andre. He is the leader of Earth Angels her in St. Louis. Neil will speak on this environmental group's programs with children. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

BOTANY

Beginners are welcome. Bring lunch, drink, insect repellent & weather gear.

Thursdays Aug.-Sept.

Field trips usually meet at 9:30 AM; trip is normally 3-5 hr. plus travel time. Led by Fr. James Sullivan. Call Catherine Filla, 481-5298, after 5 PM Wed. for location.

ENTOMOLOGY

Saturday, Sept. 5

Butterfly counts at 5 different areas. Call Bill Brandhorst for more information: 314-965-7269.

Sunday, Sept. 27

7-9:00 PM at Magner's. "Show & Tell." Member share collecting, travel and experiences of the summer. Bring specimens, photos, slides, etc. Projector and screen will be available.

BIRDING

Open to all. For more information, call David Becher 576-1146. Bring lunch.

Thursdays Aug.-Sept.

8:00 AM meet at West County shopping center, south lower lot behind Penney's, lamp post #1.

Saturdays, Aug. 22, & 29

7:30 AM West County. See above.

Saturdays, Sept. 5 & 19

7:30 AM Riverlands; meet at Teal Pond parking lot. Bring lunch.

Sunday, Sept. 6

8:00 AM-noon WGNSS/Aud. birdwalk at Riverlands. The focus will be shorebirds, so we will go where there is habitat. Meet at Teal Pond parking lot. Call Jim Malone 314-536-1119 for information.

Saturdays, Sept. 12 & 26

7:30 AM Tower Grove Park; meet at first picnic area west of tennis courts. Bring lunch.

Saturday, Sept. 19

8:00 AM WGNSS/Aud. birdwalk at Tower Grove Park. Meet at the Gaddy Bird Garden. Call Jim Malone 314-536-1119 for information.


Saturday, Oct. 3

8:00 AM WGNSS/Aud. all-day birdwalk at Carlyle Lake. Meet at McDonald's in Carlyle, IL at 8. More about this in next newsletter or call Jim Malone 314-536-1119 for information.

DEADLINE

for *Nature Notes*
Friday, Sept. 11



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Editor: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122
Membership: Linda Virga, 9734 Antonia Dr., St. Louis MO 63123

The objectives of the society are: To stimulate interest in nature study on the part of adults and children; to cooperate with other organizations in nature study; to encourage amateur research in the natural sciences; to promote conservation of wildlife and natural beauty. Open to all with an interest in nature.

established in 1920