

# WHAT SHALL WE CALL IT?

Number 1.

Webster Groves, Mo.

November 1, 1929.

## NATURE FOR THE MONTH.

### IN NOVEMBER WOODS.

The oaks are clothed in crimson leaves, the hickories robed in gold, and thru the barren walnut groves, the northwind's breath is cold. In deep ravines, in sheltered woods the Tall Bluebell we find, and clinging to the limerock bluffs are Morning Glory vines. In open woods and sunny fields the Asters nod their heads, the Goldenrods and Sunflowers tall their sunny cheer do spread. The Love Vine clings to White Snakeroot, the Gaura's almost gone, and Pontederia cordata still haunts the lonely pond. Butter-and-eggs, Glammy Cuphea, Blazing Star, and Rosinweed, Achillea Millefolium, Canada Thistle, and Sneezeweed, and many another flower we'll find e'en tho hoar frost brings fear, the Hunter's Moon does not spell doom, — it says: "November's here!"

Mimosa

### AMONG THE NOVEMBER STARS.

The great planet Jupiter, now in Taurus, is very brilliant and with his four bright moons, makes a wonderful sight in a small telescope. The bright clusters of the Pleiades and Hyades, in Taurus, are magnificent when seen thru a pair of field glasses. This month the variable star Algol will be at minimum brightness at 10:45 P.M. on the 12th, and at 7:45 P.M. on the 15th. The Great Nebula in Andromeda will be well placed for observation this month. There will be two important showers of meteors; the Leonids in the late hours of the night of the 14th, and the Andromedes on the evening of the 24th.

### FEEDING OUR FRIENDS, THE BIRDS.

Now that winter is coming on, and the birds' natural food will be scarce and hard to get, we can pay back what we owe them for helping to keep down the destructive insects that spoil the beauty of our trees and gardens. A little sunflower and hemp seed on a tray, mixed with crumbs from the table; a little suet attached to a tree or melted and poured over the bark; a little millet seed scattered over the snow; will keep many of the birds such as titmice, chickadees, nuthatches, juncos and others around your home thruout the winter.

Thru the efforts of the Bird Group, the Society has purchased a supply of sunflower, hemp and millet seed at wholesale, put up in convenient five pound packages. They will distribute these to members at approximately cost, provided the seed will be used to feed the birds. Phone Miss Anne Jones, 690 Bonita Ave., (Webster 831-J) for information.

## FIELD OBSERVATIONS.

### HUMMING AND BLUE BIRDS.

Two very pleasing bird observations were made in September. The first was on the 15th, when five or six (perhaps more) Humming Birds were seen hovering over a field of Yellow Jewel-weed, Impatiens palida. We watched them for at least twenty minutes while they were dashing about, calling to one another, lighting on the pale yellow flowers, and at times apparently hanging suspended in mid air. When we left they were still playing about happily. No male adults were seen.

On Sept. 29th, five Bluebirds were seen bathing, preening and sunning themselves in the creek just beyond the Entomological Club cabin. They would splash about in the water, then light on the large stones in the bed of the creek to dry and preen themselves, repeating the performance many times. A Field Sparrow was seen on the bank of the creek and identified by its pink bill. Earlier on our walk a small flock of Cedar Waxwings were seen. Miss Anne Jones.

### LARGE GROUP OF ANT-LIONS NEAR CABIN

On Sept. 29th, while inspecting the rocky ledge that runs to the east of the cabin site, Mr. Satterthwait discovered a large group of ant-lion pits. There were about sixty of them; they varied greatly in size and covered an area of more than a square yard. Several isolated ones were found within ten feet or so from the main assemblage. Generally, ant-lions do not live in such large colonies and wonder was expressed at how so many of these creatures in such close quarters could obtain enough food to keep them alive.

### VARIABLE STARS OBSERVED AT MINIMUM.

The variable star, Algol, Beta Persei, was observed by the writer to be at minimum brightness at 7:30 P.M. on Oct. 3rd. It is usually the second brightest star in Perseus, but at this time it ranked sixth and was sending us only about one third as much light as it does at maximum.

Eta Aquilae, which has no common name, was seen on Oct. 6th at 8:30 P.M. to be of magnitude  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , while usually it is of magnitude  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; meaning that it was less than one half as bright as usually seen.

Stuart L. O'Byrne.

### WHAT IS A PAPER WITHOUT A NAME?

We desire the ideas and suggestions of every member of the Society as to what we should name this paper. All suggestions should be in the hands of the editor before the twentieth of November. Maybe you will be the one to name it. Who can tell?

### WHAT SHALL WE CALL IT?

published by the  
WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY  
 Webster Groves, Mo.  
 Stuart L. O'Byrne, Editor,  
 501 Pacific Ave. (Webster 2498-W)

### HELP WANTED

Upon reading this first issue of our paper, it will at once be evident that it can be put to good use. We believe that it will stimulate the field work of the individuals of the Society. There is a real need for some way to circulate the news of our Society among the members, other than the regular monthly announcements, and we believe that this paper will fill that need. To make the paper most useful it will require the full cooperation of everyone. Your criticisms and suggestions toward the end of making it a success are earnestly solicited.

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS continued.

#### CONTENTS OF SPIDER WEBS.

On the field trip of Sept. 15th to Creve Coeur Lake, several adjacent webs of the common house spider were found in a deserted club house, in which were to be seen the remains of a large number of insects. Among them were the following butterflies:

- Papilio marcellus, 2 specimens
- Cissia eurytus, 3
- Phyciodes tharos or nycteis, 2
- Basilarchia astyanax, 1
- Chlorippe celtis, 1
- Epargyreus tityrus, several
- Poanes zabulon, 1

Besides these, fragments of moths too badly worn to permit determination of species were in the webs and on the floor under them. These were mostly noctuids, geometers, and micros.

Harold I. O'Byrne.

#### A SPIDER BITE

Due to carelessness a spider, Oligoctenus, bit me on June 12, 1929. This Oligoctenus belongs to the family Ctenidae and according to the identification of Prof. A. Petrunkevitch it is a new species. The spider had bitten the index finger of the left hand which had swollen after ten minutes. The pain was quite severe at first. After two hours the swelling covered the finger and the entire back of the hand and after twenty four hours all pain and swelling were gone.

L. F. Pinkus.

### WHERE TWO WRONGS MADE A RIGHT.

The Horseshoe Lake in Illinois has always been full of fish. Crappie and sunfish were plentiful with some bass in the deeper places.

In 1872 the German-carp was introduced into American waters by Mr. P. Poppe, and again, by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, in 1877. As

in all other waters affording them suitable conditions, this fish soon took possession of this lake; since its shallow waters were just right for this sluggish fish to scavenge and wallow in.

### Where Two Wrongs Made a Right, cont.

By the late nineties carp had become so numerous in this enormous stretch of shallow water that the game fish were forced to the few deep places to spawn and soon became very scarce. The carp, being bottom feeders, foraged the eggs of such fish as bass and crappie that spawn in a scooped out place on the bottom of the lake. The carp on the other hand, throw their eggs on the water plants near the surface, where they need no further attention.

About fifteen years ago the government committed another error; this time a beneficial one. It attempted to drain the lake by means of many outlets. The drainage never became complete, but resulted in a great swamp where no boat could be operated and man dare not tread. During the years that followed a vast and dense forest of trees that thrive in moist places sprung up, together with many water plants and shrubs. This growth naturally started at the shore-line and advanced toward where the center of the lake had been. Then the drainage canals filled up; even the natural outlet.

Today there is more water in the lake than ever before. The game fish are returning with their natural environment. Upon many visits in the last few years, I have not seen a single carp; crappie and sunfish are plentiful and the bass jump above the surface in areas so thickly wooded the most diligent fishermen cannot reach them.

Pierre A. Vogel.

#### PLANT NAMES

Plant names are descriptive. They may illustrate some prominent characteristic of the plant or a fancied resemblance to some other form of life. The trillium is a good example of the first type. As the name suggests, the leaves and flower parts are arranged in multiples of three. The bloodroot is a member of the genus Sanguinaria. Sanguinary means bloody, hence the name bloodroot in allusion to the blood-red root. Columbines have fanciful names. To some the flower resembles a dove. Columba is the Latin for dove. The scientific name of the columbine, Aquilegia, is derived from the Latin word aquila, the eagle. This indicates that some believe the flower to represent an eagle. It is quite a contrast of opinion when one usually accepts the dove as a bird of peace and an eagle as a bird of war. Other plants have been named for their habitats; for instance, we have the sandwort, rock cress, water lily, mountain mint, and meadow beauties. The derivation of plant names is an interesting study. Many different stories have arisen as to how the plants received their names.

Albert Heinze.

# Webster Groves Nature-Study Society

A BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN NATURE-STUDY SOCIETY

(Organized in 1920)

Webster Groves, Mo.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 1929

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### OFFICERS

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*Nature Photography*

MISS ALICE MARTY  
*Geology*

R. W. STOCKWELL  
*Camp Director*

NOV. 2 INSECT COLLECTION CONTEST, 8 PM at the U.S. Entomological Laboratory, 527 Ivanhoe Pl. The public is invited to come, see the exhibition and witness the awarding of prizes.

NOV. 4 PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP. Meet 8 PM at the U.S. Ent. Lab'y. Mr. Wilson Todd, leader.

NOV. 8 ICHTHYOLOGY GROUP, 8 PM at the Lange res. 319 Westside Ave. Mr. Hubricht will talk on "The Lamprey"; a moving picture of "The Mystery Fish" and a talk on "Mouths of Fishes" by Mrs. Vogel.

NOV. 11 MICROSCOPY GROUP, 8 PM at the Laboratory. Dr. Meiners will talk on "The Morphology of Blood" and demonstrate with microscope.

NOV. 14 GEOLOGY GROUP, 8 PM at U.S. Entomological Lab., 527 Ivanhoe Pl. Mr. Buren Holmes will deliver an address on that evening.

NOV. 15 ASTRONOMY GROUP, 8 PM at the Mueller res., 12 Armin Pl., Glendale Heights. "Asteroids" by Mrs. Mueller; "Jupiter" by Mr. Townsend; "Saturn" by Mr. Jones; "Uranus and Neptune" by Mr. Stuart O'Byrne.

NOV. 18 ENTOMOLOGY GROUP, 8 PM at the Laboratory. "Aquatic Insects" will be the subject with Mr. Harold O'Byrne leading.

NOV. 22 BOTANY GROUP, 8 PM at the Lab'y. A talk on "The Pioneers of Plant Study" will be given by ~~XXXX~~ Mrs. L. F. Pinkus.

NOV. 24 GENERAL FIELD TRIP to Petrifying Spring. Meet 9 AM at Caudle's Filling Sta., on Highway 61 at Imperial, parking at Southeast corner of 61 and Imperial Rd. Destination at Mr. Ed. Arnold's place, 1 1/2 mile from Caudle's.

NOV. 25 ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, 8 PM at the Lab'y. Subject- "Water Birds of the Mississippi Valley", Mrs. Holly leading.

JUNIOR GROUP meet with Mrs. Pickens at 72 Marshall Pl. after school, Wednesday Nov. 20th.

NOTE.-- CLOSING DATE OF INSECT COLLECTION CONTEST is NOV. 1, and all exhibits are to be at the U.S. Entomological Lab'y by 6 PM of that day. The prizes will be awarded on Saturday, November 2, 8 PM.

NOTE.-- READ the Society's "NEW MONTHLY BULLETIN" - the first number of which appears at this time. THE PLAN is to publish each month, any news or observations or anything that might be of interest to our members, and the Editor, Mr. Stuart O'Byrne, 501 Pacific Ave., is on hand, ready to receive any such articles, news-notes that you can contribute. Your cooperation and support is needed to make it a success. Get into print - send in copy.

NOTE.-- INLAND BIRD BANDING ANNUAL CONVENTION, November 7-10 inclusive. MARK THE DATES. ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB & WEBSTER GROVES NATURE\* STUDY SOCIETY, Hosts.

HEADQUARTERS, KINGS-WAY HOTEL, 108 N. Kingsgighway, St. Louis.

MOTION PICTURE LECTURE, Wm. I. Lyon, President of Inland Bird Banding Association, Waukegan, Ill., and S. Prentiss Baldwin, Honorary President, Cleveland, Ohio, Thursday, Nov. 7 at 8 PM in Washington University Medical School Auditorium, Scott and Euclid Avenues.

PROGRAM OF BIRD BANDING PAPERS - Friday & Saturday, Nov. 8 and Nov. 9, Parlor A, Kings-Way Hotel.

BANQUET - Kings-Way Hotel, Friday evening, Nov. 8.

FIELD TRIP - All day Sunday, Nov. 10, Creve Coeur Lake in AM and marshes near St. Peters, in PM. CARS NEEDED: Drive your own cars and take as many out-of-town guests as you can accommodate.

ATTEND AS MANY OF THE INLAND MEETINGS AS POSSIBLE.