



nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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Spring Dinner Thursday, May 3 Eden Commons

Our 81st spring Banquet will feature Dr. Jonathan Losos, biology professor at Washington University. Dr. Losos was recently honored by the St. Louis Science Academy with the Innovation Award. This accolade is given to a scientist under 40 years of age "for superior accomplishment in a branch of science." His program promises to enlarge our view.

The banquet will begin with socializing at 6 PM. Buffet service will begin at 6:45. Eden Commons is located at 470 E. Lockwood on the campus of Eden Seminary in Webster Groves, Mo. Parking is convenient from Bompert Ave. Join us May 3!

- Reservations by April 24, 2001
- Make checks payable to WGNSS
- Cost: \$15 per person

Tear off the slip on this page & send with your name & address to:

- Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct.
Ballwin, MO 63021

Spring Banquet reservations for _____ persons @ \$15 per person = _____

Name _____

Name _____

Birds of the Americas

Doug Corbett 1st VP

Walter Liddell will be our guest speaker for April. He will be presenting slides for a program entitled "Birds of the Americas."

Walter is a long time WGNSS member and world birder. Also, WGNSS officers will be elected at this meeting.

Please join us on Friday, April 20, at the St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh, south of Clayton. The meeting starts at 8 PM in the auditorium. Please note that this is the third Friday. All are welcome! ♡

Busch Wildlife CA

It's Not Just For Fishing!

Jeannie A. Moe

Have you been out to Busch Wildlife Conservation Area lately? As a volunteer naturalist there I have discovered how wonderful the birds, plants and butterflies are. For the last year I have been faithfully recording the birds, plants, and butterflies that I have seen on the "Nature Sightings Board" located in the foyer of the Headquarters Building (MDC's St. Louis Regional Office at Busch CA). Nancy Snider asked me to record the plants and animals in addition to the birds seen at Busch. Nancy at the time was Busch's Senior Naturalist and now she is their Education Consultant. Stop by to catch up on what has been seen and pick up a Bird and Butterfly List from the office. Ask a naturalist for an update on recent sightings—your tax dollars at work. Or call before you go: 636-441-4554. After you have been out on the property, at Busch, be sure to record your observations on the Nature Sightings Board.

Jim Ziebol has converted many birders into avid butterfly enthusiasts—so many that we had to start a St. Louis Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). Even before we had the club organized, we were planting the Jim Ziebol Butterfly Garden across from the office. On March 3, 2000, WGNSS met with Mike Arduser, Natural History Biologist at Busch. Mike picked out a location and gave us permission to plant the garden. Jack Harris put

together a list of native plants that butterflies use as nectar sources or larval hosts. On Easter Sunday, Jim Ziebol, Jack Harris, Yvonne Homeyer and I planted the first plants in the garden. Many volunteers showed up in the months that followed to help and these volunteers have been thanked in past issues of *Nature Notes*. Yvonne Homeyer, Jim Ziebol, and I felt like we lived at the Butterfly Garden on weekends last year. We would arrive at Busch, bird for awhile or work on our Bird Breeding Survey Areas. Then we would work on the Butterfly Garden. About 10 AM, when the butterflies were flying, we would go identify butterflies for awhile. Sometimes we would go off birding or looking at butterflies while the sprinkler was watering the garden.

Busch CA is one of the best places in the St. Louis Area to see butterflies. There are 84 species that have been observed at Busch. There are Zebra Swallowtails, Tiger Swallowtails, Giant Swallowtails, Spicebush Swallowtails, Black Swallowtails, Great Spangled Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Eastern-tailed Blue, Olive Hairstreak, Gray Hairstreak, Little Yellow Sulfur, to name a few. We saw some rare butterflies on our walks. At Lost Valley on May 8, during the Volunteer Naturalist Training Class, we saw a Bell's Roadside Skipper. On May 20 we saw a Red-banded Hairstreak. Jim Ziebol spotted it under a plantain leaf on the trail to Dardene Creek. Amazingly, on June 3, Jim Ziebol, Yvonne Homeyer and I had another Red-banded Hairstreak on the Pine Trail. On June 3 we also had a Banded Hairstreak at Lost Valley.

There are 289 species of birds recorded on the Busch Bird List. According to Jim Ziebol there have been 6 birds added since the Busch Bird List has been updated. They include: Mississippi Kite, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Ross's Goose, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw), and the Marbled Godwit.

Since volunteering in June of 1999, I have documented two rare sightings of birds at Busch. On November 2, 1999, my family—my husband Jim plus my sons Willie and Woody—and I went up to the cemetery be-

hind Dardene Creek. I was hoping to see the Barred Owls. Instead my eye caught a Magnolia Warbler in with a flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers in a red cedar tree. This was a late fall record for the Magnolia Warbler. It was a warm fall and many warblers and sparrows stayed late in the season. The next spring, on April 20, 2000, I was out at the Shore Bird Area. As I topped the dike, in the pool on the right, I spotted a Godwit. Godwits always get me very excited. I knew from past experience that the Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits migrate through St. Louis every year. As I studied the bird, I noted it had a finely barred tail and when it raised its wings there were no black armpits. The Hudsonian Godwit has a black and white tail plus black armpits. So the bird was a Marbled Godwit like I had just seen in Texas earlier in the month. I was very excited. I rushed back to the office to hotline it and of course no one was home. By the time the hotline went out the bird had flown. I saw the Hudsonian Godwit on April 22, at Little Creve Coeur Marsh.

On May 2, at the Shore Bird Area, there was a nice flock of birds including White-faced Ibis, Snowy Egret and 13 Little Blue Herons. The White-faced Ibis had been hot-lined by the Barkers. On May 6, I saw a Lincoln Sparrow along B. There were a lot of Yellow-breasted Chats around in June.

The last two summers (1999 and 2000) volunteer birders from WGNSS have conducted a Bird Breeding Survey at Busch. Jim Ziebol collected the data, and my husband Jim compiled the data into an Excel spreadsheet. The high point of the survey, for me, was on June 28 watching a Prothonotary Warbler feeding its young in a tree by the parking lot past the dam at Lake 33. On June 28, I also observed a male Scarlet Tanager and a male Summer Tanager at Lake 35. On June 30, I saw a Yellow Warbler feeding an immature Brown-headed Cowbird. In 1999, I observed an immature Brown-headed Cowbird being fed by a Yellow Warbler, and another being fed by a Blue-winged Warbler.

Busch has a wide variety of interesting plants. On June 8, with the Thursday Botany Group, we observed Moth Mullein blooming below the dam of Lake 33. I also saw it in bloom at Lost Valley and Kraut Run. Other plants seen that day included Jerusalem Artichoke, *Helianthus tuberosus*, *Helianthus hirsutus*, Daisy Fleabane, *Erigeron annuus*, Rough-leaved Dogwood, *Cornus drumondii*. On June 22, the Botany group hiked the Hackberry Trail, off of Hwy. D. We found gooseberries and blackberries in fruit. There is a nice prairie on the Hackberry Trail with tall grass prairie plants on one side of the trail and short grass prairie on the other side of the trail.

Come out to Busch CA, pick up a Bird and Butterfly List, then go out on the property and make your own discoveries to record on the Nature Sightings Board. Hopefully you were inspired at the March 16 WGNSS/NABA meeting and took home some seeds or seedlings to start your own Butterfly Garden. ∞

Butterfly Gardens

Yvonne Homeyer

The Webster Groves Nature Study Society has sponsored two butterfly gardens in the St. Louis area, both of which are thriving. Our main goals for these two projects were to promote the use of native Missouri wildflowers in gardens to attract butterflies, and to educate the public about butterflies and their relationship to host and nectaring plants.

Our first Butterfly Garden was planted in the summer of 1999 in the North County Recreation Area in conjunction with the St. Louis County Parks & Recreation Department. It is located on the left side of the driveway as you enter. Over 16 species of Missouri wildflowers are growing there. We owe a special debt of gratitude to WGNSS member Kraig Paradise for his tireless efforts to create and care for this garden. Kraig is an experienced butterfly gardener and his "butterfly yard" was the subject of an article in the *North County Journal* in 1999.

In the summer of 2000, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society planted the "Jim Ziebol Butterfly Garden" at Busch Conservation Area in St. Charles County near the new headquarters building. The Butterfly Garden is a joint project of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the North American Butterfly Association, St. Louis Chapter.

The Jim Ziebol Butterfly Garden encompasses about 1/4 an acre and contains approximately 22 species of native Missouri wildflowers. Thanks to the time, energy and creative efforts of Jeannie Moe, Dennis Bozay, Betty Tanner and others, this garden has also thrived.

Native Missouri nectaring plants and host plants that can be found in our two butterfly gardens include:

Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Blazing Star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>
Slender Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>
Gray-headed Coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>
Blackeyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Tickseed Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>
Mist Flower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>
Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
Ironweed	<i>Veronia baldwinii</i>
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>
White Heath Aster	<i>Aster pilosus</i>
Rose Verbena	<i>Glandularia canadensis</i>
Blue Sage	<i>Salvia azurea</i>
White Crownbeard	<i>Verbesina virginica</i>
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>
Daisy Fleabane	<i>Erigeron annuus</i>
Joe Pye-weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>
Blue False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australia</i>
Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>

We hope you enjoy both the flowers and the butterflies when you stop by and visit our two gardens. If you would like information about how to start your own Butterfly Garden, contact Yvonne Homeyer at 314-963-7750. ~

22 Million Monarchs Dead

Yvonne Homeyer

An environmental disaster of tremendous consequence has occurred in Mexico: the death of 22 million Monarchs at two of their wintering sanctuaries. According to a report by Reuters news service in the *New York Times* on March 8, loggers are believed to have sprayed pesticide on the butterflies in retaliation for a recent government crackdown on illegal logging in those areas and government expansion of the number of sanctuaries. If estimates of total wintering populations of 100 million are accurate, that would mean that 22% died in a single incident. And the survivors remain vulnerable to similar attacks at any time.

Monarchs migrate from Canada and the United States to mountains in west central Mexico and spend the winter in Oyamel fir forests at elevations of 10,000 feet. A study released last fall indicated that just 25 years after the discovery of their wintering grounds, 44% of the overwintering habitat had been damaged or destroyed by logging activities. Prior to that discovery in the mid-1970s, only the local residents knew about the Monarchs and accepted their arrival and departure as part of the rhythm of life.

The Monarchs were in a precarious position even before this incident. According to the World Wildlife Fund, if deforestation continues to occur, the forests will be so fragmented in 20 years that they will no longer be a suitable habitat and in 50 years the forests will be gone. ~

tyron nature line

Call 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Connie Alwood, 524-8111. ~

VISIT: WWW.WGNSS.ORG

Winter Botanizing

Carl Darigo

Except for one nasty week, winter did not deter the Botany Group from their weekly Thursday outings, with the following attending one or more weeks, Father James Sullivan, Janet Anderson, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Dolly & Carl Darigo, John George, Fern Glass, Pat & Jack Harris, Nels Holmberg, Barbara Lawton, Leslie Lihou, Marian & Harold Meyer, Jeannie Moe, Betty & Bob Nellums, Fran & Tom O' Gorman, Suzy & Dick Russell, Al Seppi and Kathy Thiele.

December 7, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles County—the day started cold and windy, but soon warmed to a sunny 45°, as six people, including Leslie Lihou who returned after a long absence, walked westward from the Pitman Hill Road access. The group was surprised by the number of new homes being constructed in the area, with several on the bluff edge overhanging the trail, hopefully secured by enough rock substrate to avoid sliding down the steep cliff. Father Sullivan pointed out several tree characteristics, the dark, hairy bud of slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), the “camel-hair brush buds of pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), the mustard-yellow buds of bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), the wide and dark brown terminal bud of white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and the asymmetric leaf bases of northern hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). A large *Agastache nepetoides* (yellow giant hyssop) with the characteristic “candelabra” inflorescence was spotted below the cliff near a huge patch of *Equisetum hyemale* (common scouring rush) on the trail's river side. Jack Harris dissected the scouring rush's hollow stem to show that frequent solid nodes would block any attempt to use the stem as an underwater breathing tube. The origin of a large, scalped Halloween pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo* var. *pepo*) alongside the trail was an unsolved mystery. Jeannie Moe spotted a barred owl and Father Sullivan flushed a flock of goldfinches from under a bridge.

December 14, St. Louis Science Center—a 10”+ snowfall on Wednesday precluded any outdoor activity, so an intimate group of four toured the Science Center. The place was practically deserted, with a noticeable lack of youngsters. An exhibit of edible plants used by early peoples included the large root of *Ipomoea pandurata*, commonly called wild potato vine, but in the display an alternate name was used, “man-of-the-earth”. Inside the hollow trunk of a giant plastic chinquapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) tree with huge leaves, were jars of various tree fruits. Father Sullivan, who earlier had noted that the upside-down Missouri glade photo of *Delphinium treleasei* (Trelease's larkspur) still had not been corrected, thought that several of the named acorns were perhaps questionable. Some time was spent at the bank of Internet computers, with Jack Harris probing the Missouri Botanical Garden plant herbarium data base, checking for past collections which had been submitted by Botany Group members. However, his lack of success was probably explained by a note indicating that 1.1 million collections had been entered into the data base, whereas the herbarium contains 6 million.

December 28, Missouri History Museum—snow and cold temperatures continued to plague the area, so four faithful opted for another indoor venue, this time the newly renovated Missouri Historic Museum in Forest Park. Jack Harris identified two dried Missouri native plants poking above the snow near the main entrance, broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) and grayhead prairie coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*). Inside the museum, a Mississippian era display (1000 AD), listed various food plants, including several commonly seen to this day, such as marsh elder (*Iva annua*), erect knotweed (*Polygonum erectum*) and little barley (*Hordeum pusillum*). A Mississippi River exhibit sported a plastic oak (*Quercus* sp.) tree hosting a thick poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) vine with the unmistakable “leaves of three, leave me be,” although Father Sullivan pointed out that the leaf petioles were slightly

askew. Mysteriously, no sign explained the vine's presence or significance. Also of interest to the botanists present was mention of a Mexican chestnut dioon plant (*Dioon edule*), rescued from the 1904 Worlds Fair and still living in Missouri Botanical Garden's Climatron. During a nice lunch in the museum's Meriwether Restaurant overlooking the snow-covered landscape, the leaves, bracts and unique flowers of the table's poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) were thoroughly examined.

January 4, Museum of the Western Jesuit Missions, Hazelwood, St. Louis County—although the day was sunny and 40°, a continuing solid snow cover on the ground convinced 10 erstwhile botanists to forego plants for another history lesson, this time in the relatively unknown, but very interesting Museum of the Western Jesuit Missions. Tom O'Gorman brought along his wife, Fran, for the first time and Dolly Darigo returned after a long absence with two new hips. Volunteer guide Ed Benton, a retired history teacher, did a fine job during the tour. The building, which dates from 1840, was the home of the first Jesuit missionaries in the St. Louis area. When the latter day St. Stanislaus Seminary closed, the building was converted into a museum, which has many historical artifacts, paintings, furniture, clothing, books and also an 1845 Metz organ, the oldest in St. Louis. Father Sullivan naturally managed to find several botanical items, first comparing the dining room pulpit complete with overhead cover to the Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) flower and then spotting rosary beads made from seeds of *Coix lacryma-jobi* (Job's tears), a grass grown on the site.

January 11, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—the Botany Group finally ventured outside, after several weeks of weather-induced "indoor" activities, as 10 hardy souls walked the cleared surface of an old road near the park's north border. Although a relatively moderate 35°, the "rain/sleet" forecast turned into considerable snow at about the point where the cleared road

ended, encouraging a rapid retreat to the cars waiting on an ice-packed parking lot. Jack Harris pointed out the fruits of brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*) which have a turpentine aroma when crushed, while Nels Holmberg saw orange berries of Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), identified by the fruit growing along the stem, compared to the native plant (*C. scandens*) whose fruit form terminal panicles. As buds of a chinquapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) were being studied, Betty Nellums solved the puzzle by finding one of the characteristic leaves. *Calycanthus floridus* (strawberry shrub) plants were still thriving in the same location, sporting large pear-shape fruits containing oval, brown seeds; this species is native to the southeast US and unusual in our area. Capping the abbreviated day was a large cover of bright green *Glechoma hederacea* (ground ivy) leaves poking through the snow.

January 18, Riverlands, St. Charles County—the Botany Group picked a good day for a first visit to this birder's paradise, mingling with the crowds, including several tourist buses, who were jockeying to see the smew, a Missouri record bird. Under cloudy, 35° skies, nine persons hiked an old railroad bed on the west side of Hwy 367. After Father Sullivan spotted *Amorpha fruticosa* (false indigo) from a distance, Nels Holmberg negotiated the steep, rocky bank and nearby ice to confirm the sighting. Tall, bare stalks of *Rhus glabra* (smooth sumac) and the curly, ball-like fruit clusters of *Desmanthus illinoensis* (prairie mimosa) were abundant. Also seen were long, thin pods of *Senna marilandica* (wild senna), three-grain sepal valves of *Rumex altissimus* (pale dock) and clustered, vase-like fruits of *Ammannia coccinea* (long leaf toothcup). Before leaving, all had a good look at the bird-of-the-year, courtesy of Al Seppi's and Jeannie Moe's telescopes.

January 25, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—the group returned to Babler, after a recent snow-abbreviated trip, this time only three members touring a portion of the Guy

Park Trail plus park road, on a sunny, 35° day. Park roadsides were festooned with various “sculptures”, resulting from melting and refreezing of last month’s piled snow residuals. Father Sullivan had predicted at the previous evening’s MONPS meeting that 10 orchids would be found at wintery Babler. Besides successfully answering a dried *Scutellaria incana* (hoary skullcap) test, Nels Holmberg found the first small *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam & Eve orchid) leaf, then Father Sullivan could come up with only four more, one of which, however, measured a very healthy 3+ inches wide. Many bright green *Allium vineale* (field garlic) clumps dotted the bleak ground cover, while a nice stand of *Clematis virginiana* (virgin’s bower) vines with white “cottony” fruit clusters was found along the trail.

February 1, Missouri Botanical Garden—the group hopefully concluded their last “indoor” winter activity with a good crowd of 10 visiting the Orchid Show. Hidden among the amazing variety of tropical orchid flowers were gigantic critters with moving parts, including praying mantis, Monarch butterfly, caterpillar, firefly, dragon fly, whirligig beetles, lady beetle and a cockroach-like creature with long snout. Many lady’s slipper orchids of varied colors and sizes were seen, one species being the yellow and white *Paphiopedilum insigne*. After describing technical details of orchid flowers to two priest friends, Father Sullivan recognized two mosses extensively placed in beds around the orchid plants, broom moss (*Dicranum scoparium*) and fern moss (*Thuidium recognitum*), then pointed out *Dendrochilum formosanum* with extremely tiny flowers, the size typical of many orchids found in the tropics. A short walk outside on an unexpected sunny day verified that the Ozark witch hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) had just started to bloom, after which a nice lunch was had by all at the cafeteria.

February 8, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, St. Louis County—a spring-like 60° surprised a good crowd of 13, who tested the Hickory Ridge Trail to determine if

the deer had left anything worth botanizing. The group welcomed new members Nancy & Wayne Clark. Gum bumelia (*Bumelia lanuginosa*) and wafer ash, a.k.a. hop tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) were studied, while Father Sullivan found a budded twig with leaves of Shumard’s oak (*Quercus shumardii*), a new addition to the site’s plant list. Patches of *Atrichum angustatum* (catherinea moss) and *Fissidens taxifolius* (yew leaf plume moss) were numerous along the trail. Mungo Park, an 18th century explorer, was reputed to have been inspired enough by a sturdy growth of tiny *Fissidens*, to save himself after being hopelessly lost in Africa. After a planning discussion of the forthcoming May and June trips, Father Sullivan spotted *Juniperus horizontalis* (creeping juniper) at the entrance to a Chinese restaurant, a plant expected to be seen in native habitat during the Wisconsin trip.

February 15, Missouri Botanical Garden—several days of continuing cold rain kept the group of five indoors again, this time visiting several MBG sites. The Ridgway “flowering plant” table displayed two plants seen later in Schoenberg Temperate House, *Acacia baleyana* (cootimundra wattle) with many bright yellow flower bunches and fragrant *Viburnum suspensum* (arrow wood). The Camellia House had many varieties of *Camellia japonica*, most with big white, pink, and red blossoms. While avoiding school kids and dinosaurs in the Climatron, plant descriptions in Father Sullivan’s “Exotic Plant Golden Nature Guide” came in handy. Some of the interesting plants seen included *Stachytarpheta speciosa* (purple sneezeweed) with tiny purple flowers on tall spikes, *Alpinia speciosa* (shell ginger) sporting white flowers with orange interiors, aptly named *Brunfelsia latifolia* (yesterday, today & tomorrow) with blossoms of varying colors, and 12 inch long spike-like flowers of *Acalypha hispida* (chenille plant, a.k.a. red hot cattail). The green and white striped leaves of ctenanthe (*Ctenanthe burle-marxii*) were so “busy” as to render a dizzying effect when viewed.

February 22, Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles County—two persons braved a previous night's 1–2" snowfall to walk the perimeter of Lake 20 and surrounding forest roads. The snow, besides presenting a pristine winter scene, also afforded relief from Busch's notorious dusty roads. Some time was spent trying to key *Elymus canadensis* (Canada wild rye), but lack of enough fruiting parts was a problem. *Sericea lespedeza* (*Lespedeza cuneata*) was so abundant in several areas, as to resemble dried bunches of grass. A large black locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) tree had pods which initially appeared to resemble redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), but closer inspection showed the typical locust thorns. Father Sullivan found small white cups on a dead branch which later proved to be *Poronidulus conchifer* (little nest polypore). This fungus, which prefers dead elm (*Ulmus sp.*) branches, sports a fleshy cap in fruiting season, with the cups remaining during winter. ∞

February 2001 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Abbreviations:

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

HL = Horseshoe Lake

REDA = Riverlands

CL = Carlyle Lake

TGP = Tower Grove Park

FP = Forest Park

MTNWR = Mark Twain Nat. Wildlife Refuge

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands

TGP = Tower Grove Park

Two Horned Grebes appeared at CL on 2/10 (JM). On 2/24, a Black-crowned Night Heron was spotted near HL (G&TB). Eighty White Pelicans were found at HL on 2/4 (FH). That number was topped on 2/25, when Rose Ann Bodman observed 1200+ White Pelicans at REDA. On 2/4, Dennis Bozzay counted 30+ Trumpeter Swans at REDA. The Johnsons found a Mute Swan at Silver Lake, IL on 2/11. On 2/14, 70 Snow Geese and 4 Greater White-fronted Geese were found on Bischoff Rd. (T Be). There

were 105 Greater White-fronted Geese at HL on 2/25 (DB, FH, m. ob.). That same day, there were 850 Snow Geese at Mastodon State Park (RAB). Kevin Richmond located a female Barrow's Goldeneye at REDA on 2/10. The Smew was seen again on 2/23 at REDA (T Be). Charlene Malone observed a Black Scoter at REDA on 2/5. A female Oldsquaw was reported at HL on 2/24 (CA, T Be, KL, J&CM, P&BJ). On 2/24, Dan Kassebaum had 24 duck species at CL and counted 20,000 Pintails in the fields.

The earliest Woodcocks reported were from BCA on 2/6 (J Mo). Killdeer were being seen in the area by 2/4. On 2/17, the Johnsons found 60 Snipe along Hwy. 111. A Parasitic Jaeger was observed near the Brussel's Ferry on 2/24 (Irene Mondhink, Edna Alexander) and that same day, a Laughing Gull was reported at Carlyle Lk. (DK). Kevin Richmond spotted a Laughing Gull at REDA on 2/10. At HL on 2/3, Jim Ziebol found a first-year Great Black-backed Gull and an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull. Two other Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at REDA on 2/25 (CA). Charlene Malone reported 2 Glaucous Gulls at REDA on 2/14. There were two sightings of Iceland Gull: one at REDA on 2/10 (G&TB) and a first-year individual at Lincoln Shields on 2/17 (MT). Jeannie Moe found a Thayer's Gull at REDA on 2/4 and 2/11.

Fifteen Turkey Vultures were reported in Jefferson County on 2/20 (JL). On 2/4, Joe Eades found 2 Black Vultures at Hawn State Park. At REDA on 2/5, 75 Bald Eagles were present. (CM). Dennis Bozzay saw a male Harrier at Eagle Park on 2/25. More male Harriers than usual were reported this winter in our area. On 2/25, a Cooper's Hawk was spotted at Mastodon State Park (RAB). Two Red-shouldered Hawks were reported at Castlewood on 2/20 (JC); the Johnsons also found 2 Red-shouldered Hawks there on 2/23. On 2/22, there was an adult Krider's Red-tailed Hawk at HL (JZ). A Western Red-tailed Hawk was seen on Collinsville Rd. on 2/12 (T Be) and on 2/24 (DB). A Rough-

legged Hawk was observed at Alta Villa on 2/3 (J Mo).

About 50 Turkeys were found along Gravois Creek on 2/1 (JH). On 2/3, 2 Long-eared Owls and a Saw-whet Owl were observed at Hawn Access (G&TB). Long-eared Owls were also seen at MTNWR on 2/11 (P&BJ). Mike Thelen heard 2 Barred Owls calling back and forth in a duet on 2/3 near Eureka. A Barred Owl was found at Pere Marquette on 2/19 (WK). On 2/3, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen near Eureka (MT). Fish Crows were reported at Castlewood on 2/23 (P&BJ). Hermit Thrush appeared in two locations: on 2/18 at Lost Valley Trail (P&BJ) and on 2/22 at Babler SP (SG). There were several sightings of Loggerhead Shrike: on 2/3 along Hwy. 50 (T Bo), on 2/10 at CL (JM), and 2 on 2/19 at Baldwin Lake (DB). On 2/6, a Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at CA (J Mo). Frank Holmes observed 7 migrating E. Bluebirds at HL on 2/1. On 2/25, a Brown Thrasher was observed on Collinsville Rd. (D Bz). Twenty Yellow-rumped Warblers were found at HL on 2/6 (D Bz). An early Pine Warbler was found at Mastodon State Park on 2/25 (RAB). Harris' Sparrows were seen twice: the Johnsons found one at MTNWR on 2/11 and Frank Holmes and Jeannie Moe found one at HL on 2/25. On 2/18, the Johnsons found an E. Towhee at BCA/Lake 3. Two Rusty Blackbirds were seen on 2/19 at Baldwin Lake (DB) and one was seen on 2/25 at HL (FH). A Snow Bunting in breeding plumage was reported at Mastodon State Park on 2/20 (JL). Charlene Malone saw 12 Red Crossbills at Rockwoods on 2/15.

Comments: Wilma Kennell had a Screech Owl at her Univ. City home on 2/13 and Sue Gustafson has continued to see a Great Horned Owl in Webster Groves. In spite of December's bad weather, several Carolina Wrens were reported in February. Charlene Malone saw a hybrid Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser on 2/24.

On October 31, 2000, the National Audubon Society and 26 other organizations petitioned the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

to list the Cerulean Warbler as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. The Cerulean is disappearing quickly in the eastern U.S. They are reliable in only two places in the immediate St. Louis area. In three of the last five years, they haven't been detected in migration in either Forest Park or Tower Grove Park. They nest in the open in tall trees and are very vulnerable to cowbirds. They are long-distance migrants, wintering in northern South America. Without help, these lovely birds could completely disappear in a short period of time. Please report *all* Cerulean sightings to Jim Ziebol or Yvonne Homeyer.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, George & Terry Barker, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Jackie Chain, Sue Gustafson, Jack Harris, Frank Holmes, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Wilma Kennell, Kent Lannert, John Loomis, Jim & Charlene Malone, Jeannie Moe, Mike Thelen, Jim Ziebol, many observers. An asterisk means "documented." To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or email Yvonne at yhomeyer@primary.net by the last day of the month. If you want to send photos or videos of birds reported, please mail them to Jim Ziebol, 3900 Berger, St. Louis, Mo. 63109. We will keep them on hand for future reference. ~

Conservation Report

Yvonne Homeyer

Survey Attachment. At the end of this newsletter you will find a short Survey related to the proposed cement plant and quarry (the Holnam project) on a 4,000-acre wooded site in Jefferson and Ste. Genevieve Counties along the Mississippi River. Your answers are very important! As you know, the Washington Univ. Environmental Law Clinic is representing WGNSS and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and they are asking us to complete the survey. There is no deadline but the faster we turn in the surveys, the faster they can use that information. Thanks to Adam VanGrack and Jill

Witkowski of the Clinic Team for preparing the survey.

22 Million Monarchs Killed in Mexico. See the article in this issue, page 4.

Bird Conservation Initiative. On Saturday, April 21, the Missouri Department of Conservation is holding an organizational workshop to plan strategy to implement at the state level the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), a project of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners in Flight, and other groups. Conservation efforts for both game and nongame species will be discussed. WGNSS was one of the organizations invited. Our participation is important, because we bring to the table a wealth of knowledge about nongame bird species and habitat issues. If you are interested in attending or if you want more information, please contact Yvonne Homeyer (314-963-7750). The workshop is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City. There is a \$12 registration fee.

Proposed Cement Plant in Ste.

Genevieve County (the Holnam project). In a recent Ste. Genevieve Herald article, pro-Holnam politicians in the Ste. Genevieve area announced an all-out lobbying effort on Governor Bob Holden to get him to come out in support of the project. By the time this reaches your mailbox, our own meeting with the Governor's office should have taken place. But that is not enough. Please write Governor Holden yourself (with a copy to Mr. Patrick Lynn) and tell him how you feel about this proposed project. Address: Governor's Office, Missouri Capitol Building, P. O. Box 720, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102. Fax: (573) 751-1495. We are also trying to set up a meeting with Congressman Dick Gephardt, because the proposed project is in his district.

On February 9, at the initiative of the Environmental Law Clinic, all the regulatory agencies met with WGNSS and other environmental organizations in Jefferson City to discuss the Holnam permitting process. The Missouri Department of Conservation hosted the meeting and we are grateful for their hospitality. WGNSS members Jim Ziebol,

Yvonne Homeyer, and Jack Harris attended. Others in attendance were: Dave Bedan, Audubon Missouri; Ken Midkiff, Sierra Club; Ted Heisel, Coalition for the Environment, Kathy Andria and Kathleen O'Keefe, American Bottom Conservancy; and Maxine Lipeles, Kayje Booker, Adam VanGrack, and Jill Witkowski from the Environmental Law Clinic. Thank you, Clinic Team, for bringing everybody together.

Meanwhile, the Corps must decide whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which we believe is clearly mandated by federal law due to the enormous scope and impacts of the proposed project. Instead, the Corps is leaning toward an Environmental Assessment (EA), which is little more than a beefed-up version of the reports already submitted by Holnam's consultants. Both the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are in favor of the full-blown EIS and they have the power to elevate this project to Washington, D.C. We know that the Corps met with these regulatory agencies and Holnam in February. Although the Environmental Law Clinic felt that the law allowed us to attend since Holnam was going to be present, the Corps said no. The Clinic has protested that decision on our behalf.

At the state level, Holnam is trying to piecemeal the project by separating out the quarry activities. It has applied to the DNR/Land Reclamation Commission for two mining permits: one for 35 acres, and one for the entire 1700+ acre quarry. The Environmental Law Clinic will represent us at the March 22 meeting of the Land Reclamation Commission and WGNSS will continue to oppose these piecemealing attempts. Also, we will be asking you to write letters to the Land Reclamation Commission when Holnam publishes a notice about the 1700+ quarry, thus triggering a 15-day public comment period. The survey on p. 16 of this newsletter will help us in our efforts to fight the quarry permits, so please fill it out and return it at your earliest convenience.

The Coalition for the Environment has mounted a public outreach campaign on the Holnam issue, spearheaded by Dana Barnard, Campaign Coordinator. If you would like to help, call Dana at 314-727-0600. Dianne Benjamin is on the committee. This project has brought many diverse groups together and more are joining in all the time as word spreads.

Call Yvonne Homeyer (314-963-7750) for the date of the April Conservation Committee meeting. ~

How I Spent My Summer Vacation...

Marie Hackett

So begins a typical, uninspired back-to-school essay, but as a teacher who spent a week of her summer vacation at an Audubon Ecology Workshop through the generous sponsorship of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, I am happy to report that my vacation was anything but boring. A more accurate description of my week spent at the Greenwich Connecticut Audubon Center would include adjectives more on the order of rewarding, enjoyable, educational and inspiring.

The Audubon Center in Greenwich is a 280-acre sanctuary made up of rolling hills, dotted with meadows, streams, ponds and forests—a perfect setting for the variety of classes offered by excellent instructors. The fourteen workshop participants were teachers of various backgrounds and geographic locations, all enthusiastic learners eager to gain new knowledge and methods to take back to the classroom. Classes, field trips and activities were scheduled from morning through evening, with some time left open for solitary afternoon walks through the woods or morning birding outings. The beautiful grounds were home to many species of birds, as well as to the deer who were quite accustomed to encountering campers. A highlight for three of the teachers was sighting a bobcat skirting the edge of the meadow.

Our classes ranged from bird, insect, flower and mammal identification to aquatic ecology and papermaking with plants. A night scheduled for stargazing proved to be too cloudy, so we learned to attract fireflies by imitating their flashing patterns with our blinking flashlights as we hiked through the woods. One of the classes I found most interesting was an examination of commercial packaging. Our class included a trip to a local grocery where, under the watchful gaze of the manager, we spent several hours comparing the types of packaging and unnecessary use of materials. The week ended with a trip to Long Island Sound where we explored coastal ecology.

I would be omitting one of the most pleasant surprises of the camp if I neglected to mention the meals we enjoyed daily. We were delighted at every meal by the gourmet dishes prepared by Chef Robert, an Arizona high school administrator and trained chef who spends his summers in Connecticut at the Audubon Center during teacher workshops. One day, on an early morning hike in a mist-filled forest, our group came over a steep rise to discover that Robert and his staff were waiting for us with freshly made omelets, baskets of croissants and brioche, a platter of fruit and steaming hot coffee.

We teachers left the camp reluctantly after a week packed full of classes and activities. Our experience together had given me precisely what I had hoped for—a chance to meet with motivated, energetic professionals who share my love of environmental education and conviction of its critical importance for all our students. Outstanding Audubon instructors provided us with new ideas, information and inspiration. We still maintain contact through e-mail correspondence and some of us plan to attend more Audubon workshops together. I immediately incorporated many of the ideas and methods I learned at the camp into my teaching.

I extend my thanks to the Webster Groves Nature Study Society for supporting the teacher scholarship program. The effects

of your generosity will reach many young students for many years to come. ~

Education Speaker's Bureau

Vicki Flier

Whew, we have been busy, so much so that we need some additional speakers. The school program has been a big success and so we are having a training session for any and all those interested in joining our group. It is so much fun to talk to the kids about the natural world and hooking them into the environment through the critters.

If you want to make a difference this is the easiest, most fun and entertaining way to do it. We have a two night training session start in mid-April and on-the-job training, too. We usually "team" teach so that you can't go too wrong. It is so much fun interacting with the kids. Call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166 if you want to help. ~

Education Committee

Vicki Flier

We need help on May 5th at the Zoo for International Migratory Bird Day. We will be working from 10:00 to 2:00 helping to educate the public about migration. Call Dale 636-394-6011, Pat 636-825-8241 or Vicki 314-968-9166 for more information on this fun day at the Zoo.

In addition we are desperately seeking well rinsed one gallon milk jugs. Please call Dale, Pat or Vicki to arrange transportation.

We will meet on April 25 at 7:00 PM at Vicki's house for a work/training/social gathering. RSVP to Dale, Pat or Vicki any time before the 25th. ~

Tyson Trails Day

Three years, two directors and one field station manager later, we are ready to present our second public open house. Mark your calendar—Tyson Trails Day will be Saturday, April 28, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

This event will be hosted by the Friends of Tyson and the Tyson Field Science Program. We need lots of volunteers to help

with craft activities; sell Tyson t-shirts, bird seed, and Friends of Tyson memberships; work at the gate; help with set-up and cleanup; etc. Contact Joyce Duncan, 314-935-8430 or e-mail tyson@biology.wustl.edu to volunteer your time and services. Be sure to join us on the 28th, volunteer few hours of your time and then spend some time enjoying the activities. This is a family oriented event with many diverse activities—there will be something for everybody. ~

Welcome to new members:

Angelo Bufalina.....Richmond Hts.
Verna Gremaud.....Overland
Rod & Martha Owen.....Andover, MA
Andreas & Rachel Ritterbusch ...Edwardsville
Richard & Jean TindallFestus, MO
Nancy Totland.....St. Louis
Jane Zatta.....Edwardsville

Ancient Order of Hibernian Birders

Dianne Benjamin

Ancient Irish legend tells of Amhairgin declaring this poem when first stepping out of his boat onto the Irish shore.

I am an estuary into the sea.
I am a wave of the ocean.
I am the sound of the sea.
I am a powerful ox.
I am a hawk on a cliff.
I am a dewdrop in the sun.
I am a plant of beauty.
I am a boar for valor.
I am a salmon in a pool.
I am a lake in a plain.
I am the strength of art.

Druid priests, descendants of Amhairgin, fabled to have great miraculous powers, continued the traditions of shape-shifting. Patrick understood the need to respect the Druids by performing his own miracles. Thus legends tell that Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland and turned his friends into deer to protect them.

Reflect a moment on the idea that you have no essential identity, that you are not fixed but fluid (rhymes with Druid). Or re-

experience those recurring dreams you have that you can fly. You are filled with wonder and terror at the same time. You get as intoxicated with words providing comfort against this world view as did the ancient Irish poets.

One of my favorite shape-shifting stories provides miraculous comfort against the hidden pitfalls of the forest. The Irish hero, child of a bird-man shape-shifter father, is warned by a bird who changes into a man. "Do not hunt the birds but protect them and you shall be high king. Observe always during your reign that birds shall be privileged."

Patrick convinced medieval Irish people that such miraculous powers come from a god who loves humans and wants their success. And in doing so, Patrick saved not only their souls but also European civilization. On his isolated verdant island, he taught from ancient, classical, and religious writings while Rome was burning and the Empire was falling (Thomas Cahill, 1995).

So if barbarians are at the gate and the Vandals are readying to sack all you hold dear, then reflect on Patrick's courage. Shape-shift. Become a hinge in the history of saving our planet. Plant something green that will transform itself to better us. ~

Deadlines for *Nature Notes* '01

Marjorie Richardson

Please note that on April 23—the 4th Monday, not the 3rd—we will meet at Oak Bend to mail *Nature Notes*. Mailing parties start at 10 AM and are usually over by noon. Any member who wishes to help is welcome.

Dates for *NN* in 2001

10 AM Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood

mailing party	deadline
April 23	April 13
May 21	May 11
Aug. 20	Aug. 10
Sept. 17	Sept. 7
Oct. 15	Oct. 5
Nov. 19	Nov. 9
Dec. 17	Dec. 7

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 Connie Alwood, 524-8111. ~

Science Seminar Series at Zoo

Free programs at the Zoo: 7:30–9 PM in The Living World, north side of Zoo. Free parking in the north lot. For more info, call 314-768-5466.

March 14 "Dating Rocks: Modern Techniques for Determining the Age of Dinosaurs and Earth," Dr. J Encarnacion, St. L U.

April 18 "Life on Mars: A Minerals Perspective," Dr. L Haskin, Washington U. ~

Brawley Creek B&B

invites WGNSS

Brawley Creek Bed & Breakfast, seven miles south of Warrensburg, Missouri, is a 20-acre retreat offering good food and serenity. The property includes ten acres of forest and ten acres of old fields. They offer a 10% discount to members of Webster Groves Nature Study Society for 2001.

Brawley Creek B&B is run by John and Regina Hess. John is a professor of Biology at Central Missouri State University. He has taught ornithology, herpetology, and mammalogy, and ecology. For more information, contact Brawley Creek B&B, 660-747-7027, or brawleyc@iland.net

Next Deadline: April 13 

Anne McCormack

Submissions—handwritten, typed, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 or mccormacka@earthlink.net

ASM's 100th Anniversary: May 4, 5, and 6 in St. Charles

The Audubon Society of Missouri is celebrating its 100th anniversary in the city where it was born in 1901. Hosting this spring meeting is the St. Louis Audubon Society. All Audubon members, and WGNSS friends are invited to this unique celebration. On Friday and Saturday nights our meetings will be near the heart of St. Charles. Don't miss this exceptional birding celebration for any reason!

Friday night's program starts at 7:30 PM. Dress is casual. We are meeting at the Memorial Hall, VFW Room in Blanchette Park in St. Charles, Mo. Take 1-70 west across Missouri River to Fifth St. Exit north #229. Continue on Fifth St. for 1.8 miles, take a left turn onto Randolph St. for 0.5 mile to entrance of Blanchette Park on the right. Stay on one-way loop drive in park to Memorial Hall on the right. Enter hall from rear to get directly to VFW Room. The program will include a presentation by members of the St. Louis Zoo staff about experiences with birds in that collection; "Early Years, New Displays, and Future Plans." Audubon Chapters from across the state will have displays, and we invite you to share 10 of your nature slides with us. Active birders from all across Missouri will be available for conversation. Registration Fri. 8AM-9PM. Fees include: commemorative enamel birding pin, booklet on ASM history and leaders: *A Century of Birding in Missouri*.

Pete Dunne—widely acclaimed birding speaker and Director of Cape May Bird observatory—will present the Saturday evening dinner program, beginning at 6:30 PM. Pete is the author of 5 humorous birding books—copies will be available for autographs. Dress is casual.

The catered dinner and program will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall, at 3 Westbury Dr. This hall is located off of West Clay St. between First Capital Drive (1-70 Exit #228), and Zumbel (1-70 Exit #227). The hall is located near 1-70 and behind the police station on West Clay. (Please don't drive through the police parking lot.)

WGNSS birders can help by offering to serve as leaders for the field trips to ten locations; please contact Jim or Charlene Malone at 636-536-1119 for details. Helpers are also needed on Friday, May 4th for registration; contact Paul Bauer: 314-921-3972 for details. ∞

Registration ASM's Anniversary

Please pre-register by April 25th.

Send this form or a copy with check payable to: Audubon Society of MO, to:

Paul Bauer - ASM

4 Club Grounds South Dr.

Florissant MO 63033

Name(s) _____ WGNSS

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Registration* \$12 x _____ = _____

Speaker & Dinner \$23x _____ = _____

*Registration includes Commemorative Pin and ASM history booklet

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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.

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Important WGNSS Survey: We are conducting this survey to obtain information that could be helpful in our efforts to stop the proposed Holnam cement plant & quarry in Ste. Genevieve Co.

1. Do you—or does anyone in your household—have asthma or other respiratory problems? If yes, please provide details—you can omit names, but describe by age, relationship.

2. Are you—or is anyone in your household—over 65? _____ If so, what ages?

3. Describe your activities involving nature and wildlife.

4. Would your job or livelihood be impacted in any way by increased air or water pollution at the Holnam site, or by open-pit mining of limestone at the site, along the Mississippi River on the border of Jefferson & Ste. Genevieve Counties? Please provide details.

5. Do you—or does any family member—live in Ste. Genevieve or Jefferson County? If yes, what city or area? In addition, may we contact them? If so, please provide contact information.

6. Do you—or does any family member—visit Ste. Genevieve County or Jefferson County for business or pleasure? What locations? What purposes?

7. Have you (or has anyone in your household) ever boated, fished, bird-watched, hiked or camped along the Mississippi River south of St. Louis? If yes, please provide details (when, where, what).

8. In your opinion, how would the loss of 4,000 acres of undeveloped land along the Mississippi River, just 31 miles south of St. Louis, affect you?

9. Name, Address, Phone (& email if available):

Please return this survey as soon as possible to the Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic, W U School of Law. If you have any questions, call the team at 314-935-6040, or Yvonne Homeyer at 314-963-7750. Thank you!

By Mail: **Mr. Adam VanGrack, Washington University, Campus Box 1120, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, Mo. 63130-4899**

E-mail: alvangra@wulaw.wustl.edu By Fax: 314-935-5171. ∞

A Search for Birds

Pete Winter

The following is a log of the areas and countries worldwide in which I have searched for birds.

United States

Hawaii (4 expeditions) - Jan. 1972 - Aug. 1983
Nov. 1990 - Sept. 1990
Dry Tortugas - May 1981
Alaska (6 expeditions) - July 1971 - June 1974
June 1978 - July 1990 - June 1994 - June 1999
Pribilof Islands - June 1974
St. Lawrence Island - June 1978
Aleutian Islands - June 1999
Attu Island - June 1999
Kiska Island - June 1999
Tanaga Island - June 1999
Chagulak Island - June 1999
Unalaska Island - June 1999
Unimak Island - June 1999

Canada (4 expeditions)

Aug. 1968 - July 1977 - June 1982 - July 1988
Great Slave Lake - Northwest Territories - Aug. 1968
Nova Scotia - July 1977
New Foundland - July 1977
Churchill - June 1982
Bathurst Inlet - July 1988

Mexico (8 expeditions)

Nov. 1974 - Nov. 1980 - Jan. 1985 -
Nov. 1987 Apr. 1991 - Mar. 1995 -
Feb. 1996 - Apr. 1998
Yucatan - Jan. 1985
Cozumel Island - Jan. 1985
Baja, California - Feb. 1996

Central America (7 expeditions)

Guatemala (2 visits) - Mar. 1978 - Mar. 1994
Costa Rica (2 visits) - Mar. 1980 - Mar. 1990
Panama (2 visits) - Feb. 1981 - Jan. 1992
Belize - Aug. 1991

The Caribbean (10 expeditions)

Puerto Rico - May 1988
Virgin Islands (2 visits) - Feb. 1969 - Feb. 1980
Jamaica - Mar. 1985
Dominican Republic - Mar. 1985
Aruba - Jan. 1968
Bonaire - Jan. 1968
Curacao - (2 visits) Jan. 1968 - Dec. 1991
Dominica - May 1988
St. Vincent - May 1988
St. Lucia - May 1988
Guadaloupe - May 1988
Cayman Islands - Dec. 1991
Cuba - Feb. 1992
Bahamas - Feb. 1994

South America (25 expeditions)

Columbia - Feb. 1977
Venezuela (3 visits) - Feb. 1988 - Feb. 1991 -
Nov. 1994
Surinam - Nov. 1982
Ecuador (5 visits) - Feb. 1983 - Jan. 1990 -
Aug. 1993
July, 1994 - May 1996
Galapagos Islands (2 visits) - Feb. 1983
- May 1996
Peru (4 visits) - Sept. 1979 - July 1987 - May
1993 - Sept. 2000
Manu (Amazon Basin) - July 1987
Chile (3 visits) Jan. 1984 - Dec. 1988 - Feb.
1995
Cape Horn - Jan. 1984
Bolivia - Nov. 1985
Argentina (2 visits) - Nov. 1986 - Nov. 1991
Tierra del Fuego - Nov. 1986
Brazil (5 visits) - Oct. 1984 - Sept. 1991 - Nov.
1993 - Oct. 1994 Oct. 1997
Noronha Island - Nov. 1993

Africa (24 expeditions)

Tunisia - Mar. 1988
Morocco - Mar. 1988
Gabon - July 1985
Ivory Coast - (2 visits) July 1985 - Jan. 2000
Kenya (3 visits) Oct 1972 - Mar 1976-Jan
1989
Tanzania - (2 visits) - Oct. 1972 - Mar. 1998
Burundi - Oct. 1993
Namibia - Aug. 1986
South Africa (2 visits) - Aug. 1986 - Sept. 1992
Cape of Good Hope - Sept. 1992
Botswana - Aug. 1986
Zimbabwe - Aug. 1986
Rwanda (2 visits) - Jan. 1989 - Oct. 1993
The Congo (Zaire) (2 visits) - Jan. 1989 - Oct.
1993
Madagascar (3 visits) Oct. 1986 - Oct. 1992 -
Mar. 1998
Reunion - Oct. 1986
Mauritius - Oct. 1986
The Seychelles (2 visits) Oct. 1986 - Mar. 1998
Aldabra - Mar. 1998
Sao Tome, West Africa - July 1995
Principe, West Africa - July 1995
Ethiopia - Nov. 1996
Cameroons - Feb. 1997
Zanzibar - Mar. 1998
Comoro Islands - Mar. 1998
Uganda - August, 1998
Malawi - October, 2000

Mozambique - November, 2000

Zambia - November, 2000

Europe (14 expeditions)

England (3 visits) June '80-June '87-July 2000

Scotland - June 1980

Wales - June 1980

Outer Hebrides - June 1980

France - June 1993

Monaco - June 1993

Portugal - June 1993

Spain - Apr. 1986

Gibraltar (2 visits) Apr. 1986 - June 1993

Majorca (2 visits) - Apr. 1986 - June 1993

Canary Islands (2 visits) - Mar. 1975 - July 2000

Italy (2 visits) - Oct. 1972 - June 1993

Greece - Oct. 1972

Switzerland - Aug. 1982

Denmark - July 1973

Sweden (2 visits) - July 1973 - July 1986

Norway (2 visits) - July 1973 - July 1986

Finland - July 1973

Russia (USSR) - (3 visits) - June 1987 - June 1999 - Sept. 1999

Siberia - June 1987

Germany - Aug. 1996

Hungary - Aug. 1996

Slovakia - Aug. 1996

Austria - Sept. 1996

Asia (19 expeditions)

Nepal - Oct. 1977

Mongolia - June 1987

China - Apr. 1989

Tibetan Plateau - Apr. 1989

Hong Kong (2 visits) - Apr. 1987 - Apr. 1989

India (4 visits) - Oct. 1977 - Jan. 1987 - Jan. 1996 - May 1999

Andaman Island - Jan. 1996

Sri Lanka - Jan. 1993

Sikkim - Oct. 1977

Bhutan - (2 visits)- Jan. 1987 - Apr. 1999

Japan - (2 visits) - June 1985 - May 1999

Okinawa - Apr. 1987

Hokkaido Island (2 visits) - June 1985 - May 1999

Amani Island - June 1985

Malaysia (2 visits) - Feb. 1982 - Apr. 1992

Thailand (2 visits) - Feb. 1982 - Feb. 1995

Borneo (2 visits) - Feb. 1982 - Apr. 1992

Philippine Islands (2 visits) - Feb. 1986 - Mar. 1987

Palawan Island - Feb. 1986

Leyte - Mar. 1987

Cebu Island - Feb. 1986

Mindano - Feb. 1986

Luzon - Feb. 1986

Vietnam - Feb. 1995

Russian Far-East Territories - June 1999

Kuril Islands - June 1999

Kamchatka Peninsula - June 1999

Komandorskiye Islands - June 1999

Bering Island - June 1999

The Middle East (4 expeditions)

The Yemen - Oct. 1989

Crete - June 1993

Turkey - (2 visits) - June 1993 - June 1998

United Arab Emirates - Nov. 1995

Bahrain - Nov. 1995

Sultanate of Oman - Nov. 1995

Australia (4 expeditions)

Sept. 1975 - Sept. 1983 - Mar. 1987 - Aug. 1992

Tasmania (2 visits) - Sept. 1975 - Dec. 1990

Christmas Island - Sept. 1995

New Zealand (3 expeditions)

Mar. 1978 - Nov. 1990 - Dec. 1990

Papua New Guinea (3 expeditions)

Aug. 1983 - Aug. 1988 - Nov. 1990

Antarctica (1 expedition) Jan. 1984

Falkland Islands - Jan. 1984

South Georgia - Jan. 1984

South Orkneys - Jan. 1984

Sub-Antarctic Islands Dec. 1990

Chatam Island - Dec. 1990

Bounty Island - Dec. 1990

Antipodes Island - Dec. 1990

Campbell Island - Dec. 1990

Auckland Island - Dec. 1990

Macquarie Island - Dec. 1990

Oceania (12 expeditions)

Polynesia

Society Islands - Nov. 1978

Tahiti (3 visits)

Nov. 1978 - Apr. 1995 - Apr. 1997

Bora Bora (2 visits) - Nov. 1978 - Apr. 1997

Teiteroa - Nov. 1978

Tuaniotu Islands - Apr. 1995

Puka Rua - Apr. 1995

Puka Puka - Apr. 1995

Rangiroa - Apr. 1995

Marquesas Islands - Apr. 1995

Fatu Hiva - Apr. 1995

Hiva Oa - Apr. 1995

Tahuata - Apr. 1995

Ua Pu - Apr. 1995

Pitcairn Islands - Apr. 1995

Pitcairn Island - Apr. 1995

Henderson Island - Apr. 1995

Ducie Island - Apr. 1995

Easter Island - Apr. 1995

Cook Islands - May 1997

Tonga Islands - May 1997

Melanesia

- Fiji Islands (2 visits) - Oct. 1990 - May 1997
- Western Samoa - Oct. 1990
- New Caledonia - Oct. 1990
- New Hebrides Islands - Oct. 1990
 - Vanuatu - Oct. 1990
- Solomon Islands
 - Guadalcanal (2 visits) - Aug. 1988 - Nov. 1990
 - Bougainville - Aug. 1988
 - New Britain (2 visits) - Aug. 1988 - Nov. 1990

Micronesia

- Marianas Islands
 - Guam (2 visits) - Mar. 1987 - Feb. 1993
 - Rota - Feb. 1993
 - Saipan (2 visits) - Mar. 1987 - Feb. 1993
 - Tinian - Feb. 1993
- Caroline Islands
 - Truk (2 visits) Mar. 1987 - Feb. 1993
 - Pohnpei - Feb. 1993
 - Palau - Feb. 1993
 - Yap - Feb. 1993

Indonesia

- Sulawesi (The Celebes) (2 visits) - Oct. 1987 - July 1989
- Halmahera (2 visits) - Oct. 1987 - July 1989
- Ternate (2 visits) - Oct. 1987 - July 1989
- Greater Sundas (2 visits) Oct. 1987 - July 1989
 - Bali (3 visits) - Oct. 1987 - July 1989 - Oct. 1995
 - Java (2 visits) - Oct. 1987 - July 1989
 - Sumatra - Oct. 1987
- Lesser Sundas - July 1989
 - Timor - July 1989
 - Sumba - July 1989
 - Flores - July 1989
- Irian Jaya - Oct. 1995
 - Biak Island - Oct. 1995
- Ambon - Oct. 1995

Oceans and Seas (16 expeditions)

- Atlantic Ocean - 5 cruises - Jan. 1984 - July 1986 - Sept. 1988 Dec. 1991 - June 1993
- Drake Passage - Jan. 1984
- Strait of Magellan - Jan 1984
- Weddell Sea - Jan. 1984
- Norwegian Sea - July 1986
- North Sea - July 1986
- Gulf of St. Lawrence - Sept. 1988
- Caribbean Sea - Dec. 1991
- Gulf of Guinea, West Africa - July 1995

Pacific Ocean -

- 9 cruises - Feb. 1983 - Mar. 1987 - July 1990 Dec. 1990 - Dec. 1991 - April 1995
- May 1996 - May 1997 - June 1999
 - Bering Sea - June 1978
 - Sulu Sea - Feb. 1986
 - Coral Sea - Mar. 1987
 - East China Sea - Mar. 1987
 - Philippine Sea - Mar. 1987
 - South China Sea - Mar. 1987
 - Gulf of Alaska - July 1990
 - Tasman Sea - Dec. 1990
 - Panama Canal - Dec. 1991
 - Bay of Bengal - Jan. 1996
 - Sea of Okhotsk - June 1999

Indian Ocean one cruise Mar. 1998

- Red Sea - Nov. 1989
- Persian Gulf - Nov. 1995
- Mediterranean Sea - one cruise - June 1993
 - Tyrrhenian Sea - June 1993
 - Straight of Gibraltar - June 1993
 - Ionian Sea - June 1993
 - Aegean Sea - June 1993

Rivers

- Amazon cruise - May 1993 - Oct. 1994
- Yangtze cruise - Apr. 1989
- Danube cruise - Aug. 1996
- Nile cruise - Aug. 1998
- Volga cruise - Sept. 1999

"O World, I cannot hold thee close enough!" Edna St. Vincent Millay

From the poem "God's World," by the American poet, Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Record for each 1000 species

- My 2000th species was seen in Guatemala, Mar. 1978; 11 expeditions were necessary, requiring 5 years, 5 months to accomplish. (species: Turquoise-browed Motmot.) Average species per expedition: 182.
- My 3000th species was seen in Borneo, Mar. 1982; 8 expeditions were necessary, requiring 4 years, 0 months to accomplish. (species: Crested Jay). Average species per expedition: 125.
- My 4000th species was seen in Jamaica, Mar. 1985; 9 expeditions were necessary, requiring 3 years, 0 months to accomplish. (species: White-eyed Thrush). Average species per expedition: 111.
- My 5000th species was seen in Mongolia, June 1987; 12 expeditions were necessary, requiring 2 years, 3 months to accomplish. (species: Chukar). Average species per expedition: 83.

My 6000th species was seen in Ecuador, Jan. 1990; 17 expeditions were necessary, requiring 2 years, 7 months to accomplish. (species: Club-winged Manakin). Average species per expedition: 59.

My 7000th species was seen in Venezuela, Dec. 1994; 27 expeditions were necessary, requiring 3 years, 11 months to accomplish. (species: Bare-eyed Pigeon). Average species per expedition: 37.

Since I saw my 7000th species in December, 1994. I have seen 636 species in 26 expeditions; averaging 24 new species per expedition.

Prospects for seeing 8000 species in the wild?

Considering my experience in reaching my goal of 7000 Species, I would presume that few will ever reach 8000 Species. It is necessary to understand that in excess of 1000 species, regardless of effort, one could not reasonably expect to see.

1. There are hundreds of species that have not been seen or reported for decades and their continued survival is doubtful.
2. Hundreds of species are scattered throughout the inaccessible mountain ranges, inaccessible swamps, and inaccessible deserts of the world.
3. Many are scattered about the vast Seas of the World and isolated on remote Islands, each of which would be an extensive expedition to search.
4. Hundreds are endemic to countries or areas of the world wherein travel is off-limits because of the threat of terrorism or for political reasons; ex., Iran, Iraq, Libya, Angola, Lebanon, Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Chad, Mozambique, North Korea, Laos, Cambodia, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Eastern Turkey, Yugoslavia, part of Caucasus of Russia, Columbia, parts of Peru. Recently added because of violence: Rwanda, the Congo, Uganda, Indonesia and Burundi. Recent terrorist uprisings in the stable countries of the Philippines, Ethiopia, and Fiji Islands, has made travel in these countries unsafe.

One can easily understand the difficulties that remain.

Birds of the world are sub-divided into:
2 Classes - (Passerine and Non-Passerine)
27 Orders
204 Families (Clement)
2022 Genera (Clement)
9800 species (Clement)

Current Count

Families seen: 204 (World Total: 204)
Genera seen: 1848 (World Total: 2022)
Species seen: 7636 (World Total: 9800)

World rank: 2nd Place

Data compiled and published by American Birding Association

179 countries, islands and territories visited

29 oceans and seas

168 expeditions completed

During September, 2000, I enjoyed an expedition to the Andean wilderness of northeastern Peru. The remoteness of this primitive area required that we camp for ten days. I was able to see 52 species of rare hummingbirds feeding at the Andean flowers. Eight of these hummingbirds were life species for me. I added a total of 51 new species to my life list on this expedition.

“Look at the birds of the air” (words of Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:26). ∞

WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

meetings

Wednesday April 4

7:00 PM Board meeting at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., 961-4588. All members are welcome.

Friday April 20

8 PM in the auditorium of St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh in Frontenac. Please note the date is the **third Friday of April**. Walter Liddell will present slides: "Birds of the Americas."

Thursday May 3

WGNSS Spring Banquet at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster.

botany

Thursdays March-April

Beginners welcome. Bring lunch, weather gear. Field trips usually meet 9:30 AM. Trip is usually 3-5 hr. plus travel time. Call Fr. Sullivan: 291-7885 after 1 PM Wed for location. An e-mail message is sent every Wed. advising when and where the field trip is scheduled. If you would like to receive it, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris at jahar@mac.com

entomology

Sunday March 25

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., 961-4588. Ted Macrae will present "Discovering New Insects: A Detective Story."

Sunday April 29

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., 961-4588. Mike Arduser will present the program: "Using Missouri Heritage Data Base to trace Species of concern."

birding

Thursdays March-April

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block north of Manchester. In May, switch to 8 AM. Questions: call Dottie Herweg: 314-966-2274.

Sat. March 24, 31, April 7

8 AM "Where the Birds Are." Meet at SE corner of Kohl's parking lot, Olive & 270. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Sunday, March 25

8:00 AM St. L. Audubon/WGNSS Busch CA. Meet at Hampton Lk. More info, call Jim Malone at 1-636-536-1119.

Saturday, April 7

6:00 PM Busch St. L. Audubon/WGNSS Woodcock/Owl Prowl. Meet at Hampton Lk. Bring a flashlight. Call Jim Malone above.

Saturday April 21

7:30 AM Castlewood State Pk. Call Jim Malone.

Saturday April 14 & 28

8 AM Tower Grove Park, west of stables. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Saturday April 21

8 AM Busch, meet by Hampton Lk. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Friday April 27-29

St. Louis Audubon: Spring birding trip to southern Illinois. \$40 For reservations, call Jim Malone: (636) 536-1119 or stlaud@inlink.com

Saturday May 5

8 AM Castlewood State Park. Meet near boat launch. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Sunday May 6

8 AM Tower Grove Pk. Call Jim Malone above.

Saturday May 12

Big Day!

Sunday May 13

8 AM Forest Park's Kennedy Forest. Call Jim Malone above.

Saturday May 19

8 AM Gray Summit Arboretum. Meet at entrance to Brush Creek Trail. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Saturday May 26

8 AM "Where the Birds Are." Meet at SE corner of Kohl's parking lot, Olive & 270. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Nature Notes deadline April 13

join wgnss Send \$15 to Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132



Webster Groves
 Nature Study Society
 PO Box 190065
 St. Louis MO 63119

Non-profit Org.

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~~address correction requested~~

Address Service Requested

~~Membership Application~~ exp: 31-08-2001 (O/R)
~~4004 Member Ln.~~
~~St. Louis MO 63132~~

W e b s t e r G r o v e s N a t u r e S t u d y S o c i e t y

Membership Application

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____ e-mail _____ fax (____) _____

Membership categories (circle one):
 Individual or Family:\$15
for 1st class mail add \$5
 Student\$5
 Life\$300
(lump sum or equal payments over 5 yrs.)

Please make check payable to: Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Please mail this form with check to:
 Treasurer: Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132