



nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

December 2001 Vol. 73, No. 10

Holiday Open House Dec. 2

Pat McCormick

Let's start holiday festivities early this year. Join your St. Louis Audubon Society and Webster Groves Nature Study Society friends at Washington University's Tyson Research Center on December 2, from 1-4 PM at the Administration Building. Bring an hors d'oeuvre or a dessert to share. Measured by last year's offerings, the table should be plentiful and the company filled with holiday spirit.

Take I-44 west to Antire Rd., between Valley Park and Eureka. Turn right from the exit road to the Research Center gate. Sin in with the gatekeeper and continue on the main road to the Administration Building. See you on December 2! ~

'Tis the season for Christmas Counts!

Since 1900, bird watchers have been collecting data during the holiday season. You don't have to be an expert to participate—everyone's help is welcome. The National Audubon Society maintains the records and asks for \$5 from each participant to help cover the cost of printing the results.

Busch Wildlife Count 12/29

Busch Wildlife Area Christmas Count will be held on Sat., Dec. 29 at 8 AM. Meet in the parking lot at headquarters. Bring a lunch. For more information, contact Tom Parmeter 314-921-6017.

Pere Marquette 12/15

The Pere Marquette Park Xmas census will be held on Sat., Dec. 15. Some areas are pre-assigned, others meet at the Lodge by 7:45 AM. If the ferry is running, arrangements have been made for dinner at 4:30 with tabulation to follow. Reservations appreciated. More info, call Irene Mondhink, 618-885-5233 or 618-498-5335.

Orchard Farm Count 1/1/02

Orchard Farm Christmas Count will be held on Tuesday, January 1. Bring a lunch. For more info, call Randy Korotev 314-993-0055 or rlk@levee.wustl.edu

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Year List

If you wish to be included in the list of birders who saw 200 species in the St. Louis area in 1997, please send your totals to Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122, or mccormack@earthlink.net Please, no phone messages. ∞

Bird of the Year

What bird made the biggest impression on your year? Send your nomination or perhaps even an article to: Anne McCormack, above. ∞

Local Dragonflies

Friday, January 11, 7:30 PM, we are delighted to co-sponsor an informative program with the North American Butterfly Association's St. Louis Chapter (NABA). "Identifying Local Dragonflies," will be presented by Jane Walker and Joe Smentowski at St. Louis County Library Headquarters, East Room, 1640 South Lindbergh across from Plaza Frontenac, 314-994-3300. Jane is an instructor at Tyson Research Center's Field Science Program. Joe is a retired science teacher from Mary Institute/Country Day School, Washington University, and Webster University. You will not want to miss this! ∞

MO Bird Conservation Initiative

Dianne Benjamin

On October 6, I represented WGNSS in Jefferson City at a planning meeting for the newly forming Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI). I am part of a small group that is designing a summit. The purpose of the summit is to develop a clear statement of purpose, vision, and corresponding action plan, and to lay the foundation for an appropriate organization so that Missouri has a strong bird conservation initiative. The initial meeting April 2001 exceeded expectations for number of par-

ticipating groups and commitment to coalition building. The summit meeting January 12, 2002 could yield the first genuine statewide bird conservation coalition in the nation. This would put Missouri in the forefront qualifying for federal grant funding for bird conservation projects.

On October 11, I represented WGNSS in a talk to 45 fourth grade students at New City School about MoBCI. The students embarked the next week on their annual field trip to Jefferson City meeting in the Governor's Office, etc. They interviewed me about how government and community groups can work together for a common purpose like statewide bird conservation. I gave them each a WGNSS bookmark. They gave me dozens of colorfully illustrated thank-you notes. Here are some of their comments: "I learned about birds being destroyed and more about the rock quarry. I did not like learning about endangered species and bad things happening in nature. I liked hearing about community groups." "I learned some new stuff...like there is only one lake left in the county...and that a lot of people want to tear down a 5,000 acre land." "I learned that Missouri is doing great with animals." "I learned that things like highways can disturb the environment." "I thought it was so cool that one of your favorite animals is the dragonfly because I have a necklace with a dragonfly on it." "Thank you for the bookmark. It's great. I use it in my book." "P.S. Try to bring a picture of a falcon." ∞

Yvonne Homeyer Elected to Parks Board

WGNSS Conservation Chairperson, Yvonne Homeyer, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Missouri Parks Association for a 3-year term. The Missouri Parks Association is a nonprofit, statewide organization dedicated to the protection, enhance-

ment and interpretation of Missouri state parks and historical sites. MPA recently led the successful fight to stop Ameren UE's proposed power plant on top of Church Mountain. Other WGNSS members currently on the MPA Board are John Karel, Karen Haller, and Dorothy Heinze. Many thanks, Sue. ~

FRS Preference

Following ABA's lead for establishing a nation-wide FRS standard for birders, the WGNSS Board passed a policy that we, too, would establish 11-22 as WGNSS' preferred FRS channel for birding events. The purpose of such a standard, as you can well imagine, is to have one channel all across the nation to which birders can tune their personal radios and communicate with other birders. Of course, this policy is only suggested—not mandatory. It is a standard, though, the WGNSS board feels is worthwhile. ~

Birding the Outer Banks

Jim Jackson

Ken Niewoehner called from his home in Pennsylvania and asked if Charlene and I would join him and his wife Phyllis for a weekend of birding sponsored by The Nature Conservancy on North Carolina's outer Banks. Since he and I had begun birding with WGNSS while in high school during the 1940's, Ken's proposal caught my fancy. Charlene and I agreed; sure, we'd like to do that.

It was the last weekend in October, the skies were clear and we weathered what in the local lingo is called a northeaster: strong winds and enough chill for bundling up in winter clothing. Yet never mind the weather, so we were told by our savvy Outer Banks guides, John and Paula Wright; it should bring in plenty of migrating birds. So how many? Well, by the time our visiting group of four added an extra birding day,

on Monday, we compiled a list of 106 species. We observed among our 15 species of waterfowl, a long Brant and a Eurasian Widgeon. We observed 9 species of sparrows, including the rather uncommon Clay-colored species. And late as the season was, we tallied five warblers including the Orange-crowned—which is actually a western species.

But from the outset, according to locally experienced John Wright, western birds would probably be our best finds. As John informed us, a storm out of the Northwest the previous week had probably sent western birds to the east coast, thereby stopping their eastern progress. And now, the last weekend in October, we were experiencing the back side of that storm that amounted to a cold, windy northeaster, stopping all birds migration up and down the Outer Banks. So what western birds did we see? Not just that Orange-crowned Warblers on Saturday, but on Sunday, 150 Avocets, 60 Marbled Godwits, a Western Kingbird, and best of all—only a second record for North Carolina—a Sprague's Pipit; there was even a Water Pipit nearby for comparisons. Within hours, of course, our find attracted dozens of regional birders for supportive confirmation.

On to Monday, as the cold wind eased, while the Niewoehners and Jacksons continued birding, we found an Eared Grebe and met a local birder who said, "Say, did you hear about the Sprague's Pipit?" "Yes," we answered, then modestly told the fellow our group had discovered it. Next morning, we were about to leave the Outer Banks, when we treated ourselves to one last scanning of the mighty Atlantic. And out here, flying due south in scattered groups, were stings of Black Scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, and even a few gannets. It was now time to go home. ~

October 2001 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Abbreviations:

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

2 Rivers = Two Rivers; formerly Mark Twain Nat. Wildlife Refuge

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

TGP = Tower Grove Park

Sightings: Ten Horned Grebes were seen at REDA on 10/28 (CM, CA). Common Loon sightings included one at HL on 10/21 (JM), one at HL on 10/25 (Thursday Group), and 30 at CL on 10/27 (DK). Two thousand White Pelicans were estimated at 2 Rivers on 10/7 (JM) and Bill Rowe estimated as many as 3,000 there on 10/14. Jeannie Moe observed 200+ White Pelicans soaring over Hwy. 94 and I-70 early in the month. On 10/14, 500 Double-crested Cormorants, 2 Black-crowned Night Herons, and 75 Great Egrets were found at HL (FH, YH). Torrey Berger found 50 White-fronted Geese at HL on 10/24. A Brant was observed at CL, Parking Lot #3, on 10/19 (K Mc, photo Al Seppi). An Avocet was a good find at REDA on 10/24 (Claudia Spener). Shorebird sightings included 30 Least, 15 Long-billed Dowitchers and 61 Stilt Sandpipers at 2 Rivers on 10/14 (BR & class). Tom Bormann reported 24 Franklin's Gulls at CL on 10/20. Several Bonaparte's were seen with 2 Dunlin at REDA on 10/27 (DB). Twelve Herring Gulls were reported at REDA on 10/14 (BR). Mary Ann Auer found the first Lesser Black-backed Gull of the fall on 10/21 at CL. Tern sightings included 2 Forster's at HL on 10/14 (FH), a Forster's at HL on 10/25 (Thursday Group), and 2 Caspian Terns on 10/27 at CL (DK).

On 10/14, Bill Rowe reported 6 Sharpshinned and 3 Cooper's Hawks at Pere

Marquette, while several Bald Eagles were sighted in the area. Frank Holmes and Yvonne Homeyer had a close encounter with a Cooper's Hawk near HL on 10/14 and on 10/30, Rose Ann Bodman found one in TGP. The Thursday Group reported 2 Broad-winged Hawks at BCA on 10/4. Ospreys were sighted at Little Creve Coeur Marsh on 10/18 (Dottie Herwig) and one was seen at Winfield Dam on 10/20 (MT). A perched *tundrius* Peregrine Falcon was being harassed by a Kestrel on 10/4 along the Levee Road (JZ). A Peregrine was sighted, perched and in flight, at the Univ. Club Tower on 10/23 (RK). Merlins were seen on the Levee Road on 10/4 (JZ), at CL on 10/6 (T Bo) and at Little Creve Coeur Marsh on 10/27 (T Be). Twelve N. Bobwhite were seen in TGP on 10/30 (RAB) and 24 were found, along with a Cooper's Hawk, on 10/28 at Little Creve Coeur Marsh (MT). A flock of over 2,000 Chimney Swifts were soaring in the City on 10/5 (Jim Mohrmann). On 10/7 Anne McCormack found a good hummingbird at her Kirkwood home—an apparent adult female Rufous (G&TB). It was still making daily appearances at the end of the month. A Red-shafted Flicker was a very good find near Winfield Dam on 10/20 (DC, MT). A singing Blue-headed Vireo was seen along with 6 woodpecker species at Lone Elk Park on 10/6 (DB) and Bill Rowe reported 3 Blue-headed Vireos near REDA on 10/7. Approximately 500 Rough-winged and Barn Swallows were seen at HL on 10/14 (FH, YH). Bill Rowe estimated as many as 10,000 Tree Swallows at REDA on 10/7. Doug Willis reported 3 House, a Sedge and a Marsh Wren from Little Creve Coeur Marsh on 10/15 and Jim Mohrmann found a Marsh Wren at TGP on 10/5.

Anne McCormack reported a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Meramec Comm. College on 10/28. A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen at CL on 10/7 (DK). A

Connecticut Warbler was found at FP on 10/6 (Jerry Farmer). A fall sighting is rare in St. Louis. David Kennell saw a Louisiana Waterthrush at his home in University City on the late date of 10/6. Numbers of Orange-crowned, Tennessee, Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers were seen in the latter half of the month by many observers. The Thursday Group found American Tree and Swamp Sparrows at BCA on 10/4. The fall's first report of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was from Hazlet State Park on 10/6 (KL). For the second year in a row, a Harris's Sparrow has made an appearance along Bend Road at HL on 10/21 (JM). Last winter, one stayed for several months. Torrey Berger found 9 species of sparrows, including LeConte's, at Little Creve Coeur Marsh on 10/27. On 10/20 & 21, Dan Kassebaum found Pipits, Siskins and a few Brewer's Blackbirds at CL. Derek Dreimeyer reported Summer Tanager and Golden-crowned Kinglet at TGP on 10/2. A good day at TGP occurred on 10/6, with sightings of 12 warbler species including Cape May, Bay-breasted, Redstart, plus Least Flycatcher, 20 Golden-crowned Kinglets, and both tanagers (BR).

Comments: Good backyard birds at Wilma Kennell's home in University City included Chestnut-sided Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, and Winter Wren on 10/1 and two Red-breasted Nuthatches on 10/29. Dianne Cunningham also had a Red-breasted Nuthatch at a peanut feeder on 10/31. Phil Ziebol watched a Cooper's Hawk canopy-feeding while being harassed by crows on a Blockbuster parking lot in south St. Louis on 10/28. Dennis Bozzay found a southern Flying Squirrel in his Crestwood yard on 10/27.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Mary Ann Auer, George & Terry Barker, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Dick Coles, Jean Cook, Dottie Herwig,

Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Ian Hunt, Dan Kassebaum, Wilma Kennell, Randy Korotev, Kent Lannert, Jim & Charlene Malone, Anne McCormack, Keith McMullen, Jeannie Moe, Jim Mohrmann, Bill Rowe, Claudia Spener, Mike Thelen, Jim Ziebol, many observers. An asterisk means "documented". To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or email Yvonne at homeyer@earthlink.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 Dec. 2001

Yvonne Homeyer

Holnam Update: By the time this newsletter is in your hands, the hearing in Jefferson City on our appeal to the Clean Water Commission will have taken place. The Environmental Law Clinic (Maxine Lipeles and students) are our attorneys. Co-clients on this appeal are the Coalition for the Environment, American Bottom Conservancy, and Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club. Four expert witnesses have agreed to testify on our behalf on a range of issues including wetlands ecology, mercury, and the endangered Pallid Sturgeon (see below). We are challenging DNR's issuance of a 401 certification to Holnam related to the construction of the harbor in the floodplain. As yet, the Corps of Engineers has not issued its decision on whether to grant the 404 permit, deny the permit, or require an Environmental Impact Statement.

Three federally endangered species are known to be on or near the property. Indiana Bat and Gray Bat have been located on the Holnam property during a bat survey this summer and Pallid Sturgeon have been found in the Mississippi River at the Holnam site. These findings reinforce our position that these 4,000 acres of pristine habitat

are critical to wildlife, not only for breeding but also for migration. The property deserves to be set aside as a wilderness area rather than be converted into a cement plant and quarry.

The Coalition for the Environment has spearheaded a powerful media campaign designed to draw attention to its web site, www.stopholnam.com. Using a \$50,000 grant from the Florence Foundation, the Coalition created the web site and paid for radio ads, a billboard at I-270 & 55, and signs on the sides of Bi-State buses.

Equilon Pipeline/Carlisle Lake:

Equilon Co., based in Houston, has responded to the concerns raised by WGNSS and other groups after our meeting in September. We are continuing our dialogue with the company. Mitigation efforts are under discussion, as well as the timing of the pipeline construction. ~

Nature Nut: Albert Heinze

This is the next in a series of articles profiling our members. The questions were devised by Linda Virga, the answers are written by this month's Nature Nut. Albert Heinze and his wife Dorothy are Life Members of WGNSS.

Thank you for the privilege of looking back over 90 years! It's quite a melange of memories to present a few of my recollections connected with the kind of nature study the Webster Grove members have practiced and enjoyed over the years. I don't recall any one incident that prompted my interest in nature. I had a kid's natural curiosity and we live near field in St. Louis County, close to a stream that was headwaters for the River Des Peres, at that time a clean, flowing watercourse, where I found crayfish and water striders and all the marvels to interest children in the outdoor. I like to catch butterflies and examine them, to pick wildflowers and that them home to my family. When I was enrolled in Lincoln

School in the Normandy District when I was six year old, I had begun to draw pictures of the things I like in the wild, including the birds.

I think the person who influenced me most during my school days was Wendell F. Shay, a biology teacher whose own hobby was collecting snails, for which he spent most of his vacations in Florida. Perhaps it was his manner of describing and explaining his hobby that caught my attention but whatever it was, it worked. Some years later, I met another snail enthusiast who took his hobby seriously enough to become professional in it: a tall, lanky kid named Les Hubriect. I spent many hours with Les exploring water courses of all kinds within our weekend reach.

It was in my teen years that I met Oscar Petersen, an artist-botanist from Denmark. Dubbed "Uncle Oscar" by my future in-laws and "Vagabond Dreamer: by my future mother-in-law, I was about 17 or 18 when I met him—a slight-of-build gentleman with whom I roamed many, many miles of field and forest and from who I leaned the rudiments of botany. We carried our Gray's *Manual* with us and he inspired my use of water colors to paint wild flowers. Our wanderings took us along railroad tracks, which provided a number of uncommon species to our lists, from St. Louis County to Royal Gorge, Colorado—quite a trip in those days. It was about my 17th summer, when I attended an evening meeting of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. The topic was astronomy with Stuart O'Bryne that time. It was kind of prophetic for me to think of stars for that was where I met my future wife and her folks for the first time. She was accompanied by her parents and I don't think she was overly impressed by me.

As I grew older, the desire became ever stronger to record on paper what I had witnessed afield, until in 1931, when I was 19,

I showed the owners of the Beldt's Aquarium come color painting I had done of tropical fish. They asked me to do a color picture for the cover of their 1932 catalog depicting eight of their tropical fish in full color. That piscatorial venture encouraged me greatly and I expanded to wild flowers. When some of my friends saw them I was asked to do some highly technical work for some botanists at the Missouri Botanical Garden. One of these botanists was Superintendent George Pring who in Feb. 1934 used 19 full pages in color of my paintings to illustrate his work on "Hybrid *Nymphaeas*," published in Vol. XXII, No. 3, of the *Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin*.

Prior to that work I had done many plates for Dr. Robert E. Woodson and continued to do so for some time as he did extensive work on several different subjects, including *Studies in the Apocynaceae IV*, *The American Genera of Echioideae*, *The North American Species of Asclepias*, as well as co-author with George H. Pring, of *A New Yellow Nymphaea from Tropical Africa*, and with Dr. Edgar Anderson on "The Species of *Tradescantia* Indigenous to the United States," contributions from the *Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University IX*, 1935, and a number of other scientific writings. My work was published in *the Rattlesnakes, Genera Sistrurus and Crotalus, a Study in Zoogeography and Evolution*, by Howard G. Gloyd, Director of the Museum, Chicago Academy of Sciences, 1940. Howard Gloyd and another herpetologist friends, Frank N. Blanchard, both were hour house guest a couple of years before I did the plates for this book, pages 11 and 12.

All those tedious rendered plates, both botanical and herpetological, can be swiftly available with photography today, but they were an important part of my life and provided lifelong ties and friendships I might never have enjoyed otherwise.

During World War II, I enlisted as a Navy Seabee because of my experience as a construction superintendent and saw service from Newfoundland to England, France, Holland, Belgium, and Germany. While in boot camp in Virginia and Rhode Island, I did a number of paintings of wildflowers and when we were in England, I began a series of paintings of our surroundings till the war ended. Fifteen pages of my depictions from our tour of duty were published in the official *Cruise Log, 69th US Naval Construction Battalion, European Theater of Operations*.

To get back to my earlier botanizing experiences, I'm not really sure when or where I first met Julian Steyermark, who was an important part of our first forays into the world of collecting. Eventually our age group on weekend treks could be composed of any combination including Harold and Stuart O'Bryne, Walter Palmer, Julian Steyermark—very occasionally—Daisy and/or Dorothy Boyer, Arthur Christ, Maude Lodewycks, and others. Each could be depended upon to be in a woodland or a field somewhere on weekends, alone or with friends, sometimes joined by Oscar Petersen. Julian was obviously the most serious-minded of the group, and eventually faded from the routine adventures to seek discoveries on his own.

Gradually I became accustomed to botanizing with men much older than I, such a George Pring, Dr. Anton Hogstadt, Hermann Schwartz, and the most fascinating of all, John Kellogg. One of the greatest experiences of that day was a field trip with John Kellogg, off in some remote place. No matter what you were searching for, he could yell you precisely where to find it, how many existed in that colony, and when it bloomed. He knew everything I wanted or needed to know, and his word was final truth. I never knew him to be wrong about a wild flower and still marvel that he learned

what he knew from his first field trips as a lad. Kellogg's "office" consisted of a chair and desk in a heating pipe tunnel at the Missouri Botanical Garden. He was a member of the staff, who primarily roamed the state collecting and drying specimens for the herbarium and spoke intimately of the early botanists of Missouri: Busch and Engelman. He and his wife ventured forth on weekends and I don't recall every seeing John Kellogg in anything but old rousers and shirt, with sleeves rolled up, an old black hat, and a pipe in his mouth. Even when I was on field trips as far way as Royal Gorge, I would run into him unexpectedly.

Sometimes a trip could cause a bit of unhappiness, as happened one Sunday when there occurred an incident—funny to some, but which caused indignation as well. My future father-in-law had invited a group of us to accompany him on a field trip to a "new" area for us: Washington County. Autos were not like those of today and few owned one, but Mr. B. had the privilege of taking a group in a large-bodied stake truck. We sometimes stood as we rode and searched the roadside for new plants in bloom. Our food was packed in one forward corner of the truck bed and when Dorothy suddenly called out when view a blossoming plant she didn't recognize, Julian Steyermark was the first to race to that side and in so doing, planted a boot in the center of a beautiful lemon pie which Dorothy's grandmother had baked especially for her. Needless to say, Grandma never quite got over her disdain for Julian and his boots.

I don't recall how or when or who organized the St. Louis Wild Flower Club. I guess it was by mutual consent, but it was for men only. I suppose it might have been because what woman would go on strenuous hikes or could know what and where to look for any kind of wild flower? However, since the membership was limited to the number

of men who could be accommodated around the normal dining room table, they were not averse to accepting refreshments from those ladies during their meetings. Life has change a wee bit, hasn't it? Our meetings were held in the home of members on Monday evenings, because the specimens collected the previous weekend would be fresh. John Kellogg passed on everything. I, a member through Oscar Petersen, was flattered as the only teenager present. I am now, at 90, the only living member of that original memberships, composed of middle-aged men, including Kellogg, Petersen, Henry C. Irish—superintendent of city school landscaping, Dr. Hogstad—professor of colloidal chemistry, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, Hermann Schwartz, businessman, Lars Peter Jensen, first Superintendent of Missouri Botanical Garden, Gray's Summit Extension, and myself. It was my task to create a herbarium, for which Hermann, a printer, provided the paper and from whom I purchased a three-volume set of Britton and Brown, a counterpart to Gray's *Manual*, our bible of that day. Hermann also provided a butterfly net and cyanide bottle for my collecting. One of my greatest and most cherished opportunities to learn was in private meetings at the home of John Kellogg as we leafed through Britton and Brown and he was say, "Got that one!" and it was so marked at that meeting between the white-haired man and the kid.

At Normandy High School my primary interest was in woodworking and biology. In the woodworking area, John Krabin was a very exacting and demanding teacher and I still have some of the tables I made under his directions. Wendell F. Shay was my biology instructor. In general science, I had Bertha Hirschstein, known in later years as a well-traveled bird enthusiast and a long-time friend.

In the late '20's, during the Great Depression, I had an opportunity to follow my

family tradition and became a carpentry apprentice with a major construction company of that day when jogs were all but non-existent. As the Depression held the population captive, my apprenticeship became a part of my life as well as family tradition and I became a superintendent, doing very little residential work, but—especially following WW2—building churches, warehouses, post offices, college campus buildings, and so on. After my war service, I superintended one church dubbed by the press as “a poem in stone.” Among the churches, my list includes Webster Groves Christian Church, Webster Groves Presbyterian, Webster Groves Congregational, Kirkwood Presbyterian, Clayton Evangelical and Reformed Church, and others.

After the war, I did very little sketching or painting. I wanted to “get on with life” so did only a couple of pictures, including the old stone house on the St. Louis waterfront that was demolished for “progress” and lost to history. I diverted my full attention to building a new home for my family on land contiguous to that which had been in my wife’s family for five generations, employing handmade bricks from the St. Louis waterfront—bricks of history, many with the handprints of those who made them. People in other states know their historic value and purchased them for a song by the freight carload. These old bricks and some fine old limestone building stones salvaged from a building dated 1870 that was torn down in Kimmswick, furnished a major portion of our home. We also managed to finish with it much additional material from other old, wrecked buildings. I did all the construction after an eight-hour day in St. Louis construction work, sometimes laboring until the wee hours by use of floodlights, then rising at 5:00 for the drive to work. All hail to Youth!

At that time, our home was in a deserted, wooded area. Today our 30 acres of woods

is surrounded by people who came here to “escape” city living and bring their city with them, including night flood light to profane the darkness. The covey of quail we cherished was “thinned” by a man who had to shoot them to “keep the flock healthy.” Our Wood Thrushes are gone from the valley and we no longer hear the Chats or cuckoos. We have not seen a Rose-breasted Grosbeak or a Bewick’s Wren for several years. It is the same with Purple Finches and Screech Owl. We once had keeled greensnakes, copperheads, fence lizards, collared lizards, garter snakes, and others in our woods, but these have all disappeared as we accumulate more and more people. The couple dozen doves that roosted in our open garage for years have been replaced by numerous slinking cats, which leave telltale footprints on our windshield. But flocks of blackbirds find our sunflower seed rollicking good. All these creatures were safe through five generations of Dorothy’s family here. In the last 20 years, great changes have occurred. I wonder just what will happen to what is left of what once was if that casino—which Dorothy has been actively fighting for the past year—is allowed to come into Kimmswick and they build their access road—permission granted by eminent domain by our County Commissioners!—over those famous old 15 springs of Medicine Waters used by thousands of Amerindians for thousands of years to make salt, till 1896. These springs are an extension of two salt springs in Mastodon State Historic Site, where the famed Clovis point was found in 1979.

We have accomplished the raising of two daughters, whose accomplishments in other fields have been a source of pride to us. Our two grandsons have also accomplished outstanding records in their field, including music, and the great-grandkids are beginning to show promise as well. ☺

Smew Reunion & Gull Workshop, Saturday January 19, 2002

hosted by ASM, MBRC, & St. L. Audubon The Audubon Society of Missouri, the Missouri Bird Record Committee, and the St. Louis Audubon Society are co-sponsoring a Smew Reunion to be held at the Day's Inn in Alton, Ill., January 19, 2002.

We will begin the day with a breakfast buffet, with serving starting at 6:30 AM. A gull workshop, lead by Bill Rowe, Secretary of the Missouri Bird Records Committee, will start at 7:00 AM. Field trips will depart from the Days Inn at 9:30 AM to seek gulls, waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, and a returning Smew. Depending on location of the gulls, field trips will either be all day, or consist of two half-day outings with a break for lunch. Likely locations will include Riverlands, Horseshoe Lake, Lake Carlyle, Ill., and other hot spots along the Mississippi River. Field trip leaders, who will be knowledgeable about gulls, will be members of ASM, MBRC, WGNSS, and St. Louis Audubon.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved for the night of Friday, January 18. The special rates will be held until January 2, 2002 under the name of the Audubon Society of Missouri. Call the Days Inn, at 618-463-0800, to reserve a room at \$55.05 (tax not included) for a single with queen or king-sized bed or \$59.63 for a double that can sleep up to four.

Please register by January 4, 2002 by sending your name, address, phone to Jean Graebner, 1800 S Roby Farm Rd, Rocheport, MO 65279, 573-698-2855. Registration is \$10/person—includes breakfast buffet, beverages, and attendance at the gull workshop. Make checks payable to the Audubon Society of Missouri. For more information, visit www.mobirds.org/audubon/asmhtmls/SmewReu.htm

Master Naturalist Certificate

Vicki Flier

Join the growing number of St. Louisans interested in our natural world this spring by starting course work or workshops for the Master Naturalist Certificate. In cooperation with the St. Louis Audubon Society, the St. Louis Community College at Meramec through the Biology Department and the Continuing Education division proposes to offer a Master Naturalist Certificate Program. The program would consist of three main components:

1. Three core academic courses: Conservation and Ecology (BIO:117), Field Botany (BIO:119), Field Zoology (BIO:120)
2. Three elective academic courses to be chosen from: Marine Biology (BIO:144) Field Experience in Marine Biology (BIO:145) Desert Ecology (BIO:146) Field Experience in Desert Ecology (BIO:147) Ozark Ecology Field Experience in Ozark Ecology Introduction to Geology (GEO:102) Introduction to Astronomy (PSI:111) Meteorology (PSI:123)
3. Six elective workshops offered through Continuing Education.

Spring Schedule 2002

How To Lead An Effective Field Trip

Tuesday, January 29 from 7:30–9:30 PM, sponsored by St. Louis Audubon Society Paul Bauer has been leading field trips both nationally and internationally for over 25 years. Learn some tricks of the trade to be more effective: extent of promotion efforts needed, desired preparation and pre-planning, and coaching or “people problems” during the trip. You will learn other useful ideas and receive many handouts to inspire others to learn your passion.

Beyond Backyard Birding Tuesdays April 16 and 23 6:30–8:30 PM. Field trip Sunday April 28 7:00 AM, sponsored by WGNSS, taught by Anne McCormack. Study the birds of your backyard and plan

to improve your habitat for wildlife. We will cover bird identification, bird feeding, bird gardens, and strategies to increase the attractiveness to wildlife in your corner of the world. On our field trip we will visit great examples of wildlife gardens.

Introduction To Astronomy With Your Eyes And Binoculars Wednesday April 3 and Thursday April 4, from 7:00–10:00 PM Field trip Saturday, April 6th meet at 6:00 PM weather dependant, sponsored by St. Louis Astronomical Society Learn how to use your eyes and binoculars for astronomical observations. An introduction to what you can see, how to see it and how to make the best use of the equipment you own. A night field trip to a dark site. Required Text: *Philip's Planisphere* (or equivalent Planisphere), *Exploring the Night Sky with Binoculars* by David Chandler Wednesdays, **Spring Birds: Beyond Warblers** April 24 and May 1 from 7:00–9:00 PM field trip 7:00–3:00 PM (bring lunch), sponsored by St. Louis Audubon Society. Learn to identify spring migrants by sight, sound and habitat.

Local Butterflies: Identification And Natural History Thursdays April 11 and April 18 from 6:30–8:30 PM, field trip Saturday April 27 9:45 AM–noon, sponsored by North American Butterfly Association, St. Louis Chapter. Learn to identify the butterflies that live in the St. Louis area, their host plants and nectar sources, life cycle natural history and habitat needs. Instructors use video for identification of many local species. Field trip included. Suggested text: *Butterflies through Binoculars: The East*, by Jeffery Glassberg

Spring Wildflowers of the St. Louis Area Tuesday, April 9 7–9:30 PM Field trips April 13th , 27th , and May 11 (bring lunch), sponsored by Missouri Native Plant Society. A course in the taxonomy and ecology of Missouri's spring wildflowers.

Learn their blooming times, habitat requirements and how to identify. Suggested text: *Missouri Wildflowers*, by Edgar Denison.

Amphibians Wednesdays March 13, 20, 27 from 6:30–10:00 PM Two evening field trips (about 3 hours each) TBA, sponsored by St. Louis Herpetological Society. Introduction to basic biology of amphibians. Emphasis on Missouri species with respect to their natural history and field identification. Suggested text: *Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri*, by Tom Johnson.

If you are interested in the Master Naturalist Certificate call Continuing Education at 314-984-7777 or for more information call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166. Workshop topics change each semester. For a schedule of classes please call 314-984-7777. ∞

2001-02 Science Seminar Series

Co-sponsored by the Saint Louis Zoo and the Academy of Science of St. Louis. All seminars will be held in the Living World, north side of Saint Louis Zoo, free parking in north lot, Wed. evenings, 7:30–9 PM. Adults, teachers, secondary students and the public invited, no fee. For further information, call 314-768-5466 or 533-8083. Saint Louis Zoo's programs and facilities are available for people of all abilities. 314-781-0900, TDD 314-768-5421.

January 23 Some Like It Hot: The Life of Microorganisms Near Active Volcanoes, by Dr. Jan Amend, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences, Washington University.

February 20 Using Archaeology to Teach about our Diverse Heritage, by Dr. Pam Ashmore and Dr. Tim Baumann, Anthropology Department, UM-St. Louis.

March 20 The Sex Life of Antenna Designs: Computer Algorithms which Mimic Nature, by Dr. James Bornholdt, The Boeing Company.

April 17 Medical Criminal Entomology, by Dr. Robert Hall, Department of Office of Research, UM-Columbia. ~

Holiday Gift Ideas

Paul Bauer

Did you know that an excellent birding guide is published by WGNSS especially for the St. Louis area?

Birds of the St. Louis Area describes more than 125 locations to observe birds in Missouri and Illinois, all within 50 miles of the city limits. Detailed directions are provided, supported with 17 colored maps. Changes in relative abundance of each species for each month are displayed graphically with colored bar-charts.

Look for *Birds of the St. Louis Area* at Missouri Botanical Garden Gift Shop, wild bird stores, Powder Valley Nature Center, Zoo Gift Shop, Butterfly House at Faust Park, Library Unlimited, etc.

Another birding guide has just been published this fall by the Audubon Society of Missouri, which covers the entire state; *A Guide to Birding in Missouri*. Compiled and edited by Kay and Bill Palmer, this spiral-bound guide includes information on 143 locations.

To order, send a check for \$20 made out to Audubon Society of Missouri, to Barb Duncan, 1918 London Way, Jefferson City, MO 65109. The book is also available at Missouri Botanical Garden Gift Shops, Wild Bird Unlimited stores. ~

NEXT DEADLINE: DEC. 7

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

tyson nature line

Call 314-935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Connie Alwood, 314-524-8111. ~

Deadlines for Nature Notes '02

Marjorie Richardson

Mailing parties to send out mail *Nature Notes* start at 10 AM Oak Bend County Library 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
Dec. 17 2001	Dec. 7
Jan. 21 2002	Jan. 11
Feb. 18	Feb. 8
March 18	March 8
April 15	April 5
May 20	May 10
Aug. 19	Aug. 9
Sept. 16	Sept. 6
Oct. 21	Oct. 11
Nov. 18	Nov. 8
Dec. 16	Dec. 6

HAVE YOU VISITED?

www.wgnss.org

Need directions?

Busch Wildlife Area

- Take 40 west toward St. Charles Co., left on 94, right on D, follow signs.
- Turn right to headquarters.

Des Peres Park

- on Ballas Road, one block north of Manchester Rd. in Des Peres.
- Turn right (east) at the Des Peres Park sign-park in the first lot on the right.

Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area

- From I-270 in north St. Louis County, take Hwy. 367 north to Alton.
- Turn right into Riverlands at Fisca gas station, just before the approach to the Clark Bridge over the Mississippi River.
- Usual meeting place is Teal Pond parking lot.

St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters

- The membership meets on the second Friday of the month, at 7:30 PM (new time).
- Take 40 to Lindbergh south, left at the second light into library.
- 1640 South Lindbergh in Frontenac. We usually meet in the auditorium.
- Birding trip, park on north side.
- All are welcome. Bring a friend!

Key to WGNSS Calendar

birding field trip

each Thurs.....call Dottie Herweg 314-966-2274
most Sat (not June or July)
.....call David Becher 314-576-1146

summary of the latest bird sightings

Call Tyson Nature Line: 314-935-8432

board meeting

1st Wed 7 PM Sept.-May.....
..... call David Rabenau 314-968-8128

botany field trip

each Thurs..... call Fr. Sullivan 314-291-7885

conservation meeting

3rd Wed..... call Yvonne Homeyer 314-963-7750

entomology meeting

last Sun..... call Marshall Magner 314-961-4588

ornithology meeting

2nd to last Sun...call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166
or e-mail RRVVCC@AOL.com no meeting in Dec.

general meeting

2nd Fri. 7:30 PM call Doug Corbett 636-861-2829

mailing party for Nature Notes

3rd Mon. (not June/July) 10 AM.....
..... call Margie Richardson 314-965-8974

Nature Notes deadlines

10 days prior to 3rd Mon.
.....call Anne McCormack 314-965-8091

membership expires/renewal due

Aug. 31

Spring banquet

Early May... call Pat McCormick 636-825-2842

Big Day birding competition

Usually 2nd Sat. May

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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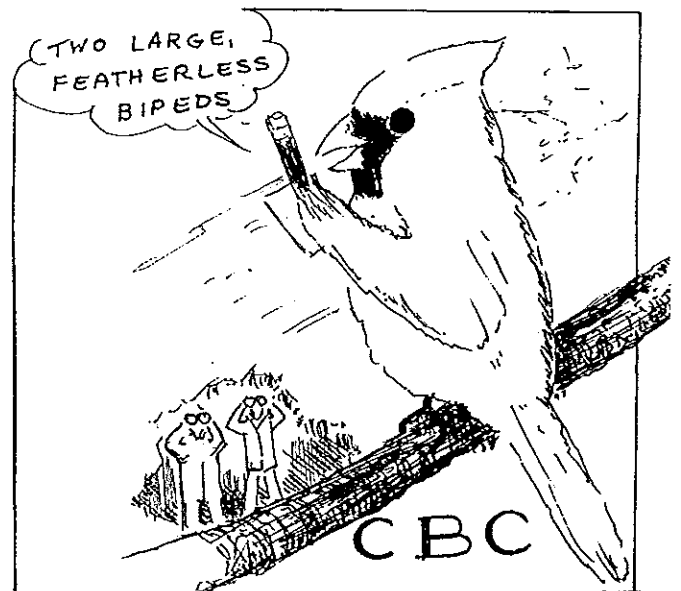
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Member at Large: Mark Peters
5435 Lions Den Spur
Imperial, MO 63052
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Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Meetings

Sunday Dec. 2

Annual Holiday Get-Together with St. Louis Audubon from 1-4 PM at Washington University's Tyson Research Center. Please bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvre and conversation to share. Tea, coffee, wine, and soda provided.

Wednesday Dec. 5

7 PM Board meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center. All members are welcome.

Botany

Thursdays Sept.-Nov.

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

Entomology

No meeting in December

Sunday January 20

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., 314-961-4588. John Lill, Washinton U., will discuss his studies at Tyson Research center: "Ecosystem Engineering by Leaf-tieing Caterpillars."

Nature Notes deadline Dec. 7

have you visited?

www.wgnss.org

Birding

Thursdays Nov.-Dec.

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. *No trip on Thanksgiving.* Questions: call Dottie Herweg, 314-966-2274.

Saturday Dec. 1 & 15

8 AM WGNSS Birding: Riverlands Teal Pond parking lot. Bring lunch. For more info, call David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Saturday Dec. 8

8 AM WGNSS "Where the Birds Are." Parking lot of HQ of Co. Library, Lindbergh, south of 40. Meet on N side. New meeting place because of construction at Olive and I-270. D. Becher.

Saturday Dec. 8

1-5 PM SLA/WGNSS at Riverlands EDA, at Teal Pond parking lot. Jim Malone for info.

Saturday Dec. 15

7:45 AM Pere Marquette Park Xmas Count Some areas pre-assigned. Meet at Pere Marquette Lodge. If the ferry is running, arrangements have been made for dinner at 4:30 with tabulation to follow. Reservations are appreciated. For other information, please call Irene Mondthink, 618-885-5233 or 618-498-5335.

Saturday Dec. 29

8 AM Busch WA Xmas Count Meet in the parking lot at headquarters. Bring a lunch. For more info, call Tom Parmeter 314-921-6017.

Tuesday January 1

Orchard Farm Christmas Count. Bring a lunch. For more information, contact Randy Korotev 314-993-0055 or rlk@levee.wustl.edu

Join WGNSS

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



Webster Groves

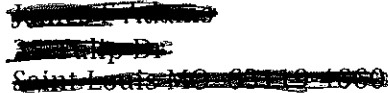
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Webster Groves Nature Study Society



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 yr.)

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