



# nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

January 2002 Vol. 74, No. 1

## 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! ~

## 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](mailto: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. ~

## '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.

Did you catch the article in the *St. L Post-D* about Xmas Counts? In the *sports* section, 12/13/01.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:rlk@levee.wustl.edu)

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## Welcome to new members...

Catherine Balmer .....	63129
Karen S Cahill .....	62002
Shawnessey & Dr Phil Custer .....	63108
Gayla Daugherty .....	63143
Ronald Dellbringge .....	63122
Ferran & Wanda Eales .....	63128
A Welsh & Dr D Hovsepian .....	63119
Melissa & Jonathan Losos .....	63124
Kathleen O'Keefe .....	63119
Ronald Oesch .....	63122
Tim Reich .....	63011
Stacy Rolfe .....	63005
Lori & Steve Taylor .....	63109
Bill & Linda Tossing .....	63128
George & Linda Wilson .....	63141
Steve Wren .....	63042

## Jack van Benthuisen Memorial Dedication

David Rabenau

The dedication for the Jack van Benthuisen Memorial "Woodland Pond" in Tower Grove Park near the Cypress Circle was held on Saturday, November 17. Many of the tall trees surrounding Jack's pond were still nearly in full color. The mood of the gathered crowd reflected that beautiful, warm, sunny morning as we told stories about Jack and remembered how valuable his was in the lives of many birders and to the Webster Groves Nature Society.

Besides being an expert and diligent birder – one who was never too hurried or uninterested to help the novice birder find, see and learn – Jack was one of the WGNSS *Birds of St. Louis* authors.

Thanks to the many friends of Jack who donated toward this fitting memorial. Also deserving recognition is Jim Ziebol, whose idea started the project, and Mike Flieg for all his effort and work in seeing the pond construction through to the finish line. Mike was indispensable in this effort from start to

finish. Also, members of NABA donated some of the pond's plants.

Mary Ann Auer deserves special recognition for planning and officiating at the dedication. Mary Ann was Jack's nurse and it was through that relationship that she, herself, became a birder. Her introduction set the tone for what was a celebration and appreciation of Jack's life.

The "Woodland Pond" is located just west of the Cypress Circle and the north-running spring-fed stream, on the north side of the center road. The pond already looks like it has always been located there. During the dedication we watched birds pop down to get drink from it, and saw dragonflies and other insects circling in its airspace. Even on that fall day, after most of the water plants had been knocked back by earlier frosts, the pond was beautiful and peaceful. Since its completion, I've almost always found people sitting on the two wood benches enjoying that view. ∞

## Some WGNSS Demographics

Randy Korotev

Where do WGNSS members live?

- 78% live in St. Louis city and county
- 8% in adjacent St. Charles & Jefferson Cos.
- 4% live in ten other Missouri counties
- 6% live in four nearby Illinois counties
- 4% are in 12 other states.

On the basis of zip codes (not infallible), the largest number (but only 11% of the total membership) lives in Webster Groves (63119). St. Louis city claims the next largest number (10%), with Kirkwood not far behind at 9% (63122).

*For a list of members by zip, see p. 10.*

## **Thank you, John Molyneaux**

*On December 2, 2001, John Molyneaux died. John has been a long-time, very active member. He has served on WGNSS's board for many years. We will miss him in many ways. I'm glad we got a chance to thank John for his service at WGNSS's 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Banquet last May. These remarks were written by Pat McCormick and given by David Rabenau.*

With this Webster Groves Nature Study Lifetime Achievement Award, we are pleased to honor John Molyneaux. John's interest in botany and photography brought him to the Tuesday outings of the WGNSS Botany Group after his retirement. Nell Menke, a long-time Botany Group member, encouraged John's participation. With her invitation John joined their number and has been with us ever since.

Nell believed that if you're going to play you have to pay. Her basement was the print shop for our journal, *Nature Notes*. Once each month from August to May her crew assembled to print the journal on an old mimeograph machine. They would then assemble and address it for mailing. John's introduction to *Nature Notes* production was a challenge from Nell Menke, "Here, John, you take care of this," she said and handed him the ink roller from the old mimeograph machine. The roller was a drum bathed in printing fluid, which inked the master copy. As a crank was turned the individual pages were rolled out one at a time. John became custodian and curator of the roller until the old machine was retired by a personal computer. The machine was a cantankerous antique when WGNSS inherited it.

But John was a Boy Scout and scouts persevere. The Boy Scouts of America recently honored him for 75 years of dedicated service. Just think of many boys were encouraged to enjoy life outdoors in a natu-

ral setting by John's long career as a scout, scoutmaster, and commissioner.

John has served us well as well. He was President of WGNSS from 1981-83. With his good friend, Karen Haller, he produced two slide programs called "Tramping Tuesday's Turf," documenting botany group excursions. A WGNSS board member continuously, he has carried many responsibilities. As Conservation Chairperson he kept up a stream of correspondence with senators, governors, representatives, and presidents on many issues from forest preservation in the Ozarks to opposing the Corp of Engineers rebuilding of the Mississippi River.

When St. Louis County Parks wanted to establish St. Louis County Natural Heritage Parks at Cliff Cave Park, Pelican Island Park, St. Stanislaus Park, Greensfelder Park and Queeny Park, John and Karen Haller joined the campaign producing wild flower slide talks and leading wildflower walks to further these efforts.

In January of 1996 John took part in a presentation of streamside wildflowers slides for a WGNSS general meeting. This program supported the campaign for the Natural Streams Act.

And John has enjoyed rare moments in life when one's interests, experience, and joy all converge. He shared such a moment with retired biology teacher and botany group guru, Art Christ, and fellow photographer-botanist, Karen Haller. On a trip to an Ozark fen they found, photographed and documented a plant no one had ever seen in Missouri, an *Anemone quinquefolia*. Every wildflower enthusiast's dream, to find a plant no one else has seen!

From Ozark fen to board meetings, John has given long and valued service on our behalf. We salute you, John, for a lifetime of achievement. ∞

## What A Beautiful World

Don & Cheryl Delashmit

What a beautiful world we have. We see it every time a bird comes into view or a butterfly lands on a flower. We also see it while standing in the presence of trees that tower above us. Trees, that with their variety, feed and house so many glorious birds, animals and insects. The same trees that give up their life so we can live the life of a wasteful nation.

On a recent trip through Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas we were very shocked to see very few forests of the past. The back roads (and we took quite a few) were so barren of quality habitats that it made us want to weep. Acre after acre in all of these states has been stripped of most life-giving elements and now host "tree farms." So many pine trees planted as close together as possible, therefore making a forest of nothing—at least nothing that is of any benefit for the life that they once supported. It is such a sad thing that greed is so rampant that it puts a doomsday future as our heritage.

After returning to Missouri and driving through our own Ozarks, we once again could see mixed forests and healthy land and could only say that for now we have been much smarter than our southern neighbors have. We only hope that the future holds some form of rescue for this great tragedy and that more and more will join in the effort to keep what's left of our Ozarks healthy and able to sustain life. What a shame it is to see what man has done to our beautiful earth. ~

## Next Deadline: Jan. 11

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

## Conservation Report Jan. 2002

Yvonne Homeyer

**Holnam Update:** The Environmental Law Clinic of Washington University did a tremendous job at the hearing before the Clean Water Commission in Jefferson City on Nov. 14 and 15. Acting on behalf of the 4 client groups (WGNSS, Coalition, Ozark Chapter of Sierra Club and American Bottom Conservancy), the Clinic put on evidence to support our appeal challenging DNR's issuance of a 401 certification to Holnam. The DNR has classified the Mississippi River as "impaired" due to habitat loss. Holnam proposes to construct a harbor out of the Lee Island floodplain lying below the bluffs.

One of the witnesses was Dr. Robert Sheehan, SIU-Carbondale, who testified that an endangered fish species, the Pallid Sturgeon, has been located in the Mississippi River along the Holnam portion of the river. (Two other endangered species, Indiana Bat and Gray Bat, have been located on the property.) Dr. Biswas of Washington University testified that when coal is burned, mercury is emitted into the air, and airborne mercury can and does fall onto bodies of water where it becomes methyl mercury. (Holnam plans to burn coal at its proposed cement plant.) An official from the Mo. Dept. of Health testified about Missouri's fish advisory for certain species of fish due to mercury contamination. The Clean Water Commission may make a decision at their next meeting on January 9. If anyone is interested in going, contact Yvonne Homeyer (314-963-7750).

If you haven't had a chance to visit the Coalition for the Environment's web site, you can find it at: [www.stopholnam.com](http://www.stopholnam.com). The Coalition is also running a media campaign using radio ads, Bi-State bus signs, and a billboard at I-270 & 55.

Jack Harris and the Botany Group have surveyed property belonging to an adjacent landowner and WGNSS member, Karen Holden. To date, they have found 278 species of vascular plants, of which 94% (262 species) are native. The Holdens live in Morrison Hollow, just south of Wolf Hollow, which is part of the Holnam site.

In the mid 1970's, John Karel surveyed Wolf Hollow and recommended that it be designated as a Natural Area. Unfortunately, that never took place and Holnam now intends to include Wolf Hollow in its proposed quarry.

So far, Governor Bob Holden of Missouri, Gov. George Ryan of Illinois, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, Congressman Lacy Clay of Missouri, Mayor Francis Slay of the City of St. Louis, the St. Louis County Council, and other elected officials in Missouri and Illinois have requested that the Corps conduct an Environmental Impact Statement. These requests come on top of recommendations by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Mo. Dept. of Conservation to deny the permit. The Corps of Engineers may be making its decision on Holnam's application for a 404 permit in January of February. We will keep you updated.

### **Equilon Pipeline/Carlyle Lake:**

We are continuing our dialogue with Equilon concerning their pipeline project which will go through part of the Wildlife Management Area of Carlyle Lake (near Parking Lot #3). ∞

## **November 2001 Bird Report**

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Abbreviations:

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

LVT = Lost Valley Trail

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

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

TGP = Tower Grove Park

**Sightings:** A late report from October was a N. Goshawk seen by Bill Rowe on 10/6 in St. Louis County. A Red-throated Loon and a Lesser Black-backed Gull were sighted at CL on 11/10 (BR). The sighting of 37 Common Loons seen at HL on 11/1 was highly unusual (FH). The Johnsons found 11 Common Loons at REDA on 11/11. On 11/4, there were 11 Horned Grebes and 5 White Pelicans at HL (FH) and by 11/10, Tom Bormann found 100 Pelicans there. An American Bittern seen on 11/17 at Teal Pond/REDA was a very good find (Joe Eades). Tom Bormann found 10 Trumpeter Swans at REDA on 11/10 and Mike Thelen counted 21 Trumpeters there on 11/25. Edna Alexander reported 150 White-fronted Geese at 2Rivers on 11/17 and the Johnsons found 3 at BCA on 11/24. By 11/18, Snow Geese had arrived area-wide in good numbers; a Ross's Goose was spotted in a flock at BCA on 11/18 (SW, MP). About 200 Lesser Scaup and 150 Coots were located at REDA on 11/11 (J Mo). A large flock of about 1,000 Coots was present at HL on 11/25 (MT). On 11/9, the Malones found Black Scoter and Surf Scoter at REDA (m. ob.) and a Black Scoter was seen there again on 11/17 (MT). By 11/10, Canvasbacks and Goldeneyes had arrived at REDA (CM). Dan Kassebaum reported 100,000 ducks at CL on 11/18, including Red-breasted Mer-

ganser and many Common Loons and Horned Grebes. About 70 Killdeer were reported at Hwy. 94 & D on 11/23 (P&BJ). Wilma Kennell found 6 Snipe at BCA on 11/6. Frank Holmes observed 2 Least Sandpipers near HL on 11/23. There were 650+ Bonaparte's Gulls, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, and 11 Common Loons at CL on 11/23 (RK).

A Turkey Vulture was seen at Lake Springfield, Ill. on 11/22 (MT). Three Harriers were seen along the Levee Road on 11/25 (JZ, YH) and 1 was seen at REDA on the same day (MT). A Cooper's Hawk was reported at HL on 11/25 (MT). The third N. Goshawk spotted this fall was seen at HL on 11/25 (G&TB). Red-shouldered Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, and Pileated Woodpecker were found at Castlewood SP on 11/8 (Jean Cook & Th. Group). Red-shouldered Hawk was also seen at BCA on 11/14, along with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Red-breasted Nuthatch (SW, MP). On 11/25, a Red-tailed Hawk carrying a large, wriggling Black Snake was observed in flight along Bluff Road; a dark-phased Western Red-tail was seen on Levee Road that same day (JZ, YH). [About 150 butterflies of 6 species were observed along the Levee Road on this warm, 64 degree day.] The first Krider's Red-tail was located at REDA on 11/12 (SW, MP) and another was seen there on 11/25 (J Mo, KP). A Merlin carrying a blackbird was observed at HL on 11/1; a Red-tailed Hawk flew over and the Merlin dropped the blackbird and flew off (FH). A Peregrine Falcon was reported at REDA on 11/17 (DC, MT). On 11/22, a Eurasian Collared Dove was seen near Edwardsville (FH). Sandy Walters & Myrna Prenger found 2 Short-eared Owls near REDA on 11/12. A Kingfisher was seen near Steinberg Rink in FP on 11/23 (WK). Fifty Horned Larks were spotted on Weidy Road, St. Charles Co., on 11/11 (J Mo). A Hermit Thrush seen in TGP on 11/5 was

somewhat late (PB). An out-of-town birder reported finding a Varied Thrush in TGP on 11/15 but the bird was not refound. Dave Ziolkowski found 4 Snow Buntings at REDA on 11/19. An estimated 1,000 Lapland Longspurs were seen in fields near CL on 11/10 (DK) and 100 Brewer's Blackbirds were found there on 11/18 (DK). Rusty Blackbird sightings included several at HL on 11/11 (JZ, YH, video), over 100 on the Levee Road on 11/14 (JZ), 1 at MTC on 11/17 (DC, MT), and several at BCA on 11/18 (JZ, YH). Pine Siskins were found area-wide from 10/31 through November (VL, JC, DK, K Mc, JW, DC). Purple Finch sightings included 9 at BCA on 11/23 (the Johnsons), 1 on 11/24 at BCA (YH), and many Purple Finch mixed with Fox Sparrows and Brown Creepers at Steve Vogel's feeder in Hillsboro.

**Comments:** WGNSS Member Anne McCormack has established a new record for the eastern park of the state. When the Rufous Hummingbird that has been visiting her feeder in Kirkwood was netted, it was discovered that the bird had been previously banded in Louisiana in the fall of 2000. It is confirmed as an adult female, which makes it a record for eastern Missouri because all prior Rufous Hummingbird sightings have been immatures.

Good backyard birds at Vicki Flier's included a flock of 50-60 Eurasian Tree Sparrows, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and an infrequent Cooper's Hawk. Barbara Estill & Jeannie Moe also reported Red-breasted Nuthatches in their yards. On 11/18, the Barkers reported 2 Pine Siskins at their home.



**Please note this temporary**

**change:** To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol at 314-963-7750 or email Yvonne at [homeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:homeyer@earthlink.net) by the last day of the month, until further notice Thank you for your cooperation.

**Contributors:** Connie Alwood, George & Terry Barker, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Tom Bormann, Dick Coles, Jean Cook, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Wilma Kennell, Randy Korotev, Vivian Liddell, Jim & Charlene Malone, Keith McMullen, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Myrna Prenger, Bill Rowe, Mike Thelen, Jane Walker, Sandy Walters, Jim Ziebol, many observers. An asterisk means "documented." ∞

## News From The Missouri Bird Records Committee

Bill Rowe

**Membership:** The Missouri Bird Records Committee held its annual meeting on September 29, 2001, at Lake of the Ozarks, in conjunction with the fall meeting of the ASM. There were two positions open for election; these were filled by the reelection of Roger McNeill of Kansas City and Paul McKenzie of Columbia (no new nominations were submitted). Bill Eddleman of Cape Girardeau was re-elected Chairman, and Bill Rowe of St. Louis as Secretary. The remaining members are Bill Goodge and Brad Jacobs of Columbia and Mark Robbins of Lawrence, Kansas.

**Link to ABA:** As announced in the latest issue of *Birding*, MBRC member Mark Robbins will become the Chairperson of the American Birding Association's Checklist Committee in January 2002, succeeding Jon Dunn. The article notes that "Mark is an outstanding field and museum ornithologist who has authored numerous papers on North and South American ornithological topics and also co-authored *Birds of Missouri* (1992)."

**Top ten for 2000:** As one of its more enjoyable duties, the MBRC is charged with choosing and rank-ordering the top ten bird records in the state each year. The "year 2000" Top Ten list can be found in the December issue of *The Bluebird* and on line at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org).

**Seasonal and CBC editors:** Randy Korotev remains the editor of the Christmas Bird Counts statewide but will no longer be

the spring seasonal editor; the Committee thanks Randy for his two years of fine, thorough reports. Roger McNeill will take over as spring editor for 2002. Our longtime summer editor, Jim D. Wilson, is also retiring from that position after many years of service, for which he deserves special thanks and accolades from all Missouri birders. Jim's exceptional knowledge of Missouri's breeding birds has given special value to his nesting-season reports. Jim's replacement for the summer report will be Paul McKenzie. Addresses of the seasonal editors are listed in the front of every *Bluebird* and can also be found on line at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org).

All birders are reminded that their seasonal notes are due to the editor by the 10th of the month just after the season has ended: December 10 for fall, March 10 for winter, June 10 for spring, and August 10 for summer. If you are reporting a species that is listed as "casual" or "accidental" for the season (or not listed at all) in the Annotated Check-list of Missouri Birds, then please write up a full documentation of your sighting and send it to the Missouri Bird Records Committee, c/o Bill Rowe, 9033 Big Bend, St. Louis, MO 63119 (for those who don't own a copy of the Annotated Check-list, you can find it at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org)). If your bird is listed only as "rare," you do not need to send documentation to the MBRC, but you should provide the seasonal editor with some descriptive details to explain how you made the identification. A number of birds in the "rare" category can be tricky to identify, and the editor will appreciate your efforts to make it clear that you had a solid, positive identification. For instance, if you observe an immature Northern Goshawk, your notes will give the date and location, and you might also add: "Large, bulky accipiter, about size of Red-tail; noted heavy streaking on breast and belly and dark spots on undertail coverts." This falls short of a complete documentation, but it provides reassurance that you knew what to look for and that the bird was indeed a Goshawk.

**Decisions on certain species:** Here is a summary of some decisions at this meeting: **Smew:** This bird, found January 13, 2001, at Riverlands EDA, has been accepted unanimously as a first state record. Considerable thought and research went into this decision, which is obviously a judgment call. We readily acknowledge that it is impossible to be 100% sure that the bird was wild; with waterfowl and other birds that are sometimes kept in captivity, there is always the chance of an escape. In our judgment, however, the bird showed no sign of being an escapee, while there were many reasons to think it had a natural origin. The committee is accepting the record based on a strong preponderance of evidence in favor of natural origin. As with all Committee decisions, this one could be reopened for discussion and possibly even reversed if evidence to the contrary should ever come to light. Watch for a full account of the Smew's discovery and its sojourn at REDA, and of the factors entering into the Committee's decision, in a forthcoming issue of *The Bluebird*. Details will also be summarized in the Committee's Annual Report in the March 2002 issue of *The Bluebird*.

**Tricolored Heron:** With about seventeen documented and accepted records for the state, this species has now been dropped from the Review List. It is no longer necessary to document a Tricolored Heron in Missouri as long as it is within the known dates of occurrence (mid-April to mid-September).

**White Ibis:** Deleted from the Review List, like Tricolored Heron. There are now 15 documented and accepted records, the cutoff point for "casual" status and therefore the Review List. It isn't necessary to document a White Ibis between late April and the end of August. As a side note, neither species of *Plegadis* ibis is on the Review List either.

**White-Rumped Sandpiper:** We are asking all Missouri observers to send us documentation of any Missouri sighting of White-rumped Sandpiper in fall, including past years. Photographs would obviously be

most desirable, but, failing that, good written details that clearly distinguish the bird(s) as White-rumps will be welcome. Please submit any records from years past that you can substantiate with descriptive notes written at the time (not just from memory!) about size, shape, plumage, and/or voice. We will review these records in the usual way in an effort to clarify the true status of this species in fall.

The state check-list, and our state bird book (*Birds of Missouri*, by Robbins and Easterla), both list White-rumped Sandpiper as only "rare" in fall. The book cites a couple of observations of relatively large numbers in late July and August that have turned out to involve a misprint and apparent incorrect estimates of numbers. It now appears that the species is probably "casual" in our state in fall migration. Like Hudsonian Godwits, the vast majority of White-rumps fly east to the Atlantic coast in fall instead of traveling through the center of the continent as they do in spring. Experienced observers in nearby states have had similar qualms about their White-rumped Sandpiper records and are trying to ascertain the species' true status.

So, if you have any records at all of fall White-rumped Sandpipers, please go back and check them. If they include enough descriptive notes to prove the birds were White-rumps, please submit your observation on a standard report form (can be downloaded and printed at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org)), and if you got a photograph, please submit that. So far we are aware of only one photographic record for Missouri in fall.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Also deleted from the Review List. In this case, the Committee has reviewed and accepted only nine records, but the species has spread very rapidly in the past few years, especially in the southern part of the state, and it is well known that there are a great many more present than have actually been documented. We decided that there was no need to request any further submission of records to us. We do, however, urge observers to report all observations of Eurasian Collared-Doves



to the Seasonal Editors so that the species' spread can be tracked accurately; those observations should include enough descriptive details to verify that the birds seen were indeed this species and not Ringed Turtle-Doves. Also, if anyone discovers a nest of Eurasian Collared-Doves, we would like to receive that documentation, since the Committee does review first state nesting records.

**Fish Crow:** With the recent spread of this species along many of our rivers, its status has changed. In spring and summer, it is no longer necessary to document Fish Crows anywhere from the Missouri River corridor south, or along the whole Mississippi River corridor from Pike County south. Only to the north of these areas are Fish Crows still casual or accidental and therefore in need of documentation. But, as with the Collared-Dove, we would like to receive documentation of nesting if evidence is discovered—the bird obviously breeds in our state, but no nest has been found to date. Moreover, the species is not known to winter outside the southeastern corner of Missouri; so any documentation from elsewhere at that season would still be welcome. ∞

## **Nature Nut:**

### **Dr. William Brandhorst**

*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.*

My interest in nature started when I was ten years old. I was old enough to catch Cabbage Butterflies in a neighbor's garden. My parents made a net for me. I received 10¢ a catch. The neighbor felt this would give her clean cabbages.

About that time WGNSS started its insect collecting contests—probably 1926. Dad encouraged me to join, which I did for two years. The contest's requirements were strict, which was good for my young years.

Marshall Magner won the contest and I came in second. We remained friends over

the many years. I got interested in WGNSS's many programs. I went birding. Bought a telescope. I built my own insect boxes.

King Barnett came to Webster High School to teach science. I introduced him to WGNSS. I developed a gadget to take Cecropia cocoon off trees. Before the starlings, there were thousands of them in south St. Louis. One day Kind and I went after them and brought back about 100 which were split. He let his classes see the hatch. I mounted them to show variation in color. King became a good friend of start O'Byrne. Stu developed a projection method to show the sky on 1/4 of the heavens. He and King build one for the school. Learning people's enthusiasm for thing in nature has turned me on. I have used many books and attended many lectures.

One summer afternoon we were having a picnic at Marshall's house when Dr. Satterthwait called me over and asked if I was going into entomology. I said no, because I knew I was more interested in their color than the insects themselves. He then put the question to Marshall, who answered yes. Satterthwait made quite a scene of his happiness. We have Marshall today leading our entomology group.

Going to Harvard, I majored at first in geology. My section man was from St. Louis and he asked me if I would help him do his Ph.D. that summer on the Rio Grande river in Colorado. Several of the students were studying the relationship of the terraces along the river to glaciation. I was sent out to discover, strike, and dip in the terraces and report the inclinations. The thrill of WGNSS was with me. My geology background has helped on our world trips.

I am active on the board of the St. Louis Audubon Society. I am also trying to help Dorothy Heinze make her Mastodon State park more attractive by completing her plans to bring by mastodon bones now

stored in Illinois museums. They are there for preservation. Her group also wants to sponsor a summer study program.

Which activities do I value most highly? The hands-on mounts of the colorful butterflies. I gives me something positive for the future.

My hopes for the future? I hope that we find some way to develop the energy needed for the large population of the future without destroying the world around us. But time if running out for me at my age.

I have other interests too. I am a retired orthodontist. Much of my special activity have been photography. I have tired to make well-balanced pictures, both slides and movies, finally ending with digital video to tell a better story.∞

### **Smew Reunion & Gull Workshop**

Audubon Society of Mo., Mo. Bird Record Committee, & St. L. Audubon are sponsoring a Smew Reunion at the Day's Inn in Alton, Ill., Jan. 19, 2002.

Breakfast buffet, at 6:30 AM. A gull workshop, lead by Bill Rowe, will start at 7:00 AM. Field trips at 9:30 AM to seek gulls, waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, and a returning Smew. Field trip leaders, knowledgeable about gulls, are members of ASM, MBRC, WGNSS, & St. L. Audubon.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved. Special rates held till Jan. 2, under the name of the Audubon Society of Mo. Call the Days Inn 618-463-0800, to reserve a room.

Register by Jan. 4 by sending name, address, phone to Jean Graebner, 1800 S Roby Farm Rd, Rocheport, MO 65279, 573-698-2855. \$10/person. Make checks payable to the Audubon Society of Mo. ∞

### **WGNSS Demographics** Cont. from p 2 members by zip code for city & co., St. L.

63005.....	1
63006.....	2
63011.....	8
63017.....	11
63021.....	20
63026.....	4
63031.....	2
63033.....	3
63038.....	3
63042.....	4
63074.....	1
63088.....	2
63103.....	2
63104.....	3
63105.....	10
63108.....	8
63109.....	7
63110.....	4
63111.....	1
63112.....	4
63114.....	2
63116.....	5

63117.....	9
63118.....	2
63119.....	44
63121.....	1
63122.....	35
63123.....	8
63124.....	16
63125.....	1
63126.....	7
63127.....	2
63128.....	9
63129.....	1
63130.....	19
63131.....	11
63132.....	8
63135.....	2
63138.....	2
63139.....	6
63141.....	9
63143.....	2
63144.....	8
63146.....	5

## Master Naturalist Certificate

Vicki Flier

In cooperation with the St. Louis Audubon Society, the St. L Community College at Meramec through the Biology Dept. and the Continuing Ed. division proposes to offer a Master Naturalist Certificate Program.

### Spring Schedule 2002

#### How To Lead An Effective Field Trip

Tues., Jan. 29 from 7:30–9:30 PM, sponsored by St. L Audubon. Paul Bauer. Learn some tricks of the trade: extent of promotion efforts needed, desired preparation and pre-planning, and “people problems.”

**Beyond Backyard Birding** Tues. April 16 and 23 6:30–8:30 PM. Field trip Sun. April 28 7 AM, sponsored by WGNSS, taught by Anne McCormack. Study the birds of your backyard and plan to improve your habitat for wildlife. Bird identification, feeding, bird gardens, and strategies to increase the attractiveness to wildlife. We will visit great examples of wildlife gardens.

**Introduction To Astronomy With Your Eyes And Binoculars** Wed.y April 3 and Thurs. April 4, from 7–10:00 PM Field trip Sat., April 6th meet at 6 PM weather dependant, sponsored by St. Louis Astronomical Society. 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. Spring migrants by sight, sound and habitat.

**Local Butterflies: Identification And Natural History** Thurs. April 11 and April 18 from 6:30–8:30 PM, field trip Sat. 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** Tues., 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. Suggested text: *Missouri Wildflowers*, by Edgar Denison.

**Amphibians** Wed. 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, no fee. For further information, call 314-768-5466 or 533-8083.

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

## Busch/Weldon Springs Breeding Bird Survey

Jim Ziebol

This past summer WGNSS members volunteered their time to count breeding birds at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area and the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. Each volunteer spent one to a few hours counting in a sub-area (e.g., lakes 3, 4, and 5). By mid summer, most of the accessible areas of Busch CA and some of Weldon Spring CA were covered. We will provide this information to managers of the Mo. Department of Conservation. Below is the list of the 91 species that were recorded.

28 Great Blue Heron	42 chickadee sp?
1 Great Egret	60 Tufted Titmouse
22 Green Heron	26 White-breasted Nuthatch
17 Turkey Vulture	20 Carolina Wren
87 Canada Goose	21 House Wren
22 Wood Duck	71 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
24 Mallard	35 Eastern Bluebird
2 Red-shouldered Hawk	21 Wood Thrush
16 Red-tailed Hawk	74 American Robin
5 Wild Turkey	67 Gray Catbird
28 Northern Bobwhite	6 Northern Mockingbird
9 Killdeer	12 Brown Thrasher
25 Rock Dove	35 European Starling
60 Mourning Dove	13 Cedar Waxwing
10 Yellow-billed Cuckoo	27 Blue-winged Warbler
2 Eastern Screech-Owl	36 Northern Parula
5 Bared Owl	56 Yellow Warbler
29 Chimney Swift	8 Yellow-throated Warbler
4 Ruby-throated H'bird	2 Cerulean Warbler
2 Belted Kingfisher	1 Black-and-white Warbler
5 Red-headed Woodpecker	5 Worm-eating Warbler

### *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. ∞

43 Red-bellied Woodpecker	5 Ovenbird
31 Downy Woodpecker	7 Louisiana Waterthrush
2 Hairy Woodpecker	33 Kentucky Warbler
12 Northern Flicker	144 Common Yellowthroat
12 Pileated Woodpecker	1 Hooded Warbler
34 Eastern Wood-Pewee	58 Yellow-breasted Chat
34 Acadian Flycatcher	6 Summer Tanager
3 Willow Flycatcher	8 Scarlet Tanager
21 Eastern Phoebe	86 Eastern Towhee
33 Great Crested Flycatcher	93 Field Sparrow
48 Eastern Kingbird	17 Song Sparrow
45 White-eyed Vireo	144 Northern Cardinal
7 Bell's Vireo	13 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
7 Yellow-throated Vireo	1 Blue Grosbeak
80 Warbling Vireo	147 Indigo Bunting
26 Red-eyed Vireo	2 Dickcissel
54 Blue Jay	167 Red-winged Blackbird
63 American Crow	84 Common Grackle
2 Fish Crow	88 Brown-headed Cowbird
8 Purple Martin	39 Orchard Oriole
35 Tree Swallow	28 Baltimore Oriole
10 N. Rough-winged Swallow	2 House Finch
5 Bank Swallow	117 American Goldfinch
12 Cliff Swallow	6 House Sparrow
96 Barn Swallow	

Thanks to the censusers: Connie Alwood, Loy Barber, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Doug Corbett, Mike Grant, Gustafson Sue, Yvonne Homeyer, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Anne McCormack, Jeannie Moe, Tom Parmeter, Kevin Renick, Bill Rudden, Nancy Snyder, Bruce Wetteroth, and Jim Ziebol and to Randy Korotev and Betty Lobos for compiling the data.

### **Next Deadline: Jan. 11**

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

## 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
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

### 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 no meeting Dec. or Jan. 2002

### general meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Sat. May 11, 2002 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.)

### 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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## **2001-2002 WGNSS Board**

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Florissant MO 63031  
314-921-6017

Member at Large: Mark Peters

5435 Lions Den Spur  
Imperial, MO 63052

Member at Large: 636-296-9159

**have you visited?**

**www.wgnss.org**

# Webster Groves Nature Study Society

## Meetings

*Wednesday Jan. 2*

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

*Friday January 11*

7:30 PM program at East Room of St. Louis County Library HQ on Lindbergh in Frontenac: Jane Walker & Joe Smentowski on identifying local dragonflies. Cosponsored with North American Butterfly Association of St. Louis (NABA).

## Botany

*Thursdays Dec.—Jan.*

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-tying Caterpillars."

**Nature Notes deadline Jan. 11**

*have you visited?*

[www.wgnss.org](http://www.wgnss.org)

## Birding

*Thursdays Dec.—Jan.*

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

*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](mailto:rlk@levee.wustl.edu)

*Saturday Jan. 5*

9:00 AM St. Louis Audubon/ WGNSS Horseshoe Lake. Meet at 1st parking lot at 111 side. More info. call Jim Malone at 636-536-1119.

*Saturday Jan. 12 & Feb. 9*

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 Jan. 26 & Feb. 23*

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

*Saturday Feb. 9*

9:00 AM St. Louis Audubon/ WGNSS Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond Parking area.

## Join WGNSS

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



Webster Groves  
 Nature Study Society  
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 St. Louis MO 63119

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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