



nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

February 2002 Vol. 74, No. 2

Meetings

Doug Corbett

The annual group meeting with the St. Louis Audubon has a twist to it this year. Our guest speaker will be Brad Jacobs, Ornithologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Brad has just released a new book this winter entitled *Birds of Missouri*. This 450- page book covers 355 species that reside or migrate through Missouri. (Does this include SMEW?) He will present a slide show talking about his book and will also bring up to date on his Breeding Bird Atlas. Now the twist— please take note.

We are not meeting at the library!!!! We are meeting at the Creve Coeur Community Center on Ballas at Creve Coeur City Hall. The address is as follows, 300 N. New Ballas. It is located on the east side of Ballas, across the street from the post office. (This building is the former Weber School). We meet at 7:30 PM, Friday Feb. 8, 2002. Brad will be bringing books with him for those interested. Please make plans to attend and note the changes for this month only!

The March general meeting of WGNSS will be on Friday, March 8, 2002, at the St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh. Our speaker will be Mike Flieg, member of the WGNSS Board. He has co-authored new book describing birding in southern Florida. (Boy—that sounds good right now!) Look for more details in the next issue of *Nature Notes*. ∞

Thanks for the Contributions!

Randy Korotev

Betty and I returned from a week visiting relatives over the holidays to find our mailbox stuffed with envelopes in response to the year-end appeal letters from WGNSS. Our cat sitter had piled up more inside. My first reaction was astonishment. Then I remembered, "These are all from WGNSS members, a classy group of people." In addition to two new life memberships, we have received more than **85 contributions totaling \$3785+** in response to our appeal. That's enough to produce fat *Nature Notes* as well as fund a couple of Audubon scholarships. The WGNSS board thanks our members for their generous gifts. ∞



in this issue:

Birds of the Year.....	2
Member profile.....	4
Botany Report.....	5
Bird Report.....	8
Rufous Hummingbird.....	10
Conservation Report.....	11
Events.....	15

Year Lists for 2001

Connie Alwood	270
Torrey Berger	259
Rose Ann Bodman	256
George Barker	256
Terry Barker.....	255
Paul & Barb Johnson.....	238
Loy Barber.....	221
Paul Bauer.....	215
Dick Coles.....	205
Margot Holsen.....	201

Birds of the Year...

✎ "By far my favorite 2001 birds was that sensational *Smew* which had been on my wish list about 25 years. I never dreamed one would be as close as Riverlands!"
Rose Ann Bodman

✎ "*Smew* was the bird of the year for many, since it was a new Mo. record."
Paul Bauer

✎ "Like everyone else, I'm sure, I pick the *Smew* as the bird of the year. Thanks for all the work you do as editor. I'm sure that you won't give up this highly prestigious position until death."
Connie Alwood

✎ "The *Smew* and the Hayford Road Ruff were both great birds, but my personal bird of the year was a spring male *Golden-winged Warbler* which came to the bubbler about 20 feet away. He was the first Golden-wing I have seen which was not at tree-top level."
Torrey Berger

✎ "Bluebirds for the next century!"
Pete Winter

Year List and Bird of the Year

If you wish to be included in the list of birders who saw 200 species in the St. Louis area in 2001, please send your totals by Feb. 8 to Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis, Mo. 63122, or mccormacka@earthlink.net Please, no phone messages.

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

Holiday Get-Together a Success

Pat McCormick and Anne McCormack The WGNSS-Audubon Holiday Party on December 2, 2001, enjoyed ideal weather for a picnic with temperatures near 60°. The perfect afternoon at Washington University's Tyson Research Center entertained a large group of party people. A mid-afternoon census found 42 revelers in the headquarters classroom, engaged in appetizers, desserts, beverages, and animated conversation.

The afternoon was topped off with a visit to the bat cave led by Dale Ponce, Tyson volunteer and St. Louis Audubon member. Oblivious to the weather, three brown bats were staking claim to hibernation space in the cavernous hollows of the old limestone quarry. The cave hosts endangered Indiana bats as well. Those are off limits to human visitors. Thanks for the tour, Dale! We appreciated the help of Dave Larson, assistant director of Tyson.

Anne writes: A special thank-you to Pat for all her efforts to make the event such a success! Pat wore two hats this time—as 2nd Vice President, she's in charge of the event for WGNSS, and she's also in charge for SLAS!

As Pat mentions above, Dale Ponce led us on a little jaunt to the "Bat Cave." The "cave" is actually an old limestone quarry, cut into a bluff. At one time, this area was a thriving community known as Meinke Hollow. The mining company built housing for their workers there. The foundations of the buildings and few pieces of rusting equipment recall the time before the mine closed in the '20s when there was a one-room schoolhouse, a church, and a dance hall. No roads led to the "holler," only the railway.

As the bluff was mined, the blasting uncovered part of a natural cave, which can still be seen. Starting with World War II, Tyson was controlled by the defense department and used for munitions testing. Markings on the walls and pillars of the quarry indicate where trucks were parked when the area was used during the Korean War era.

Tyson went to Washington University in the '60s and since then, the cave has been adopted as a winter roosting site for bats. We had the opportunity to see a few roosting Big Browns, but didn't disturb other areas where the Indianas hibernate. Dec. 2 was such a warm

day that, as I left the event, I spotted one of those bats out foraging. ∞

Board News

Doug Corbett

It is with regret that WGNSS accepted David Rabaneu's resignation as President. David cited personal differences as motive for such action. In accordance with the bylaws of this organization, the WGNSS board approved my succession as President from First Vice-President. I will continue to carry out the responsibilities of First VP till the end of my term in May. Also stepping down were Vicki Flier as Ornithology Chair (for family matters) and Secretary Debbie Littmann.

WGNSS wishes to thank all three for their efforts while serving on the Board and good health. Anne McCormack, our editor and myself have temporarily manned the opened Board positions. This April we will be electing a new President and First Vice-President. If you have a strong interest in either of these positions please contact me so I can inform our nominations committee. The secretary position will be filled by the approval of the Board of a selected person. This person will complete the remainder of term, which will be one year. If you wish to participate on the Board in this capacity please contact Anne or myself.

We were deeply saddened by the loss of Board Member at Large John Molyneaux. His passing left a void in our community and that of the Boy Scouts. To those who graciously donated to his memorial fund, thank you. His position on the Board will be filled by a person chosen to fulfill his term. ∞

Pardon our Dust!

Anne McCormack

As has been mentioned in almost every issue, the cost of duplicating *Nature Notes* has risen in the past year. Thanks to many of you who have given suggestions to keep costs down without sacrificing the quality of our newsletter.

Much of the data reported in *Nature Notes* has proven valuable over the years, particularly botany and bird reports. These provide information for future generations about the state of our environment in the early 21st Cen-

tury, as well as providing interest to our present members. For this reason, we do not want to eliminate articles or reduce issues per year at this time. If needed however, we may reduce repetitive items, such as the "Need Directions?" column.

With this issue, I will begin experimenting with various strategies to control cost. Some may notice that I have changed the typeface and the typeface's size in the hopes that this will reduce the number of pages per issue. To be effective, of course, we must save two sides since copying costs are the same for a blank side a printed one

What about reducing margins? Margins for *Nature Notes* are already only one half-inch on all pages but the first, and cannot be made any smaller.

Some have suggested that a one-column format would be more efficient. Actually the two-column layout is a great help in reducing the amount of wasted white space in an issue. Besides increasing legibility, the shorter line of the 2-column prevents the waste that a very short 1-column line creates.

Others have suggested that we could eliminate the cost of stapling by using 11x17" paper, as many other local newsletters use. We investigated this and found that not only is larger paper more expensive, copiers are not designed to use it. Those other newsletters are printed, not copied, and the cost is almost double what we spend. By contrast, the staple costs 1¢ per completed copy. Larger paper also limits flexibility. I try to fill an even number of pages to avoid a blank side. Using 11x17" paper would require us to plan pages in multiples of four, not two.

As we experiment in the next months, let us know your thoughts. The response to our appeal for funds for WGNSS has been overwhelming—see page 1. Here's what one member said:

"I joined WGNSS soon after it was organized. We head about it from Sterling Jones. I was still in high school. My family, Harry and Jennie Comfort, and my uncle, Earl Comfort, were all active members—not leaving out Jim Comfort, my brother.

"Many of my best memories are of the good times I had on field trips with Botany, Bird, and Geology groups. We also had and Astronomy group. We went out and lay on our backs and studied the

sky. A lot of the monthly meetings were at our house.

"We spent many days at the cabin on the Rankin estate. We took a bird census once a month with all of us on assigned routes.

"One of the things I am interested in is the Thursday field trips. Katherine Arhos and I were going out every Thursday. We asked several of our members to go with us and soon we had a large group going every Thursday. It's still going strong!

"I enjoy Nature Notes and I read it cover to cover. Helen Hill, Bourbon, Mo." ~

Nature Nut: Peg Whitmire

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 Girl Scout leader, Ms. Georgia Clark, sparked my interest in nature with nature walks, from 1930-35. Years later, Betty Nellums, Nell Menke, Art Christ, and Edgar Denison taught me about wildflowers. Blaine Ulmer and Floyd Hallett shared their knowledge of birds.

Wildflower walks at the Arboretum and birding trips with the Ulmers and Halletts have been the highlights of my enjoyment of the natural world. Also, sailing trips introduced us to snorkeling around the world. Of course, Peter Raven inspired our interest in the environment and biodiversity. John Behrer and Scott Woodbury taught us about creating a wildflower garden with different habitats and sparked our interest in medicinal plants.

In addition to WGNSS, we support the Nature Conservancy, Prairie Foundation, the Wild Ones, the Garden Conservancy, Missouri Botanical Garden and Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum). We continue pursue our interest in nature, always desiring to learn more.

We are currently involved with Western Carolina State University in an experiment to remove lead, from orchards particularly, by means of plants to withdraw lead from the soil. It has been very successful.

I want to instill our love and concern for the environment to our grandchildren and feel very successful as they are now 15, 17, and 20. We want to build their awareness of their environment and protect the natural world for future generations. ~

Found: One Golden Field Guide

Charlene Malone

One Golden Field Guide *Birds of North America*, by Robbins et al., copyright 1966. It was found on the rustic wooden bench at the entrance to the Gaddy Bird Garden, Tower Grove Park approx. mid May 2001—near where a Connecticut Warbler was reported being seen this last spring. It has the dates of birds first seen, particularly in one section. Is this your book? Please contact me, Charlene Malone, at 636-536-1119 and leave a message or e-mail stlaud@surfbest.net ~

Orchard Farm Bird Count

Randy Korotev

The Orchard Farm Christmas Bird Count was held on Jan. 1 with 24 observers and 87 species, not counting the Peacock. This is the highest species total in the 27 years for which I have records and breaks the previous record set 19 years earlier by a whopping 11 species. I credit the high total to a great flock of observers, a pleasant day to be birding, and weather that brought us 20 species of waterfowl—last year we had seven.

"Good birds" included 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 1 Ross's Goose, 5 Blue-winged Teal, 1 Northern Goshawk, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 6 Killdeer, 8 Common Snipe, 1 Loggerhead Shrike, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 1 Eastern Towhee, 2 Lincoln's Sparrows, and 1 Purple Finch. Highs included 95 Great Blue Herons, 102 Bald Eagles, 59 Red-tailed Hawks, and 28 Pileated Woodpeckers. Blackbird species were scarce, as was our count specialty, Eurasian Tree Sparrow (only 137). Of species usually seen, the only misses were Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Cedar Waxwing, and Lapland Longspur.

The count center is in St. Charles Co., 14 miles west of Riverlands EDA. The count circle overlaps those of the Elsay and Pere Marquette, Ill., counts, but we don't cover the Illinois side of the river (though we count any birds that we see from the Missouri side).

Thanks to all the observers! ~

Botanizing

Carl Darigo

Continuing the weekly Botany Group Thursday outings into fall, the following members attended one or more weeks, Father James Sullivan, Sandy Alspaugh, Diane Benjamin, Marvin Boisseau, Ann & Alan Brant, Barbara Bruns, David Bruns, Elise Bruns, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Carl Darigo, Walt Frerck, Pat & Jack Harris, Nels Holmberg, Dave Larson, Barbara Lawton, Jeannie Moe, Larry Morrison, Tom O'Gorman, Marge & Jim Ruschill, Suzy & Dick Russell, Al Seppi, Betty Tanner, Kathy Thiele, Bob Wells and Martha & Doug Younkin.

September 6, Lower Meramec Park, St. Louis County—under a sunny 85° sky, 12 persons gathered to walk this park's Meramec River trail, which continues to surprise with a good variety of native plants. Abundant were *Bidens aristosa* (tickseed sunflower), *Desmodium paniculatum* (panicked tick trefoil), as well as numerous bright red fruit clusters of *Arisaema dracontium* (green dragon). Among other notable plants seen were *Ludwigia polycarpa* (many fruited ludwigia), *Aster ericoides* (heath aster), *Agalinis tenuifolia* (slender gerardia), *Clematis terniflora* (Japanese virgin's bower), *Lobelia siphilitica* (blue cardinal flower), *Comelina virginica* (Virginia dayflower) and a large grove of *Smallanthus uvedalius* (bearsfoot). However, the best find was by Jack Harris and Diane Benjamin who spotted several stems of oval ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes ovalis*); this delicate orchid seems to prefer disturbed trail shoulders. Butterflies were plentiful, with a good sampling including American painted lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*V. cardui*) and red spotted purple (*Basilarchia astyanax*).

September 13, Chubb Trail, St. Louis County—pleasant, late summer 80° weather greeted 12 persons, including Illinoisan Larry Morrison, who readily negotiated the Chubb Trail's 200 feet descent and return uphill climb, near Lone Elk Park. Amid a troop of ten horseback riders, several mountain bikers and even a park ranger on horseback, some plants managed to be listed, including *Perilla frutescens* (beefsteak plant), *Chamaecrista nictitans* (sensitive partridge pea), *Croton monanthogynus* (one-seeded croton), *Allium stellatum* (pink wild

onion), *Adiantum pedatum* (maidenhair fern), *Chasmanthium latifolium* (spangle grass) and *Festuca subverticillata* (nodding fescue). *Verbesina alternifolia* (yellow ironweed) was abundant, especially in the bottomland. Father Sullivan explained that plants growing in shaded habitat will often have opposite upper leaves. Bob Wells spotted a pecan tree (*Carya illinoensis*) and Jack Harris found feather moss (*Hypnum lindbergii*); this large and attractive moss is very glossy, with curved, falcate leaves.

September 20, St. Joe State Park, St. Francois County—with many members attending Paul McKenzie's grass seminar, only three (one of whom will remain anonymous, arriving late and unfortunately choosing the wrong direction) showed up for a nice late summer day's walk along the asphalt bike path. Reversing a later trend, goldenrods beat out asters, by a close margin, eight to six. Significant goldenrods were *Solidago rigida* (stiff goldenrod), *S. nemoralis* (old field goldenrod), *S. hispida* (hairy goldenrod), *S. petiolaris* (downy ragged goldenrod) and *S. radula* (rough goldenrod). Among interesting aster species seen were *Aster patens* (spreading aster), *A. oolentangiensis* (azure aster), *A. laevis* (smooth aster) and *A. turbinellus* (prairie aster). The "plant of the day" was an apparently diseased version of *Desmodium perplexum* (hairy tick clover) which had simple leaves instead of the normal three-leaflet compound leaves.

September 27, Watershed Nature Center, Edwardsville Ill.—a group of 13, enjoying the pleasant 65° weather, once again helped Jeannie Moe with her plant inventory, now exceeding 400 species. Asters came out in front on the annual battle with goldenrods, eight to two. Prominent among the asters were *Aster cordifolius* (blue wood aster), *A. novae-angliae* (New England aster) and a possible *A. praealtus* (willow leaf aster). Goldenrods were *Solidago rigida* (stiff goldenrod) and *S. altissima* (tall goldenrod). Several other plants included Florida lettuce (*Lactuca floridana*), Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*), nodding bur marigold (*Bidens cernua*), blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) and American bugleweed (*Lycopus americanus*). Among grasses seen were *Sporobolus heterolepis* (prairie dropseed), the very hairy *Panicum philadelphicum* (Philadelphia witchgrass), the non-native variety of *Eragrostis pectinacea* (Carolina love grass) and

Phragmites australis (common reed), a tall plant widespread throughout the world.

October 4, Karen Holden Farm, Ste. Genevieve County—a sunny 75° was the background as six people made a repeat visit to the Holden farm along Morrison Creek, adjacent to the proposed Holnam cement project. Honors in the aster-goldenrod battle went to asters, nine to three. Significant species listed were *Aster oolentangiensis* (azure aster), *A. ontarionis* (Ontario aster), *A. lanceolatus* (tall white aster), *A. lateriflorus* (white woodland aster) and *Solidago nemoralis* (old field goldenrod). Some other plants seen were *Gnaphalium obtusifolium* (sweet everlasting), *Asplenium trichomanes* (maidenhair spleenwort), *Helenium autumnale* (autumn sneezeweed), *Acalypha rhomboidea* (rhombic copperleaf), *Cyperus strigosus* (false nut grass), *Eragrostis frankii* (sandbar love grass) and *Setaria parviflora* (perennial foxtail). In many places, the dry rocky creekbed was covered with a green filamentous alga (*Oedogonium* sp.) which attaches to sticks and rocks, and *Hygroamblystegium tenax* (stringy willow moss) a common plant which likes wet rock surfaces.

October 11, Mo. Botanical Garden—a rainy weather forecast convincing the group to opt for the garden's paths, proved correct for once, as a consistent drizzle greeted 8 persons on an otherwise cool fall day. The Ridgway flowering plant table display featured bright red, spherical inflorescences of globe amaranth (*Gomphorena globosa*). Two trees with green fruits were seen outdoors, Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)—the latter's round fruits freely falling to the ground. In the Climatron, an interesting display featured *Myrmecodia tuberosa*, a tree whose tuber-like growths are used as living quarters by ants. Also seen were huge leaves of *Dioscorea bulbifera* (air potato) and the gigantic talipot palm (*Corypha umbraculifera*), reaching almost to the building's ceiling. In the Brookings Interpretive Center, a glass case desert display showed the spiny *Euphorbia horrida*, proving that the Euphorbiaceae family does include cactus-like plants. In the Schoenberg Temperate House were found many *Spiranthes cernua* (ladies' tresses) orchids in a wetland area and *Callicarpa americana* (American beautybush) with numerous purple berries; also nearby were tall common papyrus (*Cyperus*

papyrus), along with small and delicate miniature papyrus (*C. proflifer*). After searching in the wrong rose garden, Jack Harris finally found a survey benchmark, to confirm calibration of his new GPS unit.

October 18, Castlewood State Park, St. Louis County—on a day which was chilly early, but warmed to a sunny 65°, 14 people, including David Bruns, new baby girl Elise and Grandmother Barbara Bruns visiting from Oregon, toured the River Scene Trail. Asters far out-numbered goldenrods, eight to two; significant asters seen were *Aster ontarionis* (Ontario aster), *A. anomalus* (blue aster) and *A. turbinellus* (prairie aster), while the goldenrods were *Solidago drummondii* (Drummond's goldenrod) and *S. petiolaris* (downy goldenrod). Native grasses found were side oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), spangle grass (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*). Al Seppi spotted a nice stand of bloodleaf (*Iresine rhizomatosa*) and Kathy Thiele identified a prairie ring-necked snake (*Diadophis punctatum arnyi*).

October 25, Hunter Ford Site, St. Louis County—chilly wind, blowing leaves and a weak 55° sun opened the fall season for 11 persons who walked the old road along the Meramec River, on this St. Louis Co. Parks property. Near the entrance, Jim Ruschill answered an *Aristolochia tomentosa* (woolly pipevine) leaf test, just before the thick, cylindrical fruits were seen hanging overhead. Although the site of numerous old homesteads, several native species were abundant, particularly spangle grass (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*). Also seen were numerous eastern prickly pear cacti (*Opuntia humifusa*) sporting red, oblong fruits. A few flowering plants were still hanging on, *Phlox paniculata* (perennial phlox), *Solidago gigantea* (late goldenrod) which was field-keyed in the driving wind, and *Heterotheca camporum* (golden aster), whose later keying proved a real headache. Among non-native stand-outs were *Elaeagnus umbellata* (autumn olive) with small red fruits, abundant and spreading *Clematis terniflora* (Japanese virgin's bower), and Jack Harris finding bowling-ball size Osage oranges (*Maclura pomifera*).

November 2, St. Stanislaus Conservation Area, St. Louis County—a change to Friday due to All Saint's Day falling on Thursday was

no problem, with an early morning rain stopping just in time as eight persons enjoyed a sunny, 65° walk to the Missouri River on a bottomland trail. Near the entrance an entire field had been planted with switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*); this grass has proven to be very flood resistant. Father Sullivan fooled everyone with a dried obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) test, although a plant with flowers was seen later. In addition to abundant *Aster lanceolatus* (tall white aster), also seen along the trail were *Paspalum laeve* (field paspalum), dried fruits of *Ruellia strepens* (smooth ruellia), several patches of *Cuscuta cephalanthi* (buttonbush dodder), *Cyperus erythrorhizos* (redroot flatsedge) and *Cardiospermum halicacabum* (balloon vine). The latter plant has tiny, perfectly round, black and white marked seeds resembling billiard balls. Found on the river bank were *Artemisia annua* (sweet wormwood), *Cyperus squarrosus* (awned cyperus) and *Leptochloa panicea* (red sprangletop grass). Also here Jack Harris spotted *Ricciocarpos natans* (mudflat liverwort); which has two forms, one floating on water surfaces and the second forming rosettes when stranded on land.

November 8, Mastodon State Park, Jefferson Co.—weather once again smiled favorably with rain holding off until mid-afternoon, as 10 persons walked two trails on a sunny 60° day. Pat Harris was able to identify native bitter-sweet (*Celastrus scandens*) by the dangling fruit panicles, even though the vine was climbing high in a sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*) tree alongside the Visitor Center parking lot. Along a sidewalk were found leaves and “silver dollar”-shaped fruits of money plant (*Lunaria annua*), below a Bradford pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*) with very tiny, miniature fruits. On Bone Bed Trail, Father Sullivan agreed with Jim Ruschill on the identification of a Shumard’s oak (*Quercus shumardii*). Also seen on rock ledges were Drummond’s goldenrod (*Solidago drummondii*) and slender lip fern (*Cheilanthes feei*). Along the bottomland Spring Branch Trail, Jim spotted the first of many *Aplectrum hyemale* (Adam & Eve orchid) leaves, while Father Sullivan later found several *Spiranthes ovalis* (oval ladies’ tresses) orchids. Although rated S2 (imperiled) in the state, this orchid seems to like disturbed sites, as witness nearby houses, probably less than 100 yards away. Also seen were *Botrychium dissectum* (cut-leaf

grape fern), *Diarrhena obovata* (American beak-grain), *Equisetum hyemale* (common scouring rush), *Chenopodium ambrosioides* (Mexican tea) and the aster look-alike *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane).

November 15, Cliff Cave Park, St. Louis County—summer-like sunny, 70° weather continued to stay around, as a group of 12 inspected Mississippi River bottomlands and the Cave Trail, competing with trains, barges and even mountain bikes. Several late-appearing flowering plants included *Geum canadense* (white avens), *Lamium amplexicaule* (henbit), *Aster oblongifolius* (aromatic aster) and *Pyrrhopappus carolinianus* (leafy-stem false dandelion). Other interesting finds were *Chenopodium bushianum* (Bush’s pitseed goose-foot), *Salix eriocephala* (diamond willow), *Amorpha fruticosa* (false indigo), *Mimulus alatus* (sharpwing monkey flower), *M. ringens* (Allegheny monkey flower) and *Eragrostis cilianensis* (stink grass), whose aroma when fresh is reputed to resemble crushed cockroaches. Father Sullivan had no takers with his test on a young cottonwood sapling (*Populus deltoides*), while Nels Holmberg found *Porella platyphylla* (pinnate porella liverwort) growing in abundance on a rock wall below the cave. The unusual weather not only prompted an eastern mole (*Scalopus aquaticus*) to risk daylight, but also helped Jeannie Moe and Diane Benjamin spot several butterflies, including checkered skipper (*Pyrgus communis*) and buckeye (*Junonia coenia*).

November 23, Hawn State Park, Ste. Genevieve County—13 people, including Ann & Alan Brant, Doug Younkin and Dave Larson, came out on another unseasonably warm 65° day (moved to Friday due to the Thanksgiving holiday), to walk the Whispering Pines Natural Area near Pickle Creek, just north of the picnic area trailhead. All five Missouri species in the family Betulaceae were seen near the creek, *Alnus serrulata* (common alder), *Betula nigra* (river birch), *Carpinus caroliniana* (musclewood), *Corylus americana* (hazelwood) and *Ostrya virginiana* (eastern hop hornbeam). Alan found *Sphagnum palustre* (spoon leaf peat moss) in extensive mats and *Fontinalis welchiana* (dry creek water moss), growing on a rock in an intermittent tributary. Father Sullivan pointed out the buds of *Rhododendron prino-phyllum* (azalea), then later found several dried

plants of the unusual orchid, *Malaxis unifolia* (green adder's mouth), so named due to the single leaf of the stem.

November 29, Missouri Botanical Garden—40° and a chilly rain encouraged eight people to avoid muddy forest trails for the more friendly confines of the Garden. Native plants still blooming in the prairie section were orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), green-stemmed Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*), grayhead prairie coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), rose vervain (*Glandularia canadensis*) and purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*). Maypops (*Passiflora incarnata*) had several fruits. Among interesting flowering non-natives seen were Chinese redbud (*Cercis chinensis*) and dwarf fothergilla, "Blue Mist" (*Fothergilla gardinii*). A kiwi (*Actinidia deliciosa*) was fruiting.

Thanks to Pat & Jack Harris for supplying information for this article. ~

SLAS Prairie Chicken Trip

Jim Malone

Twice previously, St. L. Audubon has offered an April trip to Hi Lonesome Prairie near Sedalia Missouri to see Greater Prairie Chickens and lots of other great prairie birds. This year we'll repeat this popular trip April 12-13. We may need to limit the number of participants, so reserve a space early. We will spend Fri. night in Sedalia, Missouri, and go to Hi Lonesome Prairie at sun-up.

Later we'll visit a couple of other nearby areas then return to Sedalia for brunch. We will drive to Columbia to Eagle Bluffs and Bradford Farms before returning to St. Louis. On past trips we have seen Prairie Chickens, Henslow's, LeConte's, and Vesper Sparrows, and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. If you want to see the Prairie Chickens dance and sing, call Jim Malone at (636) 536-1119 or e-mail me at stlaud@surfbest.net ~

Birding Scope Available

Kowa TSN Scope with 20x60 zoom eyepiece \$625—call Viola Buckholz 521-1924 ~

December 2001 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

John Molyneaux was a good friend of WGNSS and a true gentleman. He will be greatly missed.

In addition, we want to thank Ken Cohen and Sue Gustafson who led the efforts to get lights on the Gateway Arch turned off during peak migration periods in the spring and fall.

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

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

TGP = Tower Grove Park

Christmas Bird Count Remarks

- ☛ Pere Marquette, 12/15: about 100 species, Winter Wren; Principia College
- ☛ Elsah, Ill., 12/15: 2 Palm Warblers (very good birds)
- ☛ Carlyle Lake, 12/17: 103 species, 6 owl species, Merlin, Lapland Longspurs, Am. Pipits, Pine Siskins, Brewer's Blackbirds
- ☛ Cuivre River SP, 12/20: 1 Winter Wren, 6 Purple Finch
- ☛ Collinsville Circle, 12/22, about 80 species, Fish Crow, 5 Common Loons, Krider's Red-tailed Hawk, Screech Owl
- ☛ Busch C.A., 12/29: Lincoln's Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, numerous Red-tailed Hawk variants
- ☛ Clarence Cannon, 12/30: about 80 species, 67,825 Mallards, 200 Greater White-fronted Geese
- ☛ Orchard Farm Jan. 1: 87 species, 1 Ross's Goose, 5 Blue-winged Teal, 1 N. Goshawk, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 6 Killdeer, 8 C. Snipe, 1 Loggerhead Shrike—see p. 4

Sightings: At CL, a Red-throated Loon was observed on 12/15 (G&TB) and Common Loon continued to be seen throughout the month. On 12/23, 5 Great Egrets were seen at HL (FH). Up to 40 Trumpeter Swans were found in December at REDA (P&BJ, CA, m. ob.). White-fronted Goose sightings included

60 at REDA on 12/1 (CM) and 200 at CL on 12/9 (DK). On 12/7, a Ross's Goose was sighted with many Snow Geese, along with several Loggerhead Shrikes at Baldwin Lake (Th. Group). Over 1500 Gadwalls were seen near the railroad tracks at HL on 12/16 (FH). Charlene Malone counted 60 Buffleheads and a Common Loon at Little Creve Coeur Marsh on 12/1. Four Surf Scoters were seen at REDA on 12/8 (BR) and 3 were seen at HL on 12/9 (KL). Dan Kassebaum counted 23 species of ducks at CL on 12/8 and 12/9.

Kathy Thiele counted 30 Turkey Vultures, a very high number, in Ste. Genevieve County on 12/28. Dick Coles observed an adult Golden Eagle along I-44 at Tyson on 12/5. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen at CL on 12/2 (MT) and at HL on 12/9 (FH). The Johnsons observed 2 Rough-legged Hawks in Clinton & Bond Counties, Ill. on 12/18. A Peregrine Falcon was seen near Orton Road on 12/8 (G&TB). The first Great Black-backed Gull (an adult) of the season was found at HL on 12/30 (FH, photo). Frank Holmes also had a Lesser Black-backed Gull near HL on 12/23 (photo). On the weekend of 12/1-2, Mike Thelen found 100 Bonaparte's Gulls at HL and 450 at CL.

A Long-eared Owl was seen at Hazlet SP on 12/9 (DK). An Eastern Phoebe was reported on 12/7 at Cuivre River SP (BS). A really good winter find was a singing Bewick's Wren near their home in Franklin County on 12/21 (Cheryl & Don Delashmit). Peter Hoell reported a Winter Wren at his home in Eureka on 12/25 and 2 Red-shouldered Hawks from West Tyson Park on 12/27. Another really good winter bird was a Barn Swallow, observed at CL on 12/26 (DK et al.). A Brown Thrasher was seen at HL on 12/30 (FH). Brewer's Blackbirds were found in Bond County, Ill. on 12/18 (P&BJ).

Mike Thelen reported the following sightings from CL on 12/1, a typical day for this time of year: 11 species of ducks, 1 Turkey Vulture, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk (juv.), 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 21 Red-tailed Hawks, including 1 vocalizing and 1 apparent juvenile western, 5 Kestrels, 1 Killdeer, 450 Bonaparte's Gulls, and 4 Kingfishers.

Comments: A partial albino Grackle (white-headed) was seen in Wilma Kennell's yard. Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in Dec. in the yard of Zoe Geist. Jack

Harris found a Cooper's Hawk and a Red-breasted Nuthatch in his yard. Dennis Bozzay reported a Cooper's Hawk stalking Juncos on foot in his yard. A Hermit Thrush visited Irene Mondhink's feeder in Jersey Co., Ill. on 12/20. Anne McCormack's female Rufous Hummingbird was last seen on 12/24. On 12/30, Frank Holmes observed a Bald Eagle land by a listless domestic goose on the ice at HL. After a few minutes, the eagle climbed onto the goose's back and began plucking the live bird. The goose died shortly thereafter and the eagle enjoyed its meal. On 12/30, a Kestrel took a long bath in a heated birdbath and fed at the suet feeder at the Affton home of Judy Boeser.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, George & Terry Barker, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Tom Bormann, Dick Coles, Cheryl & Don Delashmit, Peter Hoell, Frank Holmes, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Wilma Kennell, Kent Lannert, Randy Korotev, Vivian Liddell, Jim & Charlene Malone, Anne McCormack, Jeannie Moe, Irene Mondhink, Bill Rowe, Bruce Schuette, Mike Thelen, Kathy Thiele, many observers. An asterisk means "documented."

Please note this temporary change: To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol at 314-963-7750 or email Yvonne at homeyer@earthlink.net by the last day of the month, until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation. ~

Great Backyard Bird Count 2/15-18

Bird Source

Count the birds in your backyard or local park on one or all four count days of the GBBC. Count in as many different locations as you wish, just make sure to keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each area. Watch the birds for at least 15 min. on each day. We recommend watching for 30 min. or more.

On the day(s) that you count, watch your bird feeders, or take a short walk (less than 1 mile) in your neighborhood or park. For each species that you see, keep track of the highest number of individuals that you observe at any one time. Then go to "Submit your bird checklist" on our web site. Fill out the questions. http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/toc_page.html

"Nadine? Honey, is that you?"

Rufous Heads South

Anne McCormack

Ah, the sounds of Kirkwood: trains blasting, traffic helicopters roaring, and fingers snapping from the top of a tree. When I hear the last one, I know I've got a Rufous Hummingbird in the yard.

The Rufous is a west-coast species, but a great traveler. The out-of-range adult female Rufous announced her presence to me on October 7, 2001. She was not as bold as last year's immature male Rufous—much more careful around people. But she was very loyal to my yard. Within 10 minutes, if I waited quietly, she always appeared or at least scolded me from a hidden location. Except for the first day, I'm not aware of anyone who came to see her and left disappointed.

The mild fall was a big factor in Snicklefritz's long stay. The Mexican sage (*Salvia leucantha*) bloomed wonderfully this year and she guarded that patch jealously. She worked those blooms first, then dove into the Anise Sage, *Salvia guaranica*. She perched on a lily stem by the flowers, just as I have seen hummers in the Southwest survey their domain from a dry *Agave* stalk.

She drove out every White-throated Sparrow, as if they were snakes in Ireland. She chased the chickadees as far as two door down. I once saw her displace a Blue Jay who was rude enough to claim her favorite perch.

I kept a plate of rotting bananas out to bring in fruit flies. I started this to attract butterflies and found that the Ruby-throats would zip madly back and forth over the plate, snapping up the little red-eyed devils. Though I never caught her enjoying fruit flies, in Nov. I got video footage of her snapping up tiny insects in the *Salvias*. I watched her foraging among the sweet gum leaves for little critters till the leaves disappeared.

On December 1, Lanny Chambers brought his gear over to try to trap and band the bird. He had wanted to wait till the flowers were gone and she came regularly to the feeder. It didn't seem that that was going to happen very soon. Those blooms were still in excellent shape, in spite of 5 or more nights below 30°. He set up the trap in hopes that she would get used it, and lo and behold, she flew right in.

It was a 1000 to 1 shot—perhaps 10,000 to 1—but she was already banded! The records showed that she had been banded in New Orleans on November 24, 2000. She was recorded as an adult female Rufous, so that made her at least 3 years old. The bander was Nancy Newfield, an expert on hummers and the author of *Hummingbird Gardens*, 1996.

Lanny let me release her. For a moment she lay still in my hand, sun reflecting off her emerald back. Then she took off so fast I never even felt her wings! She rocketed straight to her favorite tree and gave us a piece of her mind—using some pretty bad grammar too.

I figured that she was the only adult Rufous ever captured in Missouri, and certainly the only *recapture*. Wrong. Hummingbird-bander Troy Gordon wrote me: "There was one other adult female that had been banded in Florida a previous year and was recaptured near Springfield in 1993 by Sarah Driver. Anyway, with two Rufous recaptures, it seems to give credence to a theory that at least some move through the Midwest, then gradually move south to the Gulf Coast area to overwinter. Although, it must be pointed out that Rufous establish these temporary territories throughout their yearly cycle, not only in the summer breeding areas and their wintering areas, but also during migration when they find good habitat. And, apparently your bird had found that good habitat in your yard, just like the previous birds have done." For more information on out-of-range hummers in Missouri, see Troy's webpage <http://www.missouri.edu/~gordonm/mohummers.htm>

Her experience in hand didn't seem to dampen her enthusiasm for the area. She was a loyal to my yard as ever. Sleet pounded all the late-bloomers, but still 20% or so of the blossoms hung on. The vermilion blooms of Pineapple sage, *Salvia elegans*, were still doing well and getting a lot of use. I covered the plants with sheets every night. After the sleet, she came to the feeders more often, but still preferred the flowers. Before dawn on December 9, the temperature dropped to 26°, clear and calm, and the plants got hammered. No point in covering them anymore. Her options were narrowing.

The morning of Dec. 24 was the coldest yet. For the first time, her favorite feeder was frozen solid. I had rigged a heat lamp on the

kitchen window-feeder so it was ready to go shortly after its timer went off at 5 AM. I got up about 7:15 and spotted her hovering around it. I grabbed my two other window feeders and thawed and rehung them as soon as I could but I didn't see or hear her any more. I hope that she tanked up when I wasn't looking, cut her losses and headed for New Orleans that day. She was present for 79 days. I'm still keeping the heat-lamp-feeder going in case she returns.

Here's a mystery to ponder. In '98, I had an apparent immature female Rufous that Troy tried to band but never caught. She arrived in mid-November and stayed two weeks. I called her Nadine, after Chuck Berry's 1964 hit. In '99, no Rufous. In 2000, an immature male banded by Lanny. Now in '01, an *adult* female. In the words of Mr. Rock 'n' Roll, "Nadine? Honey is that you?" ~

Conservation Report Feb. 2002

Yvonne Homeyer

Holnam Update: Our appeal to the Clean Water Commission of the DNR's issuance of a 401 certification to Holnam (now called Holcim) may be decided at the CWC's Feb. 13 meeting in Jefferson City. If you are interested in attending, please contact Yvonne Homeyer at 314-963-7750. The Corps of Engineers has not yet made a decision on Holnam's application for permits to destroy the wetlands and construct a harbor by widening the Mississippi River. Gov. Holden (Mo.), Gov. Ryan (Ill.), Sen. Durbin, Congressman Clay and many other elected and public officials have asked the Corps to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US EPA, and the Mo. Dept. of Conservation have asked the Corps to deny the requested permits.

Mark Twain National Forest Meeting in St. Louis: A public meeting sponsored by the Forest Service called "What's Happening in the Mark Twain National Forest?" will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 7:00 PM at Powder Valley. Issues such as lead mining (Doe Run) and logging threaten the forest's integrity and biodiversity. The MTNF provides critically important habitat for Neotropical migrant songbirds, other wildlife, and plant diversity. We would like to have lots of WGNSS mem-

bers there. Please come to share your knowledge and opinions.

Blackbird Poisoning Plan: The Wildlife Services division of the US Dept. of Agriculture is continuing its campaign to put poisoned bait in sunflower crop fields in North Dakota and South Dakota to kill blackbirds that are estimated to cause only 1 to 2 % crop loss. This program has been in effect for several years and many species of birds, not just blackbirds, have been killed. Now USDA wants to formalize the program, rather than ask for yearly permits from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (which USFWS denied one year after pressure from the National Audubon Society). WGNSS has submitted public comment on the scoping phase that precedes the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The intentional killing of blackbirds (and other bird species) has been prohibited for almost a century by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The USDA is trying to carve out an exception for blackbirds. One of the main flaws in the program is that there is no way to limit the killing to just blackbirds, the "target" species. Many other seed-eating species ("non-target" species) including Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Horned Lark, Meadowlark, Indigo Bunting, Mourning Dove, and sparrows will also eat the poisoned bait. In addition, secondary poisoning occurs when predators such as owls, hawks, mammals and reptiles eat the dead or dying birds. Last year, more than 150 WGNSS members signed letters protesting the poisoning.

St. Johns Bayou/New Madrid Floodway: The Corps' proposal to drastically alter the flood plain in southeastern Missouri along the Mississippi River refuses to die, even though it is opposed by US Fish and Wildlife Service and US EPA. Thousands of acres of wetlands would dry up and Big Oak Tree State Park would be impacted. WGNSS recently submitted public comment on a revised draft EIS. We will keep you posted. ~

Next Deadline: Feb. 8

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

Colorado Birding

Mike Flieg

Two Colorado trips were offered last year (our 4th) and were successful. Seven grouse species were observed, Greater and Lesser Prairie Chickens. Greater and Gunnison Sage Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Blue Grouse and White-tailed Ptarmigan. Mountain Plover and longspurs were the highlights of Pawnee National Grassland. All of the Rosy Finches were seen in the Cameron Pass. The second trip produced Black Rail which was seen by all.

Since 1998, the Lek-a-day trips have begun in St. Louis, which involves over 3000 miles. This year they will begin and end in Denver, Co., where we will cover over 1500 miles. Trips will begin on Sunday afternoon and end on Friday evening. Dates for 2002 are the following: 4/21 to 4/27, and 4/28 to 5/4. The cost will be \$825 from Denver. This price will include ground travel, my services from Denver, and lodging Sunday through Thursday nights. The trip will terminate when I drop you off on Friday evening. Meals, snacks and drinks on your own. Contact Mike Flieg (314-645-3356/FAX 314-534-3366, e-mail Gmflieg@aol.com.) for itinerary, bird lists etc.

Beginning and ending in Denver, rather than St. Louis allows us to eliminate the long drives through Kansas. As a result some species such as Black Rail, Harris's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, and others will be eliminated from the itinerary. Tour dates: April 21-27 and April 28-May 4.

Itinerary:

Day 1- Sunday arrival in Denver, evening drive to Wray (166 miles), Night in Wray

Day 2- Monday Observe Greater Prairie Chicken lek in early AM, then drive to Walden via Pawnee National Grassland (369 miles) where we will target Mountain Plover, Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs. Depending upon time and daylight we may be able to bird Cameron Pass for Rosy Finches before spending the night in Walden.

Day 3-Tuesday Early AM at the Greater Sage Grouse lek, then back to Cameron Pass for Rosy Finches. Drive to Craig where we spend the night (153 miles).

Day 4-Wednesday Early AM near Hayden observing Sharp-tailed Grouse at the lek, and Dusky Blue Grouse nearby. Driving to Gunnison (173 miles) via Guanella Pass at Georgetown. Here we should observe

White-tailed Ptarmigan en route. Night in Gunnison.

Day 5-Thursday Early AM near Gunnison to observe Gunnison Grouse at nearby lek. Drive to Elkhart KS via Pueblo for Lesser Prairie Chickens (401 miles). Night in Elkhart.

Day 6-Friday Lesser Prairie Chickens on lek. To Denver (309 miles), arrive by 6 PM.

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.

If you are interested, call Continuing Ed. at 314-984-7777.

How To Lead An Effective Field Trip Tues., Jan. 29 from 7:30-9:30 PM, sponsored by St. L Audubon. Paul Bauer.

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.

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.

Spring Birds: Beyond Warblers April 24 and May 1 from 7:00-9:00 PM field trip 7:00-3:00 PM, sponsored by St. Louis Audubon Society.

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.

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.

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. ~

Budget Safari to Kenya: 6/13-23

Paul Bauer

Join our 6th St. Louis Audubon safari to east Africa. We'll see over 50 species of mammals, including the Big 5 (elephant, rhino, lion, leopard, Cape Buffalo). On each trip we also manage to find up to 320 species of birds, and experience the unique cultures of the Samburu, Kikuyu, and Maasai people.

Our budget safari costs \$3295 per person with double occupancy, includes round-trip air from New York. Call Paul Bauer at 314-921-3972 to obtain a detailed daily itinerary by mail. Paul will answer any questions. ~

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.

February 20 "Using Archaeology to Teach about our Diverse Heritage," by Dr. Pam Ashmore and Dr. Time Baumann, UM-SL

March 20 "The Sex Life of Antenna Designs: Computer Algorithms with Mimic Nature," By Dr. James Bornholdt, Boeing.

April 17, "Medical Criminal Entomology," by Dr. Robert Hall, UM-Columbia. ~

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

Feb. 18

March 18

April 15

May 20

Aug. 19

Sept. 16

Oct. 21

Nov. 18

Dec. 16

deadline

Feb. 8

March 8

April 5

May 10

Aug. 9

Sept. 6

Oct. 11

Nov. 8

Dec. 6

Next Deadline: Feb. 8

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. ~

Need directions?

Creve Coeur Community Center

- The membership meets on the 2nd Fri., Feb. 8, at 7:30 PM (temporary location).
- 300 N. New Ballas Rd.
- Between Olive and Ladue roads
- east side of street across from post office
- 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 at Powder Valley
Nature Center: Doug Corbett 636-861-2829

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 Jan. 2002

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

spring banquet

May 9 at Hawken House in Webster: call Pat McCormick 636-825-2842

Nature Notes deadlines

10 days prior to 3rd Mon: call Anne McCormack 314-965-8091
mccormacka@earthlink.net

Big Day birding competition

Sat. May 11, 2002 (2nd Sat.)

membership expires/renewal due

Aug. 31

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.

© Copyright Statement

All articles in *Nature Notes* are printed with the author's permission. Persons or organizations wishing to reprint articles should obtain the author's permission and list credit to *Nature Notes*, Webster Groves Nature Study Society. Contact the editor.

2001-2002 WGNSS Board

President: Doug Corbett
702 C Overlook Cir. Dr.
Manchester MO 63021
636-861-2829
corbettstl@prodigy.net

2nd Vice Pres: Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct.
Ballwin MO 63021
636-825-2842

Treasurer: Randy Korotev
800 Oakbrook Ln.
St. Louis MO 63132
314-993-0055
rlk@levee.wustl.edu

Editor: Anne McCormack
587 Andrews
St. Louis MO 63122-5722
314-965-8091
mccormacka@earthlink.net

Membership: Dr. Dianne Benjamin
733 LePere Ave. Apt. A
St. Louis MO 63132-4439
314-997-2419
MaryKBenjamin@webtv.net

Ornithology: David Becher
12829 Mariner's Pt Ct.
St. Louis MO 63141
314-576-1146

Botany: Fr. James Sullivan
1607 Ville Maura Lane
Hazelwood MO 63042-1054
314-291-7885

Entomology: Marshall Magner
516 Bacon Ave
Webster Groves MO 63119
314-961-4588

Interim Env. Ed Chair: Mike Flieg
6803 Nashville
St. Louis MO 63139
314-645-3356
gmflieg@aol.com

Conservation: Yvonne Homeyer
1508 Oriole Ln.
St. Louis MO 63144
314-963-7750
homeyer@earthlink.net

Member at Large: Tom Parmeter
2270 Love Ln.
Florissant MO 63031
314-921-6017

Member at Large: Mark Peters
5435 Lions Den Spur
Imperial, MO 63052
636-296-9159

have you visited?

www.wgnss.org

Webster Groves Nature Study Society



Meetings

Wednesday February 6

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

Friday February 8

7:30 PM Note change of location for this month only: Creve Coeur Community Center at Creve Coeur City Hall, 300 N. New Ballas. It is located on the east side of Ballas, across the street from the post office. This is our annual group meeting with the St. Louis Audubon. Our guest speaker will be Brad Jacobs, Ornithologist for the Mo. Dept. of Conservation. Brad has just released a new book entitled *Birds of Missouri*.



Botany

Thursdays Jan.-Feb.

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

Sunday January 20

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

Sunday February 24

7 PM at Magners', above. Chris Brown, Monsanto entomologist, will present: "A Photographer's Look at Missouri's Tiger Beetles."



Birding

Thursdays Jan.-Feb.

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

Sat. Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 16

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

Saturdays Feb. 9, March 9 & 30

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 Feb. 9

9:00 AM St. Louis Audubon/ WGNSS Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond Parking area. Call Jim Malone at (636) 536-1119 for information.

Fri.-Mon. Feb. 15-18

Great Backyard Bird Count. See article or: http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/toc_page.html

Saturday March 9

8 AM St. Louis Audubon/WGNSS Busch, meet at Hampton Lake. Call Jim Malone above.



Join WGNSS

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

Nature Notes deadline Feb. 8

www.wgnss.org



Webster Groves

Nature Study Society
PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

Non-profit Org.

US Postage Paid
St. Louis MO
Permit #690

address service requested

exp: 31-12-2099 [0/L]

Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct
Ballwin MO 63021-7549

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 mailadd \$5
Student.....\$5
Life\$300
(lump sum or equal payments over 5 yr.)

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

Please make check payable to: Webster Groves
Nature Study Society