



Nature Notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society November 2002 Vol. 74, No. 9

Even *More* New Meeting Places and Times this Fall

Pat McCormick

November 8, at 6:30 PM

Monsanto Center at

Missouri Botanic Garden

tour of MBG Library and Herbarium

We'll continue our celebration of Henry Shaw's legacy on Friday, November 8, 2002, 6:30 PM at the Monsanto Center, Shaw and Vandeventer. This new building houses the climate-controlled herbarium especially engineered to preserve the millions of plant specimens on file there and an extensive botanical library. Our evening will include a tour of the facility led by the Monsanto Center staff. Since tour space is limited, please reserve your visit by calling Pat McCormick at 636-225-0264. Reservations are limited to the first 50 members who register.

The building is located one block south of I-44 on Vandeventer. Turn right on Shaw Ave. and enter the parking lot on your left. We'll meet in the lobby of the Center. ♡

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December 8, from 1-4 PM

**Holiday Open House & Book Fair
Washington University's**

Tyson Research Center

The Holiday Open House at Washington University's Tyson Research Center headquarters will feature a Book Fair this year. Books from the collections of Viola Bucholtz and Jack Van Benthuysen will be on sale during Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8, from 1-4 PM. We'll begin the festivities for 2002 renewing friendships with conversation, delicious food and good books. Bring an appetizer of dessert and your best holiday spirit to share. Beverages will be provided.

Tyson Research Field Station will be open for hiking and birdwatching. It's located on I-44 at the Antire Rd. exit. Follow the exit ramp to the gate on your right and sign in. The headquarters building is approximately one mile from the gate on the main road. Turn right into the parking area. See you there where the Holidays begin! ♡

Dates for 2003 Meetings

St. L. County Library closes on Fri. night!

WGNSS has been meeting at the St. L. County Library Headquarters on the second Friday evening of Sept.- Nov. and Jan.-April for many years, but now the library has made some changes.

The library has now decided to charge a nominal fee —\$10—for its meeting spaces and to cut back its hours of operation. They will no longer be open on Fri. or Sat. nights.

We will still begin our meetings at 7:30 PM, and most will still be at the library, but the day of the month will vary. Up to now, we haven't been chased out of the library at 9 PM. However, starting 2003, we will have to pay an additional fee if we are not all out of the building by 9 PM.

Dates for our general meetings in 2003:

- 🦅 Thurs., Jan. 16 St. L. Co. L-HQ
- 🦅 Fri., Feb. 14 joint meeting with SL Audubon at Creve Coeur Government Center on N. New Ballas Rd.
- 🦅 Mon., March 10 St. L. Co. L-HQ
- 🦅 Mon., April 14 St. L. Co. L-HQ
- 🦅 Thurs., May 8 Spring Banquet Eden Seminary, Webster
- 🦅 Thurs., Sept. 18 St. L. Co. L-HQ
- 🦅 Tues., Oct. 7 St. L. Co. L-HQ
- 🦅 Thurs., Nov. 20, 2003 St. L. Co. L-HQ



Joanna Turner

Betty Nellums

It is always hard to say good-bye to friends. Joanna Turner passed away Wednesday, September 18. This was the second good-bye. The first was when Joanna and Jim moved to Estes Park, Colorado in 1995. Of course they immediately became involved in volunteer work protecting and restoring wildflowers in Rocky Mountain National Park. Joanna has a long history of helping all wildlife. She dedicated many hours to the Wild Canid Survival and Rescue Center at Tyson, was a trustee of the Nature Conservancy Chapter in Missouri and active in the Missouri Native Plant Society.

We first met when she and Louise Green came to a Thursday Botany Walk with Father Sullivan. She quickly became one of Father Sullivan's regulars and also became Botany Chairman for WGNSS. It is noteworthy that as an expert volunteer she co-authored the *Catalogue of the Flora of Missouri* with George Yatskievych. She was very modest about her accomplishments and always had a kind word for everyone.

We will miss you Joanna.

Shaw's Contribution to St. Louis

Pat McCormick

Dr. James Scott, professor of history at St. Louis University and television producer presented a fine documentary film on the legacy of Henry Shaw for our October general meeting. The documentary originally shown on PBS to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Shaw's birth explains Henry Shaw's goals for open space, outdoor recreation, research, and education and plant preservation. The film depicted the realization of these goals in today's world: soccer play, picnics, concerts, and birdwatching in Tower Grove park, plant research laboratories, teacher workshops, and festivals at Missouri Botanical Garden, botanists working with preserved plants at the Monsanto Center, and worldwide botanical research in the field. 🦅

Kent Lannert To Join Board

Yvonne Homeyer

The Board is pleased to announce that Kent Lannert has agreed to serve as the Co-Chair of Ornithology. Kent is an experienced and enthusiastic birder and has been a WGNSS member for over ten years. This is his first time on the Board and we welcome his participation. Thank you, Kent! 🦅



Spring Botanizing

Carl Darigo

Spring was welcomed back, as the Botany Group Thursday outings continued (except for the annual weeklong trip), with following attending one or more times: Father James Sullivan, Dave Alspaugh, Marvin Boisseau, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Carl Darigo, Dorothy & Ed Emery, Pat & Jack Harris, Nels Holmberg, Del Johnson, Anne Kettler & sister Jennifer, Gladys & Ed Kullman, Louise Langbein, Dave Larson, Barbara Lawton, Jeannie & Jim Moe, Fran & Tom O' Gorman, John Ruprecht, Marge & Jim Ruschill, Suzy & Dick Russell, Al Seppi, Nancy & John Solodar, Kathy Thiele, Betty Walters and Bob Wells.

March 7, Creve Coeur Lake Park, St. Louis County—the spring season opened on an encouraging 65° and sunny note, with a group of nine touring the lake's west side asphalt path. The year's small but growing flowering plant list was increased with *Lamium amplexicaule* (henbit), *Thlaspi perfoliatum* (perfoliate penny cress) and an immature, possible *Cerastium dubium* (three-styled chickweed), whose miniature size made accurate identification questionable. Father Sullivan found both of his white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) types, one with normal brown and the second with mysterious black terminal buds. Three tests went begging, catalpa (*Catalpa sp.*) with large, whorled leaf scars, mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*) having two buds above the leaf scar, and a dried wood sage plant (*Teucrium canadense*). A short nature trail with tree identity signs has been installed near the Page Avenue bridge site. "River willow" probably indicated *Salix exigua*, otherwise known as sandbar willow, and a white mulberry (*Morus alba*) was incorrectly labeled as red mulberry. Nels Holmberg obligingly attached a correction to the sign, then later found fruiting wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) pods along the lake bank. Jim Ruschill and Dick Russell spotted several Eurasian Tree Sparrows near the trail's end.

March 14, Weldon Spring Conservation Area, St. Charles County—another 65° spring day was enjoyed by nine persons who walked the Lost Valley Trail to the beaver-dammed spring ponds. Flowering species seen included *Veronica polita* (wayside speedwell), *V. hederifolia* (ivy leaf speedwell), *Lepidium virginicum* (poor man's pepper grass) and *Lindera benzoin* (spice bush). The patch of *Leonurus sibiricus* (Siberian motherwort) was still present, although much reduced by recent trail construction. Bright green, filamentous algae floating on Little Femme Osage Creek and the beaver ponds turned out to be *Spirogyra sp.*, also known as pond silk. Nels Holmberg found *Potamogeton crispus* (curly pondweed) in the ponds and a large patch of *Eqisetum hyemale* (common scouring rush) near the creek, while Dick Russell demonstrated the slippery inner bark of *Ulmus rubra* (slippery elm). Kathy Thiele with yellow rocket leaves (*Barbarea vulgaris*) and Jeannie Moe with green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) plus blue ash (*F. quadrangulata*), correctly answered Father Sullivan's tests. The good weather brought out the year's first butterflies, the blackish Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*) and the delicate blue Spring Azure (*Celastrina argiolus ladon*).

March 21, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—wintry winds kept the group down to five, who managed to avoid most of the chilly blasts by staying on the valley trails. Only six flowering species were found, including two new entries for the year, *Acer rubrum* (red maple) and *Rhus aromatica* (fragrant sumac). The most interesting plant of the day was one Adam & Eve orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*) with the winter leaf plus last year's dried fruiting stalk.

March 28, Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles County—a 60° forecast failed to materialize as a large group of 12 suffered under cloudy, 45° skies, while touring the Hackberry Trail, across from Francis Howell High School. Flowering plants were still sparse, but thanks mainly to Nels Holmberg's diligent searching, six new species were added

for the year, *Cardamine parviflora* (small flowered bitter cress), *Corydalis flavula* (pale corydalis), *Viola rafinesquii* (johnny jump-up), *Chaerophyllum procumbens* (wild chervil), *Thlaspi arvense* (field penny cress) and male flowers of *Juniperus virginiana* (red cedar). Kathy Thiele spotted yellow daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) near an old home site. Some discussion ensued as to whether the plants were daffodils or jonquils, but later research revealed that although in the same genus, jonquils have much shorter interior flower heads plus leaves with oval cross-sections. Duckweed Pond still contained some *Lemna minor* (lesser duckweed); unfortunately, the pond identification sign had been uprooted and thrown in the water.

April 4, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles County—nine people walked southwest from Pitman Hill Road, enjoying a somewhat warmer than expected, sunny 45°. The southern exposure of this trail section enhanced flowering spring species, including *Muscari botryoides* (grape hyacinth) near an old home site, *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot), *Corydalis flavula* (pale corydalis), *Phlox divaricata* (blue phlox), *Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches), spotted by Jack Harris on a hillside, *Senecio glabellus* (butterweed) and *Viola pubescens* (yellow violet). The bloodroot, originally identified by Tom O'Gorman, was showy and abundant. Nels Holmberg correctly identified the "crater of the moon" leaf scars on a Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) branch, then explained that garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) leaves are a tasty addition to pasta, perhaps partially compensating for the plant's invasive nature. Just before Father Sullivan found a colorful—black with white and red spots—early spring, day-flying moth, *Psychomorpha epimenis* (Grapevine Epimenis), sunning on the trail surface, a Cabbage White (*Artogeia rapae*) butterfly was seen; this butterfly is an early spring arrival and a pest of cabbage and other agricultural mustards.

April 11, River Round Conservation Area, Franklin County—the year's first "short-sleeve" day brought out 17 worshippers, including new members Anne Kettler and John Ruprecht, who enjoyed high 70s while checking out the Meramec River bottomland. While many flowering plants were seen, the total fell just short of the 40 found during the last WGNSS visit to this site in April 1987. Especially abundant were *Isopyrum biternatum* (false rue anemone), *Erythronium albidum* (white trout lily) and *Cardamine concatenata* (toothwort). Also of significant interest were *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger), *Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches), *Ranunculus hispidus* (hispid buttercup) and *Trillium viride* (green trillium). Nels Holmberg spotted the season's first sedge, *Carex albicans* (early spring sedge) and Jeanne Clauson found *Porella pinnata* (aquatic porella) mixed with mosses on a dripping, north-facing rock face; as the common name suggests, this liverwort likes a very wet habitat.

April 18, Mark Twain National Forest, Lower Rock Creek, Madison County—the 90° heat wave continued as four stalwarts explored old forest roads in the creek's vicinity; near the St. Francis River, southwest of Fredericktown. Three of the group had overnighted in a Fredericktown motel, having toured the Silver Mines area on Wednesday. Seen on that trip was *Uvularia sessilifolia* (small bellwort). Among flowering plants found the following day were *Glandularia canadensis* (rose vervain), *Ranunculus harveyi* (Harvey's buttercup), *Viola palmata* (cleft violet), formerly known as *V. triloba*, *Arabis missouriensis* (Missouri rock cress), *Hybanthus concolor* (green violet), *Geranium maculatum* (wild geranium), *Silene virginica* (fire pink), *Euphorbia commutata* (wood spurge) and more *Uvularia sessilifolia*, a Madison County record. The unusual *Carex torta* (twisted sedge) was spotted, while *Luzula campestris* (wood rush) was abundant in flowering stage; this sedge-like species is common in forest habitat and related to spike



rushes (*Juncus*), both members of the Jun-
ceae family. Season and temperature were
perfect for morel mushrooms (*Morchella es-*
culenta), but the sharp-eyed botanists found
none, possibly due to dry conditions.

April 25, St. Francois State Park, St. Fran-
cois County—a chilly morning which turned
into a very nice sunny 60° greeted 14 partici-
pants, who walked the Missouri Trail and
portions of the Swimming Deer Trail. Mar-
gins of park roads sported yellow inflores-
cences of *Senecio plattensis* (prairie ragwort)
and *Barbarea vulgaris* (yellow rocket). Blue-
bells (*Mertensia virginica*) normally overrun
the bottomland, but while present, were al-
ready past their prime. However, blue phlox
(*Phlox divaricata*) substituted, being ex-
tremely abundant throughout. Other flower-
ing species included *Phacelia purshii* (Miami
mist), *Fragaria virginiana* (wild strawberry),
Salvia lyrata (lyre leaf sage), *Delphinium tri-*
corne (dwarf larkspur), *Hydrastis canadensis*
(golden seal), *Cynoglossum officinale* (com-
mon beard's tongue), *Camassia scilloides*
(wild hyacinth), *Arabis shortii* (rock cress)
and *Descurainia pinnata* (tansy mustard).
Dick Russell successfully answered a test on
Tradescantia subaspera (wide leaf spiderwort)
leaves, whose size and appearance simulate
the corn (*Zea mays*) plant. Just before the trail
climbed a steep, rocky bluff near the Big
River, a wet limestone cliff-face had a collage
of colorful plants, *Silene virginica* (fire pink),
Aquilegia canadensis (columbine), *Dode-*
catheon meadia (shooting star) and *Gera-*
nium maculatum (wild geranium). Also on
the cliff were *Cystopteris bulbifera* (bulblet
fern) and *Hymenostylium recurvirostre* (re-
curved tufa moss), the latter forming calcium
deposits, extracted from the limestone
substrate.

May 2, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles
County—an initial chilly 55° warmed con-
siderably as a group of 11, including first-
timers Gladys & Ed Kullman, went east from
the Augusta trailhead. Abundant along the
length of the trail were *Phacelia purshii* (Mi-
ami mist) and *Bromus tectorum* (downy

chess). Also prevalent was not-quite flower-
ing *Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock),
whose musty aroma along with occasional,
fragrant *Robinia pseudo-acacia* trees (black
locust), contributed to the local atmosphere.
Other plants seen included *Geranium dissec-*
tum (cut leaf cranesbill), *Valerianella radiata*
(corn salad), *Tradescantia ohiensis* (smooth
spiderwort), *Tragopogon dubius* (goat's
beard), *Aristolochia tomentosa* (woolly pipe-
vine) and *Erigeron philadelphicus* (Philadel-
phia fleabane). Louise Langbein spotted
Arisaema dracontium (green dragon), Nels
Holmberg *Carex hyalinolepis* (clear scale
sedge) and Wayne Clark found abundantly
fruiting *Funaria flavicans* (large-spore cord
moss). Father Sullivan identified dock beetles
(*Gastrophysa cyanea*) devouring leaves of
Rumex patientia (patience dock). Jeannie
Moe saw several Pearl Crescent butterflies
(*Phyciodes tharos*), then helped a white-
lipped snail (*Triadopsis albolabris*) safely
cross the trail.

May 9, Kullman Property, Warren
County—early morning rain ended just in
time for nine persons to accept Gladys & Ed
Kullman's generous invitation to check out
lady's slipper orchids on their property, bor-
dering on a Charette Creek tributary in east-
ern Warren County. Father Sullivan had
barely gotten out of his car before finding a
red and black sumac bag weevil (*Attelabus*
nigripes) wrapping its eggs in a host leaf.
Numerous large yellow lady's slippers (*Cyp-*
ripedium calceolus) were indeed found in
the rich, moist, bottomland woods; the plants
were var. *pubescens*, occurring in the eastern
part of the state. Another neat find was the
tiny fern, *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (south-
ern adder's tongue). Father Sullivan spotted
leaves of Michigan lily (*Lilium michi-*
ganense) and a possible ragged orchis plant
(*Platanthera lacera*), while Pat Harris discov-
ered the shriveled winter leaves and budding
stalk of Adam & Eve orchid (*Aplectrum*
hyemale). Abundant throughout were *Carex*
rosea (spaced sedge), *Rubus enslenii* (south-
ern dewberry) and *Ribes missouriense*



(gooseberry). Among many other plants seen were *Viburnum rufidulum* (southern black haw), *Tradescantia virginiana* (Virginia spiderwort), *Cynoglossum virginianum* (wild comfrey), *Triosteum illinoense* (Illinois horse gentian), *Trillium viride* (green trillium), *Botrychium virginianum* (rattlesnake fern), *Circaea lutetiana* (enchanter's night shade) and *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pulpit). Jeanne Clauson found the uncommon *Fissidens adianthoides* (large-cell plume moss), Ed pointed out *Urnula craterium* (devil's urn fungus) and Kathy Thiele saw *Tremella mesenterica* (witches' butter) on a tree branch; the latter fungus can be added to soup but the slimy texture might not please the squeamish.

May 23, Cuivre River State Park, Lincoln County—on a sunny, pleasant day, Bruce Schuette and Rex Hill of the park staff led a group of 12, including Anne Kettler's sister Jennifer, to various park sites. On the Turkey Hollow Trail were seen large twayblade orchid (*Liparis liliifolia*), southern adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), bee-balm (*Monarda bradburiana*) and whorled milkweed (*Asclepias quadrifolia*). Near Lincoln Beach, Virginia spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*), false dandelion (*Krigia biflora*), culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) and green-stemmed Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) were found. Fern Valley was aptly named, for besides large yellow lady's slipper orchids (*Cypripedium calceolus*), numerous ferns spotted included northern maidenhair (*Adiantum pedatum*), Christmas (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), interrupted (*Osmunda claytoniana*), broad beech (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*), lady (*Athyrium filix-femina*) and sensitive (*Onoclea sensibilis*).

May 30, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—13 persons, including birders Nancy & John Solodar, walked the asphalt trail near the old visitor center while trying to dodge hordes of mosquitos, which made for short plant lists. However, some plants listed were

Triodanis perfoliata (Venus' looking glass), *Gamochaeta purpurea* (purple cudweed), *Vitis vulpina* (winter grape), *Triosteum perfoliatum* (common horse gentian), *Potentilla simplex* (common cinquefoil), *Ptelea trifoliata* (wafer ash) and plenty of male and female flowering persimmon trees (*Diospyros virginiana*).

Thanks to Pat Harris and Nels Holmberg for contributing information to this article ♡

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck - Another New Bird for St. Louis Area

Randy Korotev

On November 2, 2001, 18-year-old Eric Goldman of Highland, Illinois, was hunting ducks with some friends from a blind on Highland Silver Lake, about 30 miles northeast of St. Louis in Madison Co. A small flock of Mallards made a pass at their decoys. The Mallards broke off and flew away, but the lone long-necked duck that was with them landed in the water outside of shooting range. When the duck swam closer to the blind almost an hour later (8-9 AM), Eric's older companions offered the shot to Eric, who killed the bird. Eric and his friends did not know what species of duck Eric had shot. A hunter across the lake had also seen the flock of Mallards, had noticed the one unusual duck in the flock, and had suspected that it was a whistling-duck. When he saw Eric retrieve the duck, he came over and identified the dead bird as a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Many of Eric's friends and other hunters who heard about the bird came to Eric's house to see the duck. At this writing, the specimen is being mounted by a taxidermist. I have chatted with Mr. Goldman and have seen photos of the bird. It certainly looks like a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck to me.

According to *Birds of the St. Louis Area—Where and When to Find Them*, the only other report of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck for the St. Louis area was of 18 birds seen by hunters west of Portage des Sioux, October

18–25, 1989. My recollection is that Dick Anderson, co-author of the book, heard about this sighting from a Missouri Dept. of Conservation agent some time later. The sighting, although credible, is listed as “hypothetical” (also in Robbins and Easterla’s *Birds of Missouri*, 1992) because there were no photos or specimens taken.

Discounting one record of a tame escapee (January, 1985), the only other Missouri sighting is that of four birds seen at Squaw Creek in the northwestern part of the state on Nov. 11, 1939 (Robbins and Easterla, 1992). The only Illinois record for which there is a date is of a single bird seen in La Salle along the Illinois River on September 15, 1930 (Bohlen and Zimmerman, *The Birds of Illinois*, 1989). If there have been other sightings since these books were published, I am unaware of them. So, three of the four MO-IL records are from late fall. Now is the time to be looking! Judging from the MO-IL records and my experience with the species in Texas, I suspect that it is most likely to be seen on smaller bodies of water in woodland settings than on big bodies of water like the Mississippi River or the south end of Carlyle Lake.

Thanks to Dan Kassebaum, who relayed information about this sighting to me after talking with the taxidermist hired by Mr. Goldman to mount the specimen. The taxidermist approached Dan at Carlyle Lake this past summer when she suspected that he was a birder—the binocular and scope probably gave it away—and wanted to ask him about the strange duck that Mr. Goldman had brought to her.

Note added in proof: Dan mentions that he has heard a report of another sighting of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in southern Illinois, Williamson County, on October 5, 2002, possibly related to passage of the remains of hurricane Isidore. ☞

National Public Lands Day Is a Success

Dianne Benjamin

Nearly 1200 visitors enjoyed nature activities and picture perfect autumn weather at Riverlands on National Public Lands Day, Sat., September 28, 2002. Phil Manhart, Interpretive Services & Outreach Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, thanks WGNSS for holding an early morning bird walk, led by Torrey Berger, and a day-long bird and butterfly watch, led by Vicki Flier.

Visitors’ birding interests ranged widely. One young boy began as an apprehensive bystander, afraid of catching diseases from bird skins—generously loaned by Washington University’s Tyson Research Center. After 30 minutes rapidly firing questions, he alerted us to distant goldfinches on brilliant sunflowers. His knuckles were now white only from excitedly gripping binoculars—generously loaned by St. Louis Audubon Society.

At the other extreme, a determined couple from Ohio gripped their well-marked copy of WGNSS’ *Birds of the St. Louis Area*. In town for a meeting with other former professional football players & spouses, they listened intently to specifics on where to find Eurasian Tree Sparrows for their life lists.

In the middle, having fun, were scores of nature enthusiasts: young Scouts and adult leaders, grandparents and grandchildren, teenage Enviro-thon competitors, on and off duty nature professionals, and of course parents with kids. The biggest crowd-pleaser was the climbing wall supervised by Upper Limits Rock Gym. The most appreciated freebies were spray cans of Backwoods Cutter insect repellent provided by United Parcel Service (UPS).

Over 500 volunteers participated in the Shoreline Clean-up organized by Greenway Network. Rangers assisted visitors building over 100 bluebird boxes, with materials supplied by Lambreth Lumber. Plan to join the



enthusiasm and dedication next year on Saturday, September 27, 2003. ♡

Monarchs Migrating

Betty Walters

Tuesday, October 1, 2002
Shaw Nature Reserve
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

On October 1, I counted 118 Monarchs at Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, Mo., in a flowery field in the floodplain of the Meramec River. The Meramec is the major drainage of the northern Ozarks, which flows mainly west to east, entering the Mississippi about 30 miles south of St. Louis.

All individuals were feeding from *Verbesina alternifolia* (Wingstem, or Yellow Ironweed), a common riparian species of the aster family. Only 12 males, or fewer than 10 per cent of the total, were seen. The majority of individuals appeared to be in excellent condition, with females at or near their maximum size of 3.9 inches.

The area is bordered on four sides by floodplain forest of sycamore and cottonwood. I made the count using the standard method of beginning on one side of the area, walking the one mile length of this narrow 15-acre field, counting only the individuals in front of me, and stopping briefly to verify their sex.

The field lies about 100 yards north of the Meramec River, and few monarchs were observed at any other location on the reserve more remote from the river. The proximity of the butterflies to the river seems to support Dr. Robert Michael Pyle's suggestion that Monarchs use major waterways as guidelines during their annual fall migration south.

The previous day, Reserve Biologist James Trager observed the monarchs leaving their overnight roosts to feed in the same field around 9 AM, but he did not remain to observe the butterflies' subsequent behavior. Before I left the area at 10:15, I observed many of the individuals flying off singly in a south-southwest direction. ♡

September 2002 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

LVT = Lost Valley Trail

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Env. Demonstration Area

TGP = Tower Grove Park

Many birders have noticed that Crows and Bluejays have all but disappeared in certain areas, and many people have found dead or dying birds in their yards. According to a wildlife disease specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey, 111 species of birds have been affected by West Nile Virus, including Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Bald Eagle.

The National Audubon Society advocates integrated pest management to control mosquitoes and therefore, West Nile Virus. Integrated pest management calls for elimination of mosquito breeding habitat, the use of environmentally sound tools to combat mosquitoes, and a more targeted approach to the use of pesticides. Bacteria-based larvacides are preferred over chemical larvacides because they do not kill beneficial insects, amphibians or fish. Broadcast ground spraying of pesticides kills beneficial insects, which reduces food available to birds.

The only birds found in very good numbers were Gray-cheeked Thrush and Veery. Golden-winged and Canada Warblers were found in fair numbers. A WGNSS birding group failed to turn up a single migrant at Tower Grove Park on 9/2.

Sightings. Several hundred White Pelicans, 12 Caspian and 1 Forster's Tern were seen at Winfield Dam on 9/14 (CA, T Bo, KL). Wigeon had returned to HL by 9/22 (FH). Pintails, Wood Ducks, both Teal, plus Marsh Wren and Least Bittern, were found at Clarence Cannon on 9/14 (CA, T Bo, KL). Marbled Godwit was reported from CL on 9/2 (DK). Ian Hunt found a juvenal plumaged Red-necked Phalarope at Creve Coeur Lake



on 9/12. Josh Uffman observed a Red Knot at REDA on 9/2. Connie, Tom and Kent had Black-bellied Plover, both Yellowlegs, 100 Least, a Stilt, 2 Buff-breasted, plus 12 Black Terns, at REDA on 9/6. The only Jaeger report was a Jaeger species, probably a Long-tailed, at CL on 9/8 (DK). The first Bonaparte's Gull sighting was at BCA on 9/17 (DH). Many birders found King Rail at the Prairie Slough Conservation Area, and Mike Brady found 2 King Rails and Sora at Little Creve Coeur Lake on 9/2.

Dave Rogles reported 2 kettles of 15-20 Turkey Vultures from REDA on 9/11. Northern Harriers were found at HL on 9/1 (FH) and at REDA on 9/3 (D Ro) and on 9/29 one was seen at REDA (J Mo, KP). A Sharp-shinned was reported at Castlewood on 9/15 (MB). Many birders found a Cooper's Hawk near the Cypress Circle (J Ck) and Jack Cowan saw a Cooper's Hawk eating a Bluejay near the Gaddy Bird Garden. On 9/21, 14 Broad-winged Hawks, 7 Osprey and a Cooper's Hawk were seen at BCA (YH, SM). A WGNSS Hawk Watch at Mark Peters' Prairie on 9/22 produced 166 Broad-wings. Ed Barresi watched a Merlin eat a grasshopper on 9/21 at BCA. Mark Peters had a Merlin stay at his prairie from 9/25 until the end of the month. It fed exclusively on large dragonflies (Common Green Darners) and perched in dead treetops, where it groomed and rested.

On 9/16, 65 to 70 Nighthawks were observed in Madison County (FH). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported on 9/11 at TGP (IH, AC), on 9/12 at TGP (G&TB), on 9/12 at HL (FH), and on 9/17 at BCA (DH). Thousands of swallows were seen staging at REDA on 9/17 (D Ro). White-eyed Vireo was heard at Valley View Glade on 9/26 (J Mo). Sherry McCowan found a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at TGP on 9/24. Philadelphia Vireo was seen at TGP on 9/11 (IH, AC) and on 9/12 (G&TB). Sherry McCowan also reported Blue-headed Vireo and Yellow-billed Cuckoo on 9/15 at TGP. On 9/7, Josh Uffman and Nick Barber found 2 Veerys, Gray-cheeked & Swainson's Thrush at TGP. Nick commented that he was

only seeing migrants in low numbers. By 9/10, birds picked up ahead of a cold front.

The Thursday Group had a Wood Thrush at TGP on 9/12. The Solodars found Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Canada, Wilson's, Ovenbird and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at TGP on 9/4. Two Blackpoll Warblers were found in TGP on 9/10 (T Be, Tina Weyman) and on 9/15 at the Cypress Circle (CM). Mourning Warblers were seen at TGP on 9/1 (Tom Kennedy, SM) and on 9/12 (T Be). The first Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen at REDA on 9/11 (D Ro). Charlene Malone found Orange-crowned and Cape May at Stump Lake, 2 Rivers NWR, on 9/14. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was found at CL on 9/13 (DK). By 9/27, there was a good movement of vireos, tanagers, and warblers, including many Black-throated Green, at TGP (DB) and on 9/28 Anne McCormack found Red-eyed, Philadelphia and Blue-headed Vireo there. Sherry McCowan reported Chipping Sparrows at FP on 9/25. The first White-throated Sparrow was seen at Castlewood on 9/15 (MB). On 9/14, 50 Dickcissels and Bobolinks were found at Clarence Cannon (CA, T Bo, KL). A typical day at TGP on 9/16 produced Worm-eating Warbler, 2 Common Yellowthroats, 2 Black-and-whites, a Chestnut-sided, 2 Magnolias, a Blue-winged, 3 Redstarts, 7 Ovenbirds, a Red-eyed Vireo, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a Gray-cheeked Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Carolina Wren, Red-headed Woodpecker and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. A typical day at Clarence Cannon on 9/20 included 6 Semi-palmated Plover, 10 Common Snipe, 2 Dowitcher sp., 2 Greater and 4 Lesser Yellowlegs, 4 Least Sandpipers, Baird's Sandpiper, 2 Marsh Wrens, and 8 Bobolinks (T Be). Torrey also had 3 Bald Eagles at Winfield Ferry on 9/20. Mike Brady, Mary Ann Auer and David Becher found Sora, Snipe, Sedge & Marsh Wrens, Swamp Sparrow and Yellow-throated Vireo on BCA on 9/29.

Comments: Good backyard birds included Redstart on 9/2 & on 9/30, Nashville War-



bler on 9/4 and Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 9/16 (WK). A Catbird was also being found in her yard; one wintered there a few years ago. Cheryl Delashmit found 4 Bewick's Wrens and 8 Summer Tanagers in her yard in Franklin County on 9/1. Margy Terpstra reported several Screech Owls and 2 Barred Owls in her Kirkwood yard. Josh Uffman saw Redstart, Black-throated Green and Chestnut-sided Warbler on 9/21.

Contributors: Mary Ann Auer, Connie Alwood, Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, Ed Barresi, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Angela Clark, Jean Cook, Jack Cowan, Ron Goetz, Sue Gustafson, Donald Hays, Yvonne Homeyer, Frank Holmes, Ian Hunt, Dan Kassebaum, Wilma Kennell, Jim & Charlene Malone, Anne McCormack, Sherry McCowan, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Mark Peters, Dave Rogles, John & Nancy Solodar, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Rad Widmer, Jim Ziebol. An asterisk means "documented." Please submit sightings by the last day of the month to Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or Yvonne Homeyer (homeyer@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 ☘

Next Deadline: Nov. 8

Submissions—handwritten or typed, e-mail, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 or amccormack@stjosephacad.com ☘

Conservation Forum at St. Louis Zoo, Thursday, November 14

Dianne Benjamin

Mark your calendars for the annual University of Missouri-St. Louis' Conservation Forum to be held at the Living World, St. Louis Zoo, on Thursday, November 14 from 5:30 to 10:00 PM. Admission is free. Concurrent presentations before and repeated after the keynote speaker will describe missions, activities, and achievements of local conservation organizations—including St. Louis Audubon, the Green Center, International Tropical Ecology Center, etc. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Peter P. Marra, senior scientist, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Stop by the WGNSS booth if you can tear yourself away from all the other action! ☘

Science Seminars from St. Louis Zoo & Academy of Science

Free — making science accessible to all people. Co-sponsored by the Saint L. Zoo and the Academy of Science of St. Louis. All seminars will be held in the Living World (North side of Zoo, free parking in North Lot) Wednesday evenings, 7:30–9:00 PM

October 23 "Therapeutic Cloning" Panel

November 20 "From Jurassic Park to the Danforth Center," by Claude Fauquet, Ph.D., International Laboratory for Tropical Agricultural Biotechnology, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

January 15 "Current Genomic Research and its Applications to Cancer," Janet S. Rader, M.D. Associate Professor, Genetics and Obstetrics and Gynecology Washington University School of Medicine. ☘

Deadlines for *Nature Notes*'02

Marjorie Richardson

Mailing parties send out mail *Nature Notes* from 10 AM till noon at Oak Bend County Library. Your help is welcome!

Dates for NN in 2002

10 AM Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes Kirkwood

mailing party

deadline

Nov. 18

Nov. 8

Dec. 16

Dec. 6

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 ☞

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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. ☞

☞ Key to WGNSS Calendar

birding field trip

each Thurs. 8:30 AM— call Dottie Herweg
314-966-2274

most Sat. 8 AM (not June or July):

call David Becher 314-576-1146

summary of the latest bird sightings

Call Tyson Nature Line: 314-935-8432

to report a bird sighting

To include a sighting on the "Nature Line" phone message, call Connie Alwood, 314-524-8111.

To submit a report to the *Nature Notes* bird column, call Jim Ziebol at 314-781-7372 or email Yvonne at homeyer@earthlink.net by the last day of the month.

board meeting

1st Wed. 7 PM Sept.—May at Powder Valley

Nature Center: Yvonne Homeyer

314-963-7750

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

general meeting

7:30 PM: Mike Flieg 314-645-3356

mailing party for Nature Notes

3rd Mon. (not June/July) 10 AM:

call Margie Richardson 314-965-8974

spring banquet

Thursday May 8 at Eden Seminary in Webster. For more info contact Pat McCormick
636-225-0264

Nature Notes deadlines

10 days prior to 3rd Mon: call Anne

McCormack 314-965-8091

amccormack@stjosephacad.com

Big Day birding competition

Usually 2nd Sat. of May

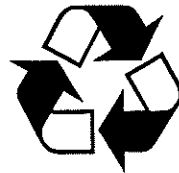
membership expires/renewal due

Aug. 31



next *Nature Notes* deadline:

Nov 8



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www.wgnss.org

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Meetings

Wednesday November 6

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

Friday November 8

6:30 PM Tour of Mo. Botanical Garden Library and Herbarium. The number of guests is limited to 50. Please make a reservation by phoning Pat McCormick at 636-225-0264. We'll meet in the lobby of the Monsanto Center on Shaw.

Sunday December 8

1-4 PM Holiday Get-Together with St. Louis Audubon at Washington U's Tyson Research Center.

Botany

Thursdays October-December

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 is sent every Wed. advising when and where the field trip is scheduled. To receive, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris jahar@mac.com

Entomology

Sunday October 27

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. John Ruprect, volunteer naturalist at Rockwoods Reservation, will present, "Aquatic Insects and Others."

Sunday November 24

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. John Beck will speak: "Our Fall Insect, The Walking Stick."

Birding

Thursdays October-December

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

Saturdays Nov. 2, 16, 23, Dec. 14

8 AM WGNSS Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond. Bring lunch. D. Becher 314-576-1146

Saturdays Sept. 28, Oct. 19

8 AM WGNSS Tower Grove. Meet at first picnic site west of stables. Bring lunch. D. Becher 314-576-1146.

Saturdays Oct. 26 November 9 Dec. 8

8 AM WGNSS "Where the Birds Are." Parking lot of HQ of Co. Library, Lindbergh, south of 40. Meet on N side. Bring lunch. David Becher 314-576-1146.

Sunday November 3

8 AM Bird walk at Little Creve Coeur, led by Torrey Berger. We will meet off Creve Coeur Mill Rd. at the back side of the golf range, next to the sheds that overlook LCCL on the east.

Sunday November 24


8 AM Bird walk at Riverlands. Meet at Headquarters. Led by Mary Ann Auer.

Join Wgnss

Send \$20 to Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132

www.wgnss.org

Nature Notes deadline Nov. 8

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Nature Study Society
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Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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

Membership categories (circle one):
Individual or Household:.....\$20
for 1st class mailadd \$8
Student.....\$10
(lump sum or equal payments over 5 yr.)

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

Please make check payable to: Webster
Groves Nature Study Society

