



Nature Notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society December 2002 Vol. 74, No. 10

Holiday Open House & Book Fair December 8 at Tyson

Bring your "book gift list" to the Holiday Open House and Book Fair, a combines Webster Groves Nature Study Society and St. Louis Audubon Society gathering at Washington University's Tyson Research Center on December 8, 2002, from 1:00 till 4:00 PM. This year, WGNSS is offering a book sale from the collections of Jack Van Benthuyzen and Viola Bucholtz, both experienced birders. A list of some of the books follows.

Come to enjoy friends, browse

Pat McCormick
among books, hike Tyson's beautiful trails and indulge in holiday treats. Beverages are provided. Don't forget your gift list and a dessert/appetizer to share.

When? December 8, 1-4:00 PM

Where? Washington University's
Tyson Research Center

Directions: I-44 west to the Antire Rd. exit. Turn right at the top of the exit ramp. Enter the gate and follow the main road about 1 mile to the headquarters parking area on your right.

books from Jack Van's collection:

Shorebirds, An Identification Guide

Birding Around the Year

Extinct Birds

Audubon's Wildlife

Missouri Ozark Waterways

The Birdwatchers Handbook

bird guides to:

Texas coast

Yellowstone National Park

Rio Grande Valley

New York City

San Juan Islands

American Birds magazines

Birder's World magazines

books from Viola Bucholtz's collection:

Guide to Finding Birds in St. L Area, 1968

Anderson & Bauer

The Life of Birds Attenborough

Hawks in Flight Dunne, Sibley, Sutton

Autumn Hawk Flights Heintzelman

A Walk across America Jenkins

Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North

America

Kortright

Wildflowers of N America Lemmon &

Johnson

A Sand County Almanac

Leopold

Round River

Leopold

My First Summer in the Sierra

Muir

Travels in Alaska

Muir

Two in the Far North

Murie

Field Guide to the Birds

Peterson

Wild America

Peterson & Fisher

Audubon Water Bird Guide

Pough

RSPB Guide to British Birds

Saunders

Southern African Birds

Sinclair

Living on the Wind: Across the

Hemisphere with Migratory Birds

Weidensaul

continued on page 2









Audubon Magazine, Vol. 1, No. 1, Feb. 1887
several bird and nature videos

Also, Paul Bauer will bring new copies of:
*Birds of the St. Louis Area: Where & When to
Find Them* WGNSS
Guide to Birding in MO Audubon Soc. MO



Dates for 2003 Meetings

all meetings begin at 7:30 PM

-  Thurs., Jan. 16 St. L. Co. L-HQ
-  Fri., Feb. 14 joint meeting with
SL Audubon at Creve Coeur Govern-
ment 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



Xmas Bird Counts

The Orchard Farm Christmas bird count will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2003. If you would like to participate, contact Randy Korotev at (314) 993-0055 or rlk@levee.wustl.edu. It will be very important this year to count species such as crows, jays, and raptors to see if the West Nile virus has made any significant dent on the populations. The National Audubon Society requires that all participants contribute \$5 to help defray the costs of publishing the results (hardcopy and Internet). If you want to learn more about CBCs, visit the web site at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/> Historical data from past CBCs are available.

Pere Marquette count in Illinois will be held on Dec. 14. More details available later.

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Count (in southeast Missouri) will be held on Saturday, December 28. Meet at 6:00 AM for briefing and breakfast at Mel's Diner in Puxico, Mo. Call Paul Bauer, 314-921-3972, by 12/15 for a mailed sheet of detailed directions.

Busch/Weldon Spring Christmas Bird count will be January 4, 2003. We will start at 8:00 AM at the Headquarters parking lot. Bring a lunch. For details, call Tom Parmeter, 314-921-6017 or e-mail tkssp@aol.com

WGNSS Meets With Governor Holden

Yvonne Homeyer

WGNSS met with Governor Holden on October 21 to discuss our concerns about the proposed cement plant project (Holcim) in Ste. Genevieve County and to thank the Governor for asking the Corps of Engineers to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. Maxine Lipeles, our attorney at the Environmental Law Clinic of Washington University, gave a presentation to the Governor. Also attending were Senator Wayne Goode, who helped arrange the meeting, Yvonne Homeyer for WGNSS, and representatives of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Sierra Club, American Bottom Conservancy, Audubon Missouri, Missouri Parks Association, Open Space Council, and the Jewish Environmental Initiative.

By the time you read this newsletter, the Mo. DNR may have made an important decision affecting the proposed project. We will keep you updated.

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

Leonard Blake 1903-2002

Dorothy Cole

Leonard Blake did not quite make it to the second annual reunion of the oldsters from the Thursday Botany Walks. In June of 2001, when macular degeneration forced Leonard to leave his home in University City, I arranged for his old botany friends to come for lunch soon after he had moved to the Brentmoor. We so enjoyed seeing all the old faces that we decided to make it an annual affair. This year it was scheduled for August 9, but Leonard went into the hospital on the seventh, and unfortunately died on the eleventh.

Leonard started coming to the Botany Walks so that he could learn to recognize the wild plants that the American Indians had used for food. Although Leonard's professional life was an accountant, his passion had always been archeo-anthropology. He wrote many articles on the food of the Indians and just this year, a book of his articles, some co-written with Hugh Cutler, was published. Leonard knew the location of each and every Indian mound in the area.

I want to share one story about Leonard on a Botany Walks in Washington State Park. We were walking along the ravine on a more or less level path; however, at the end the trail went almost straight up, and most of us said, "No thanks, I'll just turn back." Not Leonard. He started up the hill, but after a few steps he stopped and clenched his chest. This was before cell phones, so no one called 911. Leonard reached back into his pocket and fished out a nitro pill, popped it under his tongue and went on up the hill.

It is tempting to call his death a tragedy, but when someone has had such a full life of almost a century, we can instead be thankful that we knew such a wonderful man as Leonard Blake.

Cerulean Warbler

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is doing a Status Review of the Cerulean Warbler, as a result of a Petition filed by 28 organizations in the fall of 2001 asking the FWS to list the Cerulean Warbler under the Endangered Species Act. In the Midwest, the population of Cerulean Warbler has declined by an alarming 90%. The purpose of the Status Review is to provide additional information to the FWS, above and beyond what was contained in the Petition. WGNSS will commit a comment for the organization, but individuals can submit their own remarks. The deadline is Jan. 21, 2003. Address:

Field Supervisor
Ecological Services Field Office
US Fish and Wildlife Service
608 East Cherry Street, Room 200
Columbia, MO 65201

or fax to (314) 876-1914 ☎

US Fish & Wildlife Service Urban Bird Conservation Treaty Program

Sue Gustafson

Over the past nine months, I have had the privilege of working under two US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) grants awarded through WGNSS and St. Louis Audubon. My work entailed serving as the St. Louis coordinator for a potential FWS program recently begun in urban areas entitled the Urban Bird Conservation Treaty Program. The program is currently underway in Chicago, New Orleans, and Philadelphia. Other cities coming on board in the pilot phase are Houston, Portland, OR, and Anchorage, AK. The program entails FWS partnering with the "treaty city" to provide federal funding for bird conservation projects in the areas of education/outreach, habitat restoration, and hazard reduction. The Columbia, Mo., FWS office is interested in establishing this program in St. Louis, therefore, it was my assignment to prepare a formal document which was submitted to the FWS Division of Migratory Bird Management in Washington,



DC that nominates St. Louis to become a future treaty city. My work involved meeting with various government agencies and non-government organizations in St. Louis City and County to document the bird conservation-related projects proposed over the next several years and the non-federal funding committed to such projects.

The proposal includes such educational activities as bird classroom presentations, bird walks, and International Migratory Bird Week festivities. Habitat restoration projects include those in Forest Park, the Green Center, North Riverfront Trail, Tower Grove Park, and four St. L. County parks. Hazard reduction projects include decreasing avian fatalities caused by lighted buildings and pesticide use. In addition to WGNSS and St. Louis Audubon, treaty partners will include St. L. City Parks, St. L. County Parks, Tower Grove Park, Confluence Greenway, Metropolitan Park and Recreation District, Grace Hill Settlement House, Open Space Council, East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, the Green Center, Earth Angels, and the Mo. Department of Conservation. Included in my proposal document were letters of endorsement signed by Mayor Francis Slay, County Executive Buzz Westfall, MDC Director John Hoskins, and US Representative Dick Gephardt. We hope to hear the outcome of the St. Louis proposal by the first quarter of 2003. The FWS Treaty program will be a wonderful opportunity to increase public awareness of the tremendous need for bird conservation, especially in urban areas ♡.

Audubon's Watch List 2002

More than 25% of America's birds are in trouble or in decline, according to the National Audubon Society, which recently released its WatchList 2002. Of our local breeding birds, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bell's Vireo, Wood Thrush, Dickcissel, Cerulean, Blue-winged, Kentucky, Prairie, Prothonotary, and Worm-eating Warblers made the list ♡.



December '02 Conservation Report

Yvonne Homeyer

Proposed Cement Plant: In October, WGNSS met with Governor Holden, who last year asked the Corps of Engineers to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on Holcim's proposed cement plant complex in Ste. Genevieve County—see article, p. 2. Several national organizations, including the National Audubon Society, Environmental Defense, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Endangered Species Coalition, have signed yet another joint letter expressing concern about Holcim's proposed cement plant in Ste. Genevieve County and requesting an EIS. This latest letter was sent to Congressman Dick Gephardt, whose district includes Ste. Genevieve County. The previous two letters were sent to the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the US Environmental Protection Agency. This proposed project has gained national visibility because of its devastating environmental impacts.

A hearing on Holcim's request to do open-pit limestone mining over a 100+ year period has been scheduled for February 11-13, 2003 in Jefferson City. Some members of WGNSS will testify at the hearing, and any WGNSS member is welcome to attend. Call Yvonne Homeyer (314 963 7750) for more information.

An important decision by the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources affecting the proposed project may have been made by the time you read this newsletter. We will keep you posted. ♡

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 ♡.

October 2002 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

LCCL = Little Creve Coeur Lake

LVT = Lost Valley Trail

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Env. Demonstration Area

TGP = Tower Grove Park

Sightings. The first appearance of Common Loon was at HL on 10/20 (FH, Sunday Birding Group). Frank also had an apparent Pacific Loon on 10/29 at HL. A Western Grebe was found at HL on 10/11 (K Mc, G&TB) and Keith also found 2 Eared Grebes at CL on 10/5. The first Horned Grebes were reported at REDA on 10/20 (D Ro). White Pelican sightings included 2 flocks of 400 each on 10/7 at Mark Peters' property in Jefferson County, 1000 at HL on 10/27 (FH), and 100 circling over the Central West End on 10/31 (Mary Huber, Patty Wilson). Late heron and egret sightings included Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret at HL on 10/6, 9 Snowy Egrets at HL on 10/13 (FH), and a Green Heron at BCA on 10/4 (YH). On 10/20, the Sunday Birding Group found 50+ Great Egrets at Canteen Lake and the Cahokia Canal. Scott Schuette found a White-faced Ibis on 10/19 at Clarence Cannon. On 10/27, 2 Avocets and 18 Greater Yellowlegs were found at the Borrow Pit, HL (FH).

Scoters were observed early and in very good numbers. On 10/1, 2 Black Scoters were seen at REDA (PB), 2 White-winged Scoters were found on 10/1 at HL (K Mc, FH), Surf Scoters were first found on 10/25 at REDA (CM) and on 10/27, Surf Scoters and another White-winged Scoter were reported at Creve Coeur Lake (D Ro). A high count of 23 Franklin's Gulls were seen at the Borrow Pit, HL, on 10/20 (FH). A first-year Laughing Gull and an adult Herring Gull, both present at REDA since August, were last reported in early October. On 10/26, Dave Rogles reported 50

Bonaparte's Gulls, along with 3 Common and 2 Forster's Terns, at REDA. Bill Rowe hotlined a first-year Little Gull from CL on 10/26; a Lesser Black-backed Gull was also found there. A late sighting of Forster's Tern was at REDA on 10/29 (CM, FH).

Connie Alwood scoped an adult N. Goshawk on 10/24 in Ferguson. The Barkers also found a Goshawk at REDA on 10/26. A Cooper's Hawk was being seen regularly near the Jack Van B. pond in TGP (SM). Late Broad-winged Hawk sightings included 10 in Forest Park on 10/4 (MAA), 6 at BCA on 10/5 (YH, JZ), 45 on 10/7 at Mark Peters', and an unbelievable 300 on 10/31 over St. Louis City (Larry Wells). A Harlan's Hawk and a dark morph Red-tailed Hawk returned to the Levee Road on 10/14 (JZ). Torrey Berger reported that the Harlan's Hawk at Sand Prairie Lane returned for a 5th year on 10/31. This was a very good year for Merlins. The one at Mark Peters' prairie lingered until 10/2, one was seen in full soar in TGP on 10/7 (JZ), one was found at LCCL on 10/6 (NB), and on 10/12, Dennis Bozzay found one at H. Young CA. It has been many years since a Prairie Falcon has been reported in the immediately St. Louis area, and one was found at LCCL on 10/26 (D Ro, m. ob.).

On 10/8, Margy Terpstra found 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoos at TGP and a late one was seen in Ladue on 10/30 (JS). The first Short-eared Owl of the fall was seen at REDA on 10/19 (JU, D Ro). A Barred Owl was seen in the Gaddy Bird Garden of TGP on 10/10 (T Be) and on 10/11 (SM). Jackie Chain and the Thursday Birding Group enjoyed watching a Eurasian Collared Dove in St. Charles County on 10/24. A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed at Mike Thelen's home on 10/21.

On 10/8, a Red-breasted Nuthatch was found in TGP (T Be). Phoebes were seen in the area all month, including sightings at LCCL (YH) and TGP (SM) on 10/20. A Brown Creeper was seen in TGP on 10/7 (J Co, SM). Sherry also saw a Winter Wren there on the same day. Marsh and Sedge Wrens were re-

ported at Little Creve Coeur Lake and HL. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was found on 10/5 at TGP (RK). A Loggerhead Shrike was present at the Levee Road on 10/4 (JZ).

Mike Brady found American Pipit on Little Creve Coeur Lake on 10/5. Helen Wuestenfeld had a very late Golden-winged Warbler at her home on 10/12. On 10/5, a young male Black-throated Blue was hot-lined from TGP, along with a LeConte's Sparrow (IH). Nick Barber found Henslow's Sparrow at LCCL on 10/5 and an injured one was turned into Wild Bird Rehab (SG). Mike Thelen found 2 LeConte's Sparrow at CL on 10/26. Sharp-tailed Sparrow was first reported at LCCL on 10/5 (MB). Mary Ann Auer reported Vesper and LeConte's Sparrows at LCCL on 10/19. Savannah Sparrow was first seen at BCA on 10/5 (YH) and at HL on 10/6 (FH). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported in good numbers at LCCL beginning on 10/3 (JU). Sherry McCowan found a Clay-colored Sparrow in FP on 10/8 and Nick Barber had 2 on the St. Louis Univ. campus on 10/10. Dennis Bozzay located the first Fox Sparrow at Young Conservation Area on 10/13. Mike Brady had 1 and possible 2 Harris' Sparrows among the 100 White-crowned Sparrows at REDA on 10/27. One of the first Juncoes reported was from LCCL on 10/11 (JU). Ten Brewer's Blackbirds were observed on Step-pig Road in Monroe County, IL on 10/20 (JZ) and on 10/24, a female Great-tailed Grackle was seen in Brentwood (JZ).

A typical day at TGP on 10/8 included Barred Owl, 4 N. Flickers, 2 *Empidonax* species, 2 Phoebes, 6 Bluejays, Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, 5 Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Blue-headed Vireo, 4 Tennessee Warblers, Nashville Warbler, 50 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 4 Palm Warblers, 6 Black-throated Green, 1 Ovenbird, 2 Summer Tanagers, and an E. Towhee (T Be).

An exceptional day at St. Louis University campus on 10/13 produced 4 Field Sparrows,

Clay-colored Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, 60 White-throated, 1 White-crowned, 40 Song, 1 Lincoln's, 40 Swamp, 15 Dark-eyed Juncoes, 2 Winter Wrens, 4 House Wrens, 2 Marsh Wrens, Orange-crowned Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, 2 Common Yellowthroats, and others (NB).

A typical day at HL on 10/27 included Common Loon, 14 Horned Grebes, 1000+ Pelicans, 1500 Ruddy Ducks including a leucistic individual, 2 Avocets, 18 Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Dunlin, 12 Least, 1 Pectoral, 2 Franklin's Gulls, 4 Bonaparte's, 2 Cooper's and a Sharp-shinned Hawk (FH, JZ).

Comments: On 10/3, Margy Terpstra had Red-eyed and Blue-headed Vireo, both tanagers, and Nashville at her home. She also has adult and immature Cooper's Hawks appearing in her yard. Her very best bird of the fall, however, occurred on 10/1 when she saw a female Connecticut Warbler at her bubbler. By 10/12, both Kinglets and Brown Creepers had arrived. Jeannie Moe found Song Sparrows and Carolina Wrens in her yard. On 10/13, Frank Holmes found a dead Virginia Rail at HL. At REDA on 10/20, Torrey Berger "pished" a mixed flock of swallows and hundreds surrounded his van.

Contributors: Mary Ann Auer, Connie Alwood, Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, Paul Bauer, Torrey Berger, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Jean Cook, Sue Gustafson, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Ian Hunt, Dan Kassebaum, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Keith McMullen, Jeannie Moe, Mark Peters, Dave Rogles, Bill Rowe, John & Nancy Solodar, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Helen Wuestenfeld, 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) ☺

Litzsinger Road Ecology Center Seeks Volunteers

Celeste Prussia

Master Ecologists are docents who work with children, ages 5-18 from the St. Louis area by engaging the students in ecology studies at the Litzsinger Rd. Ecology Center (LREC). This 34-acre field station is operated by the Missouri Botanical Garden exclusively for education and research activities and is not open to the public. Field exploration sites at the LREC include a restored prairie, a bottomland or floodplain forest, and a section of Deer Creek. Our educational programs improve students' understanding of the natural world and the processes of science by providing hands-on learning in ecology.

For example, a Master Ecologist may teach upper elementary students how to measure and compare biotic and abiotic factors in our three natural areas or guide lower elementary students through activities to observe the natural world. No prior science or teaching experience is required but an enthusiasm for sharing your sense of wonder with children is essential.

The Master Ecologist Training includes presentations on basic ecological concepts, methods, and specific on-site lessons. Trainees must complete the training session plus 50 hours of volunteer service at LREC in order to qualify for certification. School groups schedule partial-day visits Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM. Benefits include training and materials, educational opportunities throughout the year, and the satisfaction of helping children learn about the natural world. *Observation of classes before beginning training is recommended.*

The Spring '03 training is every other Mon. Jan. 13 through April 7 from 8:30 AM-3:00 PM. Trainees will monitor at least one school group visit between training days.

For application form and further information, please contact:

Celeste Prussia, LREC Director
314-577-5117; celeste.prussia@mobot.org

Wilson Signs Book at Powder Valley

Ornithologist James D. Wilson, author of *Common Birds of North America; Midwest Edition*, will sign books on Sat., Dec. 7, from 10-noon at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. You may purchase a copy at the gift shop. No reservations are necessary. ☞

Next Deadline: Dec. 6

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

Science Seminars from St. Louis Zoo & Academy of Science

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. Free — making science accessible to all people. Co-sponsored by the Saint L. Zoo and the Academy of Science of St. Louis.

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, 2003 "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.

February 12 "Global Warming: the Greenhouse Effect," Carl Bender, Professor of Physics, Washington University.

March 12 "Personal Identification."

April 9 "Mad Cow Disease." ☞



Nature Notes Deadlines & Mailings

Marjorie Richardson

Changes in the St. Louis Co. Library's 2003 schedule have necessitated some changes in the dates and one time for the *Nature Notes* mailing party at Oak Bend Co. Library, I-44 and Big Bend in Kirkwood. Also, the library will begin charging WGNSS \$10 for the use of the room starting January.

The library is closed on our usual third Mon. in Jan. and February, 2003, so those two dates have been moved to Tuesday. Also, please note that the February 18 mailing will begin at noon, not 10:00 AM as usual.

In the third week of Aug., Oak Bend has scheduled classes in the room we use for mailing, so we cannot use the library any day that week. Can someone volunteer his or her home for the mailing in August, 2003?

The deadline for submissions to *Nature Notes* will remain the same: 10 days prior to the third Monday of the month. *Nature Notes* has 10 issues a year. There are no mailings in June or July.

Your help is welcome!

Dates for NN in 2002-3

Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes Kirkwood
mailing party

NN deadline

Mon. 12/16 10-1PM	Fri. 12/ 6/02
Tues. 1/21, 2003 10-1	Fri. 1/10/03
Tues. 2/18, 12-3	Fri. 2/7
Mon. 3/17 10-1	Fri. 3/7
Mon. 4/21 10-1	Fri. 4/11
Mon. 5/19 10-1	Fri. 3/7
Mon. 8/18 ?	Fri. 8/8
Mon. 9/15 10-1	Fri. 9/5
Mon. 10/20 10-1	Fri. 10/10
Mon. 11/17 10-1	Fri. 11/7
Mon. 12/15 10-1	Fri. 12/5



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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. ☞

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 ☞

The Heron

Theodore Roethke

The heron stands in water where the swamp
Has deepened to the blackness of a pool,
Or balances with one leg on a hump
Of marsh grass heaped above a muskrat hole.

He walks the shallow with and antic grace.
The great feet break the ridges of the sand,
The long eye notes the minnow's hiding
place.

His beak is quicker than a human hand.

He jerks a frog across his bony lip,
Then points his heavy bill above the wood
The wide wings flap but once to lift him up.
A single ripple starts from where he stood.

Brimming Water

Tu Fu

Under my feet the moon
Glides along the river.
Near midnight, a gusty lantern
Shines in the heart of night.
Along the sandbars flocks
Of white egret roost,
Each one clenched like a fist.
In the wake of my barge
The fish leap, cut the water,
And dive and splash.

The Victim

Robert Hillyer

The hummingbird that darts and hovers
Made one fatal dart—alas!—
Against a counterfeit of flowers
Reflecting in the window glass.
When four-o'clocks had sunk in shadow,
The window caught an extra glint
Of color, like the sudden rainbow
Arching the purple firmament.
Transcendent are the traceries
Illusion weaves to set a snare;
The quick competitor of bees,
Trusting his universe of air
For flight and honey, dazzled so
In quest of sweetness, was waylaid
By something hard that had a glow
Brighter than that the garden made.
Illusion shatters; the ideal
Is much more ruthless than the real.
The visionary hummingbird
Hit nothingness, and hit it hard.

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

most Sundays: call Kent Lannert 618-624-4464

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

The Grey Squirrel

Humbert Wolfe

Like a small grey
coffee pot
sits the squirrel.
He is not

all he should be,
kills by dozens
trees, and eats
his red-brown cousins.

The keeper, on the
other hand
, who shot him, is
a Christian, and

loves his enemies,
which shows
the squirrel was not
one of those.

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

Big Day birding competition

Usually 2nd Sat. of May

Nature Notes deadlines

10 days prior to 3rd Mon: call Anne
McCormack 314-965-8091
amccormack@stjosephacad.com

membership expires/renewal due
Aug. 31



2002-2003 WGNSS Board

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Member at Large: Mike Thelen

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www.wgnss.org



Nature Notes is printed on recycled paper.

next *Nature Notes* deadline: **DEC 8**



Webster Loves Nature Study Society



Meetings

Wednesday December 4

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

Sunday December 8

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



Botany

Thursdays November-January

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 November 24

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

Sunday December 29

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. Fr. Jim Sullivan will tell us about, "A *Heliopsis* Bug Discovered in Missouri."



Join Wgnss

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

www.wgnss.org

Nature Notes deadline Dec. 6



Birding

Thursdays November-January

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

Sunday November 24 & December 15

8 AM Bird walk at Riverlands. Meet at Headquarters. Led by Mary Ann Auer 11/24; John & Nancy Solodar on 12/15.

Sunday December 1

8 AM Bird walk at Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond. Led by Joe Eades.

Saturday Dec. 7

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 December 8

8 AM Bird at Baldwin Lake. Meet at boat launch parking lot. Led by Kent Lannert.

Saturday December 28

6 AM Mingo NWR Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Mel's Diner in Puxico. For directions, call Paul Bauer 314-921-3972.

Wednesday January 1

8 AM The Orchard Farm Christmas Bird Count. If you would like to participate, contact Randy Korotev at 314-993-0055 or rik@levee.wustl.edu \$5

Saturday January 4

8:00 AM Busch/Weldon Spring Christmas Bird count. Meet at Busch Headquarters. Bring a lunch. For details, call Tom Parmeter, 314-921-6017 or e-mail TKSP@aol.com \$5

Sunday January 5

8 AM Bird walk at Busch CA. Meet at Headquarters. Led by Rose Ann Bodman & Jackie Chain.



Webster Groves

Nature Study Society
PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

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Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ e-mail _____ fax (_____) _____

Membership categories (circle one):
Individual or Household:.....\$20
for 1st class mail.....add \$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