



Nature Notes

Call the Nature Line 314-935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings www.wgnss.org
Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society December 2004 Vol. 76, No. 10

Holiday Open House at the Green Center Sunday, December 5, from 1-4 PM

Margy Terpstra
 Webster Groves Nature Study Society and the St. Louis Audubon Society are invited to gather again at the Green Center in University City to celebrate the holidays. The Center offers a congenial atmosphere of meeting rooms surrounded by a beautiful outdoor space. If weather permits, tours of the grounds will be offered by the staff. The Green Center serves its surrounding community as a natural gathering place with youth programs, nature workshops, and herb and prairie gardens in the heart of University City. Its mission is conservation, education, and enjoyment of the natural world.

Please bring an appetizer, dessert or casserole to share. The Center's kitchen has a microwave for warming food. Beverages will be provided.

While you sip a cup of holiday cheer, be sure to enter the free drawings for nature related gift items donated by our members! Enjoy the display of beautiful holiday decorations and ornaments made of natural materials provided by Shaw Nature Reserve's instructors, Barb Troutman and Karen Bryan.

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Historian's Corner

Jim Adams

The Christmas Bird Count season is approaching, so this month's article is a reproduction of a article in *Nature Notes*, December, 1978. It was provided by my history gold mine—Clarence Zacher. Because of its length, it will be published in two parts. This first part deals with the Creve Coeur Lake area. The second part will deal with St. Charles County.

Christmas Bird Counts in the "Good Old Days"

Claudia Spener

The first CBC recorded in the St. Louis Area occurred on Dec. 26, 1920, when two observers from the St. Louis Bird Club—now St. Louis Audubon—braved a heavy snowstorm to walk around Creve Coeur Lake where they recorded 14 species and 94 individuals. The most startling thing about this census beside the unusually low number of birds reported—we can partially blame the weather—is the fact that not a single House Sparrow—English Sparrow, as they were then known—Eurasian Starling, or duck was

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Dates for '04-'05 Meetings

Most of these are 1st Thursday:

Sunday, Dec. 5, 1-4 PM Holiday Party at Green Center, see article this page.


No meeting in January 2005.

February 11, Fri., joint meeting with St. L. Audubon at Creve Coeur Gvt. Center on Ballas, Greg Iffrig of Pioneer Forest.

March 3 St. L. Co. Library HQ 7:00 PM

April 7 St. L. Co. Library HQ 7:00 PM

May 10, Tues., Spring Banquet at Eden Seminary with MDC photographer Jim Rathert

Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, 2005 

Holiday Open House at the Green Center Sunday, Dec. 5, from 1-4 PM

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This year, the Center has agreed to allow limited parking in the driveway for our senior members. Others, please park in the Kaufman Park lot next to the center.

Directions from Interstate-64/Hwy. 40: Take the Interstate 170 North exit; take 170 north to the Delmar Boulevard exit; go east on Delmar Boulevard three stoplights to North and South Road; then north (left turn) to Blackberry Avenue; then west (left turn).

Bugs & Birds: A Nexus in Texas, Part 1

Ted C. MacRae & Christopher R. Brown
One of the true delights of natural history study is the opportunity to travel. The natural communities of Missouri are diverse and interesting, to be sure, but they encompass only a small part of nature's diversity. Our studies of unique natural communities and their associated floras and faunas have taken us to many parts of the United States and beyond. Between the two of us, we've visited places familiar to many—the boreal forests, the coastal redwoods, the southwestern deserts—and places that many of us have only dreamt of seeing—the African savannah, the Amazon rain forest, the Andean Cordillera. While literally in our "backyard," the great state of Texas ranks high as a destination for nature study. Its huge landmass encompasses a diversity of landforms and climates that few places can

match. This, combined with its ecotonal position on the North American continent, has resulted in a tremendously diverse, and still incompletely known, flora and fauna.

It has been 20 years now since I (TCM) first began studying the jewel beetles (family Buprestidae) and longhorned beetles (Cerambycidae) of Texas. In that time, I have recorded several species of these beetles from the state for the first time, including one species known previously only from Mexico (*Agrilus toxotes*) and another completely new to science (*Mastogenius texanus*). In addition, I have been especially interested in figuring out the host plants in which the species breed, which still remain completely unknown for a good many of the species. One of the best methods for studying these beetles is rearing. The larvae of most species develop by boring through dead wood (and, hence, are known collectively as 'wood-boring beetles'). They can be reared by retrieving infested wood from the field, maintaining the wood in closed containers, and monitoring the containers for adult emergence. It was this technique that led to the recent discovery of a new species right here in Missouri (*Agrilus betulanigrae*—see the March 2004 issue of *Nature Notes*). The best time to collect wood for rearing is early spring, since by then the beetles are nearly ready to emerge. It is not always easy to maintain infested wood under ideal conditions for the larvae, so collecting wood just prior to expected adult emergence minimizes the time that larvae must be maintained (and also the time one must wait to see the fruits of their labor!). Rearing has increasingly become the method of choice for these studies, and most of the wood collected during a previous trip to Texas was now "spent." Thus, Chris and I decided another trip was in order, and an early April timing should maximize our wood collecting/insect observing opportunities. However, even though our expectations were primarily "bug" oriented, Chris also planned to keep an eye "skywards" for the many specialty birds known to occur in the areas we would visit. By the end of the trip, even I—the focused, veteran bug collector—was enthusiastically spotting some of these birds.

Our plan was to drive to the southern tip of Texas (Boca Chica near the mouth of the Rio Grande River) and work our way up the Rio

Grande, eventually reaching Big Bend National Park and, finally, the Davis Mountains. Our first stop though was in San Antonio—not to visit the Alamo or stroll the River Walk, but to look for infested wood in the “Hill Country” northwest of town. This area lies on the southeastern escarpment of the Edwards Plateau and is characterized by dry-mesic oak/juniper forest over a dissected landscape that reminds me very much of our own beloved Ozarks. I was hoping to find dead mistletoe (*Phoracanthus* sp.) infested with a recently described buprestid beetle (*Agrilus turnbowi*) and girdled oak branches that might contain a rare black and red cerambycid beetle (*Purpuricenus linsleyi*). Chris, on the other hand, was hoping (to no avail) to catch a glimpse of the Golden-cheeked Warbler, an endangered species limited to the Edwards Plateau. We went to one spot where I had previously found a single girdled oak branch, but we left only with dead branches of eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*). We then headed to another spot a few miles away to continue our search, where I immediately spotted a dead branch hanging from huisache (*Acacia farnesiana*). Dead branches hanging from living trees are ideal for wood boring beetles, and leguminous trees are especially favored. Chris went off in one direction, while I grabbed my knife and axe and made a beeline for the huisache tree. When rearing wood boring beetles, it’s always a good idea to verify that wood is truly infested before retrieving it from the field—otherwise a lot of time and effort is spent on wood batches that ultimately produce nothing.

With this in mind, I began slicing into the wood to look for evidence of active larval galleries—or better yet, the larvae themselves. At this point in my life, I consider myself to be well schooled in safe knife cutting technique. However, on this particular occasion, a momentary *lapsus cerebrus* found me cutting not away from, but *towards* myself. At the very moment I realized this wasn’t a good idea, the knife slipped on the hard wood and slammed into my thumb. By instinct, I immediately clenched my thumb in my fist and held it tightly—I was afraid to look, but I knew it was bad! I scurried back to the truck, called out to Chris, then unclenched my thumb. It began to bleed profusely. We wrapped it tightly in moist

toweling, got into the car, and drove to a nearby convenience store for directions to the nearest emergency clinic. The clerk told us of one right down the road, and we got back in the car and began following his directions. Although I was relieved to know I would get help promptly, I was sick at the prospect the trip might be over. I was also beginning to feel faint—I really thought I was going to pass out. The clinic was not all that easy to find, but eventually we found it, and then we had to wait another hour before I could be seen. We sat there morosely, trying to convince ourselves (in vain, we thought) that we still might be able to do the trip. Finally the doctor was able to see me. The cut was deep, but its position on the tip of the thumb resulted in little spreading, and the doctor decided—much to my relief—that the cut could be glued rather than sutured before wrapping and covering with a protective splint. Best of all, I could still use my hand. The thumb would be a hindrance, but the trip was still on! We were fortunate that we happened to be collecting in a metropolitan area with quick access to medical attention when the mishap occurred—had we been in a more remote area the situation could have been much more serious.

We left the clinic, picked up a supply of bandages at a nearby grocery store, and returned to the “scene of the crime.” If nothing else, I was determined to at least collect the branch that had caused me so much grief. But bad luck had not finished “raining” on us for the day. While we were at the clinic it had begun to rain, although lightly. As I collected the malevolent branch, it began to rain harder. I quickly finished the job and jumped back in the car just as the rain turned into a full-fledged downpour. We sat there trying to decide what to do next. Our plan had been to stay in the area that evening and “blacklight” (a technique for collecting nocturnal insects), then complete our journey to the southern tip of Texas the following day. But it was raining hard, and even if it stopped the blacklighting would be shot. We decided to go ahead and drive south—whatever ground we could cover that evening would be that much less we would need to cover the next day. We drove, and it rained! We drove further, and it rained harder! At times, it rained so hard that we could barely see the road, and it continued to rain all the

way to Victoria where we stopped for the night. In the hotel room we watched the weather channel—rain was forecast in south Texas for the entire coming week. First the thumb, now rain—not a good start, we were thinking. However, the following morning we awoke to bright sunny skies, and they remained so all the way to Brownsville.

The drive to Brownsville produced our first south Texas specialty bird, the northern caracara, along with other common birds such as scissor-tailed flycatcher and black vulture. This stretch of road passes through flat, monotonous coastal prairie characterized primarily by shrubs and prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia lindheimeri*). The only woody vegetation is the ubiquitous mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*). At one point along the highway, however, we noticed an unusual stand of post oak (*Quercus stellata*) at what must be the southernmost extent of its distribution—an island of trees in a prairie “ocean.” We stopped to look for dead wood, but we soon discovered the trees were harboring a veritable cacophony of birds. Chris fondly remembered this location as the place where he had first seen Green Jay eight years prior. He was once again awed by the sight of this bird, as well as Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Tropical Parula, Black-crested Titmouse, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, and a Great Kiskadee vocalizing in the distance. Recently dead wood, on the other hand, was rather scarce. I spotted a few small branches on one of the trees that looked promising, but they were higher than I could reach. I found an old tire, propped it up against the tree, and stood on top of it so I could cut the branches. It was hard pulling Chris away from all the birds he was seeing, but eventually he came back to the car and we continued south.

We arrived in Brownsville late in the morning and headed straight for Boca Chica Beach and the Gulf of Mexico. The beach itself is a State Park, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR (National Wildlife Refuge) encompasses much of the surrounding coastal prairie and interspersed tidal flats. I knew from a previous visit that a diversity of tiger beetles (family Cicindelidae) occurred near the water's edge in the tidal flats. These beautiful (and challenging to collect) beetles prey upon smaller insects that they run down and capture with the huge, sickle-shaped jaws. Species

range from brilliant green to coppery, red, or black and are variously marked with white spots and bands. On this visit, we observed the greenish *Cicindela severa*, the white & green *C. pamphila*, the slender *C. togata*, and the extraordinarily abundant *C. hamata*. While Chris concentrated on photographing the beetles (even more challenging than collecting them), I noticed a few dead plants among the stands of black mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) surrounding the tidal flats. I cut into some of the dead branches and immediately found some buprestid beetle larvae. Only one buprestid has been reared from this plant, and it is not known to occur in Texas. Thus, the beetles in the plant either represented a new state record or a new larval host record. They would eventually prove to be *Acmaeodera pulchella*, a species commonly encountered on flowers throughout Texas but until now reared only from mesquite. I bundled up a batch of the dead branches as well as a few other miscellaneous branches that I found. Afterwards, we did a little bird watching and saw, among other things, Long-billed Thrasher, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, White-tailed Kite, Snowy Plover, Great Kiskadee, Bronzed Cowbird, and Chihuahuan Raven. At one place along the highway back to Brownsville we found a huisache tree that had been attacked by a cerambycid girdler beetle (*Oncideres pustulata*). Adults of this species create their own dead wood by girdling living branches of huisache, mesquite, tepejuaje (*Leucaena pulverulenta*) and other leguminous trees with their powerful jaws and then depositing their eggs on the girdled branch. Typically, they girdle branches of about 1" in diameter, but one of the branches we found measured more than twice that!

The next day—our first full day in the field—featured a visit to Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary, a reserve owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy and located at the south edge of Brownsville on the Rio Grande River. The reserve is one of just a handful of small parcels of land that have managed to survive the inexorable process of agricultural conversion that has befallen the entire lower Rio Grande Valley, which until recently was an extensive subtropical floodplain community dominated by water-loving trees such as cedar elm, sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), anaqua (*Ehretia anacua*), and Rio Grande ash (*Fraxinus*

berlandieriana). Only 5% of this community now remains, replaced by vegetable farms, citrus groves, and a suffocating urban sprawl. The reserves are protected from any further encroachment *per se*, but their habitats continue to decline due to interruption of natural flooding cycles from the Rio Grande River by dams. The Sabal Palm Grove (known locally as 'Southmost'), lying at the southernmost tip of the state, is unique among these small reserves in that it contains the last natural stand of sabal palm (*Sabal texana*) in the U.S. It is famous as a winter destination for birders, but far less widely known is its unique assemblage of insects, a number of which occur nowhere else in the country. One of these is *Lochmaeocles marmorata*, a large, attractive relative of the girdler beetle. This species is quite fond of tepehuaje, and we found several dead branches containing the large, grub-like larval stage of the beetle. We even encountered one adult, a lone straggler hanging on from last summer. I was happy to finally have a chance to explore this area, as three prior attempts to do so in previous years were all thwarted by rain. We hiked the trails and collected several batches of infested wood. All the while, Plain Chachalacas "sang" their raucous duets in the trees above us. Some other birds seen from along the trails include least grebe, green kingfisher, Couch's kingbird, black-crowned night heron, and white ibis. Olive sparrows sang in the thickets but never allowed us a look. One of the best birds of the trip, the typically south-of-the-border short-tailed hawk, was tending an empty nest waiting—probably in vain—for a female to find it there on the fringe of the species' range. We took time to have lunch back at the office so we could sit on the patio and watch birds come to the feeders—white-tipped dove, green jay, and golden-fronted woodpecker were quite common. Most of the birds kept a safe distance, but several Plain Chachalacas dared to venture near us in search of handouts.

The next day we headed towards Santa Ana NWR, located about 50 miles upriver from Brownsville. Covering more than 2,000 acres, it contains the largest remaining tracts of riparian woodland in the lower Rio Grande Valley. I had been to this area several times already so was hoping to explore some new territory. We picked up our permit at the office and took a


service road to the back part of the refuge. Almost immediately we found things that caught our interest. Chris began investigating near a woodpile, while I found a dead Texas persimmon (*Diospyros texana*) that looked promising. I began chopping into the hard wood and within a few minutes found some buprestid larvae, so I continued to cut up and bundle the wood. Shortly afterwards I found another dead persimmon, this one much larger, and when I chopped into it I found a beautiful unemerged adult buprestid. It turned out to be *Spectralia prosternalis*, a rarely encountered species known only from the lower Rio Grande Valley, and for which the larval host was still unknown—until now, that is. Meanwhile, Chris noticed a small beetle back at the woodpile—an odd-looking thing with short elytra ("wing covers") and fringed antennae. He popped it into a vial and showed it to me later—I recognized it instantly as *Xenorhipis hidalgoensis*, another buprestid endemic to the lower Rio Grande Valley and even rarer than the beetle I had found in persimmon. We continued down the trail and entered a grove of young tepejuahe trees—ideal habitat for developing twig girdler larvae. A momentary pause was all that was needed to confirm this, as we began to hear "munching" sounds all around us caused by twig girdler larvae as they scraped the wood inside their galleries with their hard, chisel-like mandibles. Although still early in the season, one species of buprestid beetle had already begun emerging. These small beetles (*Acmaeodera neoneglecta*) are also limited to south Texas, where the shiny black, yellow-spotted adults congregate in prickly pear cactus flowers. It was along this trail that Chris was able to see the vocal yet skulking Olive Sparrow, which had frustrated him the day before. Other great birds were around as well, including Harris's Hawk (famous for its pack hunting behavior), Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Clay-colored Robin, Brown-crested Flycatcher, and Black-necked Stilt.

One beetle that I held out hope (however slim) of finding was a buprestid called *Trigonogya reticulaticollis*. This small black dot of beetle is nothing special to look at, but it belongs to a strange, relictual side-branch of the family and hasn't been seen since 1934! Nothing was known regarding its larval host, but

since the last encountered specimens had been beaten from Rio Grande ash, I decided to try to locate and bring back wood from this tree. We found good stands of the ash along two of the resacas later in the afternoon, and experience has taught me that naturally shed branches under large, mature trees often yield wood-borers. I cut into a few branches but didn't find evidence of larvae. Nevertheless, I followed a hunch and bundled up a batch of the branches—a smart decision, as later in the summer a total of 16 individuals of *T. reticulatocollis* emerged from the branches. We not only managed to find a species that hadn't been seen for 70 years, but we also figured out its larval host. That evening, after stepping out from under the forest canopy, we watched hundreds of raptors, including Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks and Mississippi Kites, fly towards the next treeline where they would roost for the night after a long day of migration. The hawks and kites were well on their way to returning to their breeding grounds after overwintering in South America.


Our final day in the lower Valley was spent at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, located only about 5 miles further upriver from Santa Ana NWR. The area had obviously received much rain, and the day started out gray and with the threat of even more rain. We checked out the bird feeders in the campground—only a few White-tipped and Inca Doves and Great-tailed Grackles were seen. However, we were entertained for a while by a pair of Brown-headed cowbirds engaged in (presumably) courtship dance, and the nearby resaca produced the diminutive Green Kingfisher. We spent the rest of the day exploring the Rio Grande River Hiking Trail and the Singing Chaparral Nature Trail. Nice looks of a pair of handsome Altamira Orioles, Roadrunner and Cactus Wren were had on the Rio Grande River Hiking Trail. Also on the same trail, small kettles of migrating raptors were seen mid morning, but the real spectacle didn't come until early afternoon when two large kettles passed directly overhead. The vast majority of the 500+ raptors in the kettles were broad-winged hawks with a few Swainson's and turkey vultures mixed in. About the same time 20+ Mississippi kites appeared flying low just above the treetops displaying their impressive acrobatic abilities when they occasion-

ally chased each other. Chris could have hardly been more content after witnessing a migration event of such magnitude that, until now, he had only known from written accounts. The Singing Chaparral Nature Trail is where, nearly 20 years earlier, I had found the beautiful little *Agrilus toxotes* on the leaves of Barbados cherry (*Malpighia glabra*). These beetles are extremely colorful compared to most species of *Agrilus*, with the prothorax ("neck") of the beetle brilliant blue (females) or red (males) and both sexes with white spots on their jet-black elytra. I wasn't aware of it at the time, but when I first found the species it was known only from a single specimen collected further south in Mexico. Thus, the find represented a new addition to the U.S. fauna. I had found the beetle again on another visit, but not this time since the adults are apparently active only during the fall. I suspect that, like a few other species in the genus, the larvae breed in living rather than dead plant tissues—most likely the lower stem, making the likelihood of successfully rearing the beetle remote. Nevertheless, several promising batches of dead wood were obtained, and we now looked forward to exploring some upland chaparral habitats further up the river.

To be continued... 

New! Improved! Checklist!

Randy Korotev

The new, improved WGNSS "Seasonal Checklist of Birds of the Saint Louis Area" is now available. This list differs from past lists in listing the relative abundance of each species for each of the four seasons. They cost \$0.50 each and two of the lists weigh an ounce, so if you want to obtain some by mail, send \$1.37 for two, \$2.60 for four, \$3.83 for six, etc. Contact Randy Korotev at <rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu> or 993-0055. 



Summer Botanizing

Carl Darigo

The Botany Group continued their weekly Thursday outings during the summer season, with the following attending one or more times, Father James Sullivan, Dave Alspaugh, Marvin Boisseau, Dorothy Brenner, David Bruns, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Carl Darigo, Jane Deschu, Pat & Jack Harris, Rex Hill, Nels Holmberg, Del Johnson, Gladys & Ed Kullman, Jeannie & Jim Moe, Tom O'Gorman, Nathan Pate, Al Seppi, Kathy Thiele, James Trager, George Van Brunt, Dave Weber and Bob Wells.

June 3, Hawn State Park, Ste. Genevieve County—on a pleasant, sunny day in the 80's, eight people investigated forested and creek areas to search for green adder's mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*). The quest was successful, as this delicate orchid was found. Other plants seen included *Botrychium virginianum* (rattlesnake fern), *Desmodium paniculatum* (tall tick clover), *D. rotundifolium* (dollarleaf), *Dioscorea quaternata* (wild yam), *Krigia biflora* (false dandelion), *Scutellaria elliptica* (hairy skullcap), *Verbesina helianthoides* (yellow crownbeard), *Carex crinita* (dangling sedge) and *C. glaucoidea* (blue sedge).

June 10, Victoria Glade, Jefferson County—11 persons toured this Nature Conservancy property while enduring 85°, hot and muggy conditions. Before starting, Father Sullivan exhibited a specimen of Ozark chestnut (*Castanea pumila* var. *ozarkensis*), which he had collected from the future runway site in Bridgeton; this species is native and resists the chestnut blight. Nathan Pate brought several Indiana specimens, two of which Father Sullivan identified as pink valerian (*Valeriana pauciflora*) and the uncommon white mint (*Synandra hispidula*); both had been seen on the Southern Illinois WGNSS trip several years ago. Father Sullivan observed an abundance of double-belted frog hoppers (*Monecphora bicincta*) on the leaves of eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) trees, surrounding the parking lot. On the forested trail approach to the glade, several plants noticed were *Rosa setigera* (prairie rose), *Festuca subverticillata* (nodding fescue), *Cryptotaenia canadensis* (honestwort), *Panicum clandestinum* (deer tongue panic grass), *Blephilia ciliata* (Ohio horse mint) and *Coreopsis lanceolata* (tickseed coreopsis). A "Desmodium test" turned out to

be *Orbexilum pedunculatum* (Sampson's snake-root). Among the many interesting glade plants seen were *Asclepias amplexicaulis* (sand milkweed), *Carex crawei* (long stalk sedge), *Leucospora multifida* (conobea), *Melica nitens* (Ladd's favorite), *Polygala verticillata* (whorled milkwort), *Scutellaria parvula* (small skullcap), *Stylosanthes biflora* (pencil flower) and *Thalictrum revolutum* (meadow rue). Photographers delighted in a white *Echinacea simulata* (pale purple coneflower) and a swamp metalmark butterfly (*Calephelis muticum*).

June 17, Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin County—James Trager led 16 enthusiasts over the Labadie Trace Trail and parts of several forest trails on a hot, muggy, 85° day. Interesting plants seen on the Labadie Trace Trail included *Parthenium hispidum* (American feverfew), *Lobelia spicata* (spiked lobelia), *Eleocharis compressa* (flat stem spike rush), *Dalea purpurea* (purple prairie clover), *Scirpus pendulus* (reddish bulrush), *Blephilia ciliata* (Ohio horsemint), *Desmodium glutinosum* (large flower tick clover), *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *Echinacea simulata* (pale purple coneflower) and Jack Harris' favorite genus, *Cuscuta*, in this case, *C. pentagona* (field dodder). James pointed out *Rhamnus davurica* (dahurian buckthorn), an invasive exotic shrub whose eradication is underway. Other plants found were *Echinacea paradoxa* (yellow coneflower) and *Spigelia marilandica* (pinkroot). Kathy Thiele spotted a southern leopard frog (*Rana sphenoccephala*).

June 24, Klondike County Park, St. Charles County—the Botany Group made its first visit to St. Charles County's newest park. The park, fashioned from the old Klondike Quarry property, has numerous trails winding through woods, sand flats, around lakes and below rocky cliffs. Many plants were seen, among the more prominent were *Agastache nepetoides* (yellow giant hyssop), *Desmodium nudiflorum* (bare stem tick trefoil), *Nepeta cataria* (catnip), *Hackelia virginiana* (Virginia stickseed), *Galium circaezans* (wild licorice), *Phryma leptostachya* (lopseed), *Trillium flexipes* (white wake robin), *Tragopogon dubius* (goat's beard) and *Vernonia missurica* (Missouri ironweed). On a north-facing sandstone bluff were found *Carex al-bursina* (white bear sedge), *Aralia racemosa* (spikenard), *Saxifraga pensylvanica* var. *forbesii* (swamp saxifrage) and *Solidago flexicaulis* (broadleaf goldenrod). Jack Harris spotted

Bryoandersonia illecebra (spoon moss) and *Pellia epiphylla* (poreless ribbed liverwort); the latter is a thalloid type which grows in solid mats, rather than the leafy form.

July 1, Katy Trail/Klondike Boat Access, St. Charles County—10 persons gathered on a pleasant, sunny, 85° day to walk the Katy Trail west from the Klondike Boat Access, and portions of the county park's adjoining trail. Several of the tall, vertical, sandstone bluffs were spectacular; one of Lewis & Clark's party is reported to have climbed to top and almost fallen from a nearby bluff. Many of the common, exotic species were abundant along the trail, including garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*) and hedge parsley (*Torilis arvensis*). Nevertheless, many interesting plants were seen, such as *Hypericum perforatum* (common St. John's wort), *Carex normalis* (spreading sedge), *Commelina erecta* (slender dayflower), *Euphorbia dentata* (toothed spurge), *Bidens bipinnata* (Spanish needles) and leaves of *Smallanthus wedalius* (bearsfoot). Father Sullivan found a spurge bug (*Chariesterus antennator*) feeding on the *Euphorbia* fruits. On the county park trail Nels Holmberg found *Reboulia hemisphaerica* (thick corner liverwort); also seen here were *Cycloloma atriplicifolium* (winged pigweed), *Lindernia dubia* (false pimpernel), *Fallopia convolvulus* (black bindweed) and the rarely-seen flowers of *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper).

July 8, St. Joe State Park, St. Francois County—on a muggy, 85° day, eight persons checked out the asphalt hiking trail south from the Harris Creek trailhead, as well as the creek banks. Due to Father Sullivan's absence, so much field keying was necessary, that the group advanced only a quarter of a mile along the trail before retreating. *Hedyotis nigricans* was abundant along the trail shoulder. Significant plants seen included *Linum sulcatum* (grooved flax), *Manfreda virginica* (false aloe), *Asclepias verticillata* (whorled milkweed), *Silene csereii* (smooth catchfly), *Eryngium yuccifolium* (rattlesnake master), *Heliopsis helianthoides* (ox-eye), *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri coneflower), *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *Taenidia integerrima* (yellow pimpernel), *Tragia ramosa* (noseburn) and fruiting pods of *Swertia caroliniensis* (American columbo). Jack Harris

spotted the fruits of climbing milkweed (*Matelea decipiens*) and Pat detected the characteristic aroma of calamint (*Calamintha arkansana*). After surprising a black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*) and garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) on a small glade above the trail, Nathan Pate pointed out both *Pellaea* fern species on a rock outcrop, *P. atropurpurea* (purple cliff brake) and *P. glabella* (smooth cliff brake). Seen along the creek bed were *Spigelia marilandica* (pinkroot), *Dalea purpurea* (purple prairie clover), *Ipomoea pandurata* (wild potato vine), *Lysimachia quadriflora* (narrow leaf loosestrife) and *Lythrum alatum* (winged loosestrife).

July 15, Babler State Park, St. Louis County—thwarted by high water at the Howell Island crossing, a group of nine opted instead for the lower Guy Park trail at nearby Babler State Park, while enjoying a nice, sunny, 80° day. Flowers were again found on Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) vines covering a fallen tree; while this species is very common, flowers are not often seen. Among other plants found were *Blephilia ciliata* (Ohio horse mint), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), *Clematis virginiana* (virgin's bower), *Desmodium glutinosum* (large flower tick clover), *D. pauciflorum* (small flower tick clover), *Heliopsis helianthoides* (ox-eye), *Hydrangea aborescens* (wild hydrangea), *Silphium perfoliatum* (cup plant) and *Verbena urticifolia* (white vervain).

July 22, Forest Park and Art Museum, St. Louis City—95° humid weather greeted 11 participants, who combined a look at the restored prairie/savanna and an Art Museum visit. Plants seen along the bicycle trail and prairie/savanna included *Actaea pachypoda* (white baneberry), *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *Coreopsis tripteris* (tall tickseed), *Circaea lutetiana* (enchanter's nightshade), *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower), *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot), *Geum canadense* (white avens), *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (sweet coneflower), *Lactuca serriola* (prickly lettuce), *Scutellaria incana* (hoary skullcap), *Silphium integrifolium* (rosinweed), *Solidago rigida* (stiff goldenrod), *Spartina pectinata* (prairie cord grass), *Vernonia arkansana* (southern ironweed) and *V. gigantea* (tall ironweed). In the Art Museum, after visiting an exhibit of old Western European botanical

paintings, some members remained for a lecture on the "Art of Floral Illustration."

July 29, Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles County—a group of 15 turned out to walk the Ellis Island road, on a cloudy, but muggy, 85° day. Yellow flowers of *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (camphor weed) were abundant throughout the entire area, as was *Bromus commutatus* (hairy chess), along the road. Growing on their favorite sand habitat, were pale yellow, skeleton-like plants of *Cycloloma atriplicifolium* (winged pigweed); tiny, wheel-shaped fruits with winged margins are the basis for the common name. Father Sullivan pointed out three willow species, *Salix caroliniana* (Carolina), *S. nigra* (black) and *S. exigua* (sandbar). Among other notable plants observed were *Verbena bracteata* (creeping vervain), *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), *Physostegia virginiana* (obedient plant), *Polanisia dodecandra* (clammy weed), *Croton glandulosus* (sand croton), *Strophostyles helvula* (trailing wild bean), *Cenchrus longispinus* (sandbur), *Apocynum x floribundum* (intermediate dogbane), *Lactuca floridana* (Florida lettuce) and *Ludwigia peploides* (floating primrose willow). Near the water's edge, Pat Harris spotted *Cyperus erythrorhizos* (redroot flatsedge) and Jeannie Moe found *Juncus torreyi* (Torrey's rush).

August 5, Klondike County Park, St. Charles County—an unusually nice August day, 75°, sunny and breezy, greeted six people who searched for sand-loving plants at this new park. The site, constructed around the old Klondike Quarry, has numerous desert-like areas resulting from the sand operations at the quarry. On rock ledges overlooking the upper quarry lake, Nathan Pate discovered the first of many little ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes tuberosa*), followed by Nancy Clark spotting several more on an adjacent sand flat. This delicate orchid, with all-white flowers, is the smallest species in the genus. Other abundant sand plants were *Froelichia gracilis* (slender cottonweed), *Cycloloma atriplicifolium* (winged pigweed) and *Croton glandulosus* (sand croton); a grass with blackish, appressed leaves defied identification due to lack of fruits. Additional interesting plants seen included *Commelina erecta* (slender dayflower), *Verbena simplex* (narrow leaf vervain), *Diodia teres* (rough buttonweed), *Paspalum setaceum* (downy bead


grass), *Cystopteris bulbifera* (bulblet fern), *Opuntia humifusa* (eastern prickly pear cactus), *Agrostis gigantea* (redtop grass), *Hieracium longipilum* (long beard hawkweed) and *Mirabilis albida* (white four o'clock).

August 12, Meramec State Park, Crawford County—on a warm, cloudy day, nine persons traversed an overgrown trail to check out a hilltop glade. Seen on the trail were *Agrimonia parviflora* (swamp agrimony), *Helenium flexuosum* (purple head sneezeweed), *Lespedeza violacea* (prairie bush clover), *Hypericum sphaerocarpum* (round fruited St. John's wort) and *Silene stellata* (starry campion). The glade featured *Euphorbia cyathophora* (painted leaf), *Liatris aspera* (rough blazing star), *L. cylindracea* (cylindric blazing star), *Amorpha canescens* (lead plant), *Desmodium sessifolium* (sessile leaf tick trefoil), *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri coneflower), *Aster sericeus* (silky aster), *Solidago gattingeri* (Gattinger's goldenrod), *S. radula* (rough goldenrod), *Pedicularis canadensis* (lousewort), *Scutellaria incana* (hoary skullcap) and *Asclepias stenophylla* (narrow leaf milkweed). Among butterflies seen were eastern-tailed blue (*Everes comyntas*) and hoary-edge skipper (*Achalarus lyciades*).

August 19, Victoria Glade, Jefferson County—13 people assembled on an 85° moderate, August, summer day to survey this Department of Conservation site, across the highway from a similar Nature Conservancy glade. The landscape was dominated with the colorful, yellow flowers of *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri coneflower). Three aster species were found, *Aster ericoides* (wreath), *A. oolentangiensis* (azure), *A. sericeus* (silky), as well as three goldenrods, *Solidago gattingeri* (Gattinger's), *S. rigida* (stiff) and *S. ulmifolia* (elm leaf). Other notable plants seen were *Agalinis skinneriana* (pale gerardia), *Aureolaria grandiflora* (big flower gerardia), *Buchnera americana* (blue hearts), *Croton capitatus* (woolly croton), *Eryngium yuccifolium* (rattlesnake master), *Helianthus mollis* (ashy sunflower), *H. rigidus* (stiff sunflower), *Heliotropium tenellum* (slender heliotrope), *Linum medium* (sucker flax), *Sabatia angularis* (rose pink), *Silphium terebinthinaceum* (prairie dock) and *Trichostema brachiatum* (false pennyroyal).

August 26, Lower Meramec Park, St. Louis County—90° and muggy conditions greeted a group of 14 who walked the Meramec River

trail. This site continues to amaze us with its diverse plant community. Seen in abundance were *Rudbeckia triloba* (brown eyed Susan), *Lactuca floridana* (Florida lettuce), plus two *Desmodium* species, *D. paniculatum* (panicked tick trefoil) and *D. perplexum* (hairy tick clover). The bearsfoot (*Smallanthus uvedalius*) was in good flower and oval ladies' tresses orchids (*Spiranthes ovalis*) were again found. Father Sullivan pointed out the difference in two similar-appearing mint species, *Mentha arvensis* (field mint) with very fragrant aroma and *Lycopus americanus* (American bugleweed) with no aroma. The moist habitat contributed to several giant-sized plants, 15 feet tall giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*) and 12 feet common evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*). Among other interesting plants seen were *Scutellaria lateriflorus* (mad dog skullcap), *Penthorum sedoides* (ditch stonecrop), *Samolus parviflorus* (water pimpernel), *Aster ericoides* (wreath aster), *Eleocharis ovata* (annual spike rush), *Alisma subcordatum* (southern water plantain), *Spermacoce glabra* (smooth buttonweed), *Commelina virginica* (Virginia day flower), *Carex grayii* (space-ship sedge) and *Agalinis tenuifolia* (slender gerardia). Nancy Clark spotted a rough green snake (*Opheodrys aestivus*) curled around a low branch and Ed Kullman found the gooey *Brefeldia maxima* (tapioca slime) fungus on a tree trunk.

Thanks to Pat & Jack Harris, Rex Hill and Jeannie Moe for supplying missing information for this article. 

Call the Nature Line!

Call 314-935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area and dates & times of WGNSS events. Please report any unusual birds to Sherry McCowan, 314-664-2381 and press "3" or wait for the prompt. You can also leave a message at the end of the Nature

Line recording. 



Nature Notes is printed on recycled paper.

October Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

CSP = Castlewood State Park

CC= Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Ref, Annada

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

LCCL= Little Creve Coeur Lake

LVT = Lost Valley Trail

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

SNR = Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum)

TGP = Tower Grove Park

Introduction: According to Paul McKenzie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this winter is shaping up to be a very good year for winter finches. Weather predictions heard on NPR suggest that the next 10 years will see mild summers and harsh winters.

Sightings: The first Common Loon of the fall was seen at HL on 10/24 (FH). In the late afternoon of 10/19, a Pacific Loon made a brief appearance at HL but was not re-found the next day (FH, JZ). Connie Alwood and Tom Bormann spotted a Red-throated Loon at REDA on 10/2 but it left before being seen by others. On 10/20, Frank Holmes found the first Horned Grebe of the season at HL. Thousands of Pelicans were seen in good numbers throughout the area. A Green Heron, seen in Forest Park on 10/29, was somewhat late (SM). Two Little Blue Herons, 3 Snowy Egrets, and a Black-crowned Night Heron were observed in the HL area on 10/10 (FH, JZ). About 100+ Great Egrets were seen at Canteen Lake on 10/17 (YH, FH). By 10/3, all of the regularly occurring ducks had arrived except Green-winged Teal, which was first seen on 10/16 in FP (SM). Five White-winged Scoters and 5 Common Loons were found at Winfield Dam on 10/31 (BR). A Eurasian Wigeon was found on 10/31 at REDA by Doug Corbett, however, it was not re-located. A Black-necked Stilt seen at Indian Lake on 10/24 was a very late sighting (FH). On 10/30, Connie Alwood and Tom Bormann found a Black-bellied Plover and 2 Lesser Yellowlegs in St. Charles County. On 10/17, 5 Least Sandpipers were reported at Indian Lake (JZ, YH). Josh Uffman reported 50 Dunlin, 6 Greater and 6 Lesser Yellowlegs at CC on 10/30. A Laughing Gull and 2 Franklin's Gulls were seen at REDA on 10/3 (JM). On 10/19, many birds were moving with a cold

front and 1000+ Ring-billed Gulls and 50 Bonaparte's Gulls were found at HL (FH). Thousands of Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at CC on 10/31 (J&CM). On 10/31, a Forster's Tern seen at Winfield Dam was somewhat late (BR).

Fourteen Turkey Vultures and a Cooper's Hawk were observed migrating at Young C.A. on 10/15 (JZ). On 10/16, Marvin Staloch found 6 Bald Eagles on Howell Island. On 10/24, Kraig Paradise saw 2 Bald Eagles and 5 Turkeys on the Missouri Riverfront Trail. At Spanish Lake Park on 10/18, Kraig observed a Cooper's Hawk pursuing a Kingfisher, which then chased the Cooper's Hawk. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed at Blue Grosbeak Trail on 10/2 (CA, TB) and on 10/7 on the Chubb Trail, Mike Brady reported 4 Sharp-shins, a pair of Cooper's Hawks and a Red-shouldered. The first Harlan's Hawk was reported along Hwy. 94 on 10/30 (CA, TB). Randy Korotev reported 2 Peregrine Falcons at Washington Univ. during early October. A Merlin was the best bird seen on the Sunday walk of 10/24 led by Mike Thelen. Late Chimney Swifts were reported on 10/17 at Granite City (FH), on 10/19 in FP (SM), and several on 10/21 in FP (JC & Th. Group). Good numbers of Phoebes were still being seen in late October, with 3 at Tyson on 10/24 (YH, JZ) and 2 at FP on 10/25 (SM). On 10/19, thousands of Tree Swallows, with several Barn Swallows mixed in, were flying at HL (FH), 1000+ were seen at CC on 10/24 (MT), and several Tree and few Barn were found at REDA on 10/28 (JC & Th. Group). Wren sightings included Winter Wren at HL on 10/17 (FH) and 2 at TGP on 10/18 (J Cook), Marsh Wrens at Dabbs Road on 10/9 (G&TB) and at BCA on 10/2 (CA, TB), and a Sedge Wren at FP on 10/21 (JC & Th. Group). Mike Brady reported a Pipit at Dabbs Road on 10/3, and 250 were estimated at a sod farm in Lincoln County on 10/30 (JU). Sherry McCowan reported Orange-crowned Warblers in several locations during October, N. Parula in TGP on 10/9, and a Cape May at Lafayette Park on 10/10. Jack Cowan counted 50 Black-throated Greens at TGP on 10/2 and 1 was found at Greensfelder Park on 10/30 (CA, TB). Jackie Chain and the Thursday Group found 3 Orange-crowned Warblers in TGP on 10/14. The first LeConte's Sparrow was observed at Young C.A. on 10/16 (JZ) and 3 were seen on

the Chubb Trail on 10/17, along with 2 Henslow's, a Vesper, and other sparrows (MB). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were first seen on 10/2 at LCCL (MB) and on 10/3 at Dabbs Road (MB, m.ob.). The first Clay-colored Sparrow was reported at HL on 10/3 (FH, JZ) and another was seen at Dabbs Road on 10/4 (CM). By 10/10, Juncos were being seen across the area. Connie Alwood and Tom Bormann reported 6 White-crowned and 2 Lincoln's Sparrows at Blue Grosbeak Trail on 10/2. Jim Hickner found a Fox Sparrow at LCCL on 10/17. A somewhat late Dickcissel was seen at CC on 10/22 (JJ, DH). On 10/30, 2 Brewer's and 6 Rusty Blackbirds were found at CC (JU) and 20 Brewer's were seen on 10/31 at B.K. Leach (BR). On 10/30, 15 Great-tailed Grackles, including 3 males, were seen at the sod farm at Hwy. 370 and Mo. Bottom Road (CA, TB). Pine Siskins were reported at Young C.A. on 10/9 and 10/15 (JZ), on 10/10 by Kraig Paradise at his home, at REDA on 10/17 (Les Jenkins), and at Tyson on 10/28 (JW). A Purple Finch was located at Young C.A. on 10/29 (JZ) and 20 were seen at Cuivre River SP on 10/31 (BR). Also on Oct. 31, a group of high-school students surveying Fox Creek near Eureka with Anne McCormack saw a lone female Purple Finch. The group also saw two Belted Kingfisher and watched a flock of 50+ Cedar Waxwings bathing in the creek.

A typical day at HL on 10/3 included 30 Pintails, 18 Wigeon, 50 Blue-winged Teal, 10 Gadwall, 3 Ruddy Ducks, 18 Wood Ducks, Hooded Merganser, 4 Common Moorhens, Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren, 10 Nashville, 25 Palm, 2 Wilson's, 10 Yellow-rumped, 5 Common Yellowthroat, 30 Indigo Buntings, Vesper, 4 Savannah, 4 Song, 20 Field, Clay-colored, 2 White-crowned, 12 Swamp, and 15 Lincoln's Sparrows (FH, JZ).

A typical day at TGP on 10/9 included Cooper's Hawk, 50+ Common Nighthawks, 2 Sapsuckers, 6 Downy Woodpeckers, 2 Blue-headed Vireos, 2 Philadelphia Vireos, 6 Brown Creepers, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 15 Tennessee, 5 Nashville, 3 Magnolia, 15 Yellow-rumped, 20+ Black-throated Greens, Bay-breasted and 2 Palm Warblers (NB). Nick also noted that standing in one place by the Gaddy Bird Garden, he counted 193 squirrels.

Comments: An Indigo Bunting was a new

yard bird for Anne McCormack on 10/9.

Good backyard sparrows for Sherry McCowan included Savannah on 10/8, Swamp on 10/17, and Field on 10/28. Connie Alwood and Sherry McCowan both saw Winter Wrens at their homes on 10/10. On 10/10, Margy Terpstra had Orange-crowned, Blackpoll and Gray-cheeked Thrush in her yard. On 10/11, she and Tina Weyman saw a N. Harrier near her house. Clarence Zacher saw a Chipping Sparrow in Webster Groves and White-crowned Sparrows and Juncos at his home on 10/24. Margie Richardson added a pool and bubbler in her yard and her October sightings included Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, N. Parula, Brown Creeper, both Kinglets, several Solitary Vireos and Carolina Wren.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Mary Anne Auer, Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Jean Cook, Doug Corbett, Jack Cowan, Don Hays, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Jim Jackson, Jim & Charlene Malone, Anne McCormack, Sherry McCowan, Kraig Paradise, Margie Richardson, Bill Rowe, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Jane Walker, Clarence Zacher, 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>.

Xmas Bird Counts "Good Old Days"

Continued from page 1

mentioned. It wasn't until 1922 than a House Sparrow was reported on the Creve Coeur count. Again, no Starlings or ducks. On Dec. 24, 1923, five Eurasian Tree Sparrows were seen. However, in 1929, 200 House Sparrows were noted at Creve Coeur. A 1933 report of the Christmas Census at Ranken, the WGNSS nature lodge—now Beaumont Boy Scout Reservation—states the House Sparrows were seen but not counted. So perhaps large numbers of these sparrows were resident here in the 1920s but depending on the judgment of the local census taker were included or omitted from the reports. The first report of an E. Starling on a St. Louis area count was Dec. 26, 1935, when one was seen by Jack Stupp and John Felker in a Clayton count.

Although Christmas censuses were held in the Creve Coeur area throughout the 1920s, very few species were recorded—maximum: 25—and the number of individuals was also low. In 1921, the highest year, 3,700 individuals were seen of which 3,000 were Redwinged Blackbirds. The low number of individuals and species can be attributed to several factors:

Few observers. Although such well-known birders as Richard Pough, Dr. Robert Terry, and Julian Steyermark participated, it is a fact that the more observers in the field, the more birds are seen. In fact *American Birds* has considered omitting counts with less than 10 observers. The largest group to cover Creve Coeur on these early CBCs was three people.

The area surveyed was only one square mile and was covered on foot. Much of the area around Creve Coeur Lake was a shanty town and perhaps the habitat was not as good as now—*Editor's note: "now" means 1978.*

Poor equipment and field guides. Inexpensive binoculars and telescopes so familiar to even the most novice birders did not exist in those days. Many people used opera and field glasses. Field telescopes were unheard of, which probably explains the omission of ducks on the early Creve Coeur counts. Further, birders relied on Chester A. Reed's *Land Birds East of the Rockies* and *Water Birds East of the Rockies*, two tiny field guides for identification. It wasn't until 1934 that Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* was published, greatly simplifying field identification. To be continued next month.

Ed: For the latest info on present day Christmas Bird Counts, visit

<<http://mobirds.org/CBC/>>.

Next deadline: Dec. 10!

Nature Notes publishes 10 issues a year, each mailed on the third Mon. of the month—unless the Oak Bend Library is closed on Mon., then it's Tues. To allow time for layout, printing, etc., the deadline is always 10 days prior.

Submissions—handwritten or typed, email, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 <amccormack@stjosephacad.org>


Nature Notes Deadlines & Mailings

We meet at the Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood to attach mailing labels. We could use your help! Call Margie Richardson 314-965-8974.

<i>mailing party</i>	<i>NN deadline</i>
Mon. 12/20, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 12/10
Tues. 1/18/05, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 1/7
Tues. 2/15/05, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 2/4
Tues. 3/22, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 3/11
Mon. 4/18, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 4/8
Tues. 5/17, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 5/6


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The objectives of the society are: To stimulate interest in nature study on the part of adults and children to cooperate with other organizations in nature study to encourage amateur research in the natural sciences to promote conservation of wildlife and natural beauty.

Open to all with an interest in nature 

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Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Call 314-935-8432 for the latest bird sightings in St. Louis.

Meetings

Sunday December 5

Holiday Open House with St. Louis Audubon at the Green Center in University City from 1-4 PM.

Wednesday December 1

7 PM Board meeting at University Club Tower, 1034 S. Brentwood, Suite 1920. All members are welcome.

Nature Notes deadline Fri. Dec. 10

Entomology

Sunday November 21

7 PM meeting at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. Marshall Magners will present a program on migratory locust. Note change of date.

Sunday December 12

7 PM meeting at home of Phil Koenig's home, 823 Lauralee Dr. O'Fallon, Mo. 63366, 636-281-1313. Entomologist Dr. David Ashley and his students from Missouri Western State College will present a program on prairie and cave invertebrates.

Botany

Thursday 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. with field trip destination. To receive, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris <jahar@mac.com>.

Join WGNSS

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

Birding

Thursdays November-April

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. Call Jackie Chain, 314-644-5998. No trip on Thanksgiving.

Saturday November 20

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

Saturday November 20

8 AM SLAS at Busch CA. Meet at Hampton Lk. Mike Thelen and Pat Lueders.

Saturday November 27

8 AM Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond with David Becher.

Saturday December 4

8 AM WGNSS "Where the Birds Are." St. L. Co. Library HQ, above, with David Becher.

Saturday December 11

8 AM Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond with David Becher.

Saturday December 11

8 AM SLAS Riverlands, meet at Teal Pond with Dave Rogles. Gulls, ducks, scoters?

Tuesday December 14

Carlyle Lake Xmas Count. Call Dan Kassebaum 618-233-5451 or <kdan@htc.net>. Meet for assignments at the McDonald's near the Lake entrance at 6 AM. Advance registration required. \$5 fee.

Saturday December 18

Mingo NWR Xmas Count, Puxico, MO. Call Bill Reeves, 573-760-8810 (office) or 573-756-2994 (home). \$5 fee.

Saturday December 18

Pere Marquette Xmas Count. Meet at lodge 7-7:30 AM. Dinner in Brussels, IL, at 4 PM. Contact Joe Walsh 636-343-6875. \$5 fee.

Sunday December 19

8 AM Baldwin Lake boat launch parking lot with Kent Lannert.

Thursday December 30

Clarence Cannon NWR Xmas Count (Annada MO). Contact Scott Schuette <sschuette01@hotmail.com> (preferred); 636-795-9215 (only after 8:30 PM) or Bruce Schuette at <baesch@nothnbut.net> 636-528-6544. \$5 fee.

Saturday January 1

Orchard Farm Christmas Bird count. Contact Randy Korotev, 314-993-0055 or <korotev@wustl.edu>. \$5 fee.

Sunday January 2

8 AM Busch Wildlife Area Christmas Count. Meet at headquarters. Call Tom Parmeter, 314-921-6017 or <tksp@charter.net> \$5 fee.

Saturday January 8

9:00 AM SLAS led by Paul Bauer and Mike Thelen to Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond.

Sunday January 9

8 AM Busch CA, meet at HQ near the Fallen Oak Nature Trail with Jackie Chain and Rose Ann Bodman.

Saturday January 22


8 AM at Forest 44. SLAS with Mike Thelen and Josh Uffman.

Saturday February 5

1 PM SLAS at Riverlands with Mike Grant and Josh Uffman.

Saturday February 19

9 AM SLAS at Baldwin Lk. & Peabody Coal with Torrey Berger and Dave Rogles. Meet at lake parking lot inside gate.

Webster Groves 
Nature Study Society

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St. Louis MO 63119

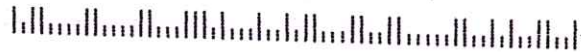
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Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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

Call the Nature Line at **314-935-8432** for meetings and bird sightings. www.wgnss.org

Membership categories (circle one):
Individual or Household:.....\$20
for 1st class mail.....add \$8
Student.....\$10

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