

Nature Notes

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Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society June 2005 Vol. 77, No. 6

President's Corner

Yvonne Homeyer

At our annual Banquet on May 10, Father Jim Sullivan received the Lifetime Achievement Award and was presented with a bronze plaque and a drawing of a Bald Eagle donated by Jim Ziebol. Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Bette Nellums and Rich Thoma shared favorite stories about Fr. Sullivan. Ernestine Magner and Dr. William Brandhorst were remembered. A Rufous Hummingbird sculpture was given to Anne McCormack as a thank you for her 14 years of service as our newsletter editor, along with a drawing of a N. Goshawk donated by Jim Ziebol. (This is Anne's last issue.) Our keynote speaker was Jim Rathert, famed photographer with the Missouri Department of Conservation and a long-time friend of WGNSS. I would like to thank Margy Terpstra for making this year's Banquet a success, and Ann Earley for so capably managing the reservations. We had 95 people registered for this year's dinner, the largest number we have ever had. Elsewhere in this issue, you can read separate articles about the Banquet by Margy Terpstra and Jim Adams, and the text of my introduction of Father Sullivan.

The high spirits and camaraderie of the Banquet were tempered by the news a few days later of Marshall Magner's death on May 14. Marshall was too ill to attend the banquet and so we did not have a chance to say good-bye. Marshall joined WGNSS as a teenager and was the

Big Day '05 "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." **Albert Einstein**

Anne McCormack

Armed with granola bars, bagels, and buckets of optimism, Big Day birders parachuted into the bush at 0-dark-30 on Saturday, May 14. When they crawled out twenty or so hours later, what did they have to show for it? Plenty, as it turns out.

For those unfamiliar with the Big Day ritual, teams compete to see which compiles the longest list of birds on that date. It's a crazy rush that includes lots of driving, scoping, arguing, and munching. Skill in birding alone is not enough. Planning the route to maximize birds—and bathrooms—is key. And then there's the sacrifice to the weather gods, a duty that my team neglected this year. St. Louis and St. Charles counties recorded a third of an

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President's Corner

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last living member from WGNSS's earliest days. Alfred Satterthwait, who in 1920 founded WGNSS along with his wife Elizabeth, was an entomologist who encouraged Marshall to study in that field. Marshall had a long and distinguished career at Monsanto and was active in community and civic affairs for his entire life. Marshall and Ernestine met in WGNSS and both served as WGNSS presidents, with Marshall serving from 1947-1949 and Ernestine from 1950-1951. After his term as president, Marshall joined the WGNSS Board and remained on the Board for an incredible 56 years, until the Board meeting on May 4, when he announced that he was resigning. Although Marshall had earlier designated Rich Thoma as his successor as Entomology Chairperson, his official resignation at the May Board meeting took us all by surprise.

Here are some excerpts from the 75th Anniversary Booklet about WGNSS's earliest days and the Entomology Group:

"Soon after moving to Webster Groves in that period right after World War I, [Alfred and Elizabeth Satterthwait] invited some members of a garden club and several prominent citizens of Webster Groves to form an association to study nature. In 1920, the year the Webster Groves Nature Study Society was formally organized, there were 85 adult members and some 30 children... The Entomology Group, one of the first of the WGNSS groups, would have to have been uppermost in the mind of founder Alfred F. Satterthwait, an entomologist... A 1926 schedule showed ten meetings and two field trips per month. Junior members were first mentioned in 1927. [Marshall would have been one of these junior members, along with his friend Dr. William Brandhorst who recently passed away.] Beginning in 1942, meetings were regularly held with the Entomology Section of the St. Louis Academy of Science...

In the spring of 1929, WGNSS had decided to build a cabin [on the Ranken Estate on Antire Road] to use as headquarters for the Society's nature study activities. Mr. C.S. Stones drew up the plans and constructed the cabin for \$1,457.87. Since there was not enough money in the funds, Dr. O. W. Brandhorst (9th

president of WGNSS and father of Dr. William Brandhorst, a teenaged contemporary of Marshall in WGNSS) advanced enough to finish paying the cost... On May 25, 1930, the Lodge Unit invited the WGNSS membership to a housewarming at the new cabin... For years, many WGNSS activities centered on this lodge. A museum and library attested to the varied interests of the members... During World War II, many WGNSS members were in the military service and those at home had an increased work load. Gasoline rationing cut back on the use of the lodge. In 1947, soon after the war ended, part of the Ranken Estate was turned over to the Boy Scouts and became Beaumont Reservation. The Society held an auction to sell the building contents and members vied with each other for the books, specimens and furnishings of the lodge. Then the building was formally turned over to the Boy Scouts and the cabin became the home of the caretaker. Longtime WGNSS members held fond memories of this era." [Marshall was one of those WGNSS members who loved the Ranken Lodge. It was Marshall who turned the keys over to the Boy Scouts. He told me that was one of the saddest days in his life.]

The following excerpt from the 75th Anniversary Booklet was written by Marshall:

"After World War II... interest in entomology was revived at organizational meetings at the home of Dr. E. P. Meiners in 1960. This independent group continued until the final picnic meeting at the Pinkus home in Glendale on 14 June 1968. It was not until 30 September 1984, after urging by David Tylka, that Marshall Magner presented a formal request to the WGNSS Board to reconstitute an Entomology Section as set out by the WGNSS Constitution and Bylaws. The first meeting was held 14 November 1984."

Marshall continued to hold monthly entomology meetings at his home on the last Sunday of the month until his death and occasionally the Board met there. Many WGNSS members have been frequent visitors to the Magner home and were the recipients of Ernestine and Marshall's hospitality.

We wish to express our sympathy and sincere condolences to the Magner family. Marshall was a much loved member, and our last link with the Satterthwait's founding period.

We will miss him. ✽

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Dates for '05 Meetings

All of these are 1st Thursday:

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

Rich Thoma New Entomology Chair

Yvonne Homeyer

At the Board meeting on May 4, Rich Thoma was elected as the next Chair of the Entomology Group, following the sudden resignation by Marshall Magner. [See "President's Corner" about Marshall's death just 10 days later, on May 14.] We want to welcome Rich to the Board. We know he will serve WGNSS with the same enthusiasm and dedication as

Marshall.

It's Dues Renewal Time Again

It's time for most of you to renew your WGNSS membership. If your address label says "exp: 31-08-2005" in the upper right corner, then you should send your dues now because your membership ends on August 31. We'll probably send you the September issue of Nature Notes, anyway, but why take the chance? A few of you have expiration dates in 2005 or in early 2006. We recommend you remit your dues right now because we probably won't remember to remind you to renew later. A few of you don't do anything because you've paid for a few years; we know who you are and you can figure it out from your label. If your label says "exp: 31-12-2099," that's our option for life members, an option that we don't offer any more. We hope you all live so long. Dues are \$20 or \$10 for students. We don't mind if you send more. That helps compensate for the few people who send less. (Yes, it happens!) Please send your dues to the treasurer, Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln, St. Louis, MO 63132-4807. There should be an addressed envelope in this issue, but sometimes they fall out and get lost. (And every year a few of those somehow get delivered to you anyway, even without a stamp and, of course, no check!) As a paper saving measure, we have no slip inside the envelope this year telling you what to do. Randy can probably tell you out who you are from your check, but if you think he might get confused (yes, that happens!), also send your address label. If you've moved or have a new phone number or e-mail address, please fill out and return the application form that's in this issue. We only use your e-mail address for contacting you about membership issues. (Randy hates the telephone.)

happens!), also send your address label. If you've moved or have a new phone number or e-mail address, please fill out and return the application form that's in this issue. We only use your e-mail address for contacting you about membership issues. (Randy hates the telephone.)

Father Sullivan

[This is the introduction given by Yvonne Homeyer when presenting Father Sullivan with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Banquet on May 10, 2005. Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Bette Nellums and Rich Thoma also spoke. Father Sullivan was then presented with a bronze plaque and a drawing of a Bald Eagle donated by Jim Ziebol.]

This year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award is Father James Sullivan - botanist, entomologist, botany walk leader, former Board member, mentor, educator, author, careful observer of nature, and friend.

Father Sullivan has been interested in plants since childhood. Until he was about 10 years old, he didn't pay much attention to nature, for the backyard on Henrietta in the city had been trampled down to nothingness by his older brothers. When his family moved to Richmond Heights, he discovered that the deep backyard was filled with trees, bushes, vines and wildflowers. He decided to learn about them. It was a short walk to the public library where they had the Steyermark guide to spring flora of Missouri. His name was on that library card over and over because he kept renewing it, using it to identify all the plants in his backyard.

When Fr. Sullivan was ordained in 1966, he recalls that the young priests were encouraged to find an activity for their days off. Father Sullivan took up golf, as did many of the others. As someone new to the sport, Fr. Sullivan hit his share of balls into the rough, but he soon discovered that he preferred the woods to the fairway, nature to golf. Looking for lost balls became an opportunity to study the plants and trees in the woods, and Father Sullivan's interest in golf soon faded as his interest in botany increased.

October 1968 marked the confluence of two remarkable paths - for that is when Art Christ and Father Sullivan met in WGNSS and began

going on botany walks together. Then, Edgar Denison reactivated the Botany Group in WGNSS and for the next 37 years, Fr. Sullivan has faithfully led a Botany Walk every week - spring, summer, fall and winter - and in doing so, Fr. Sullivan has introduced the joys of nature to countless WGNSS members. He is still doing so today - on his day off, which is Thursday. So we are indeed lucky that his superiors counseled him to take up a hobby for his day off, as we have all benefited by it.

Little by little, as his knowledge of the local plants and trees grew, he became more aware of the insects whose life cycle was intertwined with those plants, and he began to study insects and the relationship between insects and plants. Over the years, he has made detailed notes of his observations, and his data have added to the scientific knowledge of insects. Recently Fr. Sullivan became co-author of a book published earlier this year based on those notes. The title of the book is *Host Plants of Leaf Beetle Species*. The co-author listed before Father Sullivan's name is, fittingly enough, Gilbert. (Gilbert and Sullivan?)

Fr. Sullivan has made many remarkable discoveries about plants. Once, on a trip to Ste. Genevieve Co., he and Art Christ found a club moss with which they were unfamiliar. They consulted Steyermark's book and identified it as *Lycopodium dendroideum* and learned that they had re-found the club moss in exactly the same location as that described by Steyermark.

In 1993, the Missouri Native Plant Society awarded Fr. Sullivan the Erna R. Eisendrath Memorial Education Award.

Tonight, we are pleased to award him with the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. 🌿

**"It takes a village to...
have a banquet!"**

Margy Terpstra

My deepest appreciation to everyone who helped make our 85th Banquet such a success. To Ann Earley, who handled the reservations all the weeks prior, thank you!

To Randy Korotev for handling the finances and having great gift suggestions; to Pat McCormick for working behind the scenes with me in the execution and dessert depart-

ments, thank you both! To Jim Adams for help with the program and setup, thank you! To Sherry McCowan for coming to help set tables, thank you! To Yvonne Homeyer for guidance and duct tape, thank you! To Mike Thelen, always indispensable and dependable for whatever needs to be done, thank you! To my husband, Dan, who seemed to be everywhere helping and taking photos, thank you! To Mike Flieg and the scholarship committee for the idea of having the scholarship winners present, thank you! To the bartenders and runners, who kept busy all evening: Bob Siemer, John Loomis, Dick Hearn, Suzanne Hearn, Pat Lueders and Susan Eaton, thank you all! And to Father Sullivan, for your inspiring service to WGNSS, thank you! To Jim Rathert for giving us his excellent presentation that reminds us to "savor the moments," thank you! Last but not least, all of those WGNSS members and guests who came early and stayed late to setup and put every table and napkin where it belonged, thank you all. All of these personal contributions helped us enjoy a beautiful evening. Photographs will be available on the website, soon.

For those who would like to know who carved the Rufous Hummingbird sculpture that we gave to Anne McCormack, here is his contact information:

Songbirds of Wood
Michael Van Houzen
5141 Christy Lane
Holland, Michigan 49424
Phone: 616-786-9229
<www.vanhouzen.com>

He also makes beautiful bird pins! 🐦

Our Own Oscar

Jim Adams

Reader who missed the 2005 Annual Banquet at Eden Commons on May 10 passed up a great show! The food was outstanding, the appointments elegant, and the collegiate atmosphere especially appropriate for a study group. The bar provided an excellent variety of wines and a good selection of soft drinks as well. The presentations by two 2005 recipients of WGNSS scholarships were professional and informative. The tribute to recently deceased WGNSS pioneer Dr. William Brandhorst by Paul Bauer and Emilie Brandhorst was heart warming. Jim Rathert gave interesting and

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colorful presentation of highlights from his new book, *In Focus*, adding to his already enviable reputation as one of the best nature photographers of the generation. The writer observed that as the evening progressed, an aura of friendship, warmth, and nostalgia enveloped the room like an unseen cloud. The writer tips his hat to Yvonne Homeyer for her adroit and unobtrusive emceeing that kept the event moving along despite an unusually full program. (But when did she find time to eat?!)

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the WGNSS "Oscar," its Lifetime Achievement Award, to genial Fr. James Sullivan for his dedicated leadership of botany walks for the past 20 or so years and for his noteworthy articles in *Nature Notes*. The wisdom of the selection committee was strongly reinforced by testimony from 4 individuals who have been close to Fr. Sullivan over the years, Jack and Pate Harris, Betty Nellums, and Rich Thoma.

This was the sixth Lifetime Achievement Award conferred by WGNSS. Previous recipients have been:

- 2000..... Marshall Magner
- 2001..... John Molyneux
- 2002..... Paul Bauer
- 2003..... Dorothy Heinze
- 2004... Marjorie Richardson

Jim Adams To Assume Newsletter Editor Position

Yvonne Homeyer

Jim Adams, Secretary and Historian, has graciously volunteered to replace Anne McCormack as the Editor of *Nature Notes*. More than a newsletter, *Nature Notes* is the journal of the nature study activities of our Society. Anne has served as the Journal Editor since 1991. Jim will now enter WGNSS history as the next Editor.

Jim joined the Board in 2001 after hearing an announcement at the Banquet that WGNSS needed a Secretary. On his own initiative, he reactivated the Historian position, last filled by Bette Nellums. Heritage Night in 2003 was Jim's idea. Jim's latest project is creating an index to every issue of *Nature Notes* so that we can more easily access the phenomenal amount of information contained in our Journals. Jim has completed this task for the years

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1965 to the present. In cooperation with Randy Korotev, our web master, Jim will make these indices available on our web site. We'll give you more details about this in the September issue of *Nature Notes*. Meanwhile, Jim will continue as Historian as well as Editor.

Following with the tradition established by Jim, an enthusiastic member stepped forward at this year's Banquet to take Jim's place on the Board as Secretary. The Board will fill this position at its next meeting and we look forward to having this person join us. We will give you the details and the entire Board lineup in the Sept. issue. 🐾

A Note from Your New Editor

Jim Adams

As you read in the May issue of *Nature Notes*, Anne McCormack, editor of *Nature Notes* since 1991, has resigned effective after the June 2005 issue. I have accepted the appointment as Anne's replacement. Fortunately, she will remain on the board as Member-at-Large and has agreed to help ensure a smooth transition.

I'll have a hard act to follow. Anne's more than fourteen-year tenure as editor is unprecedented, at least since 1965. However, *Nature Notes* is not written primarily by the editor, although I'll do some contributing because I have retained the job of Historian. The next issue of *Nature Notes* will go to press in August and I'll need articles in addition to the excellent and detailed botany and ornithology field reports provided routinely by Carl Darigo, Yvonne Homeyer, and Jim Ziebol.

I'll welcome articles on any natural history subject. If the past is any guide, WGNSS members have widespread natural history interest. WGNSS has had interest groups in geology, photography, astronomy, lower plants, etc. I'm confident that we have literate members with principal interest in areas other than ornithology. Historically the majority of articles in *Nature Notes* have been bird articles. Past editors and even some WGNSS boards have advocated greater diversity. Articles about trips, Elderhostels, and other experiences where nature or natural history play an important role will be especially welcome. Canoe floats, hikes, scout outings can provide opportunities for observing geographical features, flora, and fauna. We live in a seismic zone—how about

earth science articles? Forest, forest management, fossils, and even atmospheric phenomena have also been the subject of past articles.

Besides this list, there are virtually unlimited possibilities in the conservation area—air, water, soil, noise, light, you name it—and in the field of nature education. Even sound-off articles, editorial, proposals for change can likely be used if temperate (and signed).

We need to establish effective electronic communication quickly. I can receive email at <dadams5084@charter.net>. I've recently had hardware installed to stop viruses and unwanted emails. The first time you send mean email with an attachment, please notify me by telephone to make sure it came through OK. And don't let all this talk about electronic communication faze you; typewritten or handwritten articles will be welcome if you don't have computer access. If you send articles from another publication for possible reprinting in *Nature Notes*, be sure you have received permission for reprinting. I may not have time to seek approval after it's received. Very shortly I hope to be able to process material received on diskettes or CD, but please check before you send them.

We also need to continue the even calendars. Keep this information coming on a timely basis, except send to me rather than to Anne. Your help will be appreciated in making this smooth transition. As a reminder, the deadline for the September issue is Friday, August 5 and the issue will be prepared for mailing on

August 15. 🐾

A Note from your Old Editor

Anne McCormack
In spite of my smart-aleck comments at the banquet, I sincerely want to thank everyone involved in writing, mailing, and updating *Nature Notes* since I began as editor. We have a unique organization of great folks. You've taught me so much! 🐾

Winter In Wisconsin

Bob and Fritzi McFall
Pleasant Prairie, WI

We have had an all-lion-no-lamb March. Not much snow, but only two days in high 40s or above. All of the various ponds and lakes still have enough ice to support fishermen walking on them.

As you probably know, there has been an irruption of winter owls into Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Great Gray Owls have appeared as far south as below Madison. There have been as many as 700 Great Grays reported in Wisconsin alone. Fritzi and I made a trip to Duluth in mid-December. Unfortunately, the day we had picked out to go up into Minnesota, was a day of high winds, blowing snow around. We did see one northern hawk-owl sitting in a tree, but no, Great Grays. The previous we had seen several flocks of pine grosbeaks at various feeders as we cruised the roads below Superior, WI. Came back a different way in hopes of seeing a Great Gray that had been reported in the Wausau area. Found a snowy owl that had been reported in the same area, but no Great Gray.

In early February, we went to Stoughton, near Madison, WI. Waited a couple of hours and finally was rewarded by sighting a Great Gray, make a big flyby through the area. He probably was scared off by the large number of birders standing in the road near the perch he had selected. A few days later, this bird was reported as having been hit by a car as it glided across the road. It is undergoing rehabilitation, appears to have excellent chance of being all right. There have been 300 reports of owls hit by cars this year.

There has been a Northern Hawk-Owl reported at Harrington Beach State Park (about 50 miles north of Milwaukee) It is still being seen most days. Probably most seen owl of all of the irrupting birds this year. The day we went up (Super Bowl Sunday), we saw the Hawk-Owl, also two Long-eared Owls that someone saw while standing around. About five or so miles west of the park, we found six Gray Partridges at the side of the road. 🐾

April Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

- A = Busch Wildlife Area
- CL = Carlyle Lake
- FP = Castlewood State Park
- HL = Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Ref, Annada
- J Ch = Forest Park
- MB = Horseshoe Lake
- MM = Little Creve Coeur Lake
- PL = Lost Valley Trail
- SLAS = Marais Temps Clair
- CA, DR = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area
- JU = Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum)
- WG = Tower Grove Park

Production: Spring migration in March started off well, and it continued steadily but somewhat slowly into mid-April. The last 10 days of April were very slow, especially in the city parks, with adverse weather and adverse conditions being dominant that entire time. Don't forget to keep feeding your backyard birds, because there are fewer caterpillars and other insects for the babies than there used to be.

Monthly Arrivals:

75	Palm Warbler	CL	DK
81	Chipping Sparrow	Tyson	JW
	N. Parula	Chubb Trail	IH
	Green Heron	HL	
	Henslow's Sparrow	Chubb Trail	MB
	Yellow-throated Vireo	Rockwoods	CM
	Broad-winged Hawk	CSP	MB
	Baird's Sandpiper	CL	KL
	Whip-poor-will	Jefferson Co.	MP
	Surf Scoter	Reiter Rd. Sewage La-	DK
10	Lark Sparrow	Ste. Gen. Co.	JE
11	Osprey	Silver Lake, ILCA, T Bo	
	Black-throated Green	Ferguson	CA
	Forster's Tern	REDA	JU
	White-eyed & Warbling Vireos		BCA
	J Ch		
	Yellow Warbler	BCA	J Ch
12	House Wren	Lafayette Park	SM
	Scarlet Tanager	SNR	WG
	Tyson	JW	
	Red-eyed Vireo	SNR	WG
	Chubb Trail	J Ch	
	Wood Thrush	Babler	J Ch
	Worm-eating Warbler	Chubb Trail	J Ch
	Prothonotary	Chubb Trail	J Ch
13	Cerulean Warbler	TGP	MR, CA, IH
14	Cliff Swallow	Alton	FH
15	Swainson's Thrush	TGP	GA
	Solitary Sandpiper	REDA	JU
	Caspian Tern	REDA	JU
	Spotted Sandpiper	REDA	JU
	Magnolia Warbler	SNR	DT
	Prairie Warbler	SNR	DT
	BCA	CM	

	Blue-winged Warbler	BCA	CM
4/16	Blue-headed Vireo	TGP	CA
	Tennessee Warbler	TGP	SC
	American Bittern	HL	SM
	Common Yellowthroat	SNR	P&BJ
	Least Sandpiper	REDA	MT
4/17	Ovenbird	Babler	CM
	Acadian Flycatcher	Babler	CM
	N. Waterthrush & Sora		LCCL
	MB		
	Sora	REDA	MM
	Sora	LCCL	P&BJ
	Virginia Rail	LCCL	CA, DR
4/18	Ruby-thr Hummingbd	Webster Gr	PL
	Gray Catbird	TGP	JZ
	Great-Crested Flyc	TGP	JZ
	Rose-br Grosbeak	TGP	MR
	Baltimore Oriole	Tyson	JW
4/19	Summer Tanager, Kentucky Warbler,		
	Orchard Oriole	Tyson	JW
4/20	Mississippi Kite	TGP	J Ch, VL
	Mississippi Kite	U. City	BL
	Bank Swallow	HL	FH
	Bank Swallow	BCA	P&BJ
4/21	Willet	Blue Grosbeak Trail	MM
4/22	Chestnut-sd Warbler	CSP	MB
	Chat	SNR	WG
4/23	Redstart	TGP	SLAS
4/24	Upland Sandpiper	Columbia Bottoms	DR
	Least Bittern	LCCL	J Ch
	Gray-cheeked Thrush	TGP	G&TB
4/25	Grasshopper Sparrow	Columbia Bottoms	
	J Ch, J Moe		
	Clay-colored Sparrow	LCCL	IH
	Indigo Bunting	Tyson	VL
	Veery	TGP	MM, SC
4/27	Long-billed Dowitcher	REDA	JS
	Semi-palmated Plover	REDA	JS
	Yellow-headed Blkbd	REDA	CA
4/30	N. Phalarope	REDA	G&TB
	Blue Grosbeak	SNR	MT
	Short-billed Dowitcher	LCCL	IH
	Piping Plover	LCCL	P&BJ
	White-faced Ibis	REDA	CM, DR
	Pine Siskin	Cedar Hill, MO	WG
	Purple Finch	Cedar Hill, MO	WG

Sightings: An Eared Grebe was seen at HL on 4/24 (FH). Paul & Barbara Johnson reported an American Bittern at LCCL on 4/17. On 4/20, Jackie Chain observed 2 American Bitterns at LCCL and on 4/24, she saw a Least Bittern there. An American Bittern and 7 Black-crowned Night Herons were located at REDA on 4/22 (JU). Sherry McCowan found a Green Heron in FP on 4/8 and a Little Blue Heron on 4/25. On 4/2, a Little Blue Heron and Fish Crows were seen at BCA (JZ). On 4/17 in FP, Clarence Zacher reported Great Egret, 4 Green Herons, Black-crowned Night Heron, 3 Blue-winged Teal, 7 Wood Ducks, and 3 Marsh

Wrens. A strange, dark mallard was present at BCA on 4/9 and David Becher said it fit the description of a Cayuga Duck mentioned in *Birding Magazine*. The duck appeared blackish or dark green with purple gloss on the head. The Sunday group led by Sherry McCowan and Yvonne Homeyer on 4/17 at CSP encountered a Spotted Sandpiper, 9 Great Blue Herons, 5 Pileated Woodpeckers and a Broad-winged Hawk. Two Solitary Sandpipers and a N. Waterthrush were present in FP on 4/28 (SM). On 4/30, an estimated 50 Long-billed Dowitchers were seen at both LCCL and REDA (KP, J Moe, DB). On the same day, Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at both locations. On 4/24, an Upland Sandpiper was found at Columbia Bottoms (DR) and later that day, two were seen there (CA). On 4/10, Connie Alwood and Tom Bormann reported hundreds of Pecs and Great and Lesser Yellowlegs at Parking Lot #3 and Tamalco, CL. On 4/15 at REDA, Josh Ufmann observed 25 Bonaparte's Gulls as well as Forster's and Caspian Terns. The Thursday Group found an adult Herring Gull at the Borrow Pit, HL, on 4/21. On 4/25, 2 Caspian Terns and a Solitary Sandpiper were seen at REDA, along with 2 Cattle Egrets at Columbia Bottoms (J Ch). A Peregrine Falcon was seen at Point DuSable on 4/27 (J Moe). On 4/30, Mike Thelen had a very good hawk day at SNR, including Sharp-shinned, 2 Cooper's, 1 Broad-winged, 3 Red-shouldered and a Merlin.

The Great Horned Owls in TGP fledged 3 birds this year; their breeding success was undoubtedly aided by the lower number of crows and Bluejays in the park (MR, J Ch). On 4/10, Mike Thelen found a Great Horned Owl in CSP and Jeanne Moe saw one at Fountain Lakes on 4/12. On 4/17, Connie Alwood had a 3 Barred Owl day, with 2 sightings at CL and one in his yard. Randy Korotev reported the daily sighting of a Barred Owl in Kennedy Forest and Nick Barber found one there on 4/21. On 4/23, two Barred Owls were seen on the Grottpeter Trail at CSP (MB). Randy Korotev saw all 5 swallow species in FP on 4/26. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches was reported at Lafayette Park on 4/19 (SM). A male Protonotary Warbler, always a good bird for the city parks, was seen in TGP on 4/13 (J Ch, MR); the following day, Ian Hunt found two there. A female Cerulean Warbler was closely observed in TGP on 4/13 (MR, CA, IH). A male

Cerulean was sighted on 4/30 at SNR (MT). Prairie Warblers were reported from BCA on 4/15 (CM), SNR on 4/16 (WG, P&BJ), TGP on 4/19 (SC), and TGP on 4/26 (J Ch, J Cook). On 4/29, Ron Goetz reported the following from SNR: Pine Warbler, 2 Pine Siskins, Yellow-throated Warbler, N. Parula, L. Waterthrush. On 4/16, David Becher and the Saturday Group found Pine Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Orange-crowned Warbler and Black-capped Chickadee at Olin NR. A Pine Warbler seen in TGP on 4/25 was a somewhat late migrant (T Be). A male Spotted Towhee, a Harris's Sparrow, and a Lincoln's Sparrow were very good finds at TGP on 4/22 (P&BJ). An extraordinary 8 Lark Sparrows were found at B.K. Leach on 4/21 (T Be). The Harris's Sparrow was the latest addition to the TGP list. Congratulations, Paul and Barbara!

Because of the poor migrating conditions, the Spotted Towhee in TGP was still present on 4/30, 8 days after it was first noticed (G&TB, m. ob.). The first Grasshopper Sparrow was reported at Columbia Bottoms on 4/25 (J Ch). On 4/10, 6 Henslow's Sparrows were seen along the Chubb Trail (CA, T Bo) and by 4/17, 14 were seen there (MB). Dave Rogles found a Lark Sparrow in Wentzville on 4/18 and the Barkers had one on Confluence Road on 4/28. Three Vesper Sparrows were sighted at SNR on 4/12 (WG). On 4/21 in TGP, Sherry McCowan and others saw a Lincoln's Sparrow. Ian Hunt reported hundreds of White-crowned Sparrows, plus Swamp, Field, White-throated and a Clay-colored Sparrow, at LCCL on 4/25. Bobolinks were first found at CL on 4/23 and on 4/26, Torrey Berger found them at HL, on the 203 side.

A typical day at TGP on 4/13 included Green Heron, 25-30 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 2 Hermit Thrush, several Brown Thrashers, 6 Sapsuckers, Orange-crowned Warbler, 2 N. Parulas, female Cerulean, Yellow-throated Warbler, 3 Yellow-rumped, 2 Juncos, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and many Chipping Sparrows (MR, CA, IH).

Backyard Birds: An exotic species from SE Asia and Africa visited Jack Harris's yard on 4/30; Mike Flieg identified it as a Yellow-collared Lovebird, *Agapornis personatus*. David Garcia had an E. Towhee in his yard in early April. Cheryl & Don Delashmit of Franklin Co. reported a Carolina Wren fledging 4 young, a

Red-shouldered Hawk nest at the edge of the woods behind their house, & Prairie and Blue-winged Warblers. Mark Paradise found a Cooper's Hawk nest in Forest Pk near the ball-fields. Mary and Carl Campbell saw a Prothonotary Warbler at their home for a wk.

Contributors: Gail Ahumada, Connie Alford, Mary Anne Auer, George & Terry Becker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Tom Hermann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Shawn Clubb, Jean Cook, Joe Eades, Wally George, Don Goetz, Frank Holmes, Ian Hunt, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Randy Korotev, Kent Lambert, Vivian Liddell, Betty Lobos, Pat Lueders, & Charlene Malone, Anne McCormack, Cherry McCowan, Mark Mittleman, Steve Mitten, Kraig Paradise, Mark Paradise, Mick Richardson, Dave Rogles, John & Nancy Solodar, Mike Thelen, Debbie Trowbridge, Josh Hoffman, Jane Walker, Clarence Zacher, and 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>.

The Song of the Sparrow

Anne McCormack

A sighting of the Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) was once the goal of St. Louis birders. Members of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society started meeting on weekends for loosely organized trips around the area 76 years ago. Bill Rowe, now secretary of the Mo. Bird Record Committee, the group that reviews the documented records of bird sightings in the state, began birding in the late 60s here. He describes going on field trips during the late 60s with older, experienced birders to try to see the Bachman's Sparrow in southwestern St. Louis Co. or in eastern St. Charles Co., tramping through old fields, especially those with large stands of a grass called broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*). They would arrive before dawn, straining to hear the first long, sweet notes of its song. The birds never came.

At the time, Bachman's was considered a breeding sparrow in the St. Louis area. *Birds of the St. Louis Area* notes that it has been reported only three times since 1950; in May, 1950, at Busch Wildlife Area in eastern St. Charles Co., in late April, 1977, in St. Louis Co.,

and in mid-July of 1990 again at Busch (WGNSS, *Birds of the St. Louis Area*, 1995, 137). Bill explains, "In Missouri the range contracted down to a few limestone glade areas in extreme southern Missouri. I have no idea how many sites are known for the bird now in the state, but it can't be many. There certainly aren't any around St. Louis. The whole thing is a mystery because apparently suitable habitat still exists in many parts of its former range" (Rowe, email, July 9, 2004).

Bachman's is large, as sparrows go, 5.75" from beak to tail. It's streaky, with a bit of red in the brown; not really charismatic megafauna. But what a voice! Bachman's song is a beautiful series of long, sweet notes in a minor key, punctuated by loose trills. I saw this bird in the heart of its present range in east, central Florida. In an area of pines along a red, sandy road, we waited in the heat, till a streaky brown bird threw back his flat little head and launched into an aria that silenced us.

Such a marvelous singer has even attracted the attention of the entertainment industry. I once saw an episode of *Columbo*, in which the sound track featured a several Bachman's Sparrows—more than 1,500 miles out of range—singing their hearts out as our hero solved a murder in the Hollywood Hills.

Bachman's Sparrow migrates to the southeastern states in winter—we can't blame its decline on logging in tropical rainforests. In Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, Bessken writes that it breeds in "old growth southern pine forests that had frequent growing season burns" (Charlene M. Bessken, accessed 5/15/04 <www.conservation.state.mo.us/nathis/endangered/endanger/bachspar>). In Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, at the northern edge of its range, it was found in dry, open forests with a dense understory, or in overgrown fields. The old name for Bachman's was "Pine Woods Sparrow," and Missouri once had its own pinewoods, providing plenty of ideal habitat. Records from 1908 describe the bird as common in the pine and oak woods of Shannon Co. (Mark Robbins and David Easterla, *Birds of Missouri*, 1992, 323). Logging between 1890 and 1920 virtually wiped out the Short-leaf Pine community (Don Kurz, *Trees of Missouri*, 2003, 224). Robbins and Easterla list Bachman's—along with Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Brown-headed

Nuthatch—as a species of the Short-leaf Pine community (Robbins and Easterla, *Birds of Missouri*, 16). The last stand of virgin pines in Missouri, along Highway 19 in Shannon Co., was cut in '46, and with them went the last known colony of Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Mo. The Brown-headed Nuthatch, another bird of the pine woods, was last recorded in the state in 1907, also in Shannon Co. (Robbins, Easterla, 193). Extinction by shotgun.

The difficulties become clearer when we consider that other birds of similar habitat, such as Chipping Sparrow, nest in trees, out of reach for feral cats, etc. Ehrlich describes the nest of Bachman's as "On the ground in old-growth pine stands over 80 years old, or in clearings during the first five years after clear-cutting. Both habitats have a similar grass-herb layer" to conceal the nest (Ehrlich, Paul, David Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye, *Birds in Jeopardy: The Imperiled and Extinct Birds of the United States and Canada*, 1992, 139).

It's possible that it was after most of the forests were logged out in 1920 that Bachman's Sparrow moved into more marginal habitat, the brushy fields where it was found in the first half of the Twentieth Century. In 1976, singing males were found in Taney and Ozark Co., both on our south central border. It was recorded on the Breeding Bird Survey in Morgan Co. every year until '81 (Robbins, Easterla, 323). Morgan Co. is at the northern edge of the Ozarks. Bachman's Mo. habitat of glades with dense cover, are themselves in trouble because of overgrazing, drought, and fire suppression (Robbins, Easterla, 323).

Bachman's Sparrow is listed as "endangered" by the Mo. Dept. of Conservation (Charlene M. Bessken, www.conservaion.mie.mo.us/nathis/endangered/endanger/bachman accessed 7/15/04). Illinois also lists it "endangered." Indiana lists it as "critically imperiled in state" and "globally rare" (www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr/endanger/vertebrates.htm). Texas, Louisiana and Virginia list it "threatened," in N. Carolina and Tenn. it's a "species of concern" (www.natureserve.org/us/la/laanimals.html). Bill saw it in the '60s in north central Kentucky where it was "uncommon summer resident," now it is "found only in southern Kent. Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye simply state that Bachman's is "apparently declining everywhere" (Ehrlich, Paul,

David Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye, *The Birder's Handbook*, 1988, 580). The National Audubon Society describes a 2.8% decline per year according to BBS (audubon2.org/webapp/watchlist/viewSpecies.jsp?id=18).

The shrinking of mature pine woods nationwide has certainly been a factor in the decline of this species, combined with the added pressures of fire suppression and the loss of glade habitat. There may be more to the story. We need more research to find what other components of habitat the Bachman's Sparrow requires but it's more important to move to protect its remaining habitat now. Otherwise, we may hear its song only in reruns of

Columbo. 

Counting—Big Day '05

Continued from page one

inch of rain, but Perry and Ste. Genevieve—where we were—was blessed with a full inch. It fell from pre-dawn to mid-morning, the worst possible time for birders. In spite of the weather, the widely different routes helped us reach a composite total of 184 bird species reported—up seven from last year. Big Day '05 was six days later than it was last year, though I don't have enough experience to know whether that helped or hurt the overall total.

I can say that we missed 18 species that were recorded last year: 5 ducks, 2 raptors, 2 rails, 2 warblers, 2 sparrows, 3 others. The next 2 misses were surprising: Mississippi Kite, seen each of the last five years, and Grey-cheeked Thrush, every year for the last 15! Perhaps it was the late date. See p. 10 for a complete list.

Six more misses were last recorded on Big Day '03: Am Black Duck, Bufflehead, Franklin's Gull, Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo, Mourning Warbler, and Ring-necked Pheasant—this one has been recorded in 10 of the last 12 years.

Those absent were replaced with 13 returning to the list after being AWOL in '04. Broad-winged Hawk hasn't been listed on Big Day since '02, along with an American Woodcock displaying at Busch and a gorgeous Blackburnian Warbler at Tower Grove. Belted Kingfisher hasn't been listed since '01, nor has N. Harrier, found in eastern Lincoln Co. by Bill Rowe and group. They also add Lark Sparrow. The winning team of David Becher *et al* found Ruddy Turnstone at Horseshoe, and the Coles

group found E. Screech Owl—neither of which has been listed on Big Day since 2000! The Coles group also found a bird not listed since '99— Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker. Several groups found Am. Wigeon at Little Creve Coeur, returning to the list for the first time since '96! Paul Bauer, Jim and Charlene Malone, birding Lost Valley at Busch, found Black-billed Cuckoo, seen only 3 times in the last 15 years. Two species are entirely new since I began my database in '91: Black Vulture, seen drying its wings in Perry Co. by Eades and group, and Mute Swan, listed on the Illinois bird list as "introduced." If you count the swan, the total for Big Day '05 is 186.

As on almost every birding expedition, I saw and heard some remarkable things. Not far from Ste. Gen, my group watched one of the most memorable sights I've seen: thousands of fireflies in a light rain over a hayfield. Each seemed to fly a few feet above the grass, then float down flashing. In the twilight near Lake 33 at Busch we heard something so bizarre that we debated whether it was a mammal, bird, or something supernaturally evil. The Stokes bird recordings showed it to be the "advertising call" of the male Green Heron!

★ *Becher group*..... 149

Mary Ann Auer
Loy Barber
David Becher
Mike Brady
Bob Kleiger

REM..... 144

Kevin Renick
Joe Eades
Anne McCormack

Coles group..... 122

Dick Coles
Rose Ann Bodman
Jean Cook
Jackie Chain
Darlene Eyster

Lincoln Co. NADMC... 114

Bill Rowe
Matt Rowe
Tom Parmeter

☺ *Composite total '05*..... 186

'04.....	179
'03.....	189
'02.....	170
'01.....	179
'00.....	185
'99.....	190
'98.....	177
'97.....	195
'96.....	195
'95.....	188
'94.....	179
'93.....	164
'90.....	193
'86.....	180

See the composite Big Day list next page. ☺

Next deadline: Aug. 5!

Nature Notes publishes 10 issues a year, each mailed on the third Mon. of the month—unless the library is closed. To allow time for layout, printing, etc., the deadline is always 10 days prior to that date.

Submissions to: Jim Adams, 35 Tulip Dr., St. Louis, MO 6311-4660, 314-961-2494

<dadams5084@charter.net>. ☺

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 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. 8/15, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 8/5
Mon. 9/19, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 9/9
Mon. 10/17, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 10/7
Mon. 11/21, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 11/11
Mon. 12/19/05, 10-1 Oak Bend	Fri. 12/9

name	remarks 05	name	remarks 05
Pied-billed Grebe	+	Am Coot	÷
Am Wt Pelican	riverlands lg flock	Black-bellied Plover	riverlands
Double-crested Cormorant	+	Semipalmated Plover	riverlands
Am Bittern	lccl	Killdeer	÷
Least Bittern	lccl	Greater Yellowlegs	riverlands
Great Blue Heron	+	Lesser Yellowlegs	riverlands
Great Egret	+	Solitary Sandpiper	ill-new since 03
Snowy Egret	+	Spotted Sandpiper	÷
Little Blue Heron	+	Ruddy Turnstone	horseshoe-new since 00 becher
Cattle Egret	new since 03	Sanderling	lccl-seen only 4 times in 15 yr
Green Heron	+	Semipalmated Sandpiper	riverlands
Black-crwn Nt-Heron	riverlands	Least Sandpiper	÷
Yellow-crwn Nt-Heron	forest pk	White-rumped Sandpiper	riverlands
Mute Swan	horseshoe lk-new-countable	Pectoral Sandpiper	ill & riverlands
Canada Goose	+	Dunlin	riverlands
Wood Duck	+	Stilt Sandpiper	riverlandsnew since 03
Green-winged Teal	riverlands-new since 03 rem	Short-billed Dowitcher	Perry Co + new since 03
Mallard	÷	American Woodcock	busch-new since 02 rem
Blue-winged Teal	÷	Ring-billed Gull	+
Northern Shoveler	+	Herring Gull	borrow pit-new since 03
Gadwall	+	Caspian Tern	riverland & borrow pit-new since 03
Am Wigeon	lccl -new since 96	Common Tern	horseshoe-new since 03 becher
Lesser Scaup	lccl	Forster's Tern	horseshoe rem
Hooded Merganser	coles-new since 03	Black Tern	horseshoe-new since 04 becher
Ruddy Duck	coles	Rock Dove	+
Black Vulture	Perry Co new-first ever rem	Mourning Dove	+
Turkey Vulture	+	Eur Collared Dove	Ste Gen Co-new since 03 rem
Bald Eagle	nesting	Black-billed Cuckoo	Lost Valley-seen only 3 in 15 yr be
Cooper's Hawk	Perry Co rem	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	÷
Broad-winged Hawk	Perry Co-new since 02 rem	E Screech Owl	coles-new since 00
Red-tailed Hawk	+	Great Horned Owl	Chubb Tr becher
Am Kestrel	+	Barred Owl	÷
Peregrine Falcon	riverlands becher	Common Nighthawk	÷
Wild Turkey	+	Whip-poor-will	busch rem
N Bobwhite	+	Chimney Swift	÷
Sora	+	Ruby-thr Hummingbird	+
Common Moorhen	lccl	Belted Kingfisher	+ new since 01

N. Harris Lincoln Co. new since 01

name	remarks 05	name	remarks 05
Red-headed Woodpecker	÷	Wood Thrush	÷
Red-bellied Woodpecker	÷	American Robin	÷
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	coles-new since 99	Gray Catbird	÷
Downy Woodpecker	÷	Northern Mockingbird	÷
Hairy Woodpecker	÷	Brown Thrasher	÷
Northern Flicker	÷	Cedar Waxwing	÷
Pileated Woodpecker	÷	European Starling	÷
Olive-sided Flycatcher	coles	White-eyed Vireo	÷
Eastern Wood-Pewee	÷	Bell's Vireo	borrow pits
Acadian Flycatcher	÷	Yellow-throated Vireo	÷
Alder Flycatcher	busch	Warbling Vireo	÷
Willow Flycatcher	÷ new since 03	Philadelphia Vireo	TGP rem
Least Flycatcher	÷	Red-eyed Vireo	÷
Eastern Phoebe	÷	Blue-winged Warbler.	÷
Great Crested Flycatcher	÷	Golden-winged Warbler	Chubb Tr becher
Western Kingbird	Soulard & Rt 3	Tennessee Warbler	÷
Eastern Kingbird	÷	Nashville Warbler	TGP
Horned Lark	÷	Northern Parula Warb	÷
Purple Martin	÷	Yellow Warbler	÷
Tree Swallow	÷	Chestnut-sided Warbler	÷
N Rough-winged Swallow	÷	Magnolia Warbler	÷
Bank Swallow	÷	Cape May Warbler	Guerny Ct & Chubb Tr- new since 02
Cliff Swallow	÷	Yellow-rumped Warbler	÷
Barn Swallow	÷	Black-thr Green Warbler	coles
Blue Jay	÷	Blackburnian Warbler	TGP-new since 02 rem
American Crow	÷	Yellow-throated Warbler	÷
Fish Crow	÷	Pine Warbler	busch-new since 03 bauer
Carolina Chickadee	÷	Prairie Warbler	Ste Gen-new since 03 rem
Tufted Titmouse	÷	Palm Warbler	÷
White-breasted Nuthatch	÷	Bay-breasted Warbler	TGP & For Pk
Carolina Wren	÷	Blackpoll Warbler	÷
House Wren	Perry Co rem	Cerulean Warbler	lost v
Sedge Wren (Short-Billed)	Chubb Tr & Perry Co	Black & White Warbler	÷
Marsh Wren (Long-Billed)	riverlands becher	American Redstart Warbler	÷
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	÷	Prothonotary Warbler	÷
Eastern Bluebird	÷	Worm-eating Warbler	Perry Co rem
Swainson's Thrush	÷	Ovenbird warb	÷

new

name	remarks 05	t	name	remarks 05
Northern Waterthrush	÷		Cattle Egret	new since 03
Louisiana Waterthrush	÷		Mute Swan	horseshoe lk-new-countable
Kentucky Warbler	÷		Green-winged Teal	riverlands-new since 03 rem
Common Yellowthroat	÷		Am Wigeon	lccl -new since 96
Hooded Warbler	For Pk becher		Hooded Merganser	coles-new since 03
Wilson's Warbler	÷		Black Vulture	Perry Co new-first ever rem
Yellow-breasted Chat	÷		Broad-winged Hawk	Perry Co-new since 02 rem
Summer Tanager	÷		Solitary Sandpiper	ill-new since 03
Scarlet Tanager	÷		Ruddy Turnstone	horseshoe-new since 00 becher
Northern Cardinal	÷		Sanderling	lccl-seen only 4 times in 15 yr
Rose-br Grosbeak	÷		Stilt Sandpiper	riverlandsnew since 03
Blue Grosbeak	÷		Short-billed Dowitcher	Perry Co + new since 03
Painted Bunting	Katy Tr-new since 03 bauer		American Woodcock	busch-new since 02 rem
Indigo Bunting	÷		Herring Gull	borrow pit-new since 03
Dickcissel	÷		Caspian Tern	riverlnd & borrow pit-new since 03
Eastern (Rufous-s) Towhee	÷		Common Tern	horseshoe-new since 03 becher
Chipping Sparrow	÷		Black Tern	horseshoe-new since 04 becher
Field Sparrow	÷		Black-billed Cuckoo	Lost Valley-seen only 3 in 15 yr bauer
Savannah Sparrow	riverlands		E Screech Owl	coles-new since 00
Grasshopper Sparrow	Perry Co		Belted Kingfisher	√ new since 01
Henslow's Sparrow	Chubb Tr & Ste Gen		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	coles-new since 99
Song Sparrow	÷		Willow Flycatcher	√ new since 03
Lincoln's Sparrow	becher		Cape May Warbler	Guernsey Ct & Chubb Tr- new since 02
White-throated Sparrow	TGP becher		Blackburnian Warbler	TGP-new since 02 rem
White-crowned Sparrow	lccl		Pine Warbler	busch-new since 03 bauer
Bobolink	Perry Co & Horseshoe		Prairie Warbler	Ste Gen-new since 03 rem
Red-winged Blackbird	÷		Painted Bunting	Katy Tr-new since 03 bauer
Eastern Meadowlark	÷			
Common Grackle	÷			
Brown-headed Cowbird	÷			
Orchard Oriole	÷			
Baltimore Oriole	÷			
House Finch	÷			
American Goldfinch	÷			
House Sparrow	÷			
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	÷			

29-new
P. Harrier new since '01
Lark sp

Composite 05 185-up 7 from 04 186 if you count Mute Swan
 Park Sparrow Lincoln Co.

name	remarks 05	remarks 04
Gr White-fronted Goose	missed-seen 04	Leach-new since 00-Rowe
Snow Goose	missed-seen 04	riverlands-new since <93
Am Black Duck	missed-seen 03	missed-seen last yr
Northern Pintail	missed-seen 04	new since 01
Canvasback	missed-seen 04	riverlands-new since 00
Bufflehead	missed-seen 03	missed-seen last yr
Red-breasted Mergans	missed-seen 04	riverlands
Osprey	missed-seen 04	new since 99
Mississippi Kite	missed-seen each of last 5 yr	kirkwood
Red-shouldered Hawk	missed-seen 04	chubb tr
Ring-necked Pheasant	missed-last seen 03	missed-seen last 10/11 yr
King Rail	missed-seen 04	Malone/Eads
Virginia Rail	missed-seen 04	Malone/Eads
Wilson's Phalarope	missed-seen 04	+
Franklin's Gull	missed-seen 03	missed-seen last yr
Chuck-will's-widow	missed-seen 04	castlwd
Scissor-tailed Flycatch	missed-seen 04	5/9 94 & 40-Thelen
Bewick's Wren	missed-seen 04	Chesterfield-new since 01
Gray-cheeked Thrush	missed-seen every yr since 91	busch
Blue-headed (Solitary)	missed-seen 03	missed-seen last yr
Orange-crowned Warbl	missed-seen 04	Terpstra
Mourning Warbler	missed-seen 03	missed-seen last 5 yr
Canada Warbler	missed-seen 04	only 4th time in 10 yr
Clay-colored Sparrow	missed-seen 04	5/7 blue gros tr
Vesper Sparrow	missed-seen 04	Chstfd-new since 96-Becher
Lark Sparrow	missed-seen 03 <i>Lincoln Co</i>	missed-seen last 5 yr
Yellow-headed Blackbi	missed-seen 04	creve coeur pk-namc

26 missed

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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.

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St. Louis MO 63122-5722

Webster Groves Nature Study Society ♣

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

Meetings

Tuesday July 6

7 PM Board meeting at University Club Tower, 1034 S. Brentwood, 15th floor, Suite 1515. All members are welcome.

Nature Notes deadline: Fri. Aug. 5

Thursday September 1

7:00 PM general meeting at St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters on Lindbergh Blvd. Topic to be announced.

Entomology

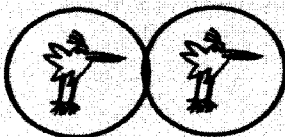
Monday September 25

7 PM "Show and Tell." Meeting place to be announced.

Botany

Tuesday June-September

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>.



Birding

Saturday May 28

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. and John Solodar.

Thursdays May-October

8:00 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. Call Jackie Chain, 314-644-5998. Note time change.

Saturday May 28

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 May 28

7:30 AM SLAS Meet Torrey Berger and Dave Rogles at Little Creve Coeur Lake, behind Seeger Golf Driving Range.

Sunday May 29

8 AM Busch CA with Tom Parmeter at Hampton Lake.

Saturday June 4

7:30 AM SLAS Meet Pat Lueders and Mike Grant at Lost Valley Trail, 5.7 mi. beyond 40 and 94 in St. Charles Co.

Updates to this schedule will be listed on the Nature Line:

314-935-8432

Join WGNSS

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

**webster groves nature
study society** 

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webster groves nature study society

Renew your Membership today!

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

www.wgnss.org

Membership categories (circle one):
Individual or Household:.....\$20
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 