



Nature Notes

Call the Nature Line (314) 935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings
Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, February 2006, Vol. 78, No. 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - Yvonne Homeyer

MAY BANQUET - This year our annual Banquet will be held on Tuesday, May 2, at Eden Commons. Please save the date! DOUG LADD will be our keynote speaker. Doug is a WGNSS member, a renowned botanist with The Nature Conservancy of Missouri, and author of Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers. Doug will talk to us about the biodiversity of prairies and the importance of projects such as Dunn Ranch in northwest Missouri. Receiving this year's Lifetime Achievement Award will be JIM JACKSON, a dedicated WGNSS member, talented naturalist, author, conservationist, and birdwatcher. Thanks to the generous donation of a book collection by a WGNSS member who wishes to remain anonymous, a number of books on birding topics will be sold at a silent auction that evening. (See Mike Flieg's article for more information about titles and ways to acquire these books before and at the Banquet.) Please plan to join us on May 2 for a delightful evening. Additional information will be available in the March newsletter.

ANNUAL MEETING - The election of officers will take place at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 6, at 7:00 PM at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters at Lindbergh and Clayton. The Nominating Committee (Jack Harris, Jim Ziebol, and Yvonne Homeyer) will present a slate of candidates for President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President. A program will follow the meeting. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee with your suggestions for these offices.

LEO AND KAY DREY - The Dreys were recognized in Time Magazine's year-end issue for their donation of Pioneer Forest to the L-A-D Foundation. (Cont'd on p. 2, col. 1)

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION - February Joint Meeting with SLAS

Mark your calendar for Friday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 PM at the Creve Coeur Community Center, 300 N. New Ballas. (This date was INCORRECTLY given as Feb. 17 in last month's issue!)

Every year over 400 bird species migrate from the United States and Canada to Latin America and the Caribbean Islands. For these long-distance migrants, U.S.-based land management and conservation efforts focus on their breeding habitat needs, which they occupy for only about four months each year. In contrast, these same birds spend about eight months of the year in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, with some even migrating far into South America. The wintering region with the highest concentration of Missouri birds is located between Mexico and Panama, an area about one-eighth the size of the breeding ground for the same species. Simply stated, one acre of bird conservation on the wintering ground is equal to eight acres of conservation on the breeding ground. It is so much less expensive to manage habitat on the wintering ground. Survivorship is important in the winter--bird's surviving the non breeding season hazards translates to more breeding birds in Missouri.

Brad Jacobs, Ornithologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will discuss the Department's leading role as the state agency in international conservation of these highly critical habitat areas.

This is our annual joint meeting with the St. Louis Audubon Society, so you will have twice the people to meet and twice the opportunities to discover. The meeting is open to all, members or not. Refreshments will be available.

(Cont'd on p. 2, col. 1)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Cont'd)

Pioneer Forest, which contains 146,000 acres in the Ozarks, is the largest private land holding in Missouri. The value of the Drey's gift is \$180 million dollars. The Dreys have demonstrated that commercial logging can be conducted in a sustainable way that is not only profitable but also preserves the forest. In February 2005, WGNSS invited Greg Iffrig to speak about Pioneer Forest at our joint meeting with SLAS.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION (Cont'd)

From I-270 and Ladue, go east on Ladue, left at the light at New Ballas, go 1/4 mile north to the Creve Coeur Government Center at 300 N. New Ballas. Community Center is in the northwest corner of the lower level (closest to Olive and Ballas). Questions, call Mitch Leachmann at (314) 739-5112.

CORRECTION

An attribution was omitted from the article "Pleistocene Floodwater Paths in the Northwest and Implications" in the January 2005 issue of Nature Notes. This article, submitted by its author Clarence Zacher, had previously been printed in The Paleo Times, The Official Publication of the Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology, in its March 2005 issue.

MARCH 2 GENERAL MEETING - Yvonne Homeyer

"Birds and Butterflies of New Mexico and the Chiricahuas." 7 PM, St. Louis County Library Headquarters on S. Lindbergh across from Plaza Frontenac. Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer will present a video of their trip this past July to New Mexico and southeast Arizona. Highlights include a Dipper at close range, several hummingbird species, Verdin, Black-throated Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Gambel's Quail; Pine White, Dull Firetip, Tailed Copper, Arizona and Ares Metalmarks, Atlantis Fritillary, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Fulvia Checkerspot, Leda Ministreak, Sylvan Hairstreak, several species of Blues, and numerous (Cont'd, next column)

skipper species; plus Flame Skimmer, Apache Spiketail, Marbled Whiptail, Yarrow's Spiny Lizard, and Striped Plateau Lizard. This program is co-sponsored with the North American Butterfly Association (NABA-St. Louis)

REPORT ON JAN. 4 BOARD MEETING - Editor

A revised policy statement covering announcements/advertisements in Nature Notes was distributed by George Yatskievych. The revised draft was approved by the board with the provision that two similar articles be consolidated. A copy of the revised policy will be printed in Nature Notes and referenced in the "Administrative" section in future issues as a reminder that a written policy does exist.

Mike Flieg reported that one application for a 2006 WGNSS scholarship has already been received. Many more are expected before the February deadline.

Anne McCormack was congratulated by the Board for finding a Townsend's Solitaire on the Meramec Community College Campus, a new record for this part of the state. The bird is a usual resident of the mountains far to the west. Numerous close-up pictures of the bird were displayed, one in "gorgeous" color.

The Membership Committee reported that contacts with delinquents are going well. Those deciding not to renew have done so because of health reasons, inability to attend meetings, drive at night, etc. Comments about WGNSS and its programs have been very positive. Currently it looks as if membership has dropped about 20 in 2005, a small percentage, and it is expected that within a few months this loss will be offset by additions.

After discussion it was decided to hold the 2006 annual banquet at Eden despite a change in Eden's catering policy. The 2006 banquet price was also set, and possible dates and speakers were discussed.

Adams, wearing the Historian's hat, reported that indexing of all 76 of the completed volumes of the Society's journal, Nature Notes, has been completed. Many of the indexes have been added to the WGNSS website. Two Board members observed that these indexes include names and wondered whether this represents a possible privacy infringement problem. Anne McCormack was asked to review the indexes and render an opinion.

Adams also reported that information about the whereabouts of Nature Notes founder Stuart O'Byrne (Cont'd, Page 3)

REPORT ON JAN. 4 BOARD MEETING (Cont'd)

after he left St. Louis has been obtained from several responders to an inquiry in last month's issue of N.N. See the Historian's Corner for details.

The gift of a large birding library to WGNSS by an anonymous donor was revealed. Mike Flieg will handle the sale of these volumes. A list of the books and estimated value appears elsewhere in this issue. The sale will be completed at the spring annual banquet.

IN MEMORIAM - MILDRED (MITZI) ANDERSON

Long time WGNSS member Mitzi Anderson; died on Jan. 2, 2006. Her husband, Richard (Dick) Anderson was WGNSS president in 1965 and co-author of the 1968 and 1995 editions of the WGNSS book "Finding Birds in the St. Louis Area". Mitzi, as she was affectionately known to friends, served as Editor of Nature Notes from April 1965 through December 1965.

According to Paul Bauer, the assembly and mailing of Nature Notes during her tenure as Editor was a family affair. As he tells it, the Andersons did the assembly by marching around a table on which the material to be assembled was placed. The youngest child did the stapling. Mitzi also typed the manuscript of the 1968 edition of the WGNSS bird book. It has been the dedicated service of families like the Andersons that has helped WGNSS maintain its position as one of the states pre-eminent natural history societies.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER - Jim Adams

A Tale of Two Brothers

In last month's issue of Nature Notes I asked for information about the founder of Nature Notes, Stuart L. O'Byrne, who disappeared from WGNSS "radar" in the 1960's. I wanted this information so that I could write an article about the two O'Byrne brothers, Harold and Stuart, individuals of great importance in the early history of WGNSS. While I had good biographical data on Harold, I had much less information about Stuart. Although the most prolific contributor of all time to Nature Notes, there was only one reference to what Stuart

(Cont'd, p. 4)

WHAT'S AHEAD

Mar. 2 - WGNSS General Meeting with NABA
Apr. 6 - WGNSS General Meeting/Officer Election - Program t.b.a.
Apr. 16-22 and Apr. 23-30 - Colorado Grouse Trips
May 2 - WGNSS Annual Banquet, Eden Commons
May 13 - Birding Big Day

FEBRUARY DATES

WGNSS Board Meeting - 7 PM, Feb. 1, Conf. Room, 15th Floor, University Club Tower
Joint Meeting with SLAS - Feb. 10
Entomology Group Meeting, Feb. 26
Hawks in Flight - Ziebol/Homeyer - Feb. 27
Nature Notes Deadline - Feb. 10
Mailing Party, TUESDAY, Feb. 21, 1:30-5 PM
Bird/Botany Walks - p. 14-16

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Corner - p. 1
February Joint Meeting with SLAS - p. 1
Correction - p. 2
March 2 General Meeting - p. 2
Report on Jan. 4 Board Meeting - p. 2
In Memoriam - Mitzi Anderson
Historian's Corner - p. 3-5
Playing Solitaire at Meramec - McCormck - p. 5
Announcements - Other Organizations - p. 6
Publications by Members - p. 6
Year 2005 Two Hundred Club Prelim. Totals - p. 6
Hymns of Nature and Out of Doors - p. 7
Bird Watching Pamphlet, St. Charles Cnty. - p. 7
Notable Books - p. 7
Johnson Shut-Ins Damage Pictures - p. 8
Notable Publications - p. 8
Ornithology Field Report - p. 8
WGNSS Book Sale/Silent Auction - p. 11
WGNSS Policy - Nature Notes Ads - p. 13
Group Activity Schedules - p. 14
Hawks in Flight - Ziebol/Homeyer - p. 15
Mike Flieg Grouse Trip - p. 16
Botany Field Report - p. 17
WGNSS Officers/Staff - p. 19
Nature Notes Deadlines - p. 20
Nature Notes Mailing schedules - p. 20
Need Directions - p. 21

HISTORIAN'S CORNER (Cont'd)

did outside WGNSS, a comment about a job he held just before he disappeared from the St. Louis scene.

I got good response to my request: from Wayne Clark, Marge Ruschill, Paul Bauer, and Katherine Frein. Each contributed bits and pieces of information that helped me to understand the different life paths of these two remarkable men. The most important factor affecting the career paths of the two brothers seems to have been a significant difference in age: Harold was ten years older than Stuart.

This month I'll give you what's known about the older O'Byrne brother, Harold, contained in a biography of Harold prepared by Marshall Magner and printed in the March 1951 issue of Nature Notes. Marshall kept in touch with Stuart as long as Marshall lived but unfortunately never prepared a similar write-up about Stuart's life. Next month I'll print a similar article about Stuart, drawing on information in Nature Notes and inputs from long time WGNSS members. Together the two stories will describe how two gifted young men, starting from a humble beginning, built good lives for themselves because of ambition and a burning desire to excel. Horatio Alger would have been proud of them. Marshall's account of Harold's life follows.

An Untimely Death - Harold I.O'Byrne

On January 22 the members of WGNSS were shocked to learn of Harold O'Byrne's sudden passing. For those of us who had known him for so long and so well the loss is one which cannot be replaced. Harold was born in St. Louis on April 21, 1898 and at an early age was introduced to the many interesting living things in nature by his father, who was well-versed in the outdoors. With guidance from his father, Harold began collecting butterflies. With the help of a family set of "New Natural History" and all books on butterflies or related subjects obtainable at the library. He started reading to learn all he could about butterflies. Before he was in his teens, he was busy collecting in the parkways in St. Louis and in Forest Park. By this time he had acquired Holland's Butterfly and Moth books, which he used and studied constantly.

Even while serving on the Mexican border in

1915 and later in France during World War I, he managed to continue his collecting until by 1950 he had one of the finest collections of butterflies and moths in the central United States. Included in the collection are type species, several rare local species, particularly of the Sulphurs.

In 1927 Mrs. O'Byrne, Harold and Stuart moved to Webster Groves. Almost immediately Harold learned of the WGNSS and its activities and from then until his death, was one of its ablest leaders and strongest supporters. From 1927 to 1936 Harold held many offices in the Society, serving on several occasions as chairman of the Entomology group, Co-Chairman of the Junior Group, Curator of Entomology, Editor of Nature Notes, Lodge Director, and President. With Stuart he started the Museum at the Ranken Tract Lodge and worked unflinchingly for its success.

During these years Mr. Phil Rau constantly encouraged Harold to further reading, and to write and publish his observations. Those who have read any of his articles, which have appeared in many scientific journals, know the scholarly manner in which his ideas and data are presented, and realize that they are truly contributions to man's knowledge.

In spite of all he had learned through his own experiences, through reading and through conversation with members of the W.G.N.S.S. and others, he kept constantly before him the goal of more knowledge as gained through formal education by attending night classes at Washington University. With constant encouragement from his dear wife, Olive Schregardus O'Byrne, Mr. Phil Rau and Mr. and Mrs. Satterthwait, Harold entered the University of Illinois in 1936 as a full time student, and obtained his A.B. degree in entomology in 1939, with a minor in botany. (Ed. Note: I have been told that Harold lived with the Satterthwaits while attending the U. of Ill. in Urbana. The Satterthwaits moved to Urbana from Webster Groves in mid-1936.) During the past three summers he attended the University of Michigan from which he obtained his Master's degree. While at the University of Illinois, he also worked for the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and during 1939 and 1940 worked in Connecticut and Mississippi for the same organization on various insect problems.

In 1941 he returned to St. Louis and in 1942, with

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

HISTORIAN'S CORNER (Cont'd)

Olive, accepted a position as a Naturalist with Missouri Conservation at Rockwoods Reservation near Glencoe where he served until 1948. All who visited Rockwoods know of his unceasing effort to assist Boy and Girl Scouts and anyone else seeking knowledge of the outdoors and its mysteries.

In January 1948 Harold, Olive, Freddie and Betty moved to Iberia, Missouri, where Harold had accepted a new position as head of the Biological Sciences Department at Conservation College. Here he quickly and efficiently set up courses in Biology which were directed toward the Conservation of Natural Resources and wise use of the land. At the time of his death, in addition to teaching and departmental administrative duties, Harold was also serving as Dean of the College.

While many have spent numerous hours working, talking, hiking and collecting with him, few, except his family have spent as many happy hours afield with him as I. Few know of his detailed note-taking and collection of data, his methodical and thorough cataloguing of his collection, his literature references and his library. My memories are rich with our days together in the outdoors of learning with Harold, and such little things as his ready wit, his love for a rocking chair and a steaming cup of coffee in his hand.

PLAYING SOLITAIRE AT MERAMEC - Anne McCormack

My dog Rosie was sniffing for chipmunks as we rounded the corner so she paid no attention to the bird that popped up to the top of the bush. I might not have paid any either except for that Edgar-Allen-Poe of an eye. The bird was completely still, staring at me. It was almost the color of a Mockingbird, but at only twelve feet I could see that it wasn't the right shape. It turned, showing an area of yellow on the wing, then another. Bohemian Waxwing? No crest. Smooth grey top and bottom. Zipping over to a bare pear tree, it stared some more--as did I. The long tail was very Mockingbird-like, but what about that short bill?

"Why didn't I bring my binoculars?" said the wee man on my shoulder, "You know you always see good birds at Meramec!" The shame of it!

To have to walk away from a rare bird without getting enough field marks. I thought about the Townsend's Solitaire--a bird of the Rock Mountains--and then imagined my rare bird report, "Without binoculars, I saw this grey bird on a grey day against grey bark." I considered just giving up on it. A few hundred steps later I was home and my grey thoughts disappeared as I ran for the binoculars. I rushed back to the spot but the tree was empty. I set my alarm to get up early the next day, but no luck. I sent off my report though, and called a report to Jim Ziebol to get it in the Nature Notes birding column. Jim answered, "I'm going over there tomorrow morning." That was encouraging. I met Jim and Sherry McCowan the next morning, December 30, at the Meramec Community College campus and Sherry spotted it almost immediately. I took off to call the hotline and within thirty minutes people began to arrive. In the meantime, workers began dumping debris in a container next to the tree and the bird took off. It wasn't long before twenty of us were running around campus chasing Mockingbirds.

The bird wasn't rediscovered till it discovered us early in the evening as it came in to roost. Everyone had great looks through binoculars, digiscopes, cameras and camcorders. For some it was a life bird, for most it was a state bird--first time seen in Missouri. For all it was an area bird, 250 miles east of a 1990 Missouri sighting. That fifteen-year old sighting was also at a community college, illustrating the theory that two-year colleges are preferred habitat for Solitaires.

Joe Eades described the bird as "gloriously beautiful", as it helped him tie Doug Willis for the best list in Missouri for 2005. And of course, every one came back the next Sunday to start his or her 2006 list! It was a lot like winning the World Series, but without turning over cars.

Experiences like this are rare: people introducing themselves, strangers clapping each other on the back, experienced birders--I almost said old-timers--reminiscing about glorious St. Louis records of the past: the Ross's Gull in 1991, the Band-rumped Storm Petrel (following Hurricane Baker) in 1950, and the first continental US record of a Slaty-backed Gull in 1984. Jackie Chain told me, "I've seen the bird, but I don't want to leave!" I (Cont'd, next page)

PLAYING SOLITAIRE AT MERAMEC (Cont'd)

returned home to find the sewer discharging into my basement. Not even that could ruin my mood!

P.S. Look for an article about this sighting of the Townsend's Solitaire and one by Josh Uffman about his discovery of the Yellow-billed Loon at Thomas Hill Reservoir in an upcoming issue of *Winging It*, newsletter of the American Birding Association.

HARD EVIDENCE



Townsend's Solitaire found by Anne McCormack on the campus of St. Louis Community College at Meramec. Photo by Randy Korotev.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

St. Louis Zoo/Academy of Science of St. Louis

Wednesday, February 15, 7:30-9 PM

Was Einstein Right? - Dr. Clifford Will, Physics Dept., Washington University. Physicist and renowned Einstein expert, Dr. Will explores how the most celebrated scientific theory of the 20th century has held up under the exacting scrutiny of planetary probes, radio telescopes and atomic clocks. Dr. Will relates the story of testing (Cont'd next column)

relativity, from the 1919 measurements of the bending of light to the 1980's measurements of a decaying double-neutron star system that reveal the action of gravity waves, to a 2005 space experiment to test whether space-time "does the twist".

FREE ADMISSION. Held in the Living World, North side of the zoo. Free parking in the north lots.

Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 - 9 PM

Man the Hunted: A New Look at Human Evolution. Dr. Donna L. Hart, Anthropology Dept., UM - St. Louis. Anthropologist and author, Donna Hart, argues that our human ancestors--the ones who lived between seven million and a few hundred thousand years ago--were probably subject to high rates of predation from mega-carnivores (such as saber-toothed cats and giant hyenas), huge raptors, snakes, and crocodiles. Predation may, in fact, have spurred our evolution into the large-brained, socially adept, complex-communicating human beings we are today. In "Man the Hunted: Primates, Predators, and Human Evolution", author Donna Hart, along with fellow anthropologist, Dr. Robert Sussman, study fossil hominids and living nonhuman primate species to lay the groundwork for a new theory of human evolution, "Man the Hunted".

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Brown, C. R., and T. C. MacRae. Occurrence of *Cicindela (Cicindelidia) trifasciata ascendens* (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae) in Missouri. *Cicindela* 37(1-2):17-19 (2005)

YEAR 2005 TOTALS REPORT (PRELIMINARY)

Species for the 50 mile radius St. Louis birding area:

Joe Eades	293
Jackie Chain	263 ("plus the chaffinch")
Rose Ann Bodman	253
Dick Coles	249
John Solodar	241
Dottie Herwig	224
Paul Bauer	209

(Cont'd p. 7)

YEAR 2005 TOTALS REPORT (Cont'd)

Joe Eades tops the list, as he did last year. He has also tied Doug Willis for the best 2005 list in the STATE with 304 species. Anne's Solitaire, spotted on Dec. 30, gave Joe this tie with Willis. Since only seven of you have signed in for the "200 Club" list for 2005, it is likely that some of you out there are still counting. Please send me a note on your 2005 totals and I'll publish a revised "200 Club List" next month.

HYMNS OF NATURE AND OUTDOORS

A list of hymns that are especially effective at open air services or at retreat centers in natural settings can be found at www.cyberhymnal.org. Click on the Nature and Outdoors item on the topical web page. Sixty-five hymns are listed.

BIRDWATCHING IN ST. CHARLES COUNTY

Clarence Zacher has called my attention to a booklet entitled "Birdwatching in St. Charles County, by Angela Holland & Christine McGraw, Illustrated by Drew Mangels. Published and distributed by the Greater St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau in conjunction with the Mo. Division of Tourism.

HIGH ENERGY FOOD FOR BIRD WALKS - VELVEETA FUDGE

3/4 lb. Velveeta cut up
1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine
6 squares BAKER'S Unsweetened baking chocolate
2 Tbsp. light corn syrup
2 pkg. (16 oz. each) powdered sugar (about 8 cups)
1-1/2 cups chopped pecans
1 tsp. vanilla

PLACE Velveeta, butter, chocolate and corn syrup in large microwavable bowl. Microwave on High 2 minutes; stir. Microwave an additional minute; stir until well blended.

ADD chocolate mixture, in batches, to sugar in large bowl, beating with electric mixture on medium speed until well blended after each addition. Stir in pecans and vanilla.

(Cont'd, next column)

POUR into greased 13x9-inch pan. Smooth top with spatula; cover. Refrigerate several hours or until firm. Cut into 96 (1-inch) pieces.
(from Kraftfoods.com)

NOTABLE BOOKS THAT'S I'VE READ IN 2005

1. Audubon - Life and Art in the American Wilderness - Shirley Streshinsky - University of Georgia Press - Athens (1998)

I've read several Audubon biographies, but this is by far the most complete and scholarly one that I've read. Information about Audubon's French family that I've never seen before. Did you know Audubon was sent by his wealthy father to America to avoid Napoleon's army recruiters??

2. Firestorm at Peshtigo - A Town, Its People, and the Deadliest Fire in American History - Denise Gess and William Lutz - Henry Holt and Company (2002). Occurred in a forested area around Peshtigo, Wisconsin on the same day of the better known Chicago fire of 1871. More than 2200 people killed (vs. ca. a 300 in the Chicago fire).

3. Locust - The Devastating Rise and Mysterious Disappearance of the Insect (the Rocky Mountain Locust) That Shaped the American Frontier - Jeffrey A. Lockwood - Perseus Book Group of New York (2004). This insect appeared suddenly in vast numbers (one swarm in 1875 covered 198,000 square miles!) and became extinct in the early 1900's. The reasons for its sudden appearance in such devastating numbers, and its strange extinction are spelled out in the book in great detail, incorporating in part examination of cores from western glaciers. This episode resulted in creation of the new scientific discipline of entomology. The seeds of WGNSS were likely planted on the western plains because the episode resulted in the founding of the federal Bureau of Entomology, from whence came Alfred Satterthwait to Webster Groves.

4. Darwin and the Barnacle - Rebecca Stott - Faber and Faber - Clays Ltd., St. Ives England (2003). Tells how Darwin undertook to become the world authority on barnacles to establish his credibility as a naturalist before publishing his great work on the evolution of species. A great story, well told. Provides new insights into the scientific methodology of Charles Darwin, and much background information on Darwin as a man.

JOHNSON SHUT-INS STATE-PARK DAMAGE

If you'd like to see pictures showing how the scenic areas at Johnson Shut-Ins State Park were impacted by the failure of the Taum Sauk Reservoir on Proffit Mountain, you can see them at <http://www.imagepatch.com/Topic.asp?T=9>

These pictures provide far better coverage of damage to the park than you will have seen in the media.

NOTABLE RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. Biodiesel & Ethanol Plants in Missouri - Missouri Resources, Vol. 22, No. 3, Fall 2005, p. 13 (published by Mo. DNR)
2. The Flu Hunter (Robert Webster) - The Smithsonian Jan. 2006, p. 36
3. Invasives Beware! Nature Conservancy Landmarks, Quarterly Report, Winter 2005, p. 8
4. Announcement of postage stamps featuring the constellations Leo, Orion, Lyra, and Pegasus. (Cont'd next column)

- U. S. A. Philatelic, Vol. 10, No. 4, Winter 2005
5. The Birth of the Uterus - Genes that help what goes right or wrong in pregnancy also enabled early mammals to switch from laying eggs to bearing live young - Natural History, Vol. 114, Dec. 2005/Jan. 2006, No. 10, p. 36-41
 6. Missouri Conservationist - Special Issue - All Wildlife Conservation, Vol. 66, No. 10, October 2005 - A magnificent issue dealing with the state by region. Great pictures and text. The MDC is to be congratulated on such an epic production!
 7. Darwin & Evolution, Natural History, Vol. 114, Nov. 2005 - The entire issue is devoted to "The Historical Darwin" and "Darwinism Today". Under Historical, are The Miraculous Season, Bee Lines and Worm Burrows, Darwin's Shrink, and Good Breeding. Under Darwinism today, topics are Evolution in Action, The Fossils Say Yes, The Origins of Form, and On Darwin's Shoulders All preceded by an Introduction by Richard Dawkins entitled "The Illusion of Design". A contribution to the current debate about Evolution vs. Intelligent Design.

DECEMBER BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: The bird of the year arrived very late in the year. A Townsend's Solitaire was discovered by Anne McCormack on 12/28 on the Meramec Community College campus near her home. After the bird was hotlined on 12/30, many birders have had a chance to see it. Townsend's Solitaire is a county and area record. This individual has been very cooperative and it is allowing local birders better viewing and photography opportunities than we would have in its normal habitat. The bird is undisturbed by all its admirers and returns every evening to the same virburnum bush. It is most reliable first thing in the morning and after 4:00 p.m. One birder describes Townsend's Solitaire as "a thrush that acts like a flycatcher."

Anyone who has a Bluebird box for the Shaw Nature Reserve should contact Jim Ziebol (314.781.7372) by February 1st.

Sightings: A Pied-billed Grebe spent all of December in FP (SM) and an Eared Grebe was last seen at Creve Coeur Lake on 12/1 (CM). On 12/11, 2 dark-morph or melanistic Great Blue Herons were seen and videotaped at HL (YH, JZ). Donald Hays and Jim Jackson estimated over 100 Trumpeter Swans at REDA on 12/2. On 12/20, 12 Trumpeters were seen on Dwiggin Road (CM). On 12/10, 3 Tundra Swans (two adults and one juvenile) were found at REDA (MT). The Thursday Group found 3 species of
(Cont'd next page)

DECEMBER BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

swans and an Oldsquaw at REDA on 12/15 (J Chain). Cackling Geese were present at Creve Coeur Lake on 12/14 (G&TB). The Malones estimated 100 Cackling Geese among the thousands of Canadas at Creve Coeur Lake on 12/20. On 12/5, a Greater White-fronted Goose and a Lesser Scaup were seen in FP (SM). On 12/17, Mike Thelen reported Am. Black Duck, Pintail, and Redhead at REDA. A White-winged Scoter was found at Winfield Dam on 12/1 (DR) and another White-winged Scoter was present at Creve Coeur Lake on 12/14 (T Berger). On 12/15 at Creve Coeur Lake, the Thursday Group found 3 Ross's Geese, 4 Cackling Geese, both Scaup, and Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers (J Chain). High counts of 16 Greater Scaup and 60 Hooded Mergansers were noted at REDA on 12/2 (DH, JJ). On 12/3, the Saturday Group found 2 Ross's and 4 Cackling Geese at Creve Coeur Lake, Tundra Swan at REDA, and White-winged Scoter at Winfield Dam (DB). On 12/3, 300+ Ring-necked, 225 Green-winged Teal, and 22 Pied-billed Grebes were present at HL (FH). Two Dunlin, a Dowitcher species, 6 Least Sandpipers, 4 Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs and 200+ Killdeer were still present at Winfield Dam on 12/2 (CM). On 12/7, a Killdeer was seen in FP (CZ). About 150 Bonaparte's Gulls were observed at HL on 12/4 (FH, SM, JZ) and on 12/18, one was found at Two Rivers NWR (RK, TP, BR). On 12/3, a first winter California Gull appeared at CL (DK) and on 12/1, an adult or near adult was seen at HL (JZ, YH). Sightings at REDA of Lesser Black-backed Gulls included an adult and a second winter on 12/14 (CM), an adult on 12/17 (MT), an adult on 12/25 (J Moe, KP) and 3 adults and a second winter on 12/26 (m. ob.). An adult Thayer's Gull was observed at REDA on 12/14 (CM) and a first winter has been there throughout the month. On 12/8 at REDA, a second winter Iceland Gull was seen by Joe Eades, and a first winter Glaucous Gull was observed by David Rogles. {Ed. Note: As of the first week of January, Great Black-backed Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake have not been reported.]

There were two Golden Eagle sightings in December, both juveniles: CL on 12/3 (DK) and Two Rivers NWR on 12/18 (RK, TP, BR). On 12/17, Mike Thelen counted 10 Bald Eagles in the REDA area. On 12/11 at HL, Jim Ziebol found an adult rufous morph Red-tailed Hawk. On 12/13, a similar bird was seen in St. Louis County (MT). A Harlan's Hawk returned to its winter site on Sand Prairie Lane and was observed on 12/10 by Frank Holmes. The Thursday Group found 12 Bald Eagles at Winfield Dam, 3 Bald Eagles and 2 Harriers at BK Leach, and a Harrier, 3 Red-tails and 2 Kestrels at Clarence Cannon on 12/29. Prairie Falcon sightings included an adult in Lincoln County on 12/3 (JU), 2 in Lincoln County on 12/22 (SS), and 1 at Winfield Dam on 12/29 (T Berger). Merlins were reported on Church Road on 12/18 (JU), at Two Rivers NWR on 12/18 (RK, TP, BR), and at FP on 12/23 (SM). Eurasian Collared Doves were seen at Machens Farm on 12/2 (J Chain, Th. Group) and on 12/17 David Becher found 26 along Payne Road. On 12/2, Sherry McCowan found Red-breasted Nuthatch and Hairy Woodpecker in FP and on 12/15, the Thursday Group found Red-breasted Nuthatch and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at BCA (J Chain). Jeannie Moe and Kraig Paradise saw
(Cont'd next page)

DECEMBER BIRD REPORT (Cont'd)

Golden-crowned Kinglet and Barred Owl on 12/27 at the Katy Trail. On 12/4, 6 Golden-crowned Kinglets and 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen at HL (FH, JZ, SM). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found at Two Rivers NWR on 12/18 (RK, TP, BR). Clarence Zacher noted a Kingfisher, Song Sparrow and a Bald Eagle in FP on 12/7. On 12/11, the bright-yellow west coast race of Orange-crowned Warbler was observed at HL (YH, SM). Also on 12/11, an Orange-crowned Warbler was seen in FP (CZ). Mike Brady reported that a Summer Tanager was seen at a feeder in Wildwood for a week in early December. On 12/1, a LeConte's Sparrow was found at Boone Crossing (MAA). Sherry McCowan reported a Chipping Sparrow in FP on 12/2. On 12/11, American Tree Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, and 100+ Juncos were seen in FP (CZ). On 12/8, David Rogles reported Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks on Confluence Road. The Thursday Group found a female Brewer's Blackbird among Rusty Blackbirds at Seeburger and Church Roads on 12/8 (J Chain).

Backyard Birds: Mike Thelen counted 80 Greater White-fronted Geese flying over his University City home in early December. On 12/6, Margy Terpstra found a Barred Owl in her Kirkwood yard. On 12/20, 15 Cedar Waxwings landed in a tree at his city home (JZ). Connie Alwood reported both Cooper's Hawks and Screech Owls at his Ferguson home in December.

Christmas Count Highlights: Pere Marquette, 12/17 – Golden Eagle, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Merlin, and Bonaparte's Gull. Cuivre River, 12/22 – Spotted Towhee, 9 Winter Wrens, 10 Hermit Thrush, 100 Bluebirds. Collinsville Circle, 12/29 – 16 species of ducks, 38 Bluebirds, 17 meadowlark species, 4 Savannah Sparrows, and 1 Field Sparrow. Clarence Cannon, 12/29 – 83 species, 2 Short-eared Owls, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 142 Savannah Sparrows, 3 LeConte's, 90 Carolina Wrens, 56 Purple Finch, 17 waterfowl species, and all 7 woodpeckers. Busch, 12/31 – 6 Red-shouldered Hawks, 54 Bluebirds, 4 Turkey Vultures, 2 Hermit Thrush, and good numbers of Cedar Waxwings and Goldfinch.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Mary Anne Auer, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Joe Eades, Donald Hays, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Jim Jackson, Randy Korotev, Jim & Charlene Malone, Sherry McCowan, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Tom Parmeter, David Rogles, Scott Schuette, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, 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).

Abbreviations: Busch Conservation/Wildlife Area, BCA; Carlyle Lake, CL; Clarence Cannon, CC; Forest Park, FP; Horseshoe Lake, HL; Little Creve Coeur Lake, LCCL, Lost Valley Trail, LVT; Marais Temps Clair, MTC; Riverlands, REDA; Shaw Nature Reserve, SNR; Tower Grove Park, TGP.

WGNSS BOOK SALE AND SILENT AUCTION – Mike Flieg

WGNSS has been given a sizeable birding library by an anonymous donor. These books will be sold via a Silent Auction to be held at our annual banquet in May. A partial list of available books accompanies this article, However, if you cannot attend the banquet, other options are available. If you are interested in a book on the list at the price given in the "Buy It Now" column, call Mike Flieg at 3124-6454-3356. He will arrange to get the book to you; in some cases postage may be required. If "Make Offer" is shown for the book, you can make an offer by calling Mike who will record your offer. It will be considered with other offers received for the book during the Silent Auction at the banquet. The book will go to the highest bidder. You don't have to be a WGNSS member to purchase one of these books. Be advised that many more titles will be available at the auction than shown on the attached list, so make plans to attend the banquet if you can.

WGNSS AUCTION AND SALE

TITLE	AUTHOR	BUY IT NOW	REMARKS
Advanced Birding	Kaufman	\$5.00	Paperback
Age of Birds	Feduccia	Make Offer	
Alaskan Bird Life	Ingersoll	\$10.00	
Audubon Birds of America, 50 plates	Peterson	\$20.00	
Audubon in the West	McDermott	Make Offer	
Audubon Land Bird Guide	Pough	Make Offer	
Australian Birds	Holmes	Make Offer	
Autumn Hawk Flights	Heintzelman	Make Offer	
Aves de Chile	Daskam	Make Offer	
Bird Life	Chapman	Make Offer	
Bird of America	Pearson	Make Offer	
Bird Portraits in Color	Roberts	Make Offer	
Birds of Big Bend Nat'l Park	Wauer	\$2.00	
Birds of Britain and Europe	Heinzel	\$3.00	
Birds of Columbia	de Schauensee	\$20.00	No Dust Cover
Birds of Costa Rica	Stiles	\$10.00	
Birds of E and C Africa	Williams	\$5.00	
Birds of Galapagos	Harris	\$5.00	
Birds of Hawaii	Munro	\$10.00	Dust Cover
Birds of Heaven	Matthiessen	Make Offer	
Birds of Iceland	Bardarson	\$50.00	
Birds of Lebanon	Benson	\$20.00	1st Ed., Dust Cover
Birds of N. American, 431 plates	Audubon	\$20.00	
Birds of SAM	de Schauensee	\$25.00	Fine, No Dust Cover
Birds of the Bahamas	Paterson	\$5.00	1st Ed. Dust Cover
Birds of the Mayas	Bowes	Make Offer	
Birds of Tikal	Smithe	\$15.00	1st Ed., Dust Cover

(Cont'd next page)

WGNSB BOOK SALE AND SILENT AUCTION (Cont'd)

Birds that Hunt and are Hunted	Blanchan	\$10.00	
Birds Watchers Guide to E. US	Barron	Make Offer	
Book of Ducks	Barclay-Smith	\$2.00	
British Birds	Hudson	\$7.00	
BW Guide to Wildlife Sanctuaries	Kitching	\$5.00	
Call Collect, Ask for Birdman	Vordaman	Make Offer	
Diversity of Life	Wilson	\$7.00	
Dozen Birding Hot Spots	Peterson	Make Offer	
Eagles of the World	Brown	\$5.00	
Encyclopedia of NAM Birds	Terres	\$20.00	
FG Birds of Mexico	Edwards	Make Offer	
FG Birds of Mexico and C. America	Davis	\$10.00	
FG Birds of Puerto Rico	Raffaele	\$10.00	1st Ed., 1938
FG to American Wildlife	Collins	\$5.00	
FG to Australian Birds (2 Vol.)	Slater	\$10.00	
FG to Bird Songs, Eastern, 2 cassettes	Peterson	\$10.00	
FG to Mexican Birds	Peterson	\$10.00	1st Ed., Dust Cover
FG to the Birds	Peterson	\$2.00	Paperback
FG to the Birds (2)	Peterson	\$3.00	
FG to the Birds of Britain and Europe	Peterson	\$3.00	
Finding Birds in Mexico	Edwards	Make Offer	
Grail Birds	Gallagher	\$15.00	
Grasses	Brown	\$10.00	
Guide to Behavior of Common Birds	Stokes	\$5.00	
Habitat Guide to Birding	McElroy, Jr.	Make Offer	
Handbook of N A Birds	Palmer	\$15.00	2nd Ed., Dust Cover
Las Aves Argentinas	Olrog	Make Offer	
Life Histories of N A Wood Warblers	Bent	\$10.00	
Life of Birds	Welty	Make Offer	
Living on the Wind	Weidensaul	Make Offer	
Louisiana Birds	Lowery	\$10.00	
Manual de las Aves de El Salvador	Traylor	\$20.00	
Moments of Discovery	Porter	\$10.00	
N A Ducks, Geese, & Swans	Heintzelman	Make Offer	
Naturalists Guide To The Victoria Reg.	Weston	Make Offer	
Penguins	Peterson	\$5.00	Paperback
Portraits of Mexican Birds	Sutton	\$20.00	
Seabirds	Harrison	\$8.00	Paperback
Season of Birds	Vincent	Make Offer	
Shore Birds of N A	Stout	\$25.00	
Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Beh	Sibley	\$15.00	
Sibley Guide to Birds	Sibley	\$15.00	
Summer of a Million Wings	Brandon-Cox	Make Offer	
The American Robin	Eiserer	Make Offer	
The Peregrine Falcon	Murphy	\$2.00	
Watching Birds	Pasquier	Make Offer	
Water and Marsh Bird of the World	Austin	Make Offer	
Waterfowl of the World	Todd	\$20.00	Dust Cover
Where to Watch Birds in Europe	Gooders	\$5.00	
Wonder of Birds	Nat'l. Geographic	Make Offer	
Words for Birds	Gruson	Make Offer	
World of Watchers	Kastner	Make Offer	

From: <george.yatskievych@mobot.org>
To: <msokam@swbell.net>; <homeyer@earthlink.net>; <ladybirdterp@sbcglobal.net>; <richard.s.thoma@monsanto.com>; <Michael.olson@mobot.org>; <docmendy@earthlink.net>; <amccormack@stjosephacad.org>; <rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu>; <dadams5084@charter.net>; <aee623@prodigy.net>; <Drjstl@aol.com>; <Jrmoe@swbell.net>; <gmflieg@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2006 8:08 AM
Attach: WGNSS Draft PolicyNature Notes Ads Final.doc
Subject: WGNSS Ad Policy, final version

Dear Board,

Here is the final version of the ad policy that we voted on last night.

**WGNSS Policy
Nature Notes Ads
4 January 2006**

1. The Editor of Nature Notes may, at his or her discretion, accept notices from the membership for the sale of goods or services. If necessary, the editor may seek guidance from the board about the suitability of potential notices. In such cases, the decision of the WGNSS board shall be final and binding.
2. Information must be submitted to the editor in writing by mail or electronic means.
3. Said goods or services must be nature-related and of potential interest to WGNSS members.
4. Notices will be accepted only from persons who are members in good standing of WGNSS. Buyers need not be members of WGNSS.
5. There will be no charge for accepting or printing of such notices.
6. Each notice usually will be printed in only a single issue of Nature Notes, but may be reprinted if warranted, at the editor's discretion. Under no circumstances will any notice be accepted for inclusion in more than two sequential issues.
7. It will be understood that WGNSS makes no claims about the quality, reliability, etc. of any goods or services offered for sale in Nature Notes, which are the sole responsibility of the seller.

Webster Groves Nature Study Society
GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES
 February 2006 Update

Ornithology – SATURDAY Bird Walks – David Becher (314-576-1146)
 (If destination not given, it's "Where the Birds Are". Always bring lunch.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Jan. 28	Teal Pond Parking Lot Riverlands.	8 AM	Becher
(From I-270 go north on Rte. 367 towards Alton. Cross Missouri River bridge. Turn right into Riverlands at gasoline station just before bridge over Mississippi River)			
Feb. 11	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
Feb. 25	Teal Pond Parking Lot	8 AM	Becher
Mar. 11	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
Mar. 18	Teal Pond Parking Lot	8 AM	Becher
Mar. 25	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
Apr. 1	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
Apr. 8	Hampton Lake, Busch Wildlife	8 AM	Becher
(Exit from US 40 at first exit- Rte. 94- after crossing Missouri River and follow signs)			
Apr. 15	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher
Apr. 22	Tower Grove Park	8 AM	Becher
(Take Kingshighway south from US 40, left on Magnolia, first right to enter park, then right past tennis courts and stable to first picnic area on right.)			
Apr. 29	Castlewood State Park	8 AM	Becher
(From Manchester Rd. go south on New Ballwin Rd. to Kiefer Creek Rd. and follow signs east to park. Meet near boat launch)			
May 6	Weldon Springs Wildlife Area, Lost Valley Hiking Trail	8 AM	Becher
(Rte. D in St. Charles Co. west of Busch Wildlife Area)			
May 13	WGNSS Birding, Big Day	8 AM	Becher
May 20	Gray's Summit Arboretum	8 AM	Becher
(From St. Louis take I-44 west to Gray's Summit exit. Turn left across highway. Turn right onto service road and immediately left into Arboretum. Meet at entrance to Brush Creek Trail)			
May 27	North side of County Library	8 AM	Becher

Ornithology – Thursday Bird Walks – Jackie Chain – Leader (314-644-5998)

Meeting time is 8:30 AM on Thursdays at Des Peres Park. Call Jackie for more information. See **Need Directions?** for directions to the park.

Cont'd, next page

Ornithology – Sunday Bird Walks

Note: New birders are **cautioned** to dress for the weather. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Jan. 29, 2006 McDonalds in Carylyle, Ill. 8 AM* Bill Rowe
(for Carlyle Lake Walk)

*8 AM departure time. If you want breakfast, arrive by 7:30 AM. Lunch will be at McDonalds or some other restaurant, not in the field. Walk will continue in the afternoon, but those wishing to depart earlier may do so. For more information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372.

Feb. 12, 2006 Riverlands Hdqtrs. 8 AM M.. Thelen
For a more information, call Mike Thelen at 314-862-6642

Feb. 26, 2006 Baldwin Lake 8 AM K. Lannert

Directions: From the Poplar Street Bridge follow I-64 east to I-255. Take I-255 south to Il. Route 15. Take 15 east to Freeburg. At far end of Freeburg 15 turns right. **Do not** turn but continue straight ahead on route 13 towards New Athens. About 1.5-2 miles after crossing the Kaskaskia River turn right onto the Baldwin Rd. This is the second road to the right after the bridge. After about 5-6 miles turn right on Risdon School Rd. The berm of Baldwin Lake will be on your left. Proceed about 1 mile and turn in at the entrance gate. Follow the road for about a half mile until it runs into the boat ramp parking lot. This is not the first parking lot by the entrance. If you have questions, call Jim Ziebol (314) 781-7372)

March 5, 2006 Busch Wildlife C. A. 8 AM Bailey
& Garcia

For more information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372

March 12, 2006 Horseshoe Lake Causeway 8 AM Ziebol
& Holmes

For more information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372 or Frank Holmes at (618) 451-2127.

March 26, 2006 Riverlands E.D.A. 8 AM T. Berger
Meet at the Headquarters. For more information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372

April 30, 2006 **Tower Grove Park** 8 AM Bailey
(Gaddy Bird Garden) & Garcia

For Information, call Jim Ziebol at (314) 781-7372

Ornithology Special Meeting

Monday, February 27 – 7 PM at the Machacek Library, 6424 Scanlan, St. Louis.
Program: “Hawks in Flight”, a video presented by Yvonne Homeyer and Jim Ziebol.
Mark Peters, former Missouri Hawkwatch Coordinator, has viewed the video and was impressed. The public is invited. The library is at Watson and Scanlan between Arsenal
(Cont'd, next page)

and Fyler. The library itself is unusual because it's underground. The library's telephone number is (314) 2948. (Cont'd, next page)

Botany Walks – Jeannie Moe – Co-Chair , Leader (636-946-9802)
George Yatskievych – Co-Chair (314-577-9522) – Work Phone

Botany walks are now on Monday. The Botany group visits many of the same locations as the Bird and Butterfly Groups: Busch Conservation Area, Shaw Nature Preserve, the Missouri Botanical Garden, Babler State Park and Cuivre River State Park. Learning plants will help you learn butterfly host plants. Sign up for Botany Group E-mails from Jack Harris (jahar@mac.com) or 314-368-0655 and receive an E-mail every Sunday, sometimes earlier, about the next Monday's trip.

Entomology Group Activities – Rich Thoma, Chair (314-965-6744)

Sunday, January 22, 2006 - "The Biology of Braconid wasps and a Look at a Newly Discovered Lineage" will be presented by St. Louis University professor and taxonomist, Joe Fortier. The meeting will be held at the home of George Winkler, 10 Covington Lane, St. Louis 63132. Tel. (314) 993-1652

Sunday, February 26, 2006, 7 PM – "Rare Butterflies of Southwestern Missouri Prairies" will be presented by Phil Koenig, an active WGNSS member and considered to be one of St. Louis' premier Butterfly experts. This meeting will be held at Phil's home: 823 Lauralee Dr. in O'Fallon, Mo. (Tel. 636-281-1313) Directions: Take Highway 70 west to O'Fallon. Exit at highway K and Main Street. Go north on Main Street through O'Fallon. An important landmark to cross is the railroad tracks near the north end of O'Fallon. Once you've crossed the tracks look for a water tower in the distance. The next street you turn on is difficult to find but it is just before the water tower. Turn left on Towerwood Dr. After approximately 1/3 mile, make a right turn on Carolynjean Dr. Carolynjean curves around and becomes Lauralee.

Sunday, March 12, 2006, 7 PM – "Butterfly Production – From Farm to Flight House" will be presented by Mark Deering, Collections Manager and Curator of Butterflies in the Butterfly House in Faust Park. The meeting will also take place at the Butterfly House, 15193 Olive Blvd. in Chesterfield. Be sure to enter by the front door for this evenings meeting.

SPECIAL NOTICE SPECIAL NOTICE SPECIAL NOTICE

Colorado Grouse Trips (Lek-a-day)

Mike Flieg has been conducting these trips for 9 years. More than 250 birders have taken one of his trips. Target birds include Mountain Plover, Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspur, Rosey Finches, both Prairie Chickens, both Sage Grouse, Sharp-tailed and Blue Grouse and White-tailed Ptarmigan. The cost is \$1075 and includes transportation and lodging from Denver- food and drinks are on your own. Trips begin on Sunday and end on Saturday. Open dates are April 16-22 and 23 to 30. Contact Mike at 314-645-3356 or e-mail ornifolks@sbcglobal.net

CONTRIBUTORS BEWARE!

An Editor is one who separates the wheat from the chaff and prints the chaff.

- Adlai Stevenson

NOVEMBER BOTANIZING - George Van Brunt

November 7, 2005 Botany Field Trip

Father Sullivan, Jack Harris, Pat Harris, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Jim Wiant, Jim Ruschill, Marge Ruschill, and John Oliver met at Hawn State Park, Ste. Genevieve Co, MO. The morning was mild (60° to 70° F) and overcast to partly sunny. In the parking lot before the start of the walk, a *Meloe* sp. (blister beetle) attracted attention by marching through the assembled group. This prompted a response by several photographers. The abundant acorn crop carpeting the ground and several recently downed branches from scarlet, black, and post oak provided fodder for extended discussion about various ID characters of *Quercus* species by Father Sullivan. *Rhus aromatica* (fragrant sumac) and *Acer rubrum* (red maple) were in brilliant fall color. On our walk some of the plants we identified were *Asclepias verticillata* (horsetail milkweed), *Asplenium platyneuron* (ebony spleenwort), *Symphotrichum oolentangiense* (azure aster), *Corylus americana* (American hazelnut), *Ostrya virginiana* (eastern hop hornbeam), *Opuntia humifusa* (eastern prickly pear), *Vaccinium arboreum* (farkleberry), *Vaccinium pallidum* (lowbush blueberry), *Vaccinium stamineum* (highbush huckleberry), *Quercus coccinea* (scarlet oak), *Quercus velutina* (black oak), *Hamamelis vernalis* (ozark witch hazel), *Pycnanthemum albescens* (white mountain mint), *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (slender mountain mint), *Hypericum hypericoides* ssp. *multicaule* St. Andrew's cross, *Lycopodium tristachyum* (blue ground cedar), *Physocarpus opulifolius* (ninebark), *Heuchera richardsonii* (alum root), and *Staphylea trifolia* (American bladdernut). *Phlox pilosa* (downy phlox) was flowering. Ferns that we identified included *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken fern), *Dryopteris marginalis* (marginal shield fern), *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern), *Adiantum pedatum* var. *pedatum* (northern maidenhair fern), and *Cheilanthes lanosa* (hairy lip fern).

November 14, 2005 Botany Field Trip

Our group met this morning under threatening skies at Lower Meramec County Park in St. Louis County but nature was kind to us. When we first arrived at 9:30am it started to rain a little, then the sun came out and it was partly cloudy for our walk. Just as our walk was ending it started raining hard. Accompanying Father Sullivan on the walk were Rex Hill, Jack Harris, Kathy Thiele, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Dave Alspaugh, Tom O'Gorman, Carl Darigo, Nels Holmberg, Jeannie Moe, John Oliver, and George Van Brunt. We walked first along the paved path where we identified *Mazus pumilus* (mazus) in full bloom. *Pumilus* means dwarf and these Japanese imports were very tiny. We also identified *Scutellaria lateriflora* (mad-dog skullcap) and *Stellaria media* (common chickweed). The native *Ilex decidua* (deciduous holly) still had some green leaves and many bright red berries while *Toxicodendron radicans* (poison ivy) was leafless with many white berries. *Clematis ternifolia* (virgin's bower) had fruits with long tails. *Bidens discoidea* (swamp beggar's tick) was in full bloom. We also walked into a wetland area and found many plants which were fruiting. *Ludwigia alternifolia* (rattle box) has little box shaped fruits in which the seeds rattle when you shake them. We also identified *Penstemon digitalis* (beardtongue), *Prunella vulgaris* (self-heal), and *Hypericum punctatum* (spotted St. John's wort). Father Sullivan identified a wetland grass plant as a

(Cont'd, next page)

NOVEMBER BOTANIZING (Cont'd)

species of *Leersia* (cutgrass).

November 21, 2005 Botany Field Trip

The botanists met under sunny skies at Route 66 State Park in St. Louis County. Joining Father Sullivan were James Trager, Jack Harris, Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Nels Holmberg, Leslie Lihou, and George Van Brunt. We walked a loop trail south of Highway 44, part of the Meramec River floodplain. Although the trail was dry, there were wet areas close to the trail and many species we identified are characteristic of bottomland forest in Missouri. One example is *Quercus palustris* (pin oak), a tree that many people plant in their yards, but here it is in its natural habitat. The species name *palustris* means living in swampy places. Other wet loving species we identified included *Quercus bicolor* (swamp white oak), *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), *Carex squarrosa* (squarrose sedge), *Penthorum sedoides* (ditch stonecrop), *Carex lupulina* (hop sedge), and *Juncus effusus* (soft rush). We saw very few plants flowering, only one plant each of three species, *Symphotrichum lanceolatum* (tall white aster), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod) and *Taraxacum officinale* (dandelion). True to the Thanksgiving harvest season, the forest was colorful with the fruits of many plants. Included were the yellow fruits of *Solanum carolinense* (horse nettle), the red fruits of *Ilex decidua* (deciduous holly), *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush), and *Lonicera maackii* (amur honeysuckle), the deep purple fruits of *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle), *Menispermum canadense* (moonseed), and *Ligustrum vulgare* (common privet), and the lavender-pink fruits of *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* (coral-berry). *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed) and *Asclepias syriaca* (common milkweed) capsules were open and the fluffy white fruits that carry the seeds on the wind were much in evidence. Grasses were abundant and included *Sporobolus compositus* (dropseed), *Elymus virginicus* (Virginia wild rye), *Chasmanthium latifolium* (inland oats), *Diarrhena obovata* (beakgrass), and *Cinna arundinacea* (stout wood reed). Lastly, as expected in a wet area, we found *Entodon seductrix* (glossy moss).

November 28, 2005 Botany Field Trip

Rain was predicted this morning so we decided to meet at Powder Valley Nature Center to view and discuss photographs of plants. It wasn't raining when we arrived at 9:30am but we met inside for an hour anyway. Father Sullivan, Nels Holmberg, Carl Darigo, Rex Hill, Jack Harris, Tom O'Gorman, Jeannie Moe, Pat Harris, Dave Alspaugh, and George Van Brunt were present. Nels Holmberg treated us to slides of some floodplain plants and bees feeding on various asters. Father Sullivan showed and explained some slides taken by Art Christ. The late Mr. Christ, a junior high and high school science teacher and friend of Father Sullivan, started the WGNSS Botany walks with Father Sullivan. Finally, Jack Harris showed us some slides of UFO's, unidentified flowering objects, and we were able to help him identify a couple of them. Next we hiked the long loop (1.2 miles) of the Hickory Ridge Trail, which led down the ridge into a valley by a stream and back up to the ridge again. Since there are very few leaves on the trees and shrubs at this time of year, Father Sullivan helped us identify a number plants by looking at their buds. *Quercus velutina* (black oak) has a velvety bud (velutina means velvety), while *Asimina triloba* (pawpaw) has a long thin feathery bud. *Platanus occidentalis* (American sycamore) has a bud with only one scale, and *Carya cordiformis* (bitternut hickory) has a very characteristic yellow bud. It is interesting that our native species have mostly lost their leaves while a number of non-native invasive species have not. The understory was quite green with *Lonicera maackii* (amur honeysuckle), *Euonymus fortunei* (wintercreeper), *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard), and unidentified species of *Euonymus* and *Elaeagnus*. We saw 3 deer and wondered why they don't eat the honeysuckle leaves. We wished they did.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

WGNSS Board Members

President and Conservation Comm. Chair.

Yvonne Homeyer
1508 Oriole Lane
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 963-7750
homeyer@earthlink.net

1st Vice-President

Dr. David Mendelson
7906 Kingsbury Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105
(314) 721-7116
docmendy@earthlink.net

2nd Vice-President

Margy Terpstra
1508 Greening Lane
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 966-4582
ladybirdterp@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Mike Olson;
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110
(314) 577-9400
Michael.olson@mobot.org

Treasurer

Randy Korotev
800 Oakbrook Lane
St. Louis, MO 63132
(314) 993-0055
rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu

Membership Chairman

Dr. Donald Judd
10162 Tanbridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63128
(314) 849-2020
Drjstl@aol.com

Editor

Jim Adams
35 Tulip Drive
Webster Groves, MO 63119
(314) 961-2494
dadams5084@charter.net

(Cont'd, next column)

Environmental Education Chair.

Mike Flieg
6803 Nashville
St. Louis, MO 63129
(314) 645-3356
gmflieg@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Ornithology Chair

David Becher
12829 Mariners Pt. Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63141
(314) 576-1146

Ornithology Co-Chair.

Jim Ziebol
3900 Berger Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63109
(314) 781-7372

Botany Co-Chair.

George Yatskievych
11949 Claychester Dr.
St. Louis, MO 663131
(314) 577-9522 (Work)
george.yatskievych@mobot.org

Botany Co-Chair.

Jeannie Moe
2419 Mayer Dr.
St. Charles, MO 63301
(636) 946-9802
jrmoe@swbell.net

Entomology Chair.

Rich Thoma
320 Frieda Lane
St. Louis, MO 63122
(314) 965-6744
thomarkas4@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Member-at-Large

Ann Earley
1425 Bobolink Pl.
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 963-0103
aee623@prodigy.net

Member-at-Large

Dr. Kimberlie McCue
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Ave.
(314) 577-9497
kimberlie.mccue@mobot.org

(Cont'd, next page)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (Cont'd)

Member-at-Large

Anne McCormack
587 Andrews
St. Louis, MO 63122
(314) 965-8091
mccormacka@earthlink.net

Supporting Staff

Marjorie Richardson - Newsletter Distribution
Randy Korotev - Website Manager
Barbara Perry Lawton - Brochure Coordinator/
Editor
Jim Adams - Historian
Jim Ziebol - Bird Report Compiler
Jim Ziebol - Busch WA Breeding Bird Survey
Coordinator
Jack Harris - Botany Walk Coordinator
George Van Brunt - Botany Report Compiler
Sherry McCowan - Nature Line Coordinator

Call The Nature Line!

Call (314) 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis Area and dates and times of bird and botany walks; there are occasional schedule changes. 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 Deadline and Mailing Info.

The mailing party meets at the Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood, 10 AM-1 AM to prepare N.N. mailings. We could use your help! Call Marjorie Richardson (314) 965-8974 to volunteer. Deadline and mailing party dates for future months are given below.

NN Deadline	Mailing Party
Fri. 12/9	Mon. 12/19
Fri. 1/6	Wed. 1/18
Fri. 2/10	Tues. 2/21, 1:30-5 PM
Fri. 3/10	Mon. 3/20
Fri. 4/7	Mon. 4/17
Fri. 5/5	Mon. 5/15

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the 15th floor conference room at the University Club Tower (near the elevator) 1034 S. Brentwood Blvd., at 7 PM. The Board ENCOURAGES attendance by WGNSS members. Come see your Board in action!

Publication Policy

Notices/Proposed Articles/Letters to the Editor must be signed to be considered. They will be considered for publication based on content and availability of space. Some editing may be done. Communications from non-member individuals or organizations must include the name and title (if any) of the sender along with a mailing address and telephone number. Send communications to the Editor, 35 Tulip Drive, Webster Groves, MO 63119. (Tel. 314-961-2494, E-mail dadams5084@charter.net.

Copyright Statement

All articles in Nature Notes are printed with the author's permission. Persons or organizations wishing to reprint articles should obtain the author's permission and cite Nature Notes, published by the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, as the source. Contact the Editor.

Society Objectives

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.

Making Nature Notes Useful - S. L. O'Byrne

Nature Notes, the Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, has long been published because of its utility in furthering the work of the Society. Its most important function is bringing the monthly program of the Society to the members....from June, 1948 issue of Nature Notes

NEED DIRECTIONS?

Busch Wildlife Area

- 1) Take 40 west toward St. Charles Co., left on 94, right on D, follow signs. Hampton Lake, usual meeting spot, is the first lake beyond Hdqtrs.

Castlewood State Park

- 1) Take Manchester west, south (left) on New Ballwin Rd., east (left) on Kiefer Creek Rd., follow signs.

Clarence Cannon NWR

- 1) from I-270, take I-70 west to Mo. 79, then go north 35 miles to Annada, Mo.
- 2) Just past the city limit sign there will be the sign for the refuge. Turn right and follow the road all the way to the refuge parking lot, the usual meeting spot.

Des Peres Park

- 1) On Ballas Rd., one block north of Manchester Rd. in Des Peres
- 2) Turn right (east) at the Des Peres Park sign; park in the first lot on the right

Eden Seminary (WGNSS Banquet)

- 1) At intersection of Lockwood and Bompert in Webster Groves.
- 2a) From 40, east to Hanley Rd.; south on Hanley (which becomes Laclede Station Rd.); right on Big Bend; right on E. Lockwood; left on Bompert; enter from Bompert
- 2b) From I-44, east on 44; Exit 220, Elm Ave.; left on S. Elm; right on Big Bend; left on; Bompert; enter from Bompert

Forest Park, Kennedy Forest

- 1) Highway 40 to Hampton north; follow signs to St. Louis Zoo's Living World; Kennedy Forest is about 1/4 mile west on the way to the Living World

Horseshoe Lake State Park

- 1) Take I-55/70 east to Hwy. 111 exit.
- 2) Turn left on to Hwy. 111 and follow road to the entrance to the park on the left.
- 3) Meet at the first parking lot to the right, just past the entrance.

Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area

- 1) From I-270 in north St. Louis County, take Hwy. 367 north to Alton.
- 2) Turn right into Riverlands at the Fisca service station, just before the approach to the Clark Bridge over the Mississippi River.
- 3) Teal pond is first right.

Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum)

- 1) Take I-44 west to Gray Summit (Hwy. 100) exit, left over highway, right into service road and immediately left into Arboretum
- 2) Meet at Brushy Creek Trailhead

Tower Grove Park

- 1) Take I-44 to Kingshighway; south on Kingshighway; east (left) on Magnolia; first right into park.

Wildwood Trail, Al Foster Trail

- 1) I-44 west to north 109
- 2) right on Old State Road
- 3) quick right on Washington Ave. (becomes Grand)
- 4) Parking lot on left
From Manchester Road:
 - 1) take Old State Road south
 - 2) Left on Washington at intersection with 109
 - 3) Proceed as above

Green Center, University Center (Xmas Party)

- Directions from I-64/Hwy. 40:
- 1) Take the I-170 North exit; take I-170 north to the Delmar Blvd. exit.
 - 2) Go east on Delmar Blvd. three stoplights to North and South Road.
 - 3) Turn left and go north on North and South Rd.
 - 4) Turn left (west) on Blackberry to the Center, 8025 Blackberry (on right). Park in small Kaufman Park to east of the Center, in the driveway if handicapped, or park on Blackberry.

*webster groves nature
study society ****

PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

Address service requested

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
St. Louis, MO.
Permit #690

WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

www.WGNSS.org

Renew **Your** Membership today

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

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

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

Membership categories (circle one):

Individual or Household.....\$20

For 1st class mail.....add \$8

Student.....\$10

Feb. 2006 issue

Please mail this form with check to:

Treasurer: Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook
Lane, St. Louis, MO 63132

Make check payable to Webster
Groves Nature Study Society