



# Nature Notes

Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, September 2008, Vol. 80, No. 7  
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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Ann Earley

Our September program meeting featured WGNSS Menke Scholarship recipient Cara Joos discussing her research on Bell's vireos. The Bell's vireo in Missouri has had a stable-to-declining population trend; her study of the birds at six sites near Columbia, including Whetstone Conservation Area and Tucker Prairie, will provide habitat managers with valuable information on how to help reverse the recent population trend.

The Society's new digital projector was initiated at the September program meeting. As most speakers now require this type of equipment for their presentations, the Board discussed various projector options and approved the purchase to bring WGNSS into the digital age. Many thanks to George Yatskievych and Jane Walker for their assistance with this endeavor.

October's general program meeting, to be held on **Thursday, October 2** at 7 p.m. at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on Lindbergh, will spotlight the topic of **cave biology**. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this informative program!

Again this year, WGNSS will have a display table at the Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum, to be held on Wednesday evening, November 5 at the St. Louis Zoo's Living World. This year's theme focuses on conservation of the Galapagos Islands, and several staff members of the Islands' Charles Darwin Foundation will be among the featured speakers. Additional information about the event is available from Patrick Osborne, Executive Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center, at (314)-516-5219, or by email at [osbornepl@umsl.edu](mailto:osbornepl@umsl.edu).

*Nature Notes* editor Jim Adams has announced he will be retiring from this position in December. We appreciate Jim's enthusiastic spirit and his dedication to his duties as editor, which he assumed in 2005. **We are seeking a volunteer to serve as newsletter editor** to succeed Jim beginning in December. If you are interested in this position, know someone who might be interested, or would like more information about what is involved, please let me know.

## PAST/FUTURE EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING REPORT - Shawn Clubb

Cara Joos, who is working on her Ph.D. at the University of Missouri, spoke at our general membership meeting on Sept. 4. She described the beginning of her research into habitat selection of Bell's vireo and how it influences their breeding success. Nine members attended the meeting and learned many fascinating aspects about Cara's preliminary research at six locations in Central Missouri. Cara was this year's recipient of the WGNSS Menke Scholarship. Members commented that the scholarship was well awarded. We would like to thank Cara for her informative presentation.

### OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING - Shawn Clubb

Christin Dzurick, assistant state cave biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will be our speaker for the general membership meeting to be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 2 at the headquarters of the St. Louis County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. Christin will speak about the different cave ecology zones and what organisms you might expect to find in which zones. Christin is most experienced with bats, but also will speak on the entomology in caves and other cave life.

### NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING - Shawn Clubb

This November the general membership meeting will feature a member show and tell. We tried on of these last year and it was quite a success. Members are encouraged to bring no more than 10 presentation items and speak about them to the group. Items can include photos, slides, artwork, video and collections. We can have the library provide a TV, VCR, DVD player, while we have a slide projector and digital projector to aid in your presentations. As always, the topic is nature. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 at the headquarters of the St. Louis County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

## JUNE BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol/Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: The best birds seen in June were a hatch-year Neotropic Cormorant at Horseshoe Lake and 3 Fulvous Whistling Ducks at Columbia Bottom CA.

Sightings: An immature Neotropic Cormorant was seen at HL on 6/22 (FH, JZ). Frank Holmes also reported a Caspian Tern there that day. Mike Thelen found an American Bittern at HL and an American Black Duck at BK Leach on 6/14. Three Fulvous Whistling Ducks, first seen at CBCA on 6/15, were a very good find (Bill Rudden, m.ob.). Also present at CBCA were 2 Gadwalls, a Wigeon, 10 Blue-winged Teal, 2 Green-winged Teal, 4 Hooded Mergansers, and 15 Ruddy Ducks (m. ob.). On 6/18, a lone Snow Goose was also seen at CBCA (BB, JChain). Summering ducks at HL included 3 Hooded Mergansers, a Ruddy Duck, a Lesser Scaup, 4 Wood Ducks, and a female Redhead (FH, SM). A Hudsonian Godwit was a very good find at Riverlands on 6/1 (CM, JU). On 6/14, Mick Richardson reported several Black-necked Stilts at CBCA and 3 Least Bitterns at Riverlands. Black-necked Stilts were reported all month at CBCA. Late shorebirds at CBCA included Western Sandpiper and 4 Pectorals on 6/4; also seen were 6 Blue-winged Teal (JZ, SM). On 6/12, the Thursday Group found 2 Moorhens at HL and at Riverlands, they saw a Mississippi Kite and a Grasshopper Sparrow (JChain). Bill Rudden found a dead Sora at CBCA on 6/16 and reported that he heard several Sora earlier in the month in Monroe County, IL. Late Tern sightings included 20 Black Terns

at HL on 6/1 (DBecher) and Caspian, Forster's and 6 Black Terns at Riverlands on 6/4 (JU).

A N. Harrier seen at CBCA on 6/16 was an unusual sighting for June (JCowan, J&CM). On 6/19, Tom Bailey observed 2 adult and 3 fledgling Peregrine Falcons at Barnes Hospital on Kingshighway. The Thursday Group noted the following birds during their field trip on 6/5: a Mississippi Kite in Kirkwood and a Henslow's Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, and Summer Tanager at SNR (JChain). In early June, several Whip-poor-wills, Nighthawks, and 2 Chuck-will's-widows were present at Valley View Glades (SC, JC, and JR). Mike Pinnell observed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Ferguson Road and Prouhet Farm Road on 6/5, and on 6/6, David Rogles saw a juvenile there. Also on 6/6, Joe Eades and Jim Malone reported 2 Western Kingbirds in that area.

A Hooded Warbler was seen at Victoria Glade on 6/1 (Tom Mills). Bob Bailey visited SNR on 6/3 and found Mourning Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Bewick's Wren. On 6/8, Mike Thelen saw Worm-eating Warbler and Sedge Wren at BCA. On 6/5, Prairie Warbler and an Ovenbird were present at Valley View Glade (YH, JZ). Shawn Clubb found 2 Blue Grosbeaks and a Bell's Vireo at Chouteau Island on 6/1. Five Grasshopper Sparrows were observed at CBCA on 6/16 (KP). At CBCA on 6/5, a Grasshopper Sparrow remained within 20 feet of an automobile for several minutes while it was videotaped and photographed (JZ, SM). On 6/17, Ryan Douglas and Matt Ladage found Grasshopper Sparrow, Chat and Bell's Vireos at Blue Grosbeak Trail, and Orchard Oriole, Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, N. Parula, Cerulean Warbler, and a Barred Owl at LVT.

A typical day at CBCA on 6/15 included 130 Great Egrets, about 75 Little Blue Herons, 9 Snowy Egrets, 14 Cattle Egrets, 3 Black-crowned Night Herons, 18+ Black-necked Stilts, a Shoveler, a Coot, a Moorhen, a Pied-billed Grebe, White-rumped Sandpiper, and a pair of Blue Grosbeaks (Bill Rowe, Matt Rowe). They also reported thousands of baby Fowler's Toads. A typical day in FP on 6/29 included 2 Snowy Egrets, 3 Great Egrets, 4 Green Herons, many Barn Swallows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Purple Martins, and Chimney Swifts (CZ).

Backyard Birds: A White-throated Sparrow was seen at the home of Mark Paradise on 6/1. Yvonne reported Mississippi Kites and a Green Heron at Brentwood Forest condos.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, Bob Bailey, Tom Bailey, Nick Barber, David Becher, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Dick Coles, Jack Cowan, Shawn Clubb, Joe Eades, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Charlene & Jim Malone, Sherry McCowan, Kraig Paradise, Mark Paradise, Mike Pinnell, Julie Randle, Mick Richardson, Dave Rogles, Bill Rowe, Bill Rudden, Margy Terpstra, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Clarence Zacher, Jim Ziebol.

Abbreviations: BCA, Busch Conservation Area; CC, Clarence Cannon NWR; CL, Carlyle Lake; CSP, Castlewood State Park; CBCA, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area; FP, Forest Park; HL, Horseshoe Lake; LP, Lafayette Park; LCCL, Little Creve Coeur Lake; MBG, Missouri Botanical Garden; MTC, Marais Temps Clair; RMBS, Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary; SNR, Shaw Nature Reserve; TGP, Tower Grove Park.

## AUGUST BIRD REPORT – Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer

Introduction: The bird of the month was a hatch-year White Ibis, first seen at HL on 8/3. Many birders were able to observe this unusual bird at close range. Kraig Paradise has installed 46 Bluebird boxes in North County Recreation Area and Bellefontaine County Park. Willie Moe, Jeannie & Jim Moe's son, built all of them as an Eagle Scout project.

Sightings: A flock of 30+ Black-crowned Night Herons was seen at CCNWR on 8/17 (JE, JU). Tri-colored Herons were a very good find in Monroe County on 8/16 (JE). On 8/3, a White Ibis was seen in the midst of a huge flock of hundreds of Great Egrets and Little Blue Herons (FH, JZ). An exotic waterfowl, identified as an Egyptian Goose, was found in Monroe County on 8/25 (B Rudden). Frank Holmes counted 180+ Blue-winged Teal on 8/31 (and hunting season started in early September). A Pintail and Green-winged Teal had joined the resident ducks at CCNWR by 8/26 (MT). Three Moorhens, plus 10 Turkeys and a flock of 15 Eastern Kingbirds, were seen at HL on 8/15 (SM, JZ). On 8/16, a Moorhen, Ring-necked Duck, and Caspian Tern were found at Riverlands (David & Mary Anne Marjamaa). By 8/28, 2 adult and 6 young Moorhens were observed at HL (FH). A single Avocet was present at Riverlands on 8/26 (CM). Twenty Black-necked Stilts and a Lesser Yellowlegs were mixed in with several Pectoral Sandpipers at CBCA on 8/7 (KP). Also on 8/7, Bill Rudden reported adult and young Black-necked Stilts in Monroe County. On 8/13, one adult and 3 young Black-necked Stilts were seen south of the Causeway at HL (JZ, Patrick Maloney). This is the first record of Stilts inside the official HL boundary. A Piping Plover was seen on Hayford Road on 8/30 (D Rogles, TB). A Black-bellied Plover was observed at Hwy. M and Hwy. B on 8/9 (D Rogles). Bill Rowe found Black-bellied Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, and Buff-bellied Sandpiper, along with 11 other species of shorebirds, at CBCA on 8/17. Also on 8/17, Josh Uffman located a Marbled Godwit among thousands of shorebirds at CCNWR. On 8/9, the first of several Red-necked Phalaropes was seen in St. Charles County (J&CM). On 8/10, another Red-necked Phalarope was found in Pike County (MT) and one Red-necked Phalarope was seen with 4 Wilson's Phalaropes at Two Rivers NWR on 8/17 (Eric Walters). Yet another Red-necked was present at HL on 8/20 (D Coles & Thursday Group, independently seen later by FH). A Ruddy Turnstone joined 2 Red-necked Phalaropes at CCNWR on 8/25 (MT, J&CM). David Becher reported a Baird's Sandpiper and Semi-palmated Plovers at Riverlands on 8/24. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen at HL on 8/8 (CA, CK, J Chain, RAB). On 8/30, Jim & Charlene Malone observed an Upland Sandpiper at CCNWR. Mike Thelen visited CCNWR on 8/27 and reported 19 shorebird species, including a Willet, 3 Sanderlings, and 15 Buff-breasted Sandpipers. A Laughing Gull was found at CL on 8/7 (DK). On 8/17, 2 Franklin's Gulls were found at BK Leach (JE, JU).

Mississippi Kite sightings included 6 individuals in Kirkwood on 8/5 (M Richardson, Barbara Estill), two nests with young at CSP (MB), and 2 adults and 2 young in Brentwood (YH). Two nesting pairs of Broad-winged Hawks and possibly three pairs of Red-shouldered Hawks were found at CSP (MB). On 8/10 and 8/24, 2 fly-over

Broad-winged Hawks were seen in Jefferson County (YH, JZ). An Osprey was observed at Winfield Dam on 8/30 and 4 Belted Kingfishers were found along Keeteman Road (J Chain, D Becher). Rick Smith observed a Harrier taking a shorebird at HL on 8/13. On 8/29, Yvonne Homeyer observed 12 Nighthawks flying early in the morning in Brentwood. Mike Thelen also reported a flyover Nighthawk on 8/23. Jeannie Moe reported several Fish Crows at Dresser Island on 8/25. A Sedge Wren was found at HL on 8/3 (B Rudden). Four Western Kingbirds were seen near Lambert Airport on 8/3 (Steve Griffaw). A Least Flycatcher was found at CBCA on 8/7 (B Rowe). Migrant warbler reports included 2 Northern Waterthrush, along with Yellow, Prothonotary, and Common Yellowthroat, at CCNWR on 8/27 (MT) and a Chestnut-sided and 3 Black-and-white Warblers, at Emmenegger Park on 8/29 (JZ). Good birds seen by the Thursday Group on 8/29 at CCNWR included an adult Bald Eagle, Semi-palmated Plover, Willet, a Barred Owl (heard), and a Prothonotary Warbler.

A typical day at Clarence Cannon NWR on 8/26 included 15 Black-necked Stilts, Black Tern, Black-bellied Plover, 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Sanderlings, hundreds of Great Egrets, Willet, a flock of 40 Great Blue Herons, 4 juvenile Snowy Egrets, and more (J Chain).

Backyard Birds: Margy Terpstra reported a Yellow Warbler on 8/21. She has been hearing both Great Horned and Barred Owl. On 8/21, Yvonne Homeyer watched a Cooper's Hawk in Brentwood Forest chasing a squirrel as it scurried along a power line, diving into a tree for safety (the Cooper's Hawk followed the squirrel into the tree). Yvonne also saw a Red-tailed Hawk in Brentwood Forest on 8/21. A Kingfisher was flying around the lake in Brentwood Forest at the end of August.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, David Becher, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Mike Brady, Jackie Chain, Shawn Clubb, Dick Coles, Joe Eades, Barbara Estill, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dan Kassebaum, Chris Kirmaier, Bob Kleiger, Kent Lannert, Charlene & Jim Malone, Sherry McCowan, Kraig Paradise, Marjorie Richardson, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, Bill Rudden, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, Jim Ziebol.

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## BOTANY FIELD REPORTS – George Van Brunt

July 7, 2007 Botany Field Trip Contributed by Wayne Clark  
Razor Hollow Natural Area within the Daniel Boone Conservation Area, Warren County,  
Missouri

Nine botanists assembled for the field trip led by Nels Holmberg. There was no designated parking lot at the assembly area. A little used primitive campground that was bisected by a conservation area road served our parking needs quite well. One of the first plants noticed in the campground was *Scutellaria ovata* (heart leaved skullcap) in bloom. It was quite prevalent in the area. Other plants were *Solidago ulmifolia* (elm-leaved goldenrod), *Erigeron annuus* (Daisy fleabane), *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (common ragweed) and *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan). Nancy Clark found a *Mesodon thyroidus* (white-lip globe snail) near the top of a *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod). *Geum canadense* (white avens) was scattered around the area also. This seems to be a good year for *G. canadense* wherever it normally grows. The trail to the natural area was on top of a ridge that sloped down to a stream. In the natural area we found *Scirpus pendulus* (bullrush), *Elymus hystrix* (bottlebrush grass), *Tradescantia subaspera* (zig-zag spiderwort), *Symphotrichum anomalum* (manyray aster), *Hypericum punctatum* (spotted St. John's-wort), and *Lithospermum latifolium* (American gromwell), which is state listed as S2. *Plantago cordata* (heart-leaved plantain) was growing in the stream bed. The predominant fern was *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern) although an *Asplenium platyneuron* (ebony spleenwort) was seen. Nels found a patch of *Anthoceros laevis ssp. carolinianus*, a hornwort growing on otherwise bare ground on the trail. The combined list of this trip and a Missouri Native Plants field trip in May added over sixty species to the Missouri Department of Conservation plant list.

July 14, 2007 Botany Field Trip

Nine botanists journeyed to Onondaga Cave State Park in Crawford County on a warm sunny morning. We explored the area around the spring-fed pond that is bordered on the north by the Blue Heron Trail and by lawn on the south side. We found more than 40 species in flower and/or fruit on this walk which Father Sullivan calls the "most species rich trail in Missouri".

Some of the plants in flower included *Penthorum sedoides* (ditch stonecrop), *Ipomoea pandurata* (wild potato vine), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), *Silene stellata* (starry campion), *Heliopsis helianthoides* (sunflower heliopsis), *Tradescantia ohioensis* (Ohio spiderwort), *Saponaria officinalis* (soapwort), *Hypericum sphaerocarpum* (round-fruited St. John's wort), *Commelina erecta* (dayflower), *Hydrangea arborescens* (wild hydrangea), *Vernonia gigantea* (tall ironweed), *Geum canadense* (white avens), *Tradescantia virginiana* (early spiderwort), *Tradescantia subaspera* (broad-leaved spiderwort), *Eupatorium purpureum* (green-stemmed Joe-pye-weed), *Alisma subcordatum* (southern water plantain), *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (button bush), *Phlox paniculata* (perennial phlox), *Justicia americana* (water willow), *Apios americana* (groundnut), *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), *Calystegia silvatica ssp. fraterniflora* (bindweed), and *Impatiens capensis* (jewelweed). Fruiting species included *Iris brevicaulis* (short-stemmed iris), *Viburnum rufidulum* (southern black haw), *Euonymus atropurpureus* (wahoo), *Staphylea trifolia* (bladdernut), *Calyocarpum lyonii* (cupseed), *Discorea quaternata* (wild yam), *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper), *Celtis tenuifolia* (dwarf hackberry), and *Asimina triloba* (pawpaw).

*Impatiens capensis* (jewelweed or touch-me-not) is a common Missouri plant with an interesting name. If the one inch long ripe seed capsules of these plants are lightly touched, the capsule splits open and the seeds are discharged violently, hence the name *Impatiens*, meaning

impatient. This characteristic also is the origin of the common name touch-me-not. The name jewelweed comes from the jewel-like appearance created by glistening drops of dew on the yellow-orange flowers and on the leaves. *Capensis* refers to the Cape of Good Hope which the author of the name, Nicholas Meerburgh, incorrectly thought was the source of these native North American plants in European gardens. Mucilaginous fluid squeezed from the stems of this plant can be used to relieve the symptoms of stinging nettle and poison ivy, although its effectiveness has not been scientifically tested. The species grows in moist forest and along streambanks, and is widespread over most of the United States and Canada except some southwestern and western U.S. States.

#### July 21, 2008 Botany Field Trip

On a warm, sunny summer morning, 5 botanists met at Faust County Park in St. Louis County and walked the Governor Bates Trail. This trail starts in upland habitat and descends steeply into bottomland and then returns again to upland. Most of the trail passes through dense forest with the high, thick canopy making the understory dark, but the beginning and ending upland segments are open fields and planted prairie.

At the beginning of our walk we identified *Arctium minus* (common burdock) in bloom as well as *Phytolacca americana* (pokeweed), *Torilis arvensis* (hedge parsley), *Teucrium canadense* (American germander), and *Ratibida pinnata* (gray-headed coneflower). The first half of the forested part of the trail was bordered on both sides by thick growth of *Laportea canadensis* (wood nettle) just beginning to bloom. Those individuals who have experienced the pain of both stinging nettle and wood nettle claim that wood nettle is worse. This fact tended to discourage off-trail exploration. As the wood nettle gave way, we identified plants in flower including *Phryma leptostachya* (lopseed), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), *Blephilia hirsuta* (pagoda plant), *Pyrrhopappus carolinianus* (pale false dandelion), *Impatiens pallida* (pale touch-me-not), and *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane). Other woodland plants not in bloom were *Hydrastis canadensis* (golden seal), *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger), *Sanicula odorata* (black snakeroot), and *Pilea pumila* (clearweed), a non-stinging member of the nettle family. *Actaea pachypoda* (doll's eyes), so-called because its white, round fruits with one black spot look like doll's eyes, were in fruit. The last section of our walk past a planted prairie yielded blooms of *Hypericum sphaerocarpum* (round-fruited St. John's wort), *Verbena urticifolia* (white vervain), *Apios americana* (groundnut), *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower), *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot), and *Heliopsis helianthoides* (sunflower heliopsis).

*Urtica* is the classical Latin name for a stinging nettle. From this name comes the nettle family name Urticaceae as well as the medical term urticaria, a reaction of the skin characterized by raised wheals and severe itching. The St. Louis area claims 5 members of the Urticaceae. *Boehmeria cylindrica* (false nettle), *Parietaria pensylvanica* (pellitory), and *Pilea pumila* (clearweed) do not have stinging hairs while *Urtica dioica* ssp. *gracilis* (stinging nettle) and *Laportea canadensis* (wood nettle) do. Clearweed gets its common name from its translucent stem which can be used to demonstrate the passage of fluids through the stem in laboratory studies. The hollow trichomes (hairs) of stinging nettle and wood nettle are located on the stems, leaf petioles, and leaf veins of both upper and lower leaf surfaces. The trichomes contain a mixture of histamine, acetylcholine, serotonin, and possibly formic acid. When touched the end of the hair breaks off and injects the skin with its liquid mixture. The histamine produces an allergic reaction in the skin characterized by swelling and redness. The acetylcholine produces a burning sensation in the skin by transmitting messages to the nervous system, and serotonin

works on histamine and acetylcholine to assist them. There is some question as to whether formic acid, the poison in ant stings, is part of this stinging mixture. Individual response to this mixture determines how long the effect lasts, varying between one hour and twenty four hours.

#### July 28, 2008 Botany Field Trip

On a cool, cloudy morning, heavily overcast and threatening rain, eleven botanists met at the Augusta access to the Katy Trail in St. Charles County. We walked west on the trail and by the end of our botanizing, it was partly cloudy and uncomfortably warm.

Our constant companion was *Commelina erecta* (dayflower), which was growing profusely on both sides of the trail. This native monocot's flowers last only one day, but the plants will continue to flower for some time.

We found one plant that most of us had not seen before; it was *Ipomoea coccinea* (red morning glory). The vine was twined on a tangle of herbaceous plants; its large leaves were cordate (heart-shaped with the notch at the point of attachment to the petiole) with shallow lobes and an acuminate tip (with concave sides near the tip and tapering to a sharp point). The plant had 3 trumpet-shaped, orange-red flowers. This native species can be found in the eastern half of the United States as far north as Michigan. In Missouri, it is found in scattered counties in the southern half of the state. Other morning glories blooming along the trail were *Ipomoea lacunosa* (whitestar), *Ipomoea purpurea* (common morning glory), *Ipomoea hederacea* (ivy-leaved morning glory), and *Calystegia silvatica* ssp. *fraterniflora* (bindweed).

*Physalis heterophylla* (clammy ground cherry) was in fruit. Although this species is in the deadly nightshade family (along with tomatoes and potatoes), Nels Holmberg said that he had thoroughly researched the species and determined that the fruits are edible. However, when he tried one, he commented "that's terrible"; it probably was not ripe enough. We also found *Celtis tenuifolia* (dwarf hackberry) and *Celtis occidentalis* (hackberry), each in fruit. The fruits of these relatives of elm trees are edible, but unfortunately were not yet ripe either.

We noted quite a few Japanese beetles on plants along the trail. Various species had been damaged by them and, we even found a branch of *Vitis aestivalis* (summer grape) on which the leaves had been skeletonized. Leaves are supported by their veins which are composed of xylem for conducting water and minerals into the leaves, phloem for conducting food from the leaves into the stem, and support cells of collenchyma. The beetles had eaten all of the soft green parts of the leaves leaving the veins.

Other plants in bloom included *Stachys tenuifolia* (smooth hedgenettle), *Geum canadense* (white avens), *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower), *Desmanthus illinoensis* (bundle flower), *Euphorbia dentata* (toothed spurge), *Lactuca serriola* (prickly lettuce), *Campsis radicans* (trumpet creeper), *Solanum carolinense* (horse nettle), *Tradescantia ohioensis* (Ohio spiderwort), *Securigera varia* (crown vetch), and *Lactuca canadensis* (wild lettuce).



Webster Groves Nature Study Society  
 Founded 1920

**GROUP ACTIVITY/WALK SCHEDULES**  
 September 2008 Update

Date                      Meeting Place                      Time                      Leader

**ORNITHOLOGY – SATURDAY BIRD WALKS – David Becher (314-576-1146)**  
**(If destination not given, it's "Where the Birds Are". Always bring lunch.)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Place</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Sept. 27	Tower Grove Park	8 AM	Becher
Oct. 4	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Oct. 11	Riverlands (Teal Pond Pkg.Lot)	8 AM	Becher
(From I-270 north go north on Rte. 367 toward Alton. Cross Missouri River Bridge. Turn right into Riverlands at gasoline station just before bridge over Mississippi			
Oct. 18	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Oct. 25	Riverlands (Teal Pond Pkg. Lot)	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 1	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 8	Riverlands (Teal Pond Pkg. Lot)	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 15	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 22	Riverlands (Teal Pond Pkg. Lot)	8 AM	Becher
Nov. 29	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher
Dec. 6	Riverlands (Teal Pond Parking Lot)	8 AM	Becher
Dec. 13	Des Peres Park	8 AM	Becher

**ORNITHOLOGY – THURSDAY BIRD WALKS – Jackie Chain –  
 Leader (314-644-5998)**

**A change for fall/winter trips.** The Thursday group will meet at 8:30 AM at Des Peres Park for fall/winter trips beginning with the Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> trip..

On birding days my cell phone will be turned on at 314-497-1628. Possible changes will be advised as necessary.

**For additional bird walks, see next page**

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**ORNITHOLOGY - ADDITIONAL BIRD WALKS – Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372)**  
 (New birders are **cautioned** to dress for the weather. Bring binoculars if you have them.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Sept. 14	Gaddy Bird Garden	8 AM	Bob Bailey