

## NATURE NOTES.

The Bulletin of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society.

Number 5.

Webster Groves, Mo.

March, 1930.

### COMING!!!

Behind the doors of winter,  
Spring on tip-toe stands  
With crocuses and daffodils  
And tulips in her hands.

She trembles at the threshold,  
Then bravely lifts her chin  
As if to say, "I'm not afraid",  
And - laughing - rushes in.

(Anon.)

The cheerful song of the robin, the return appearance of Arcturus in the north-east, a glance at the kitchen calendar, all announce that spring is here (nearly) and with it, the time to clean out the old bird boxes, build or buy new ones and be ready for the nesting season.

A few hints: The house wren prefers a 7/8 inch entrance to her home; the Bewick wren, a one inch; the Carolina wren and the chickadee, 1 1/8 inch; the titmouse, nuthatch and downy woodpecker, 1 1/4 inch; the bluebird, tree swallow and hairy woodpecker, 1 1/2 inch; the crested flycatcher, and red-headed woodpecker, 2 inch; the flicker and martin, 2 1/2 inch; the sparrow hawk and screech owl, 3 inch; and the barn owl, 6 inch. All, excepting the martin, prefer entrances near the top, under the eaves, while the woodpeckers demand them at least 12 inches above the floor; the flickers, 16 inches. The English sparrow, not so particular, finds any opening from 1 1/2 inches to the size of a barn door acceptable.

The robin, phoebe, song sparrow, barn swallow and catbird want from one to all sides open. Most of the other birds build their own homes by preference.

Houses should have either a removable top, side or floor so as to permit cleaning out for a new brood. The roof should be sloping and overhang the walls to keep rain drippings off. The entrance should face the east if possible, away from the direction of wind and rain. Small holes under the eaves for ventilation and in the floor for drainage is desirable.

Metal is a conductor of heat and is not so good as wood, while weather stained boards for making boxes please the birds more than new wood. And they do not relish the odor of fresh paint.

Remember, the stray cat is an

(continued, column 2)

### WILL ASSIST ENTRANTS

#### IN INSECT COLLECTION CONTEST.

Mr. A. F. Satterthwait, 527 Ivanhoe Place; Coleoptera, Hemiptera, or Life History work. Mr. Harold O'Byrne, 501 Pacific Ave.; Lepidoptera, Protective Resemblance or -- General Collections. Mr. Stuart O'Byrne, 501 Pacific Ave.; Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Homoptera or Orthoptera. Mr. R. C. Lange, 319 Westside Ave.; Lepidoptera and Odonata. Mr. Pierre Vogel, 319 Westside Ave.; Odonata. Miss Dorothy Boyer, 527 Ivanhoe Place; Orthoptera. Mr. A. E. Mueller, 12 Armin Ave.; Glendale Heights; Aquatic Insects. Dr. E. P. Meiners, 6600 Delmar Blvd.; Lepidoptera. Mr. L. F. Pinkus, Central High School, St. Louis; General Collections and Drawings. Prof. H. C. Irish, R. D. 6, Rock Hill Rd.; Hymenoptera. Mr. S. Jones, 690 Bonita Ave.; Insect Galls. Mr. Herman Schwarz, 720 Clark Ave.; General.

### AFIELD IN FEBRUARY.

My notebook contains this information: February 21, - Mrs. Satterthwait saw first crocus in bloom in her yard. In P. M. after Entomology meeting at Laboratory Ralph Swain and I heard first frog concert of season. Spring peepers. February 23, - Heard and saw che-wink at Mt. Olympus, Kimmswick. Also found first Hepatica in bloom on Mt. Olympus. - Mimosa.

### HINTS ON PHOTOGRAPHY.

The minimum exposure that will produce a good negative is that which will give slight detail in the deeper shadows of interest in the picture. It is well to err on the side of giving too much exposure rather than too little exposure. A dirty lens produces a "flat hazy picture." A picture which lacks a particular point of interest is like a story that lacks point. - from "Kodakery".

ardent bird lover, while even the pet house cat, no matter how carefully trained, will yield to the lure of a tempting nestling bird morsel. An 18 inch sheathing of tin around the tree or under the box on a wall, will keep these unwelcome visitors away.

- Espy Jay.

NOTE:- This paper will gladly furnish the names of reliable publications on bird house construction on request.

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Under the titles, "My Mistake" and "The Mississippi Valley's Treasures", the two young ladies who took prizes in the Insect Collection Contest last year, have written things of much interest to us.

### MY MISTAKE.

One bright sunny day last fall I was sitting on the front porch when my sister suddenly noticed a rather queer looking leaf right up against the house. I thought that I would knock it off for some unknown reason, but as I came closer to it I noticed that it was a gorgeous cecropia moth. I don't believe I was ever so happy before and was almost afraid to try to catch it for fear of breaking its wings.

- Marian Beecher

### THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY'S TREASURES

For centuries and centuries the Mississippi valley has jealously guarded her priceless treasures of prehistoric times from the destructive hands of man - but to no avail. Man has, at last, succeeded in tearing down her barriers and after finding many valuables, digs frantically for more - more! Arrow heads, pottery and so forth, - one-time property of the red man, is becoming as scarce as the red man himself. Many fossils abound in the rocks of "the valley". Broken, fossilized fragments of crinoid stems are found strewn loosely over the valley's crust, but more often the button-like discs of which the stems are formed are separated and scattered thru the rocks. Coral embedded in the limestone is a common sight. But the valley's most prized treasures of prehistoric times were the mastodon bones found near and in Byer's quarry, Imperial, Mo. Some specimens of these may be seen at the Educational Museum in St. Louis.

- Daisy P. Boyer.

### PLEASE.

Write up your interesting field notes and let the other members of our society enjoy your trips too!!

Remember, the editor must have all copy at least as early as the 20th of the month before publication.

We will appreciate your cooperation

## AMONG RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Under the title of "Goddess or Glutton?", Mrs. Jesse E. Correll throws some light on the Glow-worm in the March, 1930 issue of Nature Magazine. (Vol. 15, No. 3, page 195.) We would suggest that you read this item as we believe that you would be interested in it.

In the January number of Entomological News (XLI, '30) there appeared a short article, "The Night Flight of Diurnal Butterflies" by Mr. Harold O'Byrne. To a number of observations by previous observers, he added his own observations which were made last summer in St. Louis.

### CUTWORMS WANTED!

Cutworms are the larvae of the Owllet Moths and are very destructive to garden plants. I will pay five cents each for the following species of cutworms from this locality:

Agrotis C. nigrum, Spotted Cutworm  
A. unicolor, Well-marked Cutworm.  
A. ypsilon, Greasy Cutworm.  
Paragrotis ockrogaster,

Red-backed Cutworm.

P. messoria, Dark-sided Cutworm.

P. tessallata, Striped Cutworm.

Feltia subgothica, Dingy Cutworm.

F. molefida, Shagreened Cutworm.

F. annexa, Granulated Cutworm.

F. gladiana, Clay-backed Cutworm.

Noctua fennica, Black Army Cutworm

Lycophotia margaritosa,

Variegated Cutworm.

Porosagrotis scandeus,

White Cutworm.

Hadena artica,

Yellow-headed Cutworm.

Sidemia devastator, Glassy Cutworm

Porosagrotis vestuta,

Spotted-legged Cutworm.

Mamestra subjuneta,

Speckled Cutworm.

M. trifolii, Clover Cutworm.

Polia renigera, Bristley Cutworm.

Nephelodes emmedonia,

Bronzed Cutworm.

Chorizogrotis auxiliaris,

Army Cutworm.

For further information come to the Entomology Group meeting this month.

- R. C. Lang

### CORRECTIONS.

In the February issue of NATURE NOTES (No. 4), page 7, col. 1, line 12 reads, " - a number have black cheeks". It should read, " - a number have a black spot on their cheeks".

On the same page (7) column 2, in the Bird Census list, the 24th bird was erroneously spelled, - "Tufted Titmouse" instead of Tufted Titmouse.