

NATURE NOTES.

The Bulletin of the Webster Groves Nature-Study Society.

Number 6.

Webster Groves, Mo.

April, 1930.

THE TEMPORARY POOLS.

Now is the time to watch for temporary pools with their strange and beautiful inhabitants. A roadside ditch which, but a few weeks ago, was dry may now be full of water, teeming with water fleas and brilliant red cyclops. A puddle in a meadow may yield the eggs and larvae of frogs and salamanders. A large pool may have snails and the graceful fairy shrimps. There are a number of temporary pools at Meramec Highlands which one will find it profitable to visit and examine.

- Leslie Hubricht.

ESPY JAY SAYS THAT --

The coming April eclipses call to mind two eclipse experiences of some years back. The first, a partial eclipse of the sun, was photographed late in the afternoon by Dr. Robb, assisted by myself, using a 4 X 5 plate camera and an eight magnification telephoto attachment, with a heavily smoked glass substituted for the ground glass finder. With lens stopped down to pinhole size and giving a 1/100 second exposure, a clearly defined print was secured that looked like a three-day moon.

The other, an eclipse of the moon, was seen by members of the Nature-Study Society on a field trip to the Meramec Highlands "quarry." Seated on top of the quarry we waited for it to appear, and were surprised to find that it was high over the tree tops, a dark spot in the sky, before anyone sighted it. Then, as the moon came slowly out from the shadow, the gradual lighting up of the cliffs made a beautiful picture long to be remembered.

THE ST. LOUIS WILD FLOWER CLUB will sponsor an exhibit at the Public Library during the month of April. Mounted specimens of ferns and spring flowers, and paintings will be shown.

WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. A. F. Satterthwait on his election to the presidency of the St. Louis Academy of Science, and wish him as much success with the Academy as he has had with our society.

On page 12 we have placed an index to Nature Notes, which includes the first six issues; from November 1929 to April 1930.

MONTH OF APRIL ECLIPSES ALL OTHERS

There will be two eclipses this month: one of the moon and the other of the sun. For the convenience of those readers who wish to observe them, we are inserting the circumstantial data for both.

THE LUNAR ECLIPSE.

The circumstances of this eclipse are as follows:

Moon enters penumbra,
Sat. Apr. 12, at 9:43 P.M.
Moon enters umbra,
Sat. Apr. 12, at 11:21 P.M.
Middle of eclipse,
Sat. Apr. 12, at 11:58 P.M.
Moon leaves umbra,
Sun. Apr. 13, at 12:36 A.M.
Moon leaves penumbra,
Sun. Apr. 13, at 2:14 A.M.

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE.

The circumstances of this eclipse are as follows:

Eclipse begins,
Mon. Apr. 28, at 12:35 P.M.
Maximum eclipse occurs,
Mon. Apr. 28, at 1:55 P.M.
Eclipse ends,
Mon. Apr. 28, at 3:16 P.M.
Maximum phase will be - .55
(The time is Central Standard.)

This eclipse will be an annular one along a line beginning in the north Atlantic and extending west-by-south across southeastern Canada to Montana, through Montana (where the eclipse becomes a total one for a short distance) and California, into the north Pacific Ocean.

OBSERVE ECLIPSE WITH GROUP.

Come to the Astronomy group meeting of Saturday, April 12 and observe the eclipse with the group. Bring your field glasses, opera glasses and telescopes with you; they will prove very advantageous in observing the moon.

At this same meeting we will discuss the coming partial eclipse of the sun. Some unique methods of solar observation will be explained, and possibly you will learn something which will enable you to observe the sun at any time without the usual discomfort that attends it. These methods include the pin-hole method, the smoked glass method, the projection method and the photographic method. Also, combinations of these ways are often of usefulness.

- Sol and Luna

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WINTER OBSERVATIONS AT THE GARDENS.

Shaw's Garden has always harbored a large variety of birds at all seasons of the year, because of its relatively large vegetation-covered area which supplies a variety of plant and animal food. During the past winter I kept a bird feeding station at the garden, and had occasion to observe the bird life all winter. At the beginning of the winter and remaining until our two last severe cold spells there were three mockingbirds. These fed on climbing rose-brier berries and Crataegus (hawthorn) berries.

There were other birds that were here all winter; among them were a dozen robins, one hairy woodpecker, five downy woodpeckers, about thirty cardinals, about fifty bob-whites, hundreds of juncos, numerous tree sparrows, several white-breasted nuthatches, one red-bellied woodpecker, one sparrow hawk, one golden pheasant (probably an escape), and five Carolina wrens. During the severely cold weather in December and January I observed male and female cardinals taking temporary refuge in the floral display house; their brilliant plumage smacked of tropical attire as they flew like flashes of color around the dark green tropical foliage of the fig and dracaena plants.

Also I found during the same cold spell a male Carolina wren for several days living near the entrance of the economic plant house (near the palm house). During the past two weeks (Feb. 11-25) numerous flocks of bluebirds, meadowlarks, robins, red-winged blackbirds and purple grackles have come to the garden.

In addition, it may be stated that the rabbits were up against it this winter, at times, to get adequate food and they gnawed off the outer layers of bark on numerous exotic and native shrubs, causing so much damage that quite a few had to be shot. The Garden tried to feed them, but they were evidently not satisfied with the rations apportioned to them.

In conclusion, I observed the first flower, a snowdrop (Galanthus), to bloom this year in Henry Shaw's Mausoleum, on February 12. This flower blooms about this time every year at the Garden, and this year it bloomed during our last snowfall. Since the last snowfall, we have had such prematurely early response of vegetation, the pussy willows, maples and elms beginning to bloom; even the daffodils are about to bloom.

- Julian A. Steyermark.

Webster Groves Nature-Study Society

A BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN NATURE-STUDY SOCIETY

(Organized in 1920)

Webster Groves, Mo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR APRIL-1930

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Friday April 4, 8 PM, ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICERS at the Jones residence, 690 Bonita Avenue, Webster Groves. Reports of Officers and Group Chairmen, Election of new officers and other important business. Be sure to attend.

Monday April 7, 8 PM, PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP at the U.S. Entomological Laboratory, 527 Ivanhoe Place. "Question and Answer" night. Bring your problems in photography.

Mr. George N. Rawlings of the technical staff, Eastman Kodak Co and Mr. Wilson Todd will be there to solve your problems.

Friday April 11, 8 PM. A joint meeting of THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE and WEBSTER GROVES NATURE-STUDY SOCIETY at Rebstock Hall, Washington University Campus. Mr. Vogel to talk on "Some Unusual Features in Fish" -

Saturday April 12, 8 PM. An ASTRONOMY GROUP meeting at the Jones residence, 690 Bonita Avenue, Webster Groves. The topic will be "Eclipses" and after 9.30 o'clock the meeting will be continued outdoors to watch an eclipse of the moon. Bring field glasses and telescopes.

Monday April 14, 8 PM. MICROSCOPY GROUP meeting at the Mueller home, 12 Armin Avenue, Glendale Heights. "The Microscopy of Spiders. Mr. L.F. Pinkus, speaker. Bring microscopes

Friday April 18, 8 PM. The GEOLOGY GROUP will meet at the U.S. Entomological Laboratory. A good program is in preparation.

Monday April 21, 8 PM. BOTANY GROUP meeting at the U.S. Entomological Laboratory. "Bisexuality of Trees and Shrubs." Mrs. Pinkus, speaker.

Friday April 25, 8 PM. ENTOMOLOGY GROUP meeting, also at the Laboratory. "Some Phases of Insect Ecology." Several talking part.

Monday April 28, 6 PM, the ORNITHOLOGY GROUP will meet at Mrs. Jasper Blackburn's home, 457 Hawthorn Av., Webster Park. Bring basket lunch, stay through the evening, and learn something about "The Warblers that may be seen in April and May near St. Louis."

Sunday April 27. A GENERAL FIELD TRIP to Marriot's Farm near Barnhart Mo. Meet at Cochran's Filling Station on Highway 61, 16 miles south of St. Louis and one mile south of Imperial, at 8 o'clock AM. Bring lunch. Late arrivals ask for directions at the filling station.

SPECIAL. A TULIP-IRIS GARDEN TRIP is planned, the date to be determined by bloom. All members desiring to make this trip should communicate with Miss Jones, Webster 831 J, April 18 for details.

JUNIORS will meet Wednesday afternoon April 16 with Mrs. Pickens 72 Marshall Place. Other meetings to be arranged by phone.

INSECT COLLECTING CONTEST. As announced before, Mr. A. F. Satterthwait will meet any of the contestants interested in Coleoptera, Hemiptera and Life History work on the first Saturday of the month at the U.S. Entomological Laboratory from 1 to 9 PM.

Meet New Arrivals of Birds on our Sunday Morning BIRDWALKS:
April 6, 5.30 AM, Berry Road and Bonita Ave. (Glendale.)
April 13, 5.30 AM, Frisco R.R. and Elm Avenue (Webster Groves)
April 20, 5.30 AM, Grant Road near Big Bend Road, (Glendale Hts)
April 27, 5.30 AM, North Rockhill Road and Lythia Ave. (one block North of Euclid, (between Shady Av and Manchester Roads)

Anne A. Jones, Secretary
690 Bonita Ave., phone Webster 831 - J.