NATURE NOTES MANAMARANAMANAMARANAMARANAMANAMAMAM

The Bulletin of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society.

Webster Groves, Mo.

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August 1931.

In the Southern Sky.

One of the most interesting portions of the whole celestial sphere is to be seen to best advantage throughout the months of July and August in the south-ern sky. This is the region of the great star clouds in Sagittarius and the surrounding territory. The center of our great galactic system lies in the direction of Sagittarius. Literally tens of millions of stars are contained in the clouds. This region is also rich in galactic nebulae and star clusters. It is in this direction that we look through a greater depth of "populated " space than in any other with the exception of the Como-Virgo cluster of spiral nebulae. The constellations included in this region are Sagittarius. Scorpius Ophiuchus, Serpens and Scutum.

Among the many interesting objects within the region are the following. Perhaps the most beautiful of all for the small telescope is the bright and fairly open cluster, M 8, having a nebula superposed. It can be seen as a faint hazy spot with the naked eye but is more conspicuous through a field glass. M22 is a globular cluster that can be seen with a field glass. It takes light more than 22000 years to make the journey from this cluster to the earth avan though it is one of the nearest of all globular clusters. Several large clouds of glowing gasseous material are to be seen in this region. The brightest of these are: the nebula mentioned above in connection with the cluster, M8; the Trifid Nebula (M 20) and the Omega Nebula (M17).All of the preceeding objects are in Sagittarius. In Scutum (sometimes considered as a part of Aquila) we find Mll a galactic star cluster which resembles to some extent the globular type. It lies at a distance of 1,250 light years from the earth. Two very bright clusters of stars lie just north of the Scorpions "sting in Scorpius".

They are M 6, and M 7, both large and open. Several other clusters are within the boundaries of Scorpius. Ophiuchus and Serpens have a number of clusters of both galactic and globular types, none of which are very conspicuous through small telescopes. If you would gain a greater knowledge

of star clusters, come to this months Astronomy Group meeting where "star" clusters " is to be the subject for discussion and where some of them will be observed through field glasses and telescopes.

Stuart L_O'Byrne.

Notes on July Meteors.

As far as meteors are concerned the month of July is only an average month in point of numbers. The average hourly number for July is eleven. The number that may be exspected before midnight is of course much less than while after that hourthey become more frquent, reaching as high as fifteen per hour about three o'clock in

A few straggling Scorpiids are likely to appear during the early part of July. The Sagittids form a rather infrequent shower and will probably show up in several hours of watching at any time of the month. On July 22 the maximum display of the Capricornids is due. This swarm is not very brilliant.

The most important shower during July is that of the Delta Aquarids and which comes on the 28 th. This shower lasts for about three days and the number per hour per maximum is twentyseven. They are characterized by slow trains. The Alpha Beta Perseids that have their maximum in the middle of August will make their appearance this month especially during the latter part. Beginning about July 8 the slow, yellow streaks of the Perseids will appear increasing in frequency through the month. Their maximum comes in August.

Observations and counts of July meteors are much desired and all interested persons are requested to communicate with Mr. Jones, Chairman of Observation Committee or with the Chairman of the Astronomy Group for further information about meteor observing.

The Astronomy Group.

Girl Scouts Have An Outing.

Eleven Girl Scouts of troop 21,St. Louis and six of troop 71 wish to say "thank you"to the Webster Groves ture Study Society for the use of Nature Study Lodge the week end of June 21.

We will tell you in next issue what Girl Scouts do on such a week end trip.

Towhee

Any boy or girl

Wanting information or help in their insect contest collection work. will please call on the Editor, I will also gladly arrange some collecting trips to the Lodge or other good collecting ground.

R.C.Lange.

Nature Notes

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Studies in the Fauna of the Ranken Tract.

1. Myriopoda.

The Region forming the Ranken Tract offers unusual opportunities for studies in the fauna of Missouri. Situated, as it is, in the Meramec valley and at the same time its hills comprising part of the foot-hills of the Ozarks, we find a topography in a small area representative of the geography of the state as a whole. With the location of our lodge, as well as the cabin of the St. Louis Entomological Club, on this tract, the region is being collected over and studied by our naturalists in various branches of Nature Study. It seems to me, therefore, that short articles in Nature Notes covering especially such Classes and Orders that are not represented by groups in the Webster Groves Nature Study Society would not only prove interesting, but would be a nucleus for future compilation of the Flora and Fauna of Missouri. True, some groups have already been well worked up for the state and published. Much of this has been done many years ago and needs revision and addition. As an example of what still can be done it is interesting to note that in 1928

a small collection of Myriopoda collected near St. Charles, Mo., was submitted to R.V. Chamberlain, the american authority in this group for determination. Thirteen species were represented in this collection, of which thre; proved to be new species and one represented a new genus. In hopes that others working with little known groups will list their findings, I am giving herewith a few notes on our Myriopoda and a list of species that I have found at Ranken. The Myriopoda actually belong to two classes of invertebrata: the Diplopoda and Chilopoda. The Diplopoda are the millipeds and are recognized by having two pairs of legs to each segment of The Chilopoda are the centi the body. pedes, and have but one pair of legs to

The following families and species have been taken at Ranken. This list is not complete and will be added to as more of my material is identified.

Class Diplopoda.

a segment.

Family, Polydesmidae
Fontaria virginiensis Drury
Euryurus erythropygus Brandt
Family, Iuliidae
Spirobolus marginatus Say
Lysiopetalum lactarium Say
cont. next collumn.

Class Chilopoda.

Family, Scutigeridae
Scutigera forceps Raf.
Family, Scolopendridae sy
Scolopocryptops sexspinosus Say
Teatops spinicauda Wood
postica Say
Family, Lithobiidae

Family, Lithobiidae
Lithobius transmarinus Koch
Family Geophilidae
Geophilus mordax Meinert.

Dr. EdwinP. Meiners.

A Word From The Lodge.

Visitors at the Lodge have been puzzled over what to do with tin cans, garbage and other refuse. With intent to make conditions there as sanitary as possible, the following suggestions are offered:

1. Anything that will burn, such as paper plates, paper napkins, boxes and news-papers, should be burned at the fire place near the building.

fire place near the building.

2. All except the most liquid garbage can be entirely consumed by throwing it upon burning paper.

3. Tin cans may be placed upon the fire to burn out any fragments of food that they contained; however, if allowed to accumulate in the fireplace they will provide breeding-places for mosquitoes.

4. Anything that will not burn, such as bottles, should be buried or else taken back home. Do not, under any circumstances, leave bottles, cans or garbage exposed near the Lodge, as such objects are not only eyesores, but are certain to cause the place to become infested with flies and mosquit-

5. The last person to leave the Lodge should see that no water is left standing in the buckets, to safeguard against pests.

Please cooperate with us in keepthe Lodge a pleasant and attractive place to go.

The Lodge Unit.

A Sedalia, Mo. Bird List. Miss Nellie Matlock, sends in the following: Birds observed near Lake Tebo, June 21,1931. Cardinal, 3; Maryland Yellow, 1; Crow, 15; Screech Owl,3; Morning Dove,5; Towhee,4; Robin, 9; Brown Trasher, 6; Titmouse, 3; Quails,5; Blue Bird,2; Purple Martin.2: Blue Jay, 5; Tree Swallows,5; Flicker,4, Purple Grackle,5; Yellow-billed Cuckoo,1 Indigo Bunting,1; Catbird,1; Kingbird, (femily); Yellow Warbler,1; Kingfisher, 2; Goldfinch, 2; Nuthatch, 1; Redheaded Woodpecker, ; Chickadee, 2; Whip o will,1; Hummingbird,1; Barn Swallow, 6; Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Orchard Oriole, Family and nest. Red wing Blackbird, 2; The second bird is Maryland Yellowthroat

Webster Groves Nature-Study Society

A BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN NATURE-STUDY SOCIETY

(Organized in 1920)

Webster Groves, Mo.

MISS ANNE A. JONES Secretary-Treasurer 690 Bonita Avenue Webster Groves, Mo. (WEbster 831-J)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST, 1931

The only meetings scheduled for this month will be--

DR. O. W. BRANDHORST
President

MISS NELLIE MATLOCK

Miss Nellie Matlock Vice-President

HAROLD I. O'BYRNE Vice-President

MRS. JASPER BLACKBURN
Flower Exchange Secretary

DR. IRENE BLANCHARD MUELLER

Health Secretary

MRS. WILLIAM PICKENS
Junior Secretary

MRS. A. F. SATTERTHWAIT Nature-Melody Secretary

GROUP CHAIRMEN

STUART L. O'BYRNE Astronomy

MISS EDITH E. GLATFELTER Botany

Miss Dorothy Boyer Entomology

MRS. ARTHUR FEAGER Geology

PIERRE A. VOGEL Ichthyology

Dr. Edwin P. Meiners *Microscopy*

ARTHUR E. MUELLER Nature Photography

MISS NELLIE MATLOCK Ornithology

R. C. LANGE

Editor

NATURE NOTES

Dr. EDWIN P. MEINERS
Camp Director

A FIELD TRIP on Saturday/Sunday August 8/9 to the Schnedelbach Cottage at Allenton, Mo. The best route is Manchester Road to the Allenton Road, then South on Allenton Road to Allenton. Directions will be left at Gross' Grocery as to the route to the Tom Evans Cottages about a mile or so out from Allenton.

On Saturday night the Astronomy Group will observe celestial objects, so bring your telescopes, field glasses and star maps. Also bring cots, blankets and food.

The NATURE MELODY GROUP will hold an informal meeting on Monday evening August. 24th at the Satterthwait home, 118 Waverly Place, Webster Groves, to observe whatever sounds in nature that may be heard at that time in the gardens. Flash lamps may come in handy at this meeting, so bring them along.

The JUNIORS on Wednesdays August 5 and 19 for Girls Group and on Thursdays August 6 and 20 for the Boys Group.

Date of a Field Trip, and the time and place of all the Junior meetings will be announced by phone.

Anne A. Jones, Secretary