



nature notes

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News from the Missouri Bird Records Committee Bill Rowe

Membership: The Missouri Bird Records Committee held its annual meeting on September 26, 1998, at Lake of the Ozarks, in conjunction with the fall meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri. The outgoing Secretary, Chris Hobbs of Bonner Springs, Kansas, completed his most recent term and resigned from the Committee with the good wishes of all the other members, and their regrets at his departure. With one other term expiring, there were two positions open for election; these were filled by the reelection of Brad Jacobs and the election of new member Bill Godge, both of Columbia. Bill Rowe of St. Louis was elected Secretary, and the remaining members are Paul McKenzie of Columbia (continuing as Chairman), David Easterla of Maryville, Bill Eddleman of Cape Girardeau, and Mark Robbins of Lawrence, Kansas.

Top ten for 1997: As one of its more enjoyable duties, the Committee is charged with choosing and rank-ordering the top ten bird records in the state each year. The observers are presented with certificates at the fall meeting, and the list is published in *The Bluebird*. This time, the distinction of number one in Missouri for

1997 went to the Glaucous-winged Gull discovered by Jack Van Benthuisen at Riverlands. Congratulations to Jack for this outstanding addition to the state list (not his first, by the way).

New Missouri checklist: Following publication this year of the new AOU Checklist of North American Birds, 7th edition, the MBRC has revised its pocket-sized field checklist of Missouri birds to
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Friday, Nov. 13 Meeting

Our next general meeting will be at 8:00 PM at St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters on S. Lindbergh Blvd. Our guest speaker will be George Yatskievych, author of the revised *Flora of Missouri*. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. ∞

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Counting Dickcissels: The Mascoutah Lake Breeding Bird Survey

Randy Korotev

The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a program to monitor population changes in birds breeding in the U.S. and Canada. The idea was the brainchild of Chandler Robbins of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey (now, the National Biological Survey), who is most well known among birders as the first author of the old "Golden Guide," *A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America*. The BBS has become the primary source of information on population trends and distribution for birds breeding in the U.S. and Canada.

BBS Essentials. The concept is simple. In the late 60's, with the help of state coordinators, BBS designers established a set of routes in each state, mostly along less-traveled rural roads. Each route is exactly 24.5 miles long and tends to run primarily north, south, east, or west. The compass direction of each route was selected at random and the route locations were chosen to be evenly spaced so as to cover each state uniformly. (There are 97 routes in Missouri and 64 in Illinois.) On each route there are exactly 50 stops, nominally a half-mile apart, but adjusted slightly for local conditions. The same stops are used every year. Once each year, in early June over most of the U.S. and southern Canada, each route is driven by a volunteer who counts the birds at each stop. Routes were first run in 1966 and in 1997 about 3500 routes were covered.

The rules are very explicit. Observers are encouraged to select a day when visibility is good and wind speed is low. Observers must

start exactly one-half hour before local sunrise and complete the route in 4–4.5 hours. All birds seen within a quarter mile and any birds heard at any distance are counted at each stop for exactly three minutes; no tapes of songs or coaxing ("pishing") is allowed. Birds seen between stops are not counted. Only one observer is allowed to count, although a helper is allowed to record the data on the official forms.

Route 34-050: Mascoutah Lake, Illinois. I became interested in the BBS in 1978 while living in Wisconsin. Sam Robbins, Wisconsin's preeminent amateur ornithologist (and Chandler's brother) asked me to survey an available route in the southern part of the state. I did it and I was hooked. When I moved to St. Louis the next year, I inquired if there were any nearby routes available and was assigned the Mascoutah Lake route by Vernon Kleen of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, who is the state coordinator of the BBS in Illinois. For ten years, from 1967 through 1976 the route had been run by a person unknown to me that I identify as Observer 1 in the accompanying graphs. The route was not run in 1977. In 1978 it was run by Vernon Kleen. I took over in 1979 and this past June I completed my 20th running of the route. This article summarizes the results.

The route starts near the new MidAmerica airport east of Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and ends a few miles northeast of Baldwin Lake. Most of the route passes through agricultural lands, but it also passes through two small towns, Mascoutah and New Athens, and bottomlands of the Kaskaskia River.

Over the 20 years I've found 96 species of birds along the route, although in any given

Table 1. Summary of results of the Mascoutah Lake Breeding Bird Survey, 1979-1998.

species	birds/year			% of stops			years	all routes	species	birds/year			% of stops			years	all routes
	avg	min	max	avg	min	max				avg	min	max	avg	min	max		
D.-crested Cormorant	0.40	0	7	0.2	0	2	2	+6.8	Tufted Titmouse	4.3	0	10	7.0	0	18	18	+1.0
Great Blue Heron	1.05	0	6	1.7	0	10	8	+3.5	White-breasted Nuthatch	2.1	0	6	3.5	0	10	15	+1.6
Great Egret	0.65	0	11	0.5	0	6	3	—	Carolina Wren	0.75	0	5	1.5	0	10	8	+0.8
Little Blue Heron	0.15	0	2	0.3	0	4	2	-2.6	House Wren	2.7	0	6	5.1	0	10	19	+1.4
Cattle Egret	0.40	0	4	0.5	0	6	3	—	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3.3	1	6	4.4	2	8	20	+1.0
Green Heron	0.90	0	3	1.7	0	6	13	-0.6	Eastern Bluebird	1.00	0	4	1.2	0	6	8	+2.4
Black-cr. Night Heron	0.20	0	3	0.3	0	4	2	+5.2	Wood Thrush	0.85	0	2	1.7	0	4	11	-1.8
Canada Goose	4.6	0	36	1.1	0	10	6	+12.7	American Robin	39.	23	69	43.5	26	58	20	+0.8
Wood Duck	0.80	0	3	1.0	0	4	8	+7.1	Gray Catbird	1.25	0	5	2.1	0	8	13	-0.4
Mallard	4.5	0	33	2.1	0	8	15	+2.0	N. Mockingbird	7.9	1	19	14.7	2	36	20	-0.9
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.15	0	2	0.3	0	4	2	+2.2	Brown Thrasher	3.6	1	7	6.0	2	12	20	-1.2
Red-tailed Hawk	0.25	0	2	0.5	0	4	4	+3.3	Cedar Waxwing	0.40	0	4	0.4	0	4	2	+1.8
American Kestrel	0.30	0	3	0.5	0	4	4	—	Loggerhead Shrike	0.80	0	3	1.5	0	6	9	-3.5
Wild Turkey	0.60	0	4	1.2	0	8	5	+10.2	European Starling	55.	9	101	17.3	8	28	20	-1.1
Northern Bobwhite	39.	23	56	33.2	36	74	20	-2.5	White-eyed Vireo	1.00	0	3	1.8	0	6	13	—
Killdeer	12.	1	39	16.6	2	32	20	—	Bell's Vireo	0.15	0	1	0.3	0	2	3	-3.4
American Woodcock	0.05	0	1	0.1	0	2	1	—	Yellow-throated Vireo	0.90	0	4	1.8	0	8	11	+1.0
Rock Dove	12.	0	34	7.3	0	14	19	—	Warbling Vireo	2.9	1	5	5.8	2	10	20	+1.2
Mourning Dove	34.	15	81	38.3	22	56	20	-0.3	Red-eyed Vireo	0.85	0	2	1.7	0	4	13	+1.1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	7.2	0	22	12.7	0	32	19	-1.6	Northern Parula	0.50	0	2	1.0	0	4	8	—
Great Horned Owl	0.30	0	1	0.6	0	2	6	—	Yellow Warbler	0.15	0	1	0.3	0	2	3	+0.6
Barred Owl	1.35	0	5	2.2	0	8	12	+3.3	Cerulean Warbler	0.20	0	1	0.4	0	2	4	-3.7
Common Nighthawk	0.50	0	3	1.0	0	6	8	-1.2	American Redstart	0.25	0	1	0.5	0	2	5	—
Chimney Swift	51.	19	89	21.1	10	36	20	-1.0	Prothonotary Warbler	0.55	0	1	1.1	0	2	11	-1.6
Ruby-throated Hum'bird	0.50	0	2	0.9	0	2	9	+1.5	Ovenbird	0.10	0	1	0.2	0	2	2	+0.7
Belted Kingfisher	0.10	0	1	0.2	0	2	2	-2.2	Kentucky Warbler	0.75	0	3	1.4	0	6	10	-1.0
Red-headed Woodp.	4.5	1	7	8.3	2	14	20	-2.2	Com. Yellowthroat	6.6	2	10	12.7	4	20	20	-0.3
Red-bellied Woodp.	4.5	0	10	8.8	0	20	18	+0.6	Yellow-breasted Chat	1.30	0	4	2.5	0	8	13	—
Downy Woodpecker	1.60	0	5	2.9	0	8	15	—	Summer Tanager	0.05	0	1	0.1	0	2	1	—
Hairy Woodpecker	0.10	0	1	0.2	0	2	2	+1.5	Northern Cardinal	26.	17	38	41.2	28	60	20	—
Northern Flicker	2.0	0	5	3.9	0	10	18	-2.9	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0.10	0	2	0.2	0	4	1	—
Pileated Woodpecker	0.20	0	1	0.4	0	2	4	+1.6	Indigo Bunting	23.	14	32	35.8	24	46	20	-0.7
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3.2	0	7	6.2	0	14	18	-1.7	Dickeissel	34.	7	76	35.7	12	56	20	-1.6
Acadian Flycatcher	2.4	1	4	4.5	2	8	20	+0.5	Eastern Towhee	0.60	0	3	1.1	0	6	8	-2.2
Willow Flycatcher	0.35	0	1	0.7	0	2	7	-1.2	Chipping Sparrow	0.80	0	3	1.3	0	6	10	—
Eastern Phoebe	0.75	0	4	1.4	0	8	8	+0.9	Field Sparrow	4.5	1	10	8.5	2	16	20	-3.3
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	2.5	0	6	4.8	0	12	19	—	Grasshopper Sparrow	3.2	0	8	5.1	0	16	14	-3.5
Eastern Kingbird	2.5	0	7	3.9	0	10	17	-0.7	Song Sparrow	16.	5	30	30.3	10	52	20	-0.6
Horned Lark	30.	11	56	30.7	10	42	20	-1.3	Red-winged Blackbird	270.	175	665	71.3	56	82	20	-1.0
Purple Martin	6.6	0	22	6.0	0	12	19	—	Eastern Meadowlark	29.	21	39	47.4	32	64	20	-2.6
Tree Swallow	0.70	0	6	0.7	0	4	6	—	Yell.-headed Blackbird	0.05	0	1	0.1	0	2	1	—
N. R.-winged Swallow	1.60	0	6	1.8	0	6	9	—	Common Grackle	136.	34	301	50.5	26	66	20	-1.6
Bank Swallow	2.6	0	14	1.3	0	6	8	—	Brown-headed Cowbird	7.0	1	16	8.6	2	18	20	-1.1
Cliff Swallow	1.40	0	8	1.0	0	4	8	+1.4	Orchard Oriole	0.50	0	3	1.0	0	6	6	-1.8
Barn Swallow	26.	14	35	25.7	20	34	20	-0.3	Baltimore Oriole	1.40	0	4	2.2	0	6	14	—
Blue Jay	3.1	0	10	5.0	0	14	17	-1.5	House Finch	1.05	0	7	1.0	0	10	4	+2.0
American Crow	24.	9	64	25.4	10	46	20	+0.8	American Goldfinch	3.7	0	11	4.5	0	12	17	-0.8
Carolina Chickadee	1.70	0	7	2.3	0	8	12	-0.9	House Sparrow	186.	74	413	40.1	26	66	20	-2.2

birds/year = average, minimum, and maximum number of birds observed per year along entire route.

% of stops = average, minimum, and maximum percent of the 50 stops at which the species was observed each year.

years = number of years (1979-1998, inclusive) the species was observed.

all routes = percent change per year for the entire BBS area during the period 1966 through 1996, from BBS web page of J. R. Sauer, J. E. Hines, G. Gough, I. Thomas, and B. G. Peterjohn (1997) The North American Breeding Bird Survey Results and Analysis. Version 96.4. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD, using "linear route-regression" method based on "estimating equations." For values in bold type face, $P < 0.05$; for values in normal $0.05 < P < 0.1$. For dashes (—), $P > 0.1$, i.e., there is no strong evidence for a decreasing or increasing trend.

year the total has ranged from 51 to 67, with an average of 58 (Table 1). Red-winged Blackbirds, House Sparrows, and Common Grackles are the most numerous birds (>100/year). Perhaps not surprising, the most frequently encountered species (at 71% of the stops, on average) is Red-winged Blackbird. Probably surprising to most birders, how-

ever, is that the next most frequently encountered species is Northern Bobwhite (53%), followed closely by Common Grackle (51%), and Eastern Meadowlark (47%). The total number of Bobwhite along the route (Table 1) has ranged from 23 to 56 birds. I seldom see them, but at 6:00 a.m. they sure are noisy. The route is also a good place to

find Dickcissels and Indigo Buntings, which I encounter with equal frequency (36% of the stops). Some species generally regarded as common are sometimes hard to find; I've missed finding Blue Jay and American Goldfinch on each of three years. Over the years I've found five species of vireos, including Bell's (3 years), and nine species of warblers, including Cerulean (4 years), American Redstart (5 years), and Prothonotary (11 years). I regularly see or hear Ruby-throated Hummingbird (9 years), Loggerhead Shrike (9 years), and Grasshopper Sparrow (14 years). I've found all six species of swallows that occur in the St. Louis area and have seen nesting locations for Tree, Bank, and Cliff. Probably the most unexpected species (for June) was a Yellow-headed Blackbird I spotted in a wet, weedy field in 1983. Overall, the species diversity is greater than one might expect for what is largely Illinois farm land.

Figures. In the accompanying graphs (Figs. 1–4) I have plotted, for some selected species, the total number of individuals I have observed each year along the route as a function of year. My observations are indicated by solid squares (“RK” in top plot). For completeness, I have included the observations of the two previous observers as open symbols (“Obs. 1” and “VK”).

The continuous line connecting the small dots is the “annual index of abundance” calculated by the BBS analysts from all BBS data from 1966 through 1996, the last year for which the data have been analyzed. I find the explanation of the meaning of this index a bit cryptic, but I believe that it can be viewed as some kind of superaverage for all routes on which the species regularly occurs. Because, for some species, the number of

birds I see along my route is not the same as for the average of all routes, I have often had to plot this index on a different scale, which is given on the right-hand side of the plots (“BBS Index”). (I have not plotted the index data for Killdeer in Fig. 3b because the data I obtained from the BBS web site appears to contain some errors.)

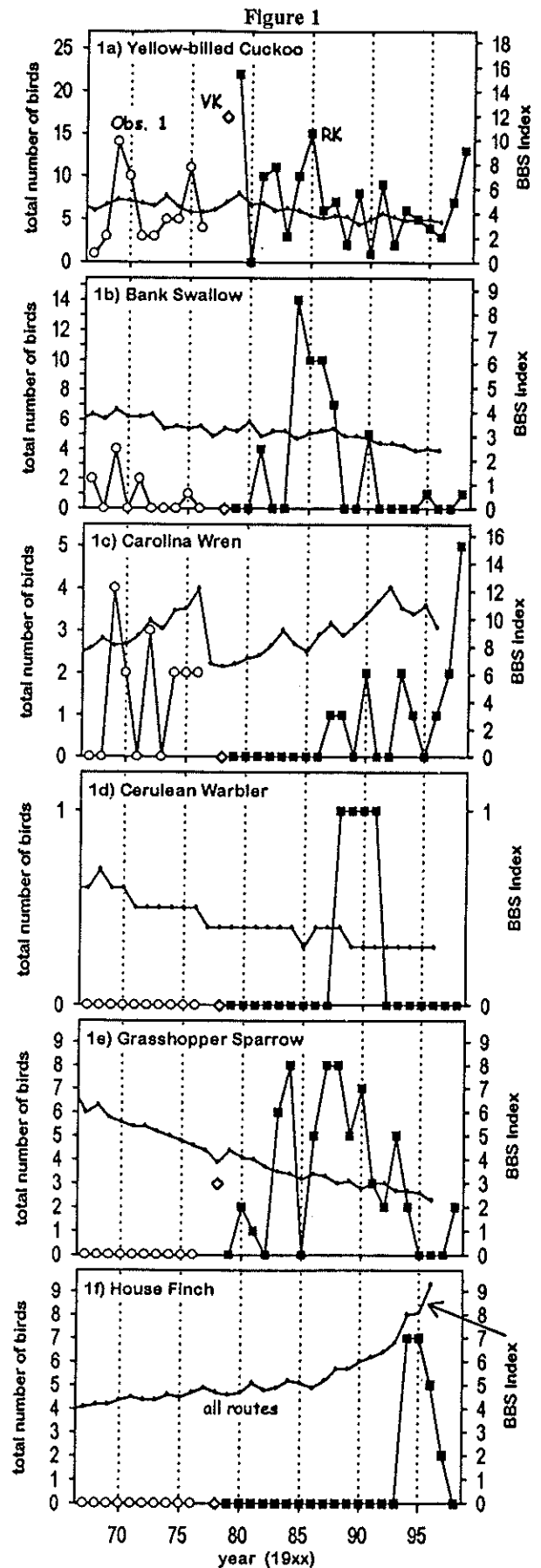
One of the acknowledged deficiencies of the BBS, observer bias, is strikingly evident in several of the graphs. Observer 1 and I didn't see and hear birds the same way and for the most part my results are not comparable to those of Observer 1. Clearly, routes run by the same observer for many years are the most valuable for detecting changes.

Changes with Time. There have been some physical changes in my route over 20 years. There are more houses now. Trees have grown larger and roadside fence lines have been cleared. The floods of 1993 and 1995 killed many trees along the Kaskaskia River. After completing the first year, the bridge taking the route across the Kaskaskia River and into New Athens was removed, forcing me to walk a quarter mile to one stop and make a 3-mile detour by car every year since. Also, some years are wetter than others, farmers alternate crops, and insect outbreaks occur. Changes such as these affect the birds as well as my ability to observe them.

Despite such changes, some species remain relatively constant in abundance from year to year along the route. The most consistent species [lowest relative standard deviation (RSD), for the mathematically inclined] are Eastern Meadowlark [RSD = 17%] and Northern Bobwhite [19%], followed closely by Indigo Bunting, Northern Cardinal, and Barn Swallow [22–25%].

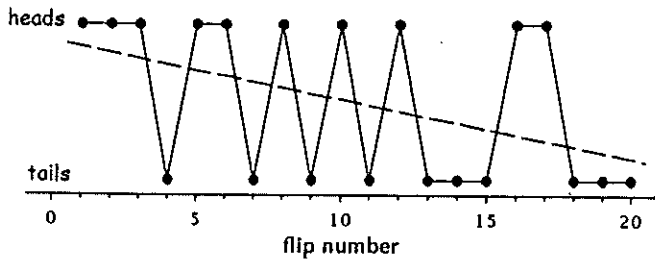
Other species have been erratic in abundance from year to year in that they have been present only for a block of a few years or they have been numerous one year and absent the next. I have plotted the data for several such species in Fig. 1. Birds are opportunists; they may use an area for a while and then leave. Sometimes the reasons are evident, but often they're not. From 1984 through 1987 a quarry was home to nesting Bank Swallows, but they abandoned the site after the quarry was shut down and the exposed banks become overgrown with vegetation (Fig. 1b). A pig farm along the route hosted Cliff Swallows for several years, but when the pigs left, so did the swallows (not shown). Carolina Wrens were killed by harsh winters of 1976–1977 and 1977–1978, but have made a strong comeback (Fig. 1c). (The sharp dip during these years evident in the BBS Index of Fig. 1c is also seen, but to a lesser extent, in the index for Eastern Bluebird in Fig. 3e.) All of my Cerulean Warbler observations occurred in the period 1988–1991 (Fig. 1d). I found one bird each year, always at the same stop. Were these all the same bird? Grasshopper Sparrows have been erratic in numbers from year to year (Fig. 1e). House Finches arrived with a bang in 1994 but numbers have steadily decreased over the last 3 years. Flooding along the Kaskaskia river in 1995 brought 11 Great Egrets; normally I don't see any (not shown). I first heard Wild Turkeys in 1985, presumably as a result of a restocking effort, and I first observed Canada Geese in 1986.

The first year I ran the route I found 22 Yellow-billed Cuckoos; the next year I found none (Fig. 1a). I've puzzled about that ever since. I see similar variation in Canada Geese, for example (not shown), because the geese occur in small flocks and some years I see a flock and other years I don't. However, cuckoos don't occur in flocks; I've never had more than two at a stop. This year (1998) and 1985 were also good years for cuckoos.

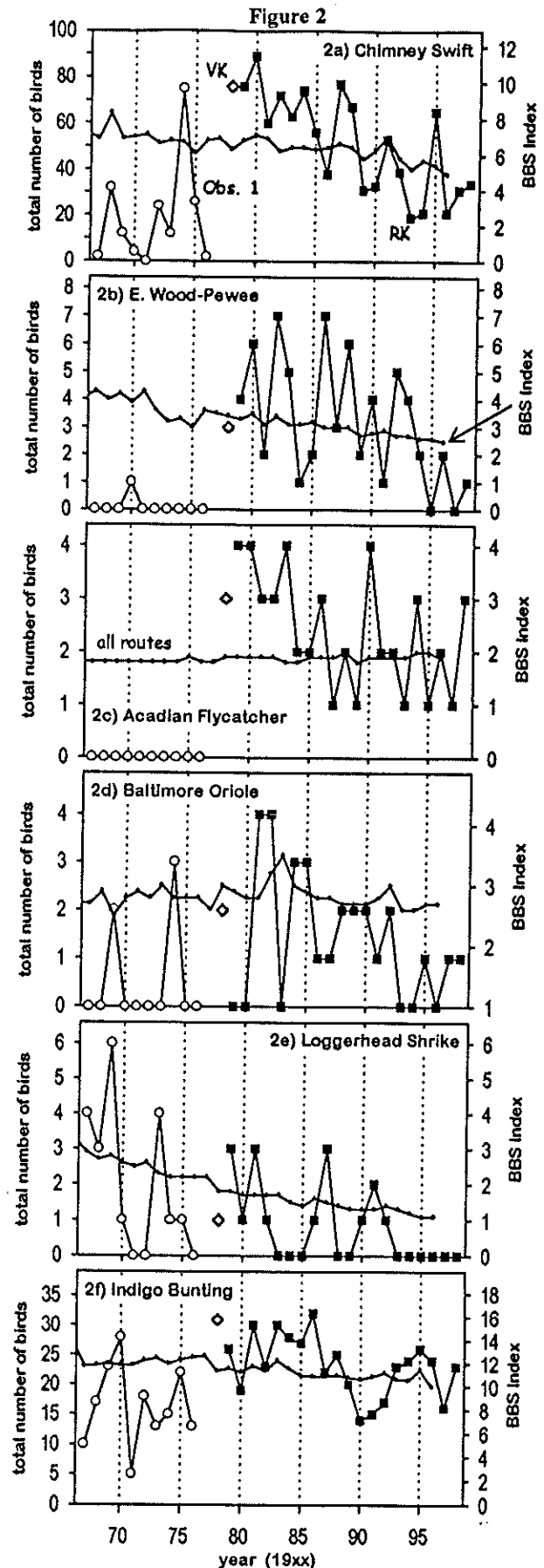


Was this because of the 13-year periodical cicada? I don't know.

Long Term Trends. The BBS analysts have some sophisticated statistical procedures for determining whether species are generally decreasing or increasing with time during a specific time period in a particular region based on results from many routes. [I include some statistical lingo in square brackets in the following discussion.] Nevertheless, despite the great quantity of available data, it is often difficult for the analysts to conclude with confidence that a species is increasing or decreasing, or that an apparent trend is "real" and not just the product of chance. After all, even coin flipping can sometimes lead to apparent trends:



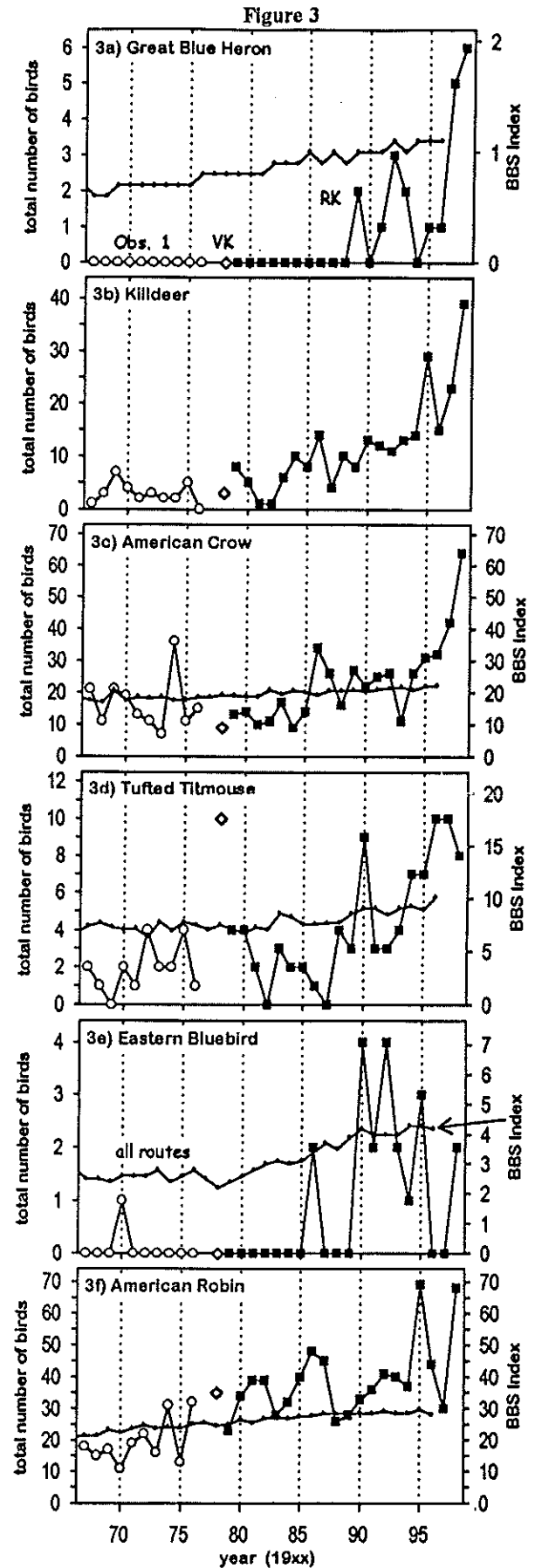
In Table 1, the column labeled "all routes" is a "trend estimate" [route-regression method; see internet web site below] based on all BBS results from 1966 through 1996, the last year for which the data have been analyzed. The number in the column is the percent change per year, e.g., Double-crested Cormorants have increased in abundance at a rate of 6.8% per year over their range while Yellow-billed Cuckoos have decreased at a rate of 1.6% per year. Values in bold are most likely to reflect a "real" trend [$P < 0.05$; the probability is $< 5\%$ that the apparent trend is due to random fluctuations]. Values in normal type are less certain [$0.05 < P < 0.1$; probability between 5 and 10% that the apparent trend is due to chance]. Dashes indicate that there is no strong evidence in the data for a trend either increasing or decreasing [$P > 0.1$]. It should be noted that if the analyses are done for a different period of years or for a particular region of the country, the trend estimates are sometimes quite



different. One of the fascinating results of the BBS is that for many species, decreases in one region are accompanied by increases in another, although there may be a net decrease or increase for the species over the whole BBS area.

In principle, I could apply the same procedures [if I really understood them] to the data from my route. However, because the numbers of birds are so small for a single route, it is usually impossible to show in a statistically significant way that an upward or downward trend really exists. Nevertheless, for a few species there *appears* to be an overall decrease or increase over the 20 year period. Fig. 2 shows some species for which I have seen significantly fewer birds [*t*-test], on average, during the second ten years than the first ten years. Other species in this category are Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Bank Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Dickcissel, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Sparrow. The results for Chimney Swift surprised me in that I had not realized the striking decrease until I made the plot. The rate of decrease on my route, about 6% a year, is much greater than for the entire BBS area since 1966 (1.0%; Table 1).

Other species, however, have been more abundant on my route during the past ten years than the ten years before that (Fig. 3). I first saw a Great Blue Heron in 1989 and this past year I saw 6 different birds at 5 stops. Killdeer have been steadily increasing in numbers. For most of the species of Fig. 3, I can offer no explanations for the cause of the increases. I pass by more manicured lawns now than 20 years ago, and this may account for the apparent increase in the sightings of Robins. In general, species that are increasing along my route are also increasing over the entire BBS area. Despite common perception, over the entire BBS area several neotropical migrants are actually increasing. These include Alder, Acadian, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, Warbling,

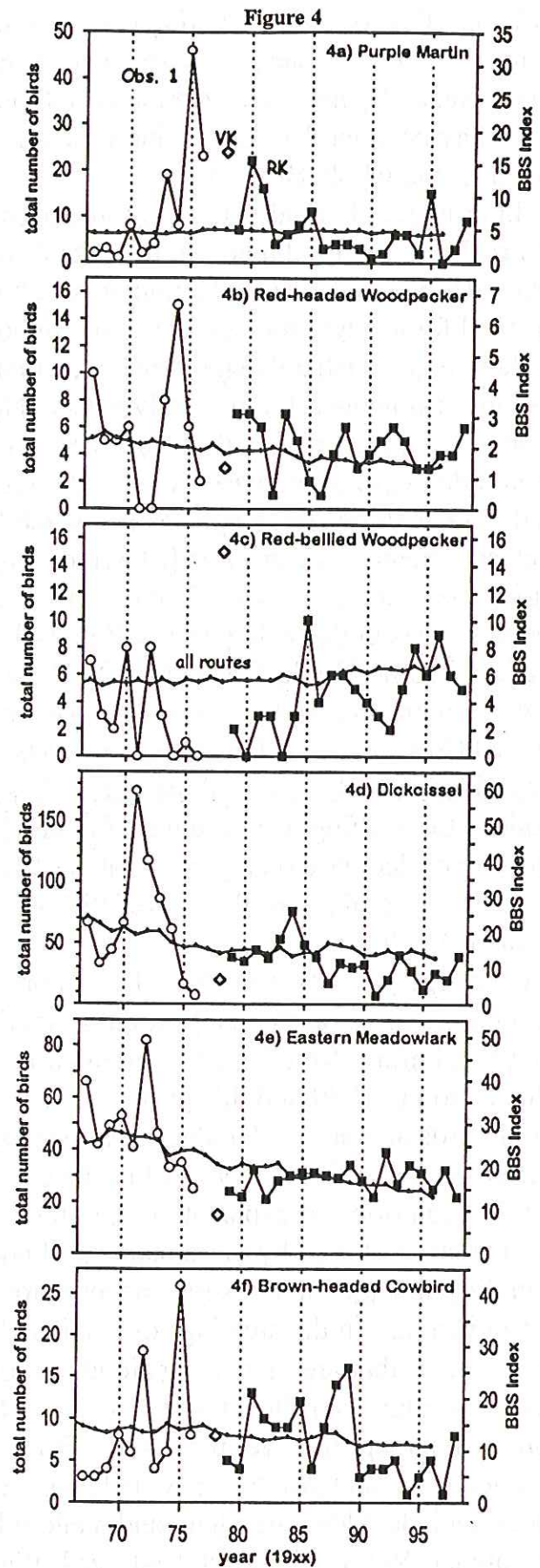


and Gray Vireo, Ovenbird, and Magnolia and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

In Fig. 4, I plot data for some species that are of special interest or concern but which didn't fit on the other figures. Purple Martins are a popular species. For the period 1966–1996, there is no conclusive national trend (Table 1), but along my route they appear to be less common now than 20 years ago. Red-headed Woodpeckers are declining nationally by ~2% per year (Table 1) but there is no strong evidence for a decline along my route. For comparison, I include the data for Red-bellied Woodpecker, which is increasing slightly overall as well as along my route. Dickcissels and Eastern Meadowlarks (and most other grassland species) show a decline nationally. The meadowlarks, at least, don't appear to be declining along my route. The Brown-headed Cowbird, a culprit often blamed for the decline of certain other species, is declining slightly.

BBS Web Site. I obtained most of the background information for this article from the internet web site maintained by the BBS (<http://www.mbr.nbs.gov/bbs/bbs.html>). This is a valuable resource for birders and any one interested in the distribution of birds. In addition to BBS results presented in great detail, there are pictures and songs of most bird species and detailed maps of distribution based on results of the BBS and, in some cases, Christmas Bird Counts. My favorite part is the "Patuxent Bird Quiz," where one is presented with a range map for a species. The challenge is to pick which of ten listed species the map represents. This is hard, but a great way to learn about bird distribution.

Impact. The BBS is an activity where birders can contribute to the knowledge base. Indirectly, data acquired by BBS volunteers have been powerful with respect to changing land use practices and management in the U.S. The cooperative program *Partners in Flight* derived in part from the alarm raised by BBS results.



MO Bird Record Committee News

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conform to the taxonomy and sequence of species adopted by the AOU. The new checklist has also been carefully updated to give the most current picture of Missouri bird distribution; as in previous versions, each bird's status is boiled down into a simple shorthand. Smith's Longspur, for instance, is "T u (w), r (e); WR ca (w)," which means that it is a migrant, uncommon in western Missouri and rare in eastern Missouri, and also a casual (very occasional) winter resident in the western part. The new list contains all species known to occur in Missouri through the summer of 1998, and for historical interest it even contains birds that are extinct (like Carolina Parakeet) or extirpated in the state (like Red-cockaded Woodpecker). The list will be available later this fall from the ASM Treasurer.

Annual report and rare bird review list: The Committee completed its evaluation of 77 unusual bird records in our state over the past year (September 1997—September 1998) and will be publishing its annual report for this period in the March issue of *The Bluebird*. It has also put out a revised list of bird species that need to be documented in Missouri (or in some cases just certain parts of Missouri). Copies of this list are available from the Secretary at any time for publication or for photocopying and distribution, but it will also be printed in a future issue of *Nature Notes*. The review list changes from time to time as records of certain species accumulate, making them less unusual, and also as new species are found in the state. Curlew Sandpiper, for instance, is the latest new species on the list, but Pacific Loon has been dropped (many records by now).

Where to send documentation: Birders who observe anything that seems unusual for the state or the season are urged to con-

sult the review list and then submit their documentation to the Committee by sending it to the Secretary, William C. Rowe, 9033 Big Bend, St. Louis, MO 63119.

Documentation should in all cases include a written description (whether on MBRC forms printed especially for this purpose or simply in letter format) and may be supplemented and strengthened by sketches, slides, prints, videos, audio recordings, feathers, or whole specimens.

Suggestions for those who are debating whether to submit documentation: (1) When in doubt, go ahead and submit it. It may turn out that your observation does not need to be circulated among the Committee for a vote, but in any case it will be forwarded to the seasonal-report editor for inclusion there. (2) When a very rare bird is found, it helps if several people write it up independently. Thus if you have had the chance to observe a known rarity and have some good field notes on it, please do not assume that someone else has "taken care of it." Even if others have indeed written it up, your notes may contain some crucial information. There is a limit to this, of course, but the balance often tends to swing toward too little documentation rather than too much.

The MBRC on line: Anyone interested may check the web page of the Audubon Society of Missouri at: mo-birds.mig.missouri.edu and click on the MBRC links to see names and addresses of the members, a group photo, the full text of recent annual reports, an on-line version of the new checklist (later this year), a sample documentation form for printing, and perhaps additional material in the future (one possibility is good-quality photographs of unusual birds from around the state). Suggestions for improvements and additions to the web site may be offered to any MBRC member. ☺

Welcome to new members...

Bob Coulter..... Affton
Peggy Kaiser..... Crestwood
Connie Wilson..... Ballwin

September 1998 Birding Report

Jim Ziebol, Yvonne Homeyer &
Kevin Renick

Pied-billed Grebes were reported in large numbers, with 300 seen on 9/19 at Carlyle Lake ('K) and 38 reported at Horseshoe Lake on 9/17 (FH). Also at Carlyle Lake there were large flocks of Double-crested Cormorants, with numbers ranging from 3,000 to 10,000 between 9/11 and 9/27 (KM, DK). An American Bittern was seen at Riverlands on 9/19 (JL et al.) and another was seen on 9/26, along with a Least Bittern, at Carlyle Lake (DK). A large concentration of 260 Great Egrets, 65 Snowy Egrets and 25 Little Blue Herons were found along Route 3 at Route 143 between 9/8 and 9/10 (FH). Eighty-two Great Egrets were present at the Borrow Pit on 9/17. Fourteen Gadwalls were seen flying around Cora Island Road on 9/2 (J Mo) Five Shovelers were mixed in with the Teal at the Borrow Pit on 9/20 (YH). More than 200 Pintails were seen arriving at Mark Twain on 9/18 (J&CM). A molting drake Cinnamon Teal was found at Carlyle Lake on 9/29 (DK).

Sharp-shinned Hawks began to appear around 9/19, with one seen at Tower Grove Park on that date (MT et al.) Three Cooper's Hawks were at Carlyle Lake, Parking Lot 3, on 9/19 (CA et al.) and one was found at the Borrow Pit on 9/10 (YH, JZ). Osprey were reported in lower than usual numbers in early September, with the first one reported on 9/5 at Riverlands (MB). A Merlin darted past the numerous warblers circulating throughout the Bird Garden in Tower Grove Park on 9/17 (JZ, YH) and another was observed at Mark Twain on 9/19 (JL et al.). Two Broad-

winged Hawks and a Peregrine Falcon were reported at Tyson on 9/22 (MP) and a Broadwinged and a Peregrine were also seen at Honker's Point on 9/26 (T&GB).

An elusive Virginia Rail was flushed in a Jefferson County field on 9/3 (MP). A flock of more than 30 Soras were observed at Carlyle Lake on 9/26 (DK). Shorebirds were more numerous in the eastern part of the St. Louis area. A large flock of about 300 Killdeer were observed at Bruns Road on 9/4 (FH). Avocets were widespread, with the first sighting reported on 9/6 at Mark Twain (Margie & Dan Terpstra) and 23 at Riverlands on 9/16 (CM) About 25 Avocets were found at Riverlands on 9/16 (CM). Approximately 20 species of shorebirds were present at Carlyle Lake/White-tail Access on 9/11, including 8 American Golden Plovers, 1 Piping Plover, 150+ Pectorals, and one Red-necked Phalarope (KM). An impressive 30 Sanderlings were present at Carlyle Lake on 9/12 (DK), as well as a Ruddy Turnstone on 9/26. Two Piping Plovers were present on 9/5 (DK) and another one was seen at the Volcano on 9/24 (HW et al.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were numerous until late in the month. Seventeen Stilts and one Buff-breasted were seen at Mark Twain on 9/12 (J&CM). A Whimbrel at Carlyle Lake on 9/12 got hot-lined (DK) Caspian Terns were found in fair numbers, with 21 at the Volcano on 9/12 (J&CM). On 9/20 a Least Tern was seen at Riverlands (KR, Viola Buchholtz, M Auer). Five Sabine's Gulls were reported on 9/20 at Carlyle Lake (DK et al.). An apparent adult Long-tailed Jaeger was seen from a boat at Carlyle Lake on 9/5 (Fernando Segade) and a subadult Parasitic Jaeger was found there on 9/24 (DK et al.). A large covey of Bobwhite and 3 Blue-headed Vireos were seen at Horseshoe Lake on 9/29 (DBz).

There were few reports of hummingbirds. Nighthawks passed through in fairly

good numbers, with 200+ over South St. Louis on 9/1 (JZ), 200 over Town & Country on 9/21 (Tory Berger), and 250+ over Granite City on 9/21 (FH). Empids were somewhat numerous, with Yellow-bellied Flycatchers showing up earlier than Least. A large flock of swallows, estimated at more than 1000, and made up primarily of Rough-Winged and Tree, with a single Cliff was seen at Riverlands Dam on 9/9 (JMo).

Songbird migration was generally slow, with only a few species showing up in good numbers. Twenty-six Catbirds were reported on 9/9 at Hazlet Park (KM) and 15+ were reported on 9/16, 9/21 and 9/26 in Tower Grove Park (m. ob.) A Winter Wren was seen at the bubbler in Tower Grove Park on 9/28 (JJ). Several Marsh Wrens were seen at Heron Pond on 9/24 (T&GB). A Sedge Wren was closely observed at Mark Peters' home on 9/22 (MP) and they were numerous in Busch and the Arboretum (JJ). The first Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen at the Bubbler in Tower Grove Park on 9/19 (m. ob.) Two Philadelphia Vireos were present at the Bubbler on 9/8 (JS) and one was seen by Connie Alwood at his home. Red-eyed Vireos made a strong showing at the end of the month. Hazlet Park had 4 Yellow-throated Vireos on 9/13 (DK) and 8 White-eyed on 9/9 (KM). Weldon Springs still had one Bell's Vireo as late as 9/3 (J Mo). Warblers arrived late and generally in low numbers. Golden-winged were numerous with many reports until the middle of September. Tower Grove Park had a Brewster's Warbler on 9/9 (J Mo). Flight counts included 19 species at Hazlet Park on 9/13 (DK), including 2 Cape May, 1 male Black-throated Blue, and a fall plumage Blackpoll. Another Blackpoll was seen on 9/8 at Busch (J Mo). Fall Blackpolls are quite possible in the St. Louis area and a typical bird is identifiable. Nineteen species

of warblers were seen on 9/16 at Tower Grove Park, including N. Parula, Blue-winged, Bay-breasted (JZ) and Kentucky (YH). Twelve species of warblers were found at Hazlet Park, including 2 Cape May (KM). Five Black-throated Green were observed at the Cypress Circle of Tower Grove Park on 9/20 (SG et al.). Fifty Redstarts were seen on 9/19 at Tower Grove Park (CA, KL). A very late Yellow Warbler was found at Busch on 9/14 (DBz). Carlyle Lake had a Hooded Warbler on 9/5 (DK). A second Black-throated Blue, this one a female, and a Connecticut were seen on 9/20 at Hazlet Park (KM, DK). Palm, Yellowrumped and a Mourning were seen at Tower Grove Park on 9/22 (CM, JS, Tory Berger). An extremely late Kentucky was found in the park at the Bird Garden on 9/24 and 9/25 (CA, KL) and a very late Worm-eating was seen at Castlewood on 9/19 (MB). There were few Thrush reports this year. On 9/16, a Gray-cheeked Thrush, a Veery, a Wood Thrush and several Swainson's Thrush were found in Tower Grove Park (YH, JZ). Another Gray-cheeked was seen at Hazlet Park on 9/14 (DK). LeConte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were observed on 9/27 at Carlyle Lake (DK). A flock of about 20 Eurasian Tree Sparrows was found in an Oakville (So. County) subdivision on 9/27 (YH). An Albino American Crow was seen in Glendale on 9/23 (DBz).

Land bird migration was sparse this year, according to Jim D. Wilson, state ornithologist, as was the migration of Monarchs. Our area experienced a very poor Broad-winged Hawk migration in September, but falcon migration was superior, with many sightings of Merlin.

Contributors. (CA) Connie Alwood; (T&GB) Terry & George Barker; (MB) Mike Brady; (TB) Tom Bormann; (DBz)

Dennis Bozzay; (SG) Sue Gustafson; (FH) Frank Holmes; (YH) Yvonne Homeyer; (JJ) Jim Jackson; (DK) Dan Kassebaum; (KL) Kent Lannert; (JL) John Loomis; (J&CM) Jim & Charlene Malone; (KM) Keith McMullen; (J Mo) Jeanie Moe; (MP) Mark Peters; (KR) Kevin Renick; (JS) John Solodar; (MT) Mike Treffert; (HW) Helen Wuestenfeld; (JZ) Jim Ziebol; (m. ob.) many observers. ~

Teaming with Wildlife—Update

Sue Gustafson

WGNSS has been a supporter of the Teaming With Wildlife Initiative, a federal non-game conservation, outdoor recreation and education proposal spearheaded by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) for more than five years. More than 3,000 outdoor businesses and conservation organizations have formed a national coalition endorsing a user fee excise tax on outdoor recreation equipment. The initiative would have provided millions of dollars at state levels to support conservation of non-game wildlife. However, it failed to get support in Congress, as (it is perceived) Congress did not want to endorse a “tax” related proposal in an election year.

Thanks to a bi-partisan effort in the House, however, there is now a concept proposal entitled The Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1998 which has goals similar to Teaming With Wildlife but is not funded by an excise tax. Formerly referred to as The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Coastal Impact Proposal, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act is divided into three titles. Title I designates that 27% (c. \$1 billion) of annual OCS revenue go to coastal states and local communities for impact assistance associated with federal OCS activity off their shores. Funds from Title I can also be used for restoration of impacted lands. Title II specifies that 13% of annual OCS

revenue (c.\$520 million) be used to fund the state-side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) over and above LWCF’s current authorization and also the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program for all 50 states. Title III designates that 10% (c.\$400 million) of annual OCS revenue be used to fund state-level wildlife conservation and related recreation and education for all 50 states (essentially the goals of Teaming with Wildlife) . All three of these funds would receive permanent funding, rather than annual appropriations, thus ensuring a dedicated and consistent source of funding. This legislation could be the most far-reaching and significant contribution to conservation and outdoor recreation for the next century. WGNSS has contacted our representatives in Congress indicating our support of this legislation. ~

Status Report on the Forest Park Master Plan

Ken Cohen

Work has begun in earnest on the new water system in Forest Park. This part of the Master Plan is called the Heart of the Park Program. When completed in the year 2001, water will flow from The Cascades (close to Skinker and Forsyth) to Jefferson Lake (close to Kingshighway). Construction is underway on a new stream channel near Steinberg Rink as well on bridges in front of the Munny where a new channel will be dug. Features of the Heart of the Park will include: wetlands; native plant meadows; a braided stream; rapids and a spring which was uncovered. Major goals of the Heart of the Park are a reduction of flooding and the creation of a natural, passive spine that runs through the park.

Other projects under or near construction are: 1) the restoration of the Worlds Fair Pavilion; 2) The expansion of the History Museum; 3) the rerouting of Fine

Arts Drive so that it will "T" into Government Drive (near the Zoo) instead of the current angle intersection.

The redesign of the Municipal Golf Course is a project that is widely anticipated. It will accomplish one of the public's highest priorities- the removal of holes from Art Hill. Construction is to begin late in 1999 and is scheduled to take a year.

Two other projects, both within the boundaries of the Kennedy Woods, should be of interest to environmentalists. One is a savanna restoration on a five acre tract along Skinker beginning at the south edge of the golf course. Native grasses and forbs will be planted this Winter. The other is the removal of Valley Drive which runs behind the Art Museum north through the woods to Government Drive. As part of the Master Plan, Valley Dr. will be removed from a point west of the Art Museum to Government Dr. A new road will be built on the west side of the museum connecting Fine Arts Drive (which runs in front of the museum) with Valley Dr. which will loop east around the museum. Now here's the problem. The Art Museum does not want a permanent road built on its west side until it finalizes its expansion plan. As of now, the museum does not have a timeline for its expansion so the removal of Valley Dr. is on indefinite hold. This is preventing both the reuniting of two sections of the woods (now divided by Valley Dr.) and the installation of ponds and other new water features in the woods. A sensible solution would be a temporary road on the west side of the museum. Environmental groups might consider applying appropriate pressure on the museum and the Parks Department in pursuit of this benefit to the Kennedy Woods.

Finally, anyone interested in a more direct involvement with the implementation of the Master Plan is welcome to attend the meetings of the Citizens Advisory Board which normally occur on the third

Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Science Center on Oakland Ave. You may verify the meeting schedule by calling the Parks Department at 535-0100. ~

Trail Dedication & Tree planting

Sue Gustafson

Have you had the opportunity to walk the new trails in Kennedy Woods in Forest park? Formerly overgrown and inaccessible trails that posed security hazards have been refurbished after much hard work by Forest park staff and the Mo. Conservation Department. WGNSS has had several bird walks on the trails, and we have been invited to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the success of the trails.

Join us: Sunday, November 1st at 1:00 PM at the Trailhead/pavilion off Wells Road (west of zoo hospital). Meet some of the folks that made these new trails possible! ~

Meeting Announcement

The St. Louis Rain Forest Advocates invite the members of WGNSS to their November meeting:

Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 PM
Ridgeway Aud., Mo. Botanical Garden
Charlie Hoessle, Director of the St. Louis Zoo will speak on his trip to Borneo. ~

Errata

Anne McCormack

The name of Marcia Conrades was inadvertently left of the author's byline for last month's article "Birth of a Butterfly." My apologies, Marcia. ~

Kennedy Woods Savanna Restoration Seed Collection

WGNSS is supporting the restoration of a prairie in St. Louis's Forest Park. On Oct. 24 we'll collect at George Moore Prairie, east of Alton IL. We will begin at 10:00

AM and finish about 3:00. More info and map in Oct. issue of *Nature Notes*. ∞

Barbecue and Black-chins:

Adventures in Texas

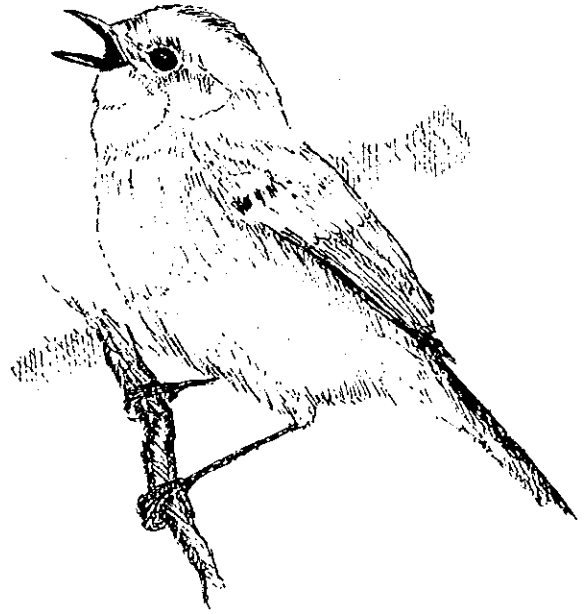
continued from Oct. issue

Anne McCormack

You may ask yourself: Why would anyone go to southwest Texas in the *summer*? The Colima Warbler, of course. Fifty pairs or so breed in the US—all in the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend. One of the best spots to see it is Boot Springs, reached by a trail that begins near the lodge. An eleven-mile trail.

We left before first light, each carrying about a gallon of water. The Pinnacles Trail climbs through pink-barked madrone trees, agaves and Arizona pines. It was just barely light when we surprised a Common Hog-nosed Skunk; black with an all-white back and tail—beautiful but really annoyed. He stamped both feet to warn us he was about to spray, but, as we froze, he thought better of it, the little sweetie, and turned downhill.

As the trail climbs, the vegetation gets greener and the trees taller. The view at Pinnacle Pass—1,700 feet above our starting point—was spectacular. Bill spotted a Zone-tailed Hawk, perched on a limb near Emory Peak. As we watched, a Turkey Vulture flew in and bumped him off his perch. Now we heard our Colimas in the distance. Then Janet spotted one. I had been worried that I wouldn't recognize the song, or that the bird would be too drab to distinguish from its surroundings. But not the Colima. It's in the same genus as the Nashville, but an inch bigger; active, big eye ring, and an attitude. On the other side of the pass, we found another pair and were able to watch them for a long time.



*I got a bird that whistles; a bird that sings.
I got a bird that whistles; a bird that sings.
But if I ain't got Colima, it don't mean a
thing.*

Colima, Colima! Where ya been so long?

By now we could see the strange rock formation that gives the spring its name—it looks like an upside down cowboy boot. The spring is cool, surrounded by lush vegetation. In the trees, we heard whistling. It was the Arnold Swartzenegger of hummers, the Blue-throated Hummingbird. These guys are 5" long, with an upright posture and a loud voice. We had lunch, but didn't linger. The return hike via Colima Trail has views that were just as spectacular. When I finally limped around that last bend in the trail, a Hepatic Tanager was waiting at the lodge to welcome us home. OK, maybe it wasn't there to welcome us, but it was there anyway and it brought a smile to our faces—well, most of our faces.

Our last morning in Big Bend we hiked to Cattail Falls. There really is a waterfall, but it's a dry climb to get there. Along the way we enjoyed watching Black-throated Sparrows, a bird that uses less water than any other in the hemisphere.

After leaving Big Bend, we headed north to Davis County. One of our first

stops in Fort Davis was the backyard of Kelly Bryan, whom Bill had contacted ahead of time. He had lots of action at his nectar feeders, including a first-year male Broad-billed Hummingbird. He also told us where to look on Limpia Creek for an active Common Black-Hawk nest. From the road, we saw the adults and two chicks. We stayed at Fort Davis State Park. Here is a feeding station that attracts not only javelina but Montezuma Quail. Through the blind, we observed them at close range.

Cassin's Kingbirds, Western Scrub Jays, Turkey Vultures, White-winged Doves and Eastern Meadowlarks were abundant in Davis County. We had looked long and hard for Black-chinned Sparrows in Big Bend. We finally got them in the Davis Mountains, along with the strange sight of an Acorn Woodpecker buried up to his red crown in a yellow agave blossom. In a dry field north of Marathon, Bill managed to find singing Cassin's Sparrows for us. Cruising the grasslands we had a good look at Chihuahuan Raven.

Let it not be said that we neglected local culture on this trip. We toured Marfa; famous as the reference point on Weather Channel maps and, of course, for its extraterrestrial "Marfa Lights." We especially enjoyed the DQ, where for an extra 25¢ I got a chopped jalapeño on my burger. In Fort Davis, *the* place to eat—just ask Lyle Lovett—is Indian Emily's. I recommend the Geronimo breakfast; that's eggs with chorizo.

We took a birding break one afternoon to tour historic Fort Davis. Many of the buildings from the garrison's busiest period, 1867–81, are still standing and some have been restored. Situated between Sleeping Lion Mountain and Limpia Creek, the fort was established to protect wagon trains and commercial traffic during the gold rush. We've all seen westerns where the Apaches pour over the canyon walls to

attack the cavalry below. That's exactly what happened at Fort Davis, but here, unlike the Hollywood version, the Indian fighters were black. Frederick Remington depicted the military campaigns and everyday life of these soldiers in his sketches and paintings.

The last day we visited Lake Balmorhea. It seemed strange to see a Gaelic name on a sign in this region of Tex-Mex culture; even stranger that locals use the Gaelic pronunciation: "Bal-more-AY." Ironically, it means "Big Town." The lake is large and attracts migrant shorebirds and waterbirds. With careful scoping we found Western and Clark's Grebes, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Western and Least Sandpipers and Snowy Plover.

Here are the stats: 8 species of reptile, 18 mammals and 178 species of birds in our 10-day trip. Turkey Vulture, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, N. Mockingbird and House Finch were the only birds that we recorded each of the 10 days. Here's what I think of most: The Lucifer Hummingbird fighting a chilly wind at a feeder on Mount Locke near Ft. Davis. The hot-pink-colored coachwhip snake near Castolon in Big Bend. The Elf Owl's bark. The Raven's echo in Santa Elena Canyon. A million bats flying by my face. Acres of Painted Buntings. And, barbecue.

Thanks to Bill Rowe, Dorcas Sunderman, and the invisible man, Mike Thelen for their help with this article. In transcribing my voluminous notes, my fine staff must have missed his name in the list of trip participants. In fact, Mike has contributed even more data that I neglected to mention. See next article. ∞

Little Known and Seldom Seen Birds of the Barbeque Country

Mike Thelen

Birds

- Flatulated Owl (serious discussion of the call of this bird)
Stark Raven (observed by Bill Rowe, I believe in Big Bend National Park)
Fly-throated Ash (species of flying tree observed by one participant near the Chisos Basin sewage lagoon)
Chisler Sparrow (he owes me money)
Thistle Crasher (lonely species of scrub-dwelling bird; difficult to locate; like tap recorders)
Hysterical Tanager (species of bird living near Chisos camp lodge rooms and parking lot; made neurotic by noisy tourists)
Coil-billed Thrasher (I think you saw this one)
Squaled Cail (handsome, smooth-talking quail birds that scurry along fence lines)
Road Raptor (a magnificent bird; hybrid of the Greater Roadrunner and Velociraptor; a common sight on our trip)

Other Animals

- Shadow Snake (observed by Kent Lannert; the snake was uniformly blackish and remarkably linear in appearance; this species is always found on the ground and only during daylight hours)
Sign Deer (pretty much self-explanatory; observed by Kent Lannert at Davis Mtns. State Park)
Prolonged Antelope (common quadruped of the West) ~

Next Deadline: Nov. 6



Since we mail our publication on the third Monday and the month begins on a Sunday, we have an early deadline for the next issue. Submissions—handwritten, typed, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122. Computer wizards: Thanks for sending a printout along with your disk. ~

Sigma Xi Seminars

Sigma Xi Science Seminars are co-sponsored by the St. Louis Zoo and the Academy of Science, on Wed. evenings, 7:30–9 PM, at the Living World, on the north side of the zoo. Free parking is available in the zoo's north lot. All events are free. For further information, call 768-5466 or 533-8083.

- Nov. 4: "Elementary Particles," Dr. Carl Bender, Washington Univ
Jan. 13: Forestry in the Ozarks
Feb. 10: Textile Conservation
March 10: Paddlefish ~

Tyson Nature Line

Call 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Due to the passing of Jack Van Benthuyzen, please report any unusual birds to Connie Alwood, 524-8111. ~

Need directions?

Forest Park, Kennedy Forest

- Highway 40 to Hampton north, follow signs to St. Louis Zoo's Living World. Kennedy Forest is about 1/4 mi. West.

Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area

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

West County Shopping Center

- Located at 270 & Manchester.
- Meet at the south (lower) parking lot, near Penney's, at lamp post #1.

1997-8 WGNSS Board

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Member at Large: Jim Ziebol, 3900 Berger Ave., St. Louis MO 63109 781-7372. ~

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Taxpayers Against Page Freeway

The following municipalities, groups and individuals have publicly expressed opinion on opposition the construction the Page Avenue Freeway. This does not imply that all of them have formally endorsed this campaign

Missouri Coalition for the Environment

Sierra Club, Eastern Missouri Group

St. Louis County Municipal League

Churches United for Community Action (CUCA)

Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region

St. Louis Audubon Society

City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, City of Black Jack,

City of Clayton, City of Dellwood, City of

Ferguson, City of Florissant, City of Glendale,

City of Hazelwood, City of MacKenzie, City of

Maplewood, City of Normandy, City of

Northwoods, City of Pagedale, City of Pasadena

Hills, City of St. Ann, City of St. John, City of

Shrewsbury, City of University City, City of

Vinita Park, City of Wildwood, City of Woodson

Terrace

Former Mayors Terry Williams (Webster Groves),

Ben Uchitelle (Clayton) and Mayor Joseph

Adams (University City)

Former Congressman Robert Young

State Senators Bill Clay, Jr., Wayne Goode

State Representatives Joan Bray, Rita Days, Chris

Uese, Sue Shear, Carol Stroker, Lana Stokan

Missouri Native Plant Society

Gateway Green Alliance

Mississippi River Basin Alliance

Keep Kirkwood Green

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Missouri Public Interest Research Group

(MOPIRG)

North County, Inc.

Florissant Valley Chamber of Commerce

Presbyterians for Restoring Creation

Metropolitan Congregations United for St. Louis

Wesley House Environmental Program

Editorial Department of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The Riverfront Times

South County Citizens Association

Civic Leaders H. Meade Summers, Jr., Emily Rauh

Pulitzer and Tom Schafly

Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

Taxpayers Against Page Freeway

Facts and Figures

Environment

- ◆ The proposed 10-lane Page Freeway would slice through Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park. A bridge over the southern end of the lake would destroy the bluff and 400 year old trees.
- ◆ Both noise and air pollution caused by the freeway would detract from the value of the park, destroying the peaceful atmosphere as well as degrading wetlands and animal habitat.
- ◆ The state would be forced to add 1000 acres to the park, but the bargain would be a poor one. Taxpayers are being asked to accept flat cornfields in exchange for high quality scenic park land. The new Page Freeway would run the entire length of this additional land.
- ◆ The road would be in the flood plain, designed to flood regularly and would stimulate additional risky floodplain development.

Taxes

- ◆ The taxes budgeted for the Page Bridge and Freeway could be spent on extending MetroLink, repairing the existing, crumbling roads and bridges and improving highway safety.
- ◆ Our opponents argue that the \$900 million in federal and state taxes would leave the region if voters rejected the proposal. But according to a written agreement between the state and East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, **THE MONEY MUST STAY IN THE REGION!**
- ◆ A majority of the money that has already been spent by the highway department has been used to buy land, money that could be recovered if the project were stopped. In a similar situation when voters stopped the Meramec Dam in 1978, a vast majority of the money was recovered.

Traffic

- ◆ Transportation planners, even State highway officials agree **YOU CAN'T BUILD YOUR WAY OUT OF CONGESTION!** After four decades of building expressways in St. Louis, we can all see traffic congestion has only gotten worse.
- ◆ Recently, Route 370 opened across the Missouri River, adding 6 more lanes. There are also plans to expand the Daniel Boone Bridge (I-64, US 40). By building those additional lanes and using traffic management techniques--signage, reversible lanes, express lanes--traffic congestion can be reduced and the money for the Page project used for better purposes such as MetroLink, replacement and safety.

PAID FOR BY TAXPAYERS AGAINST PAGE FREEWAY
Dale Hartmann, Treasurer



TAXPAYERS AGAINST PAGE FREEWAY

325 North Kirkwood Road, #100
Kirkwood MO 63122
314-909-0890

6267 Delmar Boulevard, #2-E
University City MO 63130
314-727-0600

September 25, 1998

Dear Friend,

Taxpayers Against Page Freeway, a coalition of 85 churches, 84 cities, and numerous civic and environmental groups and individuals, asks for your financial help. Nothing less than the future of sustainable development in the region is at stake as voters in St. Louis County make their choice on Proposition 1 on the ballot November 3.

With less than six weeks to go in the campaign to save Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park -- by stopping the Page Avenue Bridge and Freeway -- we are asking that you make as large a contribution as you can afford.

Whether or not you live and vote in St. Louis County, please consider the following about how this important decision will affect the quality of life for you and your neighbors in this region:

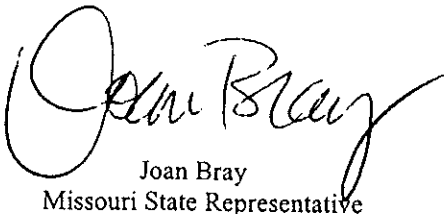
- A ten-lane bridge and freeway will plow across the lake and park, tearing down trees up to 400 years old, destroying wetlands, and causing air, sight and noise pollution throughout the park.
- The \$1 billion price tag for the project will gobble up one-third of all transportation tax dollars for the region each year for the foreseeable future.
- Those taxes would be better spent on other transportation projects. Because of a written agreement between the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council and the Missouri Department of Transportation the money must be spent on projects in the St. Louis region.
- The best way to relieve traffic congestion in the region is to spend our transportation taxes building more MetroLink lines, repairing and expanding existing roads and bridges throughout the region and making those roads safer.

Taxpayers Against Page Freeway needs your support. You may help in several ways:

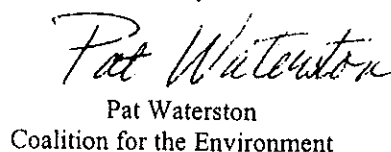
1. Vote NO on Prop 1 in St. Louis County on November 3.
2. Send a contribution today to "Taxpayers Against Page Freeway," 6267 Delmar Blvd, 2-E, St. Louis, MO 63130. Our opponents frankly state that they will have \$750,000 to persuade the voters to vote their way. We are a grassroots campaign. Every \$1, \$10, \$100, \$1,000, \$10,000 (etc.) counts.
3. Volunteer to be one of the grass roots by calling 727-0600. We have lots of work to be done!

Help save Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park and bring rational use of transportation taxes to the St. Louis region.

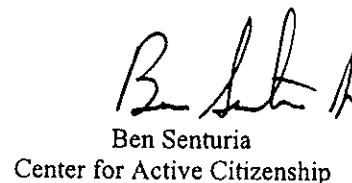
Sincerely,



Joan Bray
Missouri State Representative



Pat Waterston
Coalition for the Environment



Ben Senturia
Center for Active Citizenship

STEERING COMMITTEE

Churches United for Community Action (CUCA) Eastern Missouri Sierra Club Metropolitan Congregations United for St. Louis
Missouri Coalition for the Environment Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region State Representative Joan Bray
St. Louis Audubon Society St. Louis County Municipal League South County Citizens Association

PAID FOR BY TAXPAYERS AGAINST PAGE FREEWAY; DALE HARTMANN, TREASURER

Meetings

Wednesday, Nov. 4

7:00-8:30 PM Board meeting at Kirkwood Library on Jefferson in Kirkwood. All members welcome.

Friday, Nov. 13

8:00 at St. Louis Co. Library HQ; our guest speaker will be George Yatskievych, author of the revised *Flora of Missouri*. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Botany

Beginners are welcome. Bring lunch, drink, insect repellent & weather gear.

Thursdays Oct.-Nov.

Field trips usually meet at 9:30 AM; trip is normally 3-5 hr. plus travel time. Led by Fr. James Sullivan. Call Catherine Filla, 481-5298, after 5 PM Wed. for location.

Saturdays Oct. 24

10-3:00 Gordon Moore Park, Hwy. 111 east of Alton IL. Meet at the park to collect seed for Forest Park Savanna Restoration.

Entomology

Sunday, Oct. 25

7-9:00 PM at Magner's. Jane Stevens will tell us about the next "oh wow!" exhibit at the Zoo!

Birding

Open to all. For more information, call David Becher 576-1146. Bring lunch.

Saturday, Sept. 26

7:30 AM Tower Grove Park; meet at first picnic area west of tennis courts. Bring lunch.

Thursdays Oct.

8:30 AM West County. See above. Note time change.

Saturdays Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 14, 28

8:00 AM West County. See above.

Saturday Nov. 21

8:00 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond.

Saturday Nov. 7 & Sun. Nov. 15


8:00 AM WGNSS/Audubon birdwalk at Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond. Dress for the weather and bring your scopes. Call Jim Malone 314-536-1119 or Paul Bauer 921-3972 for more information.

Saturday Dec. 5

9:00 AM WGNSS/Audubon birdwalk at Horseshoe Lake. Meet at Hwy. 111 side at the picnic/playground area. Call Jim Malone 314-536-1119 for more info.

Deadline for Nature Notes

Friday, Nov. 6

 Webster Groves
Nature Study Society
PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

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1338 EAGLEBROOK CT
MANCHESTER MO 63021



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ociety

WGNSS:	PO Box 190065, St. Louis MO 63119
President:	Sue Gustafson, 9007 N. Swan Circle, St. Louis MO 63144
1 st Vice Pres:	Doug Corbett, 702 C Overlook Dr., Manchester MO 63021
2 nd Vice Pres:	Vicki Flier, 18 Algonquin Wood, St. Louis MO 63122
Treasurer:	Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132
Secretary:	Dora Gianoulakis, 44 Clearview Park, St. Louis MO 63138
Editor:	Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122
Membership:	Linda Virga, 9734 Antonia Dr., St. Louis MO 63123

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.

established in 1920