



Nature Notes

314-935-8432

Call the Nature Line for meeting times and bird sightings.

www.wgnss.org

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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Good Books and Good Cheer at the Holiday Party

Pat McCormick

December 7 1-4 PM Green Center, 8025 Blackberry Ave., University City

The St. Louis Audubon Society and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society are invited to gather at the Green Center in University City to celebrate the holidays. Seven author-members plan to attend the Holiday Open House: Paul Bauer, Kay Yatskievych, Randy Korotev, Jim Jackson, Robert Rubright, Doug Ladd, David Snetsinger.

Each author will bring copies of his or her book for sale and signing. Members may purchase *Bird of the St. Louis Area; Where and When to Find Them*, published by WGNSS for only \$12.

The Green Center with its central location makes a pleasant destination for renewing old friendships and chatting about our favorite topic, the natural world. Please bring an appetizer, a dessert or a casserole to share. The Center's kitchen has an oven and microwave for warming food. Beverages will be provided. Let's begin the holidays together with good books and delicious food in a new setting.

Directions from Highway 40: Turn north on Hanley Rd. and continue to Delmar Blvd. Continue on Hanley to Blackberry Ave., the fourth street north of Delmar. Turn left (west) on Blackberry. Parking is available in Kaufman Park parking lot next to the Center. 🐦

Pere Marquette Christmas Bird Count on December 20

The Pere Marquette State Park Xmas Count will be Saturday, Dec. 20. Some areas will be preassigned, other will meet at the park lodge at 7:30 AM. Contact Irene Mondhink, 618-885-5233, or Helen Wuestenfeld, 618-498-5335, for more info.

Orchard Farm Bird Count Jan. 1

Randy Korotev

We will do the Orchard Farm, St. Charles Co., Christmas Bird Count on Thursday, January 1, 8 AM. Please contact me at <rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu> if you would like to participate. Alternatively, you will soon be able to register for any and all CBCs and prepay (!) the \$5 fee at the Audubon CBC web site:

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

Busch Wildlife Count Jan. 3

The Busch Wildlife Area Xmas Count will be Saturday, Jan. 3. Bring lunch and meet at the headquarters building at 8:00 AM. Contact Tom Parmeter, 314-921-6017.

Mingo Bird Count Dec. 27

Paul Bauer

This year's Mingo Xmas Bird Count is on Saturday, December 27. In southeast Missouri, the most exciting year-round

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Mingo Bird Count Dec. 27 cont.

birding area is Mingo NWR, flanked by Duck Creek Conservation Area and Lake Wappapello State Park. This count has exceeded 100 bird species in recent years—will it break a new record this year? Help make it possible and join the adventure.

On Count Day, meet at 6 AM at Mel's Diner, which is located at 251 E. Richardson in Puxico, a couple of blocks east (left) of the yellow flashing light on Highway 51. After breakfast and assignments, teams will begin count at 7 AM and will report back to the restaurant at the end of Count Day, about 5 PM. The participation fee of \$5 per person will be collected at the time of sign-up on count Day.

If you intend to participate, please notify Bill Reeves by December 20, so that he can organize count groups. Call him at 573-760-8810 (office); 573-75-2994 (home). If you want lodging for Friday night at a local motel in nearby Wappapello, Mo., contact Miller's Motor Lodge, 573-222-8579. They are located 2 miles south of Wappapello Dam on Hwy. T and are confirmed to be open on these dates. If you need directions or maps to get to Puxico or Wappapello, contact Paul Bauer at 314-921-3972. 🦋

Dates for '03-'04 Meetings

- 🦋 Thurs., Nov. 20, "Birds of SE Asia," W. Liddel, at St. L. Co. Library-HQ 7:00 PM
- 🦋 Sun., December 7, Green Center 1-4 PM
8025 Blackberry Ave., University City
- 🦋 Jan. 15, 2004 (3rd Th. because the first Th. is Jan. 1 and another group has the 2nd Th. reserved) St. L. Co. Library -HQ 7:00 PM
- 🦋 Feb. 13 -joint meeting with St. L. Audubon at Creve Coeur Govt. Center 7:30 PM
Topic: Prairie Chickens, presented by Mo. Dept. of Conservation. Note different time and place of this meeting.
- 🦋 All the rest of these dates are 1st Thursday:
March 4 St. L. Co. Library -HQ 7:00 PM
April 1 - East Room St. L. Co. L-HQ 7:00 PM
Sept. 2 St. L. Co. Library -HQ 7:00 PM
Oct. 7 St. L. Co. Library -HQ 7:00 PM
Nov. 4 St. L. Co. Library -HQ 7:00 PM

🦋 Inclement weather? Call St. Louis County Library Headquarters 314-994-3300 to ask if the meeting has been cancelled. For board meetings, call Powder Valley, 314-301-1500.

Botany Walk On Dec. 13

Jeannie Moe will lead a weekend Botany Walk for Beginners on Saturday, December 13. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Visitors' Center at Rockwoods Conservation Area in west St. Louis County. The hike will be moderately strenuous. Jeannie has a Master's degree in Botany and regularly attends the Thursday Botany Walks led by Father Sullivan and Jack and Pat Harris. Thank you, Jeannie, for expanding opportunities for WGNSS members to botanize on the weekends, too! 🦋

Summer Botanizing

Carl Darigo

The Thursday Botany Trips continued throughout the summer, with following attending one or more weeks, Father James Sullivan, Kyle Baughman, Marvin Boisseau, David Bruns, Jeanne & Gene Clauson, Carl Darigo, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Joyce & Bill Davit, Jane Deschu, Les Ehler, Dorothy & Ed Emery, Elaine Fortner, Meg Griffin, Sue Gustafson, Pat & Jack Harris, Nels Holmberg & grandson David Jespersen, Carol Hurrelmeyer, Del Johnson, Gladys Kullman, Michele Lee, Ruth & Larry Lewis, Edith Mertzluft, Jeannie & Jim Moe, Fran & Tom O'Gorman, John Oliver & daughter Lindsey, Susan Orr, Craig Paradise, Nathan Pate, John Ruprecht, Pete Seale, Al Seppi, Marc Tolcou, James Trager, Linda Varga and Dave Weber.

June 5, Hawn State Park, Ste. Genevieve County—five people checked out parts of both the Whispering Pines and Pickle Creek Trails, with perfect weather, 75° and sunny. The announced trip goal, which was to locate *Malaxis unifolia* (green adder's mouth), was barely met, as only one orchid was seen. However, to compensate, Nathan Pate did find another orchid species, *Liparis liliifolia* (large twayblade). Among other plants seen were *Scutellaria elliptica* (hairy skullcap), *Krigia biflora* (false dandelion), *Gillenia stipulata* (Indian physic), *Galium concinnum* (shining bedstraw), *Hedyotis longifolia* (long leaf bluets), *Mitchella repens* (partridge berry), *Ruellia pedunculata* (stalked ruellia) and



Cirsium carolinianum (Carolina thistle); sedges found included *Carex granularis* (pale) and *C. amphibola* (gray). Father Sullivan spotted spoon leaf peat moss (*Sphagnum palustre*) near the creek and Nathan pointed out several large growths of chicken mushroom (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) fungi growing on a dead log. This fungus is also called sulfur shelf, due to the orange, overlapping lobes and is a succulent edible, actually tasting like chicken.

June 12, Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles County—eight persons dodged the week's prevalent thunderstorms to hike the Hackberry Trail, on a warm, 80° day. Unfortunately, what was once a decent trail has suffered neglect and has become completely overgrown. Nevertheless, some interesting plants were seen, the best being *Penstemon digitalis* (smooth beard tongue); also found were quite a few Deptford pink (*Dianthus armeria*), which is a non-native, but has a delicate red flower. Some time was spent near the parking lot keying *Erigeron strigosus* (daisy fleabane), *Carduus nutans* (musk thistle) and *Trifolium campestre* (large hop clover). What Tom O'Gorman at first thought to be pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) leaves, instead turned out to be a huge poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) vine, complete with the characteristic white berries. John Oliver pointed out the yellowish-white flowers of *Cornus drummondii* (rough leaf dogwood), then later found the native *Plantago rugelii* (broad leaf plantain), as evidenced by leaf petioles with purplish bases. Gladys Kullman spotted brown, slimy wood ears (*Auricularia aricula*) on a dead branch; despite the unappetizing appearance, these fungi are reputed to be good soup ingredients. Fairly abundant throughout the trail were *Scirpus georgianus* (smooth common bulrush), *Panicum oligosanthos* (Scribner's panic grass) and *Carex hirsutella* (hirsute sedge).

June 19, Weldon Spring Conservation Area, St. Charles County—six persons waited out a warm 75° rain shower before starting the Lost Valley Trail. The parking area borders sported *Coreopsis tripteris* (tall tickseed) and quite a few *Ruellia strepens* (smooth ruellia). Several nice stands of prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*) and Ohio horse mint (*Blephilia ciliata*) were seen along the trail. Among the lush greenery, but with no flowers yet, were huge leaves of *Arctium minus*

(burdock), lots of *Laportea canadensis* (wood nettle) and an abundance of *Impatiens sp.* (touch-me-not). Nels Holmberg's grandson, two year old David, did manage to find and pop a touch-me-not pod, but also brushed a nettle stem, so the touch-me-not leaves were put to good purpose. Sedges found were *Carex sparganioides* (bur reed), *C. conjuncta* (soft fox) and *C. frankii* (bristly cattail). Tom O'Gorman kept everyone current on butterflies, spotting red admiral (*Vanessa rubria*), eastern tailed blue (*Everes comyntas*), pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) and zebra (*Heliconius charitonius*). Tom also steered the group away from a wrong turn on the way back to the cars.

June 26, St. Francois State Park, St. Francois County—only four stalwarts, including 1st timer Larry Lewis, checked out the fen on the park's north end; an early morning rain cooled temperatures to the low 70's and also managed to soak the terrain and vegetation, which soon transferred to the visitors. Best plants of the day were grass pink orchid (*Calypogon tuberosus*) and queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*). Other interesting species found were *Asclepias purpurascens* (purple milkweed), *A. tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *Ludwigia palustris* (water purslane), *Stylosanthes biflora* (pencil flower), *Tephrosia virginiana* (goat's rue), *Oxypolis rigidior* (cowbane), *Thalictrum revolutum* (wax leaf meadow rue) and *Vaccinium pallidum* (lowbush blueberry). Numerous ferns were seen, including *Adiantum pedatum* (northern maidenhair), *Botrychium virginianum* (rattlesnake), *Thelypteris palustris* (marsh) and *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas).

July 3, Lower Meramec River Park, St. Louis County—the season's hottest day @ 95° didn't deter a large group of 14, including new member Ruth Lewis, in walking the Meramec River trail. This urban site, which had quite a bit of standing water alongside the trail due to recent rains, continues to show a surprisingly large number of native plants. The group was happy to find that the bearsfoot (*Smallanthus uvedalius*) had survived last year's trail widening project. *Teucrium canadense* (wood sage) and *Elymus virginicus* (Virginia wild rye) were abundant. Among other nice plants seen were *Stachys tenuifolia* (thinleaf betony), *Mimulus alatus* (sharpwing monkey flower), *Alisma subcordatum* (southern water plantain), *Spermacoce*

glabra (smooth buttonweed), *Lobelia inflata* (Indian tobacco), *Solanum ptycanthum* (black nightshade), *Onoclea sensibilis* (sensitive fern), *Strophostyles helvola* (trailing wild bean), *Tragopogon pratensis* (goat's beard), *Blephilia hirsuta* (wood mint) and *Amaranthus rudis* (water hemp). Representing the Cyperaceae family were *Eleocharis ovata* (blunt spike rush), *Carex grayii* (spaceship sedge), *C. muehlenbergii* (Muehlenberg's sedge) and *C. rosea* (spaced sedge). Father Sullivan came up with an insect "test," with Larry Lewis successfully identifying a Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*).

July 10, Little Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis County—under an 85° sun, 11 people trekked to the lake, over a gooey, muddy dirt road, doused by the previous night's rain. *Eragrostis minor* (little love grass) was conspicuous in the gravel parking area. Interesting plants seen along the road included *Coreopsis tinctoria* (plains coreopsis), *Verbena bracteata* (creeping vervain), *Torilis arvensis* (hedge parsley), *Agrostis perennans* (inland bent), *Ratibida pinnata* (grayhead prairie coneflower), *Sonchus asper* (prickly sow thistle), *Carex frankii* (bristly cattail sedge) and *Phyla lanceolata* (northern fog fruit). A nearby cyclone fence was draped with fruiting clusters of sand grape (*Vitis rupestris*). Jack Harris braved the marshy lake shore to come up with *Penthorum sedoides* (ditch stonecrop) and *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* (great bulrush). A green heron and great blue heron were seen in the lake, while a yellow-throated warbler called from a nearby tree.

July 17, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, St. Louis County—a large group of 19 assembled under a hot, 90° sun, to walk a new trail along the Mississippi River, south from the Confluence parking area. The river, although very close, was not visible due to massed foliage, mainly the exotics, Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) and Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*). Nevertheless, numerous interesting plants were seen, including *Ammannia coccinea* (long leaf tooth cup), *Lindernia dubia* (false pimpernel), aromatic *Artemisia annua* (sweet wormwood), *Polygonum lapathifolium* (pale smartweed), *P. amphibium* (water smartweed), *Hackelia virginiana* (Virginia stickseed), *Physalis longifolia* (common ground cherry), *Mimulus alatus* (sharpwing monkey flower), *M. ringens* (Allegheny monkey flower), *Asclepias syriaca*

(common milkweed), *Verbena hastata* (blue vervain) and *Apocynum medium* (intermediate dogbane). Nels Holmberg found *Carex hyalinolepis* (clear scale sedge) and *Cenchrus longispinus* (sandbur), while David Bruns spotted two plants of the nefarious purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Jeannie Moe and Craig Paradise pointed out the colorful, copper bronze (*Hyllolycaena hyllus*) butterfly. Along the entrance road, Father Sullivan called attention to a huge field of yellow black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*).

July 24, Rodey Farm, Gasconade County—on a pleasant, sunny, 75° day, 14 members were guests of Greg Rodey (Jeanne Clauson's son) at his farm near Bland MO. Numerous interesting plants were seen in fields near the farmhouse, including *Apocynum androsaemifolium* (spreading dogbane), *Helennium flexuosum* (purple head sneezeweed), *Asclepias hirtella* (prairie milkweed), *A. tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *A. verticillata* (whorled milkweed), *Lysimachia lanceolata* (lance leaf loosestrife), *Carex bushii* (long scale sedge), *Lobelia spicata* (spiked lobelia), *Sabatia angularis* (rose pink), *Polygala sanguinea* (field milkwort) and *Liatris pycnostachya* (button snakeroot). Field keying determined two goldenrods, Missouri (*Solidago missouriensis*) and elm leaf (*S. ulmifolia*). Several notables past flowering were lance leaf ragweed (*Ambrosia bidentata*), smooth beard tongue (*Penstemon digitalis*) and ragged orchis (*Platanthera lacera*). Two surprised quail tried to lead the human invaders away from their nest.

July 31, Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin County—on a pleasant, sunny day, a group of 19, including John Oliver's daughter Lindsey and long-absent Marc Tolcou, descended on James Trager's wetlands. Among nice species seen were *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (sweet coneflower), *Mimulus ringens* (Allegheny monkey flower), *Silphium laciniatum* (compass plant), *S. integrifolium* (rosinweed), *Baptisia alba* (white wild indigo), *Vernonia missurica* (Missouri ironweed), *Sium suave* (water parsley), *Coreopsis tripteris* (tall tickseed), *Solidago juncea* (early goldenrod), *Silene regia* (royal catchfly), *Callirhoe involucrata* (purple poppy mallow), *Scutellaria incana* (hoary skullcap), *Veronicastrum virginicum* (culver's root) and *Agalinis tenuifolia* (slender gerardia). Water-loving plants included floating primrose willow (*Ludwigia*



peplodes), lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*), spatterdock (*Nuphar lutea*), pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*), thalia (*Thalia dealbata*) and fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*). Also found were *Carex frankii* (bristly cattail sedge), *C. lupulina* (hop sedge) and *Juncus interior* (inland rush).

August 7, St. Joe State Park, St. Francois County—eight members enjoyed a trek on the partially shaded asphalt trail, east from the Blankshire trailhead, on a sunny, 85° day. The hybrid vervain (*Verbena x moechina*), a cross between *V. stricta* and *V. simplex*, caused much discussion among the group. Other interesting plants seen included *Ruellia humilis* (fringeleaf ruellia), *Asclepias verticillata* (whorled milkweed), *Cuphea viscosissima* (clammy cuphea), *Liatris squarrosa* (scaly blazing star), *L. aspera* (rough blazing star), *Vernonia baldwinii* (Baldwin's ironweed), *Ludwigia alternifolia* (bushy seedbox), *Lobelia spicata* (spiked lobelia), *Helianthus hirsutus* (bristly sunflower), *Diodia teres* (rough buttonweed) and *Stylosanthes biflora* (pencil flower). *Panicum anceps* (beaked panic grass) was abundant along the trail; other grasses found were *Eragrostis spectabilis* (purple love grass) and *E. capillaris* (lace grass). Spikelets of the latter often suffer from a white, cottony, aphid infestation. No one was able to answer a test on slender cottonweed (*Froelichia gracilis*). Father Sullivan spotted stilt bugs (*Jaly-sus sp.*) on *Gaura longiflora* (large flower gaura) and web worms (*Saucrobotys futilalis*) on *Apocynum androsaemifolium* (spreading dogbane).

August 14, Rockwoods Reservation, St. Louis County—Rockwoods always draws a good crowd, as 19, including 1st timers Carol Hurrelmeyer and Michele Lee, assembled to tour the Rock Quarry Trail on a muggy, 85° day. A special guest was Dr. Les Ehler from the University of California @ Davis, who was on a Midwest collecting trip for red oak (*Quercus rubra*) aphids (*Myzocallis walshii*) and their parasite wasp. While Dr. Ehler found no aphids, which are generally springtime dwellers, he did spot pupae of the parasite wasp. Dr. Ehler will try to grow the pupae into wasps, which are presently un-named, with the eventual possibility of introducing into the California environment to control the aphids. California has an introduced red oak population, complete with aphids, but no predators, resulting

in the aphids dropping much goo and glop onto people, cars, lawns and sidewalks. Before starting the walk, Wayne Clark brought along a backyard vine which Jack Harris keyed to *Vitis cinerea* (grayback grape). Seen along the road were *Verbesina alternifolia* (yellow ironweed), *Campanula americana* (tall bellflower) and *Cirsium altissimum* (tall thistle).

August 21, Dresser Island Access, St. Charles County—a surprisingly large group of 14, including Nels Holmberg's 3rd grader neighbor, Kyle Baughman, turned out on the summer's hottest day, to tour a forest road west along the island's slough. When the road reached an unshaded meadow filled with 15 feet tall, pollen-laden, giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), a prudent decision was made to leave the 95°+ field and return to an air-conditioned restaurant, thus avoiding the record 104° set later in the afternoon. A survey of the parking lot and adjacent slough revealed numerous interesting species, including *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), *Sida spinosa* (prickly sida), *Sicyos angulatus* (bur cucumber), *Cardiospermum halicacabum* (balloon vine), *Iva annua* (marsh elder) and *Lemna minor* (lesser duckweed). Father Sullivan spotted one *Boltonia decurrens* (decurrent false aster) plant and Nathan Pate found the uncommon Mexican mosquito fern (*Azolla mexicana*) at the water's edge. Along the island's road, *Physostegia virginiana* (obedient plant) and *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (showy partridge pea) were abundant. Other species noted were *Cuscuta gronovii* (common dodder), *Eclipta prostrata* (yerba de tajo), *Ammannia coccinea* (long leaf tooth cup), *Polygonum hydropiperoides* (wild water pepper) and a non-flowering *Forestiera acuminata* (swamp privet). Butterfly enthusiasts had a field day with many being seen, some of which were pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*), red admiral (*Vanessa rubria*), checkered skipper (*Pyr-gus communis*) and black form of the tiger swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus*), the latter identified by Jeannie Moe.

August 28, The Butterfly House—16 people turned out on a 90° day to tour several outside areas, then check out butterflies and plants in the Tropical Conservatory. A stroll through plantings just north of the building revealed nice stands of *Spartina pectinata* (prairie cord grass) and *Panicum virgatum* (switch grass).

Also here were *Eupatorium fistulosum* (Joe-pye weed) whose continuous purple stems differ from the more common *E. purpureum* with purple-jointed stems, a *Taxodium distichum* tree (bald cypress) with round green fruits, *Aster novae-angliae* (New England aster) and *A. laevis* (smooth aster), on which Jack Harris successfully answered Father Sullivan's test. Two prairie plantings revealed a fuzzy-fruited thistle which defied identification and abundant yellow sunflowers, thought to be Jerusalem artichokes (*Helianthus tuberosus*). Inside the lobby, a display showed leaf cutter ants (*Atta cephalotes*) busily carrying leaf parts to be ground and grown into a fungus which serves as food for the ant colony. The atlas moth (*Attacus atlas*) with wing tips resembling snake heads, had been designated "Butterfly of the Month" on the website, but none could be seen inside the Conservatory. The most common butterfly appeared to be the blue morpho (*Morpho peleides*). Long pink female flower spikes of chenille plant (*Acalypha hispida*) were prominent, as well as jungle geranium (*Ixora coccinea*) sporting large orange-pink flowers and black berries.

Thanks to Pat & Jack Harris for helping with this article. 🌿

December, 2003 Conservation Report

Yvonne Homeyer

Proposed Cement Plant: The appeals of the permits issued by the Corps of Engineers and the Land Reclamation (Mining) Commission of the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources are pending. Joining our legal team is Ann Alexander, an attorney with the Environmental Law and Policy Center, a public interest law firm in Chicago. ELPC will be representing WGNSS in addition to the Environmental Law Clinic of Washington University. In the state court appeal, Holcim, the Swiss-based cement company that wants to build a cement plant in Ste. Genevieve County, filed a Motion to Dismiss, which was argued in late October. Our side was ably represented by third-year law student Lindsay Puckett. The judge was persuaded by her arguments and denied Holcim's Motion. Thank you, Lindsay! The judge in each appeal will decide whether the permits should be upheld or overturned. 🌿

October 2003 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CC = Clarence Cannon

CL = Carlyle Lake

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

LCCL = Little Creve Coeur Lake

LVT = Lost Valley Trail

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

SNR = Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum)

TGP = Tower Grove Park

Introduction: WGNSS is proud to claim the distinction of having as members not only the number 1 bird lister in the world (Phoebe Snetsinger) but also the number 2 birder in the world—Pete Winter. Mr. Winter has seen a Harpy Eagle and a Philippine Monkey-eating Eagle carrying monkeys to its nestlings. These are two of his 7700+ bird species. Mr. Winter has noticed a marked decline in Ovenbirds, other warblers, vireos and Bobwhites at his farm in Franklin County. His new book, *Dawn Chorus: The Adventures of a Birdwatcher*, covers his birdwatching experiences from his World War II years in the Pacific to his present-day Bluebird conservation program at his farm. This book is a very good read and nicely complements Phoebe Snetsinger's posthumous memoirs, *Birding on Borrowed Time*.

Sightings: Two Common Loons were found at HL on 10/27 and a third joined them on 10/30 (FH). The Saturday Group found an Am. Bittern at REDA on 10/18 (RAB, J Ch, DB). Five Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at REDA on 10/5 (MT, DR). Snowy Egrets were last recorded at HL on 10/9 (FH) and 6 were at REDA on 10/11 (BR). Thirty-seven Great Egrets were still present on 10/26 off of Hwy. 3 (FH). Numbers of Pelicans in the area included 2,000+ at HL on 10/2 (T Be), 3500 at HL on 10/8 (FH), and 1000 at REDA on 10/10 (JM). On 10/18, 600+ Gadwalls and a few Wigeons were seen at HL (J Ch). Paul & Barbara Johnson located an Am. Black Duck at Gilbert Lake on 10/12. Many observers reported 8 to 10 Sora at the Causeway of HL on 10/11 (RAB, DB). The Thursday Group flushed a Sora at LCCL on 10/16 (J Ch). Six species of shorebirds were still in the area on 10/11 including 30 Stilt Sandpipers and 18 Long-billed Dowitchers at Gilbert Lake (MT, BR). David Becher reported



Bonaparte's, a few Franklin's, and one Herring Gull at CL on 10/5. Other sightings of Franklin's Gulls included 3 at REDA on 10/18 (J Ch, DB) and 35 near HL on 10/19 (BR).

The Thursday Group found 3 N. Harriers at LCCL on 10/16 (J Ch). The Thursday Group also observed a Bald Eagle at the Katy Trail Access on 10/30 (J Ch). Bill Rowe's class trip to B.K. Leach C.A. on 10/26 produced a total of 13 Bald Eagles and 12 N. Harriers. On 10/4, the Saturday Group found Sharp-shinned Hawk, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo and Bay-breasted Warbler at TGP (DB). Two Cooper's Hawks and a N. Harrier were seen at REDA on 10/5 (MT). Connie Alwood scoped an adult Cooper's Hawk and located 2 Osprey at BCA on 10/9. Jane Walker was still seeing single Broad-winged Hawks migrating over Tyson on 10/1. On 10/23, Osprey and Sharp-shinned Hawk were seen at BCA (J Ch, Th. Group). There were 3 sightings of Merlin at HL - on 10/1 (FH), Borrow Pit on 10/18 (G&TB), and 10/24 (T Be). At Clarence Cannon on 10/12, Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer saw a first-year Bald Eagle, Osprey, 2 N. Harriers, and 1 Broad-winged Hawk. David Becher and Bob Kleiger reported 2 Peregrine Falcons pursuing a flock of Dowitchers at REDA on 10/11.

Bill Rowe's birding class saw four Eurasian Collared Doves on 10/26 in Elsberry, MO (MT, BR). Mike Thelen found 4 Nighthawks at Powder Valley on 10/1. Two hundred-fifty Chimney Swifts were reported over Granite City on 10/10 (MP). High counts of Tree Swallows included 5,000+ at HL on 10/5 (SM, FH), 2,000+ at REDA on 10/5 (BR, MT), 3,500 on the wires along Bischoff Road on 10/6 (JZ) and 300+ at BCA on 10/27 (YH, JZ). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from BCA on 10/16 (CA) and on 10/18 (P&BJ). A Say's Phoebe was a first for CL and probably the second for the St. Louis area; it was seen on 10/31 (DK, AS CM). Marsh and Sedge Wrens were at LCCL on 10/6 (DB, RAB); they were numerous and well-reported throughout the St. Louis area all month. A male Black-throated Blue was located on 10/2 at TGP (JU). Bob McFall found several Yellow-rumped Warblers, an Orange-crowned Warbler, both Kinglets, and 2 Sapsuckers at TGP on 10/10. Fifty Yellow-rumps were seen at the Shorebird Area of BCA on 10/9 (CA). On 10/16, the Thursday Group found Black-

throated Green, Brown Creeper and 2 Hermit Thrush in TGP (J Ch). Sherry McCowan reported a Henslow's Sparrow at HL on 10/5. Sightings of LeConte's Sparrow included 5 at HL on 10/5 (FH, SM), 20+ at LCCL, along with a Sharp-tailed, on 10/10 (J&NS), 1 at LCCL on 10/16 (J Ch & Th. Group), 20+ at LCCL, along with 300 Swamp Sparrows, on 10/18 (CA), and 4 at HL on 10/19 (FH, Sunday Group). Josh Uffman located 4 Sharp-tailed Sparrows, 2 Bobolinks, and a Virginia Rail at LCCL on 10/2. On 10/26, Bill Rowe and his birding class found 5 LeConte's, 1 Nelson's Sharp-tailed, and 2 Grasshopper Sparrows at B.K. Leach CA in Lincoln County. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were also seen there on 10/4 (JM, J Cowan). One Clay-colored and 2 Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from the SLU campus on 10/6 (NB). Junco and Dickcissel were seen at REDA on 10/5 (MT). A Harris's Sparrow was a good find at HL on 10/12 (SM, FH). The first report of Vesper Sparrow came on 10/19 at Jefferson Barracks County Park (M Treffert). Paul & Barbara Johnson found a Fox Sparrow at Missouri Botanical Garden on 10/4. On 10/12, David Rogles and Mike Thelen found 10 species of sparrows at LCCL, including Henslow's and Clay-colored. In early October, Mary Anne Auer saw many LeConte's, a few Sharp-tailed, and a vocalizing Clay-colored Sparrow at LCCL. A male Purple Finch was seen at Weldon Springs C.A. on 10/16 (CA). A Rusty Blackbird and 20 Bobolinks were found at REDA on 10/25 (G&TB).

A typical day at HL on 10/5 included 8 Pied-billed Grebes, 150 Cormorants, 2,000+ Pelicans, 23 Pintails, 100+ Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, 5 Wood Ducks, 4 Ring-necked Ducks, Ruddy Duck, 250 Coots, 10 Sora, 500 Ring-billed Gulls, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Kestrel, Flicker, House Wren, 8 Sedge Wrens, 2 Marsh Wrens, Kingfisher, 5,000+ Tree Swallows, Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, 3 Common Yellowthroats, Palm Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, 5 LeConte's, 20 Savannah, 3 Song, White-crowned, 3 Lincoln's, 8 Swamps, 20 Goldfinch, 10 Indigo Buntings (SM, FH, JZ). A typical day at TGP on 10/2 included Ovenbird, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Redstart, 6 Nashville, 2 Winter Wrens, 2 Hermit Thrush, 1 Swainson's Thrush,

Blue-headed Vireo, both Kinglets, Lincoln's Sparrow, numerous White-throated Sparrows, 1 male Towhee, several Pewees, Empid sp. (?), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush 2 Summer Tanagers, White-breasted Nuthatch, Catbird and a Blue Jay (J Ch, MR, Th. Group).

Comments: On 10/15, Jeannie Moe identified a large number of Decurrent False Aster, *Boltonia decurrens*, near HL in Madison County. This plant is endangered in both Illinois and Missouri. A partial albino Tree Swallow, about 85% white, was seen at HL on 10/9 (FH, photo). On 10/9, Dennis Bozzay found 2 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 2 Nighthawks and a Catbird in his yard. On 10/11, Connie Alwood observed a Sharp-shinned Hawk being pursued and harassed by 6 Flickers and 2 Blue Jays. Trace Laux saw a flock of Cedar Waxwings at her home in Wildwood on 10/12. Pat Lueders saw an Osprey flying over her home on 10/15. On 10/2, Margy Terpstra heard 2 Barred Owls calling at her Kirkwood yard, and then observed one being harassed the next day. Sherry McCowan found a Swamp Sparrow at her Soulard home on 10/21. At his feeder in U City on 10/26, Randy Korotev had two Pine Siskins.

Contributor: Connie Alwood, Mary Anne Auer, Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Dennis Bozzay, Mike Brady, Jack Cowan, Jackie Chain, Jean Cook, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Bob Kleiger, Sherry McCowan, Bob McFall, Jim & Charlene Malone, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Mark Peters, Margie Richardson, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, Al Seppi, John & Nancy Solodar, Mike Treffert, Josh Uffman, Jane Walker, Jim Ziebol. An asterisk means "documented." Please submit sightings by the last day of the month to Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or Yvonne Homeyer homeyer@earthlink.net *

Next Deadline: November 7

Nature Notes publishes 10 issues a year, each mailed on the third Monday of the month. December starts on a Monday, so our next issue has the earliest possible deadline, December 5. To allow time for layout, printing, etc., the

deadline is always 10 days prior to the third Monday.

Submissions—handwritten or typed, e-mail, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 or amccormack@stjosephacad.org *

Ornithology For Birders

Dick Coles

From time to time, depending on student demand, I offer a for-credit course Avian Biology through the University College of Washington University. Special Auditors are most welcome and pay a lower fee. Next spring semester (Jan 20- May 13) the course will be offered on about 14 Tuesday evenings (7:30 - 9:00 PM) in the classroom at Tyson Research Center. All participants will have access to Tyson, not only for class, but also for birding etc. before class and at other times.

This class provides an introduction to the biology of birds. It does *not* focus on where to find birds or how to identify them. Instead, it presents a review of the behavior, ecology, anatomy, physiology, and evolution of the feathered dinosaurs, which we enjoy as a part of today's landscape.

We begin with a survey of most of the 28 orders of living birds from tinamous and ostriches to songbirds. Here we discuss adaptations, behaviors, and special features of each order, or group therein. When we cover the songbirds, we dig a little deeper in discussing most families found in North America. These sessions are supported by slides, a few audio tapes, and specimens from the collection at Tyson.

Then we explore the evolutionary history of birds and the remarkable process, which generated the wonderful diversity of avian life forms just reviewed and which enchant us today. Indeed, much of our understanding of evolution and natural selection was gained using birds as the raw material. We continue with discussions of the principles and mechanisms of flight (both on fixed wing and flapping). The structural adaptations which equip birds for flight are covered in discussions of feathers, skeleton, and muscles involved in flying and perching. The original function of feathers as thermal insulation leads us into discussions of energy relations,



metabolism, size limitations, thermoregulation, "hibernation" and torpor. We describe the unique structure and operation of the avian respiratory system that provides essential support for the intense energy processing achieved by birds. Adjustments by the respiratory and circulatory systems that permit diving and activity at high altitudes—30,000 ft!—are included here as well.

The impressive flight performances in migration are reviewed briefly and the sensory mechanisms used for navigation and orientation are explained and supported by reference to recent experiments.

We close the semester with discussions regarding the conservation status of example groups - particularly migratory waterfowl and the Neotropical migrant songbirds.

The tone of the discussions is one of joyful appreciation of the adaptational, esthetic and functional beauties of birds. Participants for credit are required to write 2 papers, presenting their findings to the group. Auditors are relieved of these duties. A Sat. morning Bird Banding session is open to all. Three Sat. (8:00–about 4:00) field trips (with spotting scope and walkie-talkies) will be scheduled Feb. through May. Space in University vehicles may be limited so auditors may have to drive themselves (these field trips are not very different from those available otherwise to WGNSS members). Auditors will be encouraged to buy a textbook. The University tuition for this three - credit course is: for credit \$ 1,560 (there is a significant discount for teachers); FOR SPECIAL AUDIT \$ 500. Registration can be ranged using a credit card at the University College website www.ucollege.wustl.edu or by telephone, 314-935-6727.

We do *not* assume participants have a background in science, but provide enough explanation of the science, which underlies our coverage to insure understanding. We encourage questions. This opportunity is available only occasionally, so if you have curiosity and interest regarding these subjects, please consider joining us this spring. I would welcome inquiries at 636-938- 5271.

Richard W. Coles, Adjunct Professor of Biology, Washington University and Webster University. 🐦

WGNSS Authors List Updated

Jim Adams

A list of books written or illustrated by WGNSS members has been updated and is included in this issue of Nature Notes. The list was first prepared for the April 11, 2003, Heritage Night program. If you are aware of omissions or detect any errors, please call me at 314-961-2494.

In addition to a book list, I want to compile a similar list of journal/magazine articles published by WGNSS member so that we'll have a complete record of the contributions of our members to the natural history literature of Missouri and the world. Contributions to this list will be greatly appreciated. Call me at the number above or mail your list to me, 35 Tulip Dr., Webster Groves, Mo. 63119. These lists will quantify the role of WGNSS at a nature study society.

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Snetsinger, Phoebe. *Birding on Borrowed Time*. American Birding Association, 2003.

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Yatskievych, Kay. *Field Guide to Indiana Wild Flowers*, 2000.

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---. *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri*; rev. ed., Vol. 1, 1999.

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Illustrators

Burt, Henry and R. P. Grossenheider. *A Field Guide to the Mammals*, 1952.

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Patterson, Carmen. *Birds of the Missouri Botanical Garden and Tower Grove Park*. Mo. Botanical Garden, 1992. 🌿

Call the Nature Line!

Call 314-935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area and dates & times of WGNSS events. Please report any unusual birds to Sherry McCowan, 314-664-2381 and press "3" or wait for the prompt. You can also leave a message at the end of the Nature Line recording 🌿

Nature Notes Deadlines & Mailings

We meet at the Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes, Kirkwood to attach mailing labels. We could use your help! Call Margie Richardson 314-965-8974.

mailing party Oak Bend Library *NN deadline*

Mon.	12/15, 10–1	Fri.	12/5
Tues.	1/20/04, 10–1	Fri.	1/10
Tues.	2/17/04, 10–1	Fri.	2/7
Mon.	3/15, 10–1	Fri.	3/5
Mon.	4/19, 10–1 tentative	Fri.	4/9
Mon.	5/17, 10–1 elsewhere	Fri.	5/7

No mailings in June or July.

Science Seminar Series at St. Louis Zoo

"Making Science Accessible to All People"
Free, co-sponsored by the Saint Louis Zoo and the Academy of Science of St. Louis. All seminars will be held in The Living World, north side of Zoo, free parking in north lot, Wednesday evenings, 7:30–9:00 PM.

November 19 "Bridging the Gap: Advances in Nerve Regeneration and Transplantation," presented by Susan Mackinnon, MD, Professor of Surgery, Washington U School of Medicine.

January 21 "Greens to Genes: DNA Evidence and Plant Evolution," presented by Elizabeth A. Kellogg, Ph.D., Professor of Botanical Studies and Molecular Systematics, Department of Biology, UM-St. Louis.

February 18 "Plate Tectonics on the Early Earth: How a Record Got Preserved in North-



ern China," Timothy M. Kusky, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, St. Louis University.

March 24 "Evolution of Modern Humans: What Genes Really Tell Us," Alan Templeton, Ph.D., Prof. of Biology, Washington U. 🌿

Key to WGNSS Calendar

birding field trip

each Thurs. 8 AM (8:30 starting Oct.) — call Jackie Chain 314-664-5998
most Sat. 8 AM: call David Becher 314-576-1146
most Sundays: call Kent Lannert 618-624-4464

summary of the latest bird sightings

Call Tyson Nature Line: 314-935-8432

to report a bird sighting

To include a sighting on the "Nature Line" phone message, call Sherry McCowan, 314-664-2381.

To submit a report to the *Nature Notes* bird column, call Jim Ziebol at 314-781-7372 or email Yvonne at homeyer@earthlink.net by the last day of the month.

board meeting

1st Wed. 7 PM Sept.–May at Powder Valley:
Yvonne Homeyer 314-963-7750
No board meeting in December.

botany field trip

each Thurs: call Fr. Sullivan 314-291-7885

entomology meeting

last Sun: call Marshall Magner 314-961-4588

general meeting

7:00 PM Mike Flieg 314-645-3356

mailing party for Nature Notes

3rd Mon. (not June/July) 10 AM:

call Margie Richardson 314-965-8974

Nature Notes deadlines

10 days prior to 3rd Mon: call Anne McCormack 314-965-8091

amccormack@stjosephacad.org

membership expires/renewal due

Aug. 31

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Contact the editor 🌿

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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 🌿

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tksp@charter.net

Member at Large: Mike Thelen
943 Morehouse Ln.
St. Louis, MO 63130-2158
314-862-6642

Need directions?

Shaw Nature Reserves (Arboretum)

- Take 44 west to Gray Summit (100) exit, left over highway, right onto service road and immediately left into Arboretum.
- Meet at Brushy Creek trail head.

Des Peres Park

- on Ballas Road, one block north of Manchester Rd. in Des Peres.
- Turn right (east) at the Des Peres Park sign-park in the first lot on the right.

Green Center

- from Highway 40
- north on Hanley Rd.
- continue on Hanley to Blackberry Ave., the fourth street north of Delmar.
- left (west) on Blackberry.
- Parking available in Kaufman Park

Horseshoe Lk State Park

- Take I-55/70 east to Hwy 111 exit.
- Turn left onto Hwy 111 and follow road to the entrance of the park on the left.
- Meet at the first parking lot to the right, just past the entrance.

Lake Carlyle

- 50 miles east from downtown St. Louis, approx. an hour drive
- Cross the River on I-55/I-64/I-70.
- After a mile, the interstates split; take I-64 east. Past O'Fallon IL, take exit #19 & exit north on US-50/ IL 158.

- Within 1/2 mile turn right on US-50 and continue through Lebanon for 24 miles to the stoplight at the junction of Hwy. US 50 and IL-127. Turn left
- Usual meeting spot is McDonald's restaurant

Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area

- From 1-270 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.
- Teal Pond is first right.

St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters

- The membership meets on a variety of days, Sept-April, at 7:00 PM
 - Take 40 to Lindbergh south, left at the second light into library.
 - 1640 South Lindbergh in Frontenac.
 - All are welcome. Bring a friend!
- Birding trip, park on north side.

Tower Grove Park

- Take 44 to Kingshighway south, east (left) on Magnolia, 1st right into park.

Two Rivers (Mark Twain) NWR

- Take IL-100 west from Grafton to Brussels Ferry.
- 3.6 miles on Ill. River Rd., follow signs.



Webster Groves Nature Study Society

CALL 314-935-8432 FOR THE LATEST BIRD SIGHTINGS IN ST. LOUIS. www.wgnss.org

Meetings

Thursday November 20

7:00 PM St. L. Co. L-HQ Walter Liddell will present his photos of birds of SE Asia.

Sunday December 7

1-4 PM Holiday party with St. Louis Audubon. At the Green Center, 8025 Blackberry Ave., University City.

Wednesday January 7

7 PM Board meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center. All members are welcome. No board meeting in December. Inclement weather? For board meetings, call Powder Valley, 314-301-1500.

Botany

Thursday November-January

Field trips usually meet 9:30 AM. Beginners welcome. Bring lunch, weather gear. Trip is usually 3-5 hr. plus travel time. Call Fr. Sullivan 291-7885 after 1 PM Wed for location. E-mail is sent every Wed. advising when and where the field trip is scheduled. To receive, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris jahar@mac.com

Entomology

Sunday December 28

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. Note date. Marshall will discuss Phil Rao's *Jungle Bees and Wasps*.

Birding

Thursdays November-January

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. Questions: call Jackie Chain, 314-644-5998. No meeting on Thanksgiving.

Saturday November 22

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Saturday November 22

8 AM SLAS at Busch CA with Mike Thelen and Mike Grant.

Saturday November 29

8 AM WGNSS "Where the Birds Are." Parking lot of HQ of Co. Library, Lindbergh, south of 40. Meet on N side. Bring lunch. David Becher 576-1146.

Sunday November 30

8 AM Carlyle Lake, meet at Carlyle McDonald's with Kent Lannert.

Sunday December 7

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with Dave Rogles.

Saturday December 13

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond, with David Becher, 314-576-1146.

Saturday December 13

9 AM Riverlands. SLAS Meet at Teal Pond, with Dave Rogles and Paul Bauer.

Sunday December 14

8 AM Little Creve Coeur with Mike Brady. Meet at the maintenance sheds behind the driving range on Creve Coeur Mill Rd.

Saturday December 20

7:30 AM Pere Marquette State Park Xmas Count. Meet at the park lodge. Contact Irene Mondhink, 618-885-5233, or Helen Wuestenfeld, 618-498-5335, for more info. \$5 fee.

Sunday December 21

8 AM Baldwin Lake boat launch parking lot with Kent Lannert.

Thursday January 1

8 AM Orchard Farm Christmas Bird Count. Contact Randy Korotev <rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu> if you would like to participate. \$5 fee.

Saturday January 3

8 AM Busch Wildlife Area Xmas Count. Bring lunch and meet at the headquarters building. Contact Tom Parmeter, 314-921-6017. \$5 fee.

Join WGNSS

Send \$20 to Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132

Nature Notes deadline Dec. 7

WEBSTER GROVES
NATURE STUDY SOCIETY
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St. Louis MO 63119

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WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ e-mail _____ fax (____) _____

Call the Nature Line at **314-935-8432** for meetings and bird sightings. www.wgnss.org

Membership categories (circle one):
Individual or Household:.....\$20
for 1st class mail.....add \$8
Student.....\$10

Please mail this form with check to:
Treasurer: Randy Korotev, 800 Oak-
brook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132
Please make check payable to: Webster
Groves Nature Study Society



WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY