



Nature Notes

Call the Nature Line 314-935-8432 for meeting times & bird sightings www.wgnss.org

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

March 2005 Vol. 77, No. 3

Director of Tower Grove at March 3 Meeting

The speaker at our next general meeting will be John Karel. Karel is the director of Tower Grove Park in Saint Louis. Besides being designated a National Historic Landmark, Tower Grove was named as an Important Bird Area. Karel has a degree in history as well as Wildlife Management from University of Missouri. Come hear his presentation on Thursday, March 3, 7:00 PM St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters on Lindbergh Blvd! 🐦

Director of Cornell Lab of Ornithology to Speak

Professor John W. Fitzpatrick, Dir. of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, will speak at John Burroughs School on Wed., March 2. His topic is "How Birds Will Save the World—Biodiversity Conservation in the Internet Age." He will emphasize the role that individuals play as "citizen scientists" in interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity. Dr. Fitzpatrick will pose the question of whether we have the will to change our cultural behavior in order to live side-by-side with nature. His talk will be in the Fine Arts Building of John Burroughs School, 715 South Price Road. The reception starts at 6:30, with the presentation at 7:15. The event is free and open to the public, but please RSVP by contacting Dale Shuter Buchholz at <buckshut@sbcglobal.net> by February 23. 🐦

Spring Banquet May 10

Save the date! Tuesday, May 10, 2005. Spring Banquet! with guest speaker Jim Rathert, who will share beautiful slides from his new book, *In Focus*. The banquet will be held in the Commons at Eden Seminary in Webster. 🐦

WGNSP Presents Nature Video at Cliff Cave Library

On Wed., March 23, 7 PM, Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer will present a program with video featuring birds, dragonflies, butterflies, and other wildlife seen in the St. Louis area. The program is hosted by the Cliff Cave Branch of St. L. Co. Library, 5430 Telegraph Rd., 63129, 314-487-6003.

Slate of Officers Announced

The Nominating Committee, Dr. David Mendelson, Anne McCormack, and Yvonne Homeyer, is pleased to announce that Randy Korotev has agreed to serve another two-year term as Treasurer and Jim Adams has agreed to serve a second two-year term as Secretary. The election of officers will take place at our Annual Membership Meeting on Thurs., April 7 at 7:00 PM at the St. Louis Cou. Library HQ. The program on "Butterflies of Ecuador," by Dennis Bozzay, will follow the election.

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Texas Botanizing, Sullivan..... | 2 |
| Bird Report, Homeyer & Ziebol..... | 5 |
| Bird Checklist for Horseshoe Lk..... | 7 |
| WGNSP events..... | 14 |

Dates for '05 Meetings

Inclement weather? For board meeting, usually on first Wed. at University Club Tower, call Yvonne Homeyer, 963-7750. For general meetings, call St. Louis County Library Headquarters 314-994-3300 to ask if the meeting has been cancelled.

Most of these are 1st Thursday:

March 3 John Karel at St. L. Co. Library HQ
7:00 PM

April 7 Dennis Bozzay, "Birds of Ecuador," St.
L. Co. Library HQ 7:00 PM

May 10, Tues., Spring Banquet at Eden Seminary with MDC photographer Jim Rathert
Sept. 1, Oct. 6, & Nov. 3, 2005 🌸

What's Happening at Little Creve Coeur Marsh? Program Sponsored Jointly by SLAS and NABA

Mark you calendar for Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Creve Coeur Community Center.

Chris M. Ludwig, Project Manager, Saint Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation will be discussing the Master Plan, the impact of the Page Avenue Extension and future "passive use" developments related to this area.

Little Creve Coeur Marsh is probably the last sizable natural wetland left in Saint Louis County, having been formed as an oxbow of the Missouri River. One positive result of the Page Avenue Extension was the acquisition by County Parks of additional mitigation property that will permit the extension of these wetlands to a total area of 700 acres. In connection with the development of the Master Plan for this area, Saint Louis County Parks created a citizen advisory committee with representatives from many of the nature and environmental groups in the Saint Louis area. All those interested in wetlands conservation or ecology should attend this meeting and hear about the exciting plans for the area.

The meeting is open to the public. 🌸

Texas Botanizing

Father James Sullivan

During a week this past October, I had the opportunity to do some serious botanizing in Texas. My main objective was Brazos Bend State Park, located on the Brazos River in Fort Bend County, near the Gulf of Mexico and several miles south of Houston. Some time was also spent at nearby Matagorda Bay, on the Gulf. This area not only has some familiar Missouri plants, but also numerous local species. Missouri plants seen included *Aesculus pavia* (red buckeye), *Callicarpa americana* (beauty berry), *Conoclinium coelestinum* (mist flower), *Croton capitatus* (woolly croton), *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth), *Forestiera acuminata* (swamp privet), *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (camphor weed), *Hypericum drummondii* (nits and lice), *Ilex decidua* (deciduous holly), *Monarda punctata* (dotted beebalm), *Polypodium polypodioides* (resurrection fern), *Smallanthus uvedalius* (bearsfoot) and *Spiranthes ovalis* (oval ladies' tresses).

The following describes some of the more interesting Texas plants and perhaps might be helpful for future visitors.

Andropogon glomeratus (bushy bluestem)—common in grassy situations, with the "bushy" inflorescence resembling brooms, for which the plants were once used.

Baccharis halimifolia (groundsel)—a shrub, whose composite flowers form white, brush-like fruits, grows in sandy and wet places here.

Calyptracarpus vialis (lawn flower)—a very common composite with yellow flowers which have five three-fingered rays, long bracts, and ovate, opposite leaves. Texans have these plants in their lawns instead of dandelions!

Caperonia palustris (sacatrapo)—a large water plant, with sessile leaves having strong nerves, minute white flowers and three-lobed burr fruits.

Cnidocolus texanus (bull nettle)—a spurge family member, having five-lobed leaves; also armed with spiny branches and stinging hairs. *Euphorbia bicolor* (snow-on-the-prairie)—has narrow, parallel-sided leaves as compared to the oval leaves of our *E. marginata*.

Habenaria repens (water spider orchid)—a green orchid, blooming in marshy habitat.

Ilex vomitoria (yaupon)—unlike our *Ilex decidua* (deciduous holly), this tree has year-round persistent, evergreen leaves; fruits are shiny red berries. Each new leaf comes from a structure that resembles a lespedeza pod.

Ipomoea cordatotriloba (sharp-pod morning glory)—a vine having pale purple flowers with deep purple throats, the most common morning glory here.

Lantana camara (lantana)—a prickly shrub, commonly escaping from cultivation, has pale flowers turning pink.

Machaeranthera phyllocephala (camphor daisy)—a bright, yellow daisy, with pale, Christmas holly-like leaves; it grows near the Gulf of Mexico.

Malvaviscus drummondii (Turk's cap)—a low common shrub which is found at the edges of woodlands near the Brazos River. The plant is like a hibiscus, but its red flowers never expand. The style projects above the corolla, and also like hibiscus, the anthers are attached. The fruits look like small fat tomatoes, but are dry. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds pollinate the flowers.

Mimosa strigillosa (powderpuff)—very common, with sensitive leaves, pink "powderpuff" flowers, forming white-hairy, flattened, fruit pods.

Parthenium hysterophorus (santa maria)—common and introduced from tropical America; has deeply-divided lower leaves and tiny white flowers.

Pterocaulon virgatum (Texas blackroot)—a small plant with a winged stem, in the Asteraceae family.

Quercus virginiana (coastal live oak)—probably the most common oak in the area.

Sabal minor (terrestrial palm)—this palm (the only native palm in Texas) is trunkless, with the leaves and inflorescence rising straight up from the ground; round fruits are formed, approximately 3/8" in diameter, with 1/4" stones.

Sesbania drummondii (Drummond's sesbania)—related to black locust, has flat pods, with two wings on each margin, and pinnate leaves with many leaflets.

Spigelia loganioides (Texas pinkroot)—these white flowers looked like tiny closed gentians. The plants turned out to be a new kind of *Spigelia*. Each capsule forms a pair of spheres;

when brushed by an animal, the capsules explode. The seeds land on an animal's fur (or a botanist's pants leg), to be carried to a new site. The plants always occurred at the very edge of the trail, never away from the trail.

Teucrium cubense (coast german-der)—striking white flowers and fingery-divided leaves, common on the rocky shores of Matagorda Bay..

Triadica sebifera (chinese tallow tree)—a member of the Euphorbiaceae (spurge) family, with black covered fruits splitting to reveal three white seeds.

Ulmus crassifolia (cedar elm)—the common elm here, which blooms and fruits in the fall; has leaves with sandpaper-like upper surfaces.

Verbena halei (slender vervain)—45 *Verbena* species occur in Texas; this species is one of the more common, producing spikes of bluish flowers.

Vigna luteola (wild cowpea)—a climbing vine with beautiful, large, yellow flowers; grows on the rocky shores along the Gulf of Mexico.

Motel Plants

No botany article would be complete without mentioning "motel plants." The rear field at my headquarters motel, Comfort Inn in Rosenberg, had two abundant species competing for this honor. The first, *Verbena brasiliensis* (brazilian vervain), had long spikes of small lilac flowers. The second was *Symphotrichum divaricatum*, whose composite flowers had yellow discs and lavender rays; this plant is probably a variety of *Aster subulatus*, commonly called expressway aster, due to its affinity for disturbed sites. ☞

"Be grateful for luck.
Pay the thunder no mind —
listen to the birds. And
don't hate nobody."

Eubie Blake,

American composer 1883-1983

Historian's Corner: Help Wanted

Jim Adams

At year's end, we'll send another five-year volume of *Nature Notes* to the University Bindery for addition to the Missouri Botanical Garden Library's complete file of prior issues. The new volume will contain Vols. 73-77, 2001-05.

I'd like to get copies of as many past issues of *Nature Notes* as possible. Binding a new volume will deplete my duplicate file of 2001-05. Because an indexing project for *Nature Notes*—including all past as well as current and future issues—is in the planning stage, much indexing would have to be done using the MOBot library collection. Use of the MOBot library would be more time consuming. If you have past issues of *Nature Notes*, especially older and very old ones, consider donating them. Give me a ring at 314-961-2494.

A Posthumous Message from Phoebe Snetsinger

A reader recently sent me the following poem by Phoebe, printed in *Nature Notes*, date unknown. Long-time WGNSS member, the late Phoebe Snetsinger, achieved distinction at the Number One Birder in the World, with more than 8,000 of the world's 9,000 bird species seen.

Amateur Naturalists

Phoebe Snetsinger

We are pursuers of ephemera—
Chasing fleeting winged forms
Across our life's terrain,
Touching tend lovely blooms
Too delicate to claim;
Preposterous stargazers seeking
On the fringes of our sight
Elusive distant sparklings
In the immensity of night.
Rock-hunters feel a firmer hold—
Substance forged from dust and time,
Perhaps a star burned out and cold,
Or enduring precious crystal-shine,
Such treasures might be truly ours—
Till fossil life from past eternity
Encountered gives us some pause
Enough to humble human certainty.

The poem shows Phoebe's interest in birds as well as the broader view and love for the natural world. Recently, while filing some old issues, I discovered that Phoebe has contributed two front-page articles on the wonders and beauty of the night skies. If your new Year's resolutions included the goal of working toward becoming the new No. 1 Birder, or even the No. 2 Birder in the World, read the two books described below by Phoebe and WGNSS member Pete Winter, who has earned the ABA distinction of No. 2 Birder in the World with more than 7,700 species seen. After learning how much hard work these achievement represent, you might decide to quietly replace the #1 or 2 rankings in your resolutions with a more modest 10 or 20. Who'll ever know? *Birding on Borrowed Time*, 2002, by Phoebe Snetsinger is available from the American Birding Association at (800) 634-7736 or <www.americanbirding.org/abasales> *Dawn Chorus; The Adventures of a Birdwatcher* 2003, by George R. Winter, Jr., is printed privately. It is available by calling, toll-free, 800/722-5424. People in the St. Louis area can call 314/843-1400. ☞☛

Takers Wanted

Jim Adams

A recent gift of past issues of *Nature Notes* included a nearly complete file of *Winging It*, the newsletter of the American Birding Association, Jan. 1989 through Feb. 1998. Please give me a call at 314-961-2494 if you're interested.

New! Improved! Checklist!

Randy Korotev

The new, improved WGNSS "Seasonal Checklist of Birds of the Saint Louis Area" is now available. This list differs from past lists in listing the relative abundance of each species for each of the four seasons. They cost \$0.50 each and two of the lists weigh an ounce, so if you want to obtain some by mail, send \$1.37 for two, \$2.60 for four, \$3.83 for six, etc. Contact Randy Korotev at <rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu> or 993-0055. ☞☛

January 2005 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

CSP = Castlewood State Park

CC= Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Ref, Annada

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: We may have missed some e-mail reports due to the fact that Yvonne's e-mail was not working for several weeks. The problem has now been fixed. We apologize if we failed to include your sightings. You may re-send them to Yvonne for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Last month, several people named their best birds of 2004. For Jim Ziebol, the best birds were the thousands of breeding birds that will be saved by the 1.8 million dollars from the Holcim settlement funds. I want to personally express my thanks to Ted Heisel, Diane Albright, Kathy Andria, Yvonne Homeyer and especially Maxine Lipeles and Beth Martin of the Environmental Law Clinic.

The September 2004 issue of *National Geographic* contains a major three-part article on global warming (Geo-signs, Time-signs and Eco-signs). A key conclusion is that the web of life is unraveling. In some instances, the natural cycles of some interdependent creatures have fallen out of sync (for example, certain species of birds are breeding earlier but the insects they eat have not readjusted their cycle.) Pestiferous insects are moving north, devastating the spruce forests in Canada and Alaska. We urge anyone interested in global warming to check this issue out of your public library.

Sightings: Two Horned Grebes were observed at REDA on 1/1 (JU). Pied-billed Grebes were seen most of the month in FP (SM) and all month at HL (FH). Another Tundra Swan appeared at REDA on 1/15 (DR). As many as 6 Mute Swans were present all months at HL (m. ob.). On 1/17, 6 Greater Scaup were found at HL on the Granite City Steel ponds (JZ) and 2 Greater Scaup were seen on the Illinois side at REDA (FH). Mike Thelen found 2 Oldsquaw at

REDA on 1/8. The first Wood Duck reported for the year, along with 2 Black Ducks and 2 Green-winged Teal, were seen on the Illinois side of REDA on 1/23 (FH). A Bonaparte's Gull was found at HL on 1/8 (FH). Without a doubt the bird of the month was an adult Mew Gull at CL on 1/16 (DK). Gull sightings at REDA included a first-winter Great Black-back on 1/15 (DR), an adult Glaucous on 1/18 (DR), and 2 Thayer's, an Iceland and a Glaucous Gull on 1/21 (CM). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at REDA on 1/22 (MT) and at HL on 1/15 and 1/25 (FH). A first-winter Thayer's was seen on and off all month at HL (FH). On 1/24, Mike Thelen reported a third-winter Glaucous Gull at REDA and this beautiful bird was later seen at HL on 1/28 (JZ). As of 1/15 at HL, 6,000-10,000 gulls were present on any given day, 99% of which were Ring-billed Gulls.

At REDA, Mike Thelen counted 45 Bald Eagles on 1/8, and 25 on 1/22. On 1/12, the temperature reached 65 degrees at 9:30 a.m. and 2 Bald Eagles, a Red-tailed Hawk and an accipiter species were obviously taking advantage of the thermals to migrate. A new Bald Eagle's nest is under construction near Alton (JC, Th. Group, FH). Tom Bailey reported a Bald Eagle feeding in FP on 1/19. A Harlan's Hawk has wintered on Sand Prairie Lane near HL since 1999 (FH). On 1/21, Jackie Chain and the Thursday Group observed a light-phase Rough-legged Hawk on Hwy. 94. On 1/16, a Peregrine Falcon was seen capturing a black bird along Hwy. 111 (JZ). On 1/22 at REDA, Mike Thelen found 25 Bald Eagles, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and 4 N. Harriers. Towards dusk on 1/18, 2 male N. Harriers, a Red-shouldered Hawk and 15 Bobwhites were seen at HL (FH). John Loomis found 3 Ring-necked Pheasants at HL on 1/17. Two Great Horned Owls were observed in TGP on 1/31 (MR). On 1/8 in the CL area, Kraig and Mark Paradise (assisted by DK) located 2 Saw-whet, 5 Long-eared and 2 Short-eared Owls. A snowstorm in mid-January produced nice flocks of Horned Larks on Confluence Road and Bischoff Road. A Fish Crow was heard calling in Calvary Cemetery on 1/26 (KP). On 1/8, in a park in Elsau, IL, Jeannie Moe and Kraig Paradise observed a Hermit Thrush. A Loggerhead Shrike was seen on Hwy. 50 near CL on 1/18 (CA, TBo). Brown Thrashers were found on the Or-

chard Farm Christmas Count on 1/1 (RK) and at the Olin Nature Reserve on 1/23 (FH). A female Oregon Junco was seen in TGP on 1/6 and 1/7 (SM). Swamp Sparrows were present in FP on 1/1 and a Field Sparrow was seen there on 1/6 (SM). Some cooperative Savannah Sparrows were videotaped at close range along Bischoff Road on 1/16 (JZ). Savannah Sparrows were also being seen on Confluence Road all during January (CA). On 1/1, 7 Fox Sparrows were found in TGP (SM). On 1/1, 2 Lapland Longspurs and 20 Horned Larks were seen on Confluence Road (JU). Up to 250 Lapland Longspurs were found on Bischoff Road on 1/16 (SM, JZ). Connie Alwood also found a large flock of Lapland Longspurs on Confluence Road on 1/18. By mid-January, Western Meadowlarks were being seen and heard at the Katy Trail Access (CM, m. ob.). Another Western Meadowlark was reported at REDA on 1/16 (MT). A remarkable 225 Great-tailed Grackles were found in the Orchard Farm area on 1/1 (P&BJ, TP). Great-tailed Grackles were also seen on Mo. Bottoms Road near Hwy. 370 (CA). On 1/15, several Brewer's Blackbirds were observed along Bischoff Road (SM, JZ). Dan Kassebaum reported Common Redpoll and Loggerhead Shrike at CL on 1/16. On 1/15, the Thursday Group observed 5 Purple Finch at Rockwoods and on 1/17, 12 were found at HL (JZ).

A typical day for the Thursday Group on 1/20 included Pine Siskins, Goldfinch, Junco, Tufted Titmouse, House Finch, Mockingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Cardinal and Cooper's Hawk at Connie Alwood's house. They also saw Canada Goose, Gadwall, Mallard, 3 N. Pintail, Canvasback, Ring-necked Ducks, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, large numbers of Common Mergansers, Ruddy Duck, 1 Green-winged Teal, 2 Am. Pelicans, Great Blue Heron, many Bald Eagles, Song, White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows, Ring-billed and Herring Gull, Meadowlarks, American Tree and ETS, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Flicker, Crow, Horned Larks, and Carolina Wren at Riverlands.

Backyard Sightings: During December and January, Jack Harris had both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks monitoring his feeders. Connie Alwood's highest count for Pine Siskins was 19 on Jan. 4. He also had a female Purple

Finch on 1/6. Sherry McCowan had backyard visits from an immature Cooper's Hawk on 1/15 and an adult on 1/19. A possible hybrid Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser was found at REDA on 1/16 (MT). Mark Peters heard a Winter Wren at his Jefferson County home in early January. Clarence Zacher reported House Finch and Sapsucker in Richmond Heights in mid-January and a N. Harrier at Clayton and Price Roads on 1/19.

Contributors: Connie Alwood, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Tom Bormann, Jackie Chain, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, John Loomis, Sherry McCowan, Jim & Charlene Malone, Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Mark Peters, Tom Parmeter, Mick Richardson, Dave Rogles, Mike Thelen, Josh Uffman, and 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>. 🐦

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. 🐦

2005 Science Seminar Series

7:30-9 PM. Admission is free, held in the Living World, north entrance of the Zoo on Government Drive. Parking in the North Lot is free.

February 16 Outerspace: What We've Learned from "Spirit" and "Opportunity" and the Mars Exploration. Raymond E. Arvidson, Ph. D., James S. McDonnell, Washington University.

March 16 "Getting to the Heart of Nutrition and Health" Mildred Mattfeldt-Beman, Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of Nutrition and Dietetics, Saint Louis University This program will provide a review of current nutritional therapies for heart health. 🐦



Next deadline: March 11!

No excuses this month—for the second month in a row we have the latest possible deadline because March begins on a Tuesday. As I'm sure you recall, *Nature Notes* publishes 10 issues a year, each mailed on the third Mon. of the month—unless it's President's Day and the library is closed. To allow time for layout, printing, etc., the deadline is always 10 days prior.

Submissions—handwritten or typed, email, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722
<amccormack@stjosephacad.org> ☞☛

The Green Center Hosts Poetry Reading March 20

St. Louis poets will read works celebrating the natural world and exploring one's relationship to it at The Green Center, 8025 Blackberry Ave., at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 20. The event kicks-off National Poetry Month in April.

Published poets who will read their works on March 20 include Lowes, Amy DeBrecht, and Judith Stix, with more poets to be announced later. A chapbook of poems by Stix titled *City of Birds* will be on sale at the reading. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free. For more information, call the Green Center at (314) 725-8314 or send an e-mail to <classes@thegreencenter.org>. ☞☛

Bird Checklist For Horseshoe Lake

Jim Ziebol

This checklist was compiled by Jim Ziebol and Frank Holmes, with contributions from Randy Korotev, Ron Goetz, Bill Rudden, and Mike Flieg. Jim and Frank also drew on data from the 1968 WGNSS bird book written by Paul Bauer and Dick Anderson. This checklist includes Horseshoe Lake in Madison County, IL, Eagle Park Marsh in St. Clair and Madison Counties, and Indian Lake in St. Clair County. Because of seasonal weather variations, possibly brought on by global warming, abundance of some species can radically vary from year to year.

- C Common
- U Uncommon
- R Rare
- Ca Casual
- A Accidental
- H Hypothetical

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.

| <i>mailing party</i> | | <i>NN deadline</i> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Tues. | 3/22, 10-1 Oak Bend | Fri. 3/11 |
| Mon. | 4/18, 10-1 Oak Bend | Fri. 4/8 |
| Tues. | 5/17, 10-1 Oak Bend | Fri. 5/6 |
| Mon. | 8/15, 10-1 Oak Bend | Fri. 8/5 |
| Mon. | 9/19, 10-1 Oak Bend | Fri. 9/9 |
| Mon. | 10/17, 10-1 Oak Bend | Fri. 10/7 |
| Mon. | 11/21, 10-1 Oak Bend | Fri. 11/11 |
| Mon. | 12/19/05, 10-1 Oak Bend | Fri. 12/9 |

The Sea-Gull

Hark to the whimper of the sea-gull;
He weeps because he's not an ea-gull.
Suppose you were, you silly sea-gull,
Could you explain it to your she-gull?

Ogden Nash

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS, HORSESHOE LAKE (MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS)

| Species | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Common Loon | U | U | | U |
| Pacific Loon | a | a | | |
| Red-throated Loon | Ca | | | |
| Clark's Grebe | Ca | | | |
| Western Grebe | R | Ca | | Ca |
| Red-necked Grebe | a | | | |
| Horned Grebe | R | U | | U |
| Eared Grebe | a | R | a | C |
| Pied-billed Grebe | R | C | U | C |
| American White Pelican | C | U | | C |
| Double-crested Cormorant | R | C | R | C |
| Least Bittern | | R | R | |
| American Bittern | | R | | R |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | R | C | C | C |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | | U | U | U |
| Green Heron | | U | U | U |
| Tri-colored Heron | | Ca | Ca | R |
| Little Blue Heron | | U | C | U |
| Cattle Egret | | C | U | U |
| Snowy Egret | | U | C | U |
| Great Egret | Ca | C | C | C |
| Great Blue Heron | U | C | C | C |
| Wood Stork | | | | a |
| White-faced Ibis | | Ca | Ca | |
| Glossy Ibis | | Ca | Ca | Ca |
| White Ibis | | a | | |
| Tundra Swan | Ca | | | |
| Trumpeter Swan | R | | | R |
| Mute Swan | Ca | R | | |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | R | C | | R |
| Snow Goose | U | C | | U |
| Ross's Goose | Ca | | | Ca |
| Canada Goose | C | C | C | C |
| Brant | | | | a |
| Mallard | C | C | C | C |
| American Black Duck | R | R | | R |
| Gadwall | C | C | | C |
| Green-winged Teal | U | C | | C |
| American Wigeon | U | U | | U |
| Northern Pintail | U | C | Ca | U |

| Species | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Northern Shoveler | U | C | Ca | C |
| Blue-winged Teal | a | C | R | C |
| Cinnamon Teal | | a | | |
| Ruddy Duck | C | C | Ca | C |
| Wood Duck | Ca | C | R | C |
| Canvasback | R | C | | C |
| Redhead | R | U | | U |
| Ring-necked Duck | R | C | | C |
| Greater Scaup | R | U | | R |
| Lesser Scaup | U | C | | C |
| Black Scoter | Ca | | | |
| White-winged Scoter | R | | | Ca |
| Surf Scoter | Ca | | | Ca |
| Oldsquaw | R | | | R |
| Common Goldeneye | U | C | | C |
| Bufflehead | Ca | U | | U |
| Common Merganser | U | U | | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | Ca | C | | C |
| Hooded Merganser | R | U | Ca | U |
| King Rail | | Ca | Ca | |
| Virginia Rail | | R | | R |
| Sora | | R | Ca | R |
| Yellow Rail ¹ | | | | Ca |
| Common Moorhen | | Ca | Ca | |
| American Coot | U | C | U | C |
| American Avocet | | | R | R |
| Black-necked Stilt | | | | Ca |
| Piping Plover | | | Ca | Ca |
| Semipalmated Plover | | C | | U |
| Killdeer | R | C | C | C |
| Black-bellied Plover | | R | | R |
| American Golden Plover | | U | | U |
| Marbled Godwit | | Ca | Ca | |
| Hudsonian Godwit | | R | | |
| Willet | | Ca | Ca | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | | U | U | U |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | Ca | C | C | C |
| Solitary Sandpiper | | U | U | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | U | Ca | U |
| Wilson's Phalarope | | R | R | R |
| Red-necked Phalarope | | | | a |
| Red Phalarope | | | a | a |

¹ Yellow Rail was reported in August, 1938, by L. Ernst.

| Species | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Short-billed Dowitcher | | | R | Ca |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | | R | R | Ca |
| Stilt Sandpiper | | | R | U |
| Common Snipe | Ca | C | | C |
| Chuck-will's-Widow | | R | | |
| American Woodcock | | R | R | |
| Ruddy Turnstone | | | R | |
| Red Knot | | | Ca | Ca |
| Dunlin | | | R | Ca |
| Sanderling | | | R | Ca |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | | R | U | R |
| Western Sandpiper | | | R | |
| Least Sandpiper | Ca | U | C | R |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | | R | Ca | |
| Baird's Sandpiper | | | R | R |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | U | C | U |
| Ruff | | | | a |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | | | R | |
| Upland Sandpiper | | Ca | Ca | |
| Franklin's Gull | Ca | U | | U |
| Laughing Gull | | Ca | Ca | Ca |
| Bonaparte's Gull | R | C | | C |
| Common Black-headed Gull | a | | | |
| Little Gull | | | | Ca |
| Ring-billed Gull | C | C | U | C |
| Herring Gull | U | R | | U |
| California Gull | a | | | |
| Glaucous Gull | R | | | |
| Iceland Gull | Ca | | | |
| Thayer's Gull | R | | | |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | R | | | R |
| Great Black-backed Gull | Ca | | | |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | Ca | | | |
| Sabine's Gull | | | | a |
| Common Tern | | U | | U |
| Forster's Tern | | C | R | U |
| Least Tern | | | Ca | Ca |
| Black Tern | | U | | U |
| Caspian Tern | | R | | R |
| Turkey Vulture | | R | | R |
| Black Vulture | | | a | |
| Golden Eagle | | Ca | | Ca |



chester



roue



ature



tudy



ciet

| Species | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Bald Eagle | U | R | | U |
| Mississippi Kite | | | a | |
| Northern Harrier | R | U | Ca | U |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | R | R | | R |
| Cooper's Hawk | U | U | Ca | U |
| Goshawk | Ca | Ca | | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | R | R | R | R |
| Broad-winged Hawk | | U | R | C |
| Red-tailed Hawk | C | C | C | C |
| Swainson's Hawk | | a | | |
| Rough-legged Hawk | R | | | R |
| Ferruginous Hawk | H | | | |
| Osprey | | U | R | C |
| American Kestrel | C | U | U | C |
| Merlin | Ca | R | | R |
| Peregrine Falcon | Ca | R | R | R |
| Northern Bobwhite | R | R | R | R |
| Ring-necked Pheasant ² | U | R | R | R |
| Wild Turkey | U | U | R | U |
| Rock Dove | U | U | U | U |
| Mourning Dove | C | C | C | C |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | Ca | Ca | Ca | Ca |
| Monk Parakeet | | | a | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | U | R | R |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | | R | | R |
| Long-eared Owl | Ca | | | |
| Short-eared Owl | Ca | | | |
| Great Horned Owl | U | U | U | U |
| Barred Owl | U | U | U | U |
| Eastern Screech Owl | R | R | R | R |
| Whip-poor-will | | R | R | |
| Common Nighthawk | | U | R | C |
| Chimney Swift | | C | C | C |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | | U | R | U |
| Belted Kingfisher | R | R | R | R |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | U | U | U | U |
| Northern Flicker | U | U | U | U |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | Ca | R | R | R |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Ca | U | | U |
| Downy Woodpecker | C | C | C | C |

² Ring-necked Pheasants are released.

| Species | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Hairy Woodpecker | R | R | R | R |
| Pileated Woodpecker | Ca | Ca | Ca | Ca |
| Eastern Kingbird | | C | U | U |
| Western Kingbird | | Ca | Ca | |
| Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | | | | a |
| Great-crested Flycatcher | | U | U | U |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | R | | |
| Eastern Wood Pewee | | U | U | R |
| Eastern Phoebe | Ca | C | U | U |
| Least Flycatcher | | U | a | U |
| Acadian Flycatcher | | U | U | |
| Willow Flycatcher | | R | R | |
| Alder Flycatcher | | R | | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | | U | | U |
| Horned Lark | U | U | | U |
| Tree Swallow | | C | C | C |
| Purple Martin | | C | U | U |
| Bank Swallow | | U | R | U |
| Cliff Swallow | | U | R | U |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | | U | R | U |
| Barn Swallow | | C | C | C |
| Bluejay | U | C | C | C |
| American Crow | C | C | C | C |
| Fish Crow | a | U | U | Ca |
| Tufted Titmouse | U | U | U | U |
| Carolina Chickadee | C | C | C | C |
| Brown Creeper | R | U | | R |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | U | U | U | R |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | R | Ca | | Ca |
| House Wren | | U | R | U |
| Winter Wren | Ca | R | | R |
| Carolina Wren | C | C | C | C |
| Bewick's Wren | | Ca | Ca | |
| Marsh Wren | | U | | U |
| Sedge Wren | | U | Ca | U |
| Rock Wren | | | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | R | C | | U |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Ca | U | | U |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | C | U | |
| Eastern Bluebird | Ca | U | R | R |
| Wood Thrush | | U | R | U |
| Veery | | R | | |

| Species | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Swainson's Thrush | | U | | U |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | | R | | R |
| Hermit Thrush | Ca | U | | U |
| American Robin | C | C | C | C |
| Loggerhead Shrike | Ca | Ca | a | Ca |
| Northern Shrike | | Ca | | Ca |
| Gray Catbird | | C | U | C |
| Northern Mockingbird | C | C | C | C |
| Brown Thrasher | Ca | C | C | C |
| American Pipit | | R | | Ca |
| Cedar Waxwing | R | R | R | R |
| European Starling | C | C | C | C |
| White-eyed Vireo | | U | U | U |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | U | | R |
| Blue-headed Vireo | | U | | U |
| Bell's Vireo | | R | | R |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | U | U | U |
| Warbling Vireo | | C | C | U |
| Philadelphia Vireo | | R | | R |
| Prothonotary Warbler | | | R | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | U | | U |
| Golden-winged Warbler | | R | | R |
| Tennessee Warbler | | U | | U |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | a | U | | R |
| Nashville Warbler | | U | | U |
| Northern Parula | | R | Ca | Ca |
| Black-and-white Warbler | | U | R | R |
| Cerulean Warbler | | Ca | | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | R | | R |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | C | | U |
| Cape May Warbler | | R | | Ca |
| Magnolia Warbler | | U | | U |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | R | C | | C |
| Black-throated Green | | U | | U |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | | Ca | | |
| Prairie Warbler | | Ca | | |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | | U | | R |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | U | | R |
| Palm Warbler | | C | | C |
| Yellow Warbler | | C | R | R |
| Mourning Warbler | | R | | Ca |
| Connecticut Warbler | | Ca | | |

| Species | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Kentucky Warbler | | R | R | |
| Canada Warbler | | R | | R |
| Wilson's Warbler | | U | | U |
| Hooded Warbler | | Ca | | |
| Ovenbird | | R | | R |
| Swainson's Warbler | | a | | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | R | | Ca |
| Northern Waterthrush | | U | | U |
| Common Yellowthroat | | C | R | U |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | | R | R | |
| American Redstart | | U | | U |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | R | | R |
| Northern Cardinal | C | C | C | C |
| Blue Grosbeak | | U | U | |
| Indigo Bunting | | C | C | C |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | Ca | R | R | R |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | | R | R | |
| Henslow's Sparrow | | | | |
| LeConte's Sparrow | Ca | | | R |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | Ca | | Ca |
| Vesper Sparrow | | R | | U |
| Savannah Sparrow | R | C | | C |
| Song Sparrow | U | C | U | C |
| Lark Sparrow | | Ca | | |
| American Tree Sparrow | U | C | | C |
| Field Sparrow | Ca | U | U | U |
| Chipping Sparrow | | R | | R |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | | R | | R |
| Dark-eyed Junco | U | C | | C |
| Harris's Sparrow | Ca | Ca | | Ca |
| White-throated Sparrow | C | C | | C |
| White-crowned Sparrow | C | C | | C |
| Fox Sparrow | R | U | | R |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | | R | | R |
| Swamp Sparrow | R | U | | U |
| Smith's Longspur | Ca | Ca | | |
| Lapland Longspur | R | | | |
| Snow Bunting | Ca | | | |
| Dickcissel | | U | U | U |
| Bobolink | | U | | R |
| Eastern Meadowlark | U | C | U | C |

| Species | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Western Meadowlark | Ca | | | |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | Ca | | Ca | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | C | C | C | C |
| Rusty Blackbird | Ca | U | | R |
| Brewer's Blackbird | | Ca | | Ca |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | C | C | C | C |
| Common Grackle | C | C | C | C |
| Great-tailed Grackle | a | | | |
| Northern Oriole | | U | U | U |
| Orchard Oriole | | U | U | U |
| Scarlet Tanager | | R | | R |
| Summer Tanager | | U | U | R |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow | U | U | U | U |
| House Sparrow | U | U | U | U |
| Pine Siskin | R | R | | R |
| American Goldfinch | C | C | C | C |
| Common Redpoll | a | | | |
| Purple Finch | Ca | Ca | | Ca |
| House Finch | U | U | | U |

© Copyright James P. Ziebol 2005

© Copyright Statement

All articles in *Nature Notes* are printed with the author's permission. Persons or organizations wishing to reprint articles should obtain the author's permission and list credit to *Nature Notes*, Webster Groves Nature Study Society. 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 🐾

2005 WGNSS Board

President and Conservation Chair:

Yvonne Homeyer
1508 Oriole Ln.
St. Louis MO 63144
314-963-7750
homeyer@earthlink.net

1st Vice President

Dr. David Mendelson
7906 Kingsbury Blvd.
St. Louis MO 63105
314-721-7116
docmendy@earthlink.net

2nd Vice Pres: Margy Terpstra

1508 Greening Ln.
St. Louis, MO 63122
314-966-4582
ladybirdterp@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Randy Korotev

800 Oakbrook Ln.
St. Louis MO 63132
314-993-0055
rlkorote@artsci.wustl.edu

Membership Chairperson

vacant

Secretary: Jim Adams

35 Tulip Dr.
St. Louis, MO 6311-4660
314-961-2494
dadams5084@charter.net

Editor: Anne McCormack

587 Andrews
St. Louis MO 63122-5722
314-965-8091
amccormack@stjosephacad.org
mccormacka@earthlink.net

Environmental Ed. Chair:

Mike Flieg
6803 Nashville
St. Louis MO 63139
314-645-3356
gmflieg@aol.com

Ornithology: David Becher

12829 Mariner's Pt Ct.
St. Louis MO 63141
314-576-1146

Co-chair Ornithology: Mike Brady

636-391-7631
bradymp@aol.com

Botany Co-Chair: George Yatskievych

11949 Claychester Dr.
St. Louis MO 63131
314-909-9540 work
george.yatskievych@mobot.org

Botany Co-Chair: Jeannie Moe

2419 Mayer Dr.
St. Charles, Mo. 63301-1379
636-946-9802

Entomology: Marshall Magner

516 Bacon Ave
Webster Groves MO 63119
314-961-4588

Member at Large: Ann Earley

1425 Bobolink Place
St. Louis, MO 63144-1128
314-963-0103
aee623@prodigy.net

Member at Large: Dr. Kimberlie McCue

Missouri Botanical Garden
314-577-9497
kimberlie.mccue@mobot.org

Member at Large: Mike Thelen

943 Morehouse Ln.
St. Louis, MO 63130-2158
314-862-6642

The Twa Corbies

As I was walking all alane,
I heard twa corbies making a mane;
The tane unto the t'other say,
"Where sall we gang and dine today?"

corbie: Scottish name for Carrion Crow

"In behint yon auld fail dyke,
I wot there lies a new slain knight;
And naebody kens that he lies there,
But his hawk, his hound, and lady fair.

kens: knows

"His hound is to the hunting gane,
His hawk to fetch the wild-fowl hame,
His lady's ta'en another mate,
So we may mak our dinner sweet.

"Ye'll sit on his white hause-bane,
And I'll pike out his bonny blue een;
Wi' ae lock o' his gowden hair
We'll theek our nest when it grows bare.

hause-bane: skull
een: eyes

"Mony a one for him makes mane,
But nane sall ken where he is gane;
O'er his white banes, when they are bare,
The wind sall blaw for evermair."

Anonymous c. 14th century

Dust of Snow

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Robert Frost

WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

Call 314-935-8432 for the latest bird sightings in St. Louis.

Meetings

Thursday March 3

7:00 PM John Karel, director of Tower Grove Park, will speak at St. L. Co. Library HQ on Lindbergh Blvd.

Wednesday March 9

7 PM Board meeting at University Club Tower, 1034 S. Brentwood, 15th floor, Suite 1515. All members are welcome. Note change of date.

Nature Notes deadline: Fri. March 11

Entomology

Sunday February 27

7 PM at Magner's, 516 Bacon Ave., Webster, 314-961-4588. Mike Arduser from the Missouri Department of Conservation will speak on "Natural Community Dependency Among Missouri Bees."

Sunday March 20

7 PM at Magner's, above. John Greenplate, of the Army Reserve will talk about his medical entomology experiences in Afghanistan and West Africa "Topics from the Developing World: One Entomologist's Military and Civilian Experience."

Botany

Thursday February-April

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. with field trip destination. To receive, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris <jahar@mac.com>.

Birding

Thursdays February-April

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. Call Jackie Chain, 314-644-5998.

Saturday March 5

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

Saturday March 12

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

Saturday March 12

4:30 PM SLAS at Busch Wildlife: Annual Woodcock and Owl Prowl. Meet at Hampton Lk. with Torrey Berger and Josh Uffman.

Sunday March 13

8:00 AM Horseshoe Lake with Frank Holmes and Jim Ziebol. Meet at the causeway.

Saturday March 19, & 26

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

Saturday March 26

8 AM SLAS Meet at Riverlands with Paul Bauer and Pat Lueders. Group will drive to Horseshoe Lake later.

Saturday April 2 & 16 & May 28

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

Saturday April 9

8 AM Busch Wildlife Area, meet at Hampton Lake. Bring lunch. David Becher 576-1146.

Saturday April 16

8:00 AM SLAS Castlewood SP Join Mike Brady and John Solodar on a half-day walk.

Sunday April 17

8 AM Castlewood Park with Sherry McCowan, meet at headquarters.

Saturday April 23

8 AM WGNSS Tower Grove Park. Meet at Gus Fogt site, just west of stable. Bring lunch. David Becher 576-1146.

Saturday April 23

8 AM SLAS Join Dave Rogles and Torrey Berger on a birding trip to BK Leach and Prairie Slough.

Saturday April 30

8 AM Castlewood. Meet at boat ramp. Bring lunch. David Becher 576-1146.

Saturday April 30

7:30 AM SLAS All-day trip starting at Shaw Nature Reserve and going on to Robertsville State Park with Connie Alwood and John Solodar.

Saturday May 7

8 AM Weldon Springs Wildlife Area, Lost Valley Hiking Trail. Route D in St. Charles Co. west of Busch Wildlife. Bring lunch. David Becher 576-1146.

Saturday May 14

Big Day.

Sunday May 15

8 AM Riverlands with Torrey Berger at headquarters.

Saturday May 21

8 AM Shaw Nature Reserve (Arboretum). Meet at Brush Creek Trail. Bring lunch. David Becher 576-1146.

Sunday May 22

8 AM Tower Grove Park with Sherry McCowan at Bird Garden.

Sunday May 29

8 AM Busch CA with Tom Parmeter at Hampton Lake.

Join  GNSS

What about a gift membership for Saint Paddy's Day? Send \$20 to Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132

**WEBSTER GROVES NATURE
STUDY SOCIETY** 

PO Box 190065
St. Louis MO 63119

address service requested

Non-profit Org.

US Postage Paid

St. Louis MO
Permit #690

exp: 31-08-2005 [O/R]

James F & Betty Adams
35 Tulip Dr
Saint Louis MO 63119-4660

631194660 B1



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 