

A NATURE HIKE OF INTEREST.

It was a lovely afternoon to go on a hike. The sun was shining when we got on the car. We were invited out to Mr. Myers' estate.

When we got out there all of us wanted a drink. The boys came running with a turtle; it was a Box Turtle. The first tree we found was a Sassafras. Mr. Myers told us that two or three weeks before the tree had been covered with purple berries. Third was a Black Jack Oak. The leaf is shaped much like a cross. Fourth was a White Oak, which has five pointed lobes. The Trumpet Vine was found next. It has a compound leaf. There are about eleven leaflets.

It also has a seed pod that is shaped like a pea pod. While we were looking at the Trumpet Vine one of the group found a mound of dirt which Mr. Myers told us was a Gopher's hole.

All at once a milk-weed pod caught my eye and I dashed madly over to it, not paying any attention to the weeds and brambles. Mr. Myers told us that if we opened the pod carefully we would find a part which resembles a fish, and sure enough! Also, in the same field we found an American Elm. Mr. Myers told us that the elm leaf mid-rib does not divide the leaf into two equal parts. Then he showed us a tree and asked us what it was. It was a Mulberry. It has the mitten and fork shaped leaf.

Our next find was the Evening Primrose; it has four petals and has leaves shaped like a lance that is coarse in texture. Next, we found a Red Haw. It was absolutely covered with little red fruit. As we were going in the woods we found the Laurel, or Shingle Oak. It also has a lance-shaped leaf.

All of a sudden the children came running to us and showed us a dog skull and Mr. Myers said that the dog had been killed by someone. He asked us how to tell the Shagbark Hickory. Almost all of us said "by the bark", but that was not the answer. He said that the Shagbark Hickory has only five leaflets, while the other Hickory has seven leaflets.

A little while afterwards my sister came to me and asked me to carry something for her. It was

A CHRISTMAS REQUEST.

Boys! - Girls! -

Please, wont you fix us up some Christmas Trees? Old ones will do. Just stand up your old Christmas tree outside after you are through with it, string some peanuts, pecans or sunflower seed on it like beads, festoon the tree with popcorn to look like snow. We'd like that. We dont care for candy, but if you could put some cake and bread crumbs in little baskets and hang them on the tree, you could have lots of fun watching us. If you wanted to, you could bore some holes in the trunk and fill the holes with suet or fat. Then we could see which of us could pick them empty first. If you havent a spare tree, an old log would do. You could pour some hot grease over it and trim it sort of Christmassy.

If you will do this for us, we will sing for you next spring and get some of the birds that have gone south for the winter to come back and sing too.

Chickadee
Titmouse
Nuthatch
D. Woodpecker
H. Woodpecker
R. B. Woodpecker
Brown Creeper
Junco
Cardinal

COMMITTEE

(Blue Jay and English Sparrow are not wanted, but they say they are going to come anyway. That's just too bad, but we cant help it).

(A NATURE HIKE OF INTEREST).

the Jack-in-the-Pulpit seed pod but a very poor specimen. Scattered in among the Shagbark Hickories there were several oaks that Mr. Myers said were White Oaks. Then he showed us the difference between the Red and the White Oak.

Later on we found a Post Oak and our guide showed us that by taking the two lower lobes off of the leaf we would have a perfect cross.

On an oak leaf Mr. Myers showed us the beginning of a gall. It looked like a bit of cotton dyed a tan color. Then he found an old gall; it was very fragile and had red spots on it.

Mary Louise Ellison.

(Continued in January number)

NATURE NOTES.

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HOW TO OBSERVE EROS.

The chance of a lifetime awaits those who will make an effort to find Eros in the sky while it makes its close approach to the earth this winter. The small space available does not permit us to publish a map of Eros' path in Nature Notes, but a few copies of such a map have been prepared. Anyone interested in observing the tiny planet can obtain a copy of the map from the Astronomy Group's secretary as long as the limited supply lasts.

From the present time, (Dec. 1), until January 1, Eros will be seen only through the aid of small telescopes; after January 1 it will be visible in field glasses until about March 1, when it will require a telescope again; after about April 15 it will be beyond range of even small telescopes.

The following instructions are published with the view of helping those desirous of making observations of Eros:

On the map mentioned above, the heavy line shows the planet's path and the short cross-lines its precise positions on the dates indicated. By interpolation, the position of any intervening date can be accurately determined. All the brightest naked-eye stars are shown, from which the observer can roughly determine the position of the planet in the sky. When this is done the observer should examine carefully the region for two or three degrees (the pointers of the Big Dipper are almost exactly five degrees apart) on all sides of the supposed position of Eros with the naked eye. All objects within the region should be recorded mentally, then by means of your field glass (or small telescope) repeat the process, using the naked-eye stars previously noted, as guide stars and carrying your mental picture down to the faintest stars that are distinctly visible with your instrument. One of these apparent stars should be Eros, if the above instructions have been explicitly carried out. It would be best to draw a diagram showing the relative positions and brilliance of the stars in the field to refer to later. In order to determine whether or not you have seen Eros,

BANDS AN OVEN-BIRD.

An oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) was banded on October 2nd 1930, by the Satterthwaits, it having come into a trap under a pear tree in the yard at 118 Waverly Place. It was given band No. C51412, and measurements were:— Total length $5\frac{1}{2}$ " , Wing 3" , Beak $\frac{3}{8}$ " , Tail $1\frac{15}{16}$ " , Tarsus $1\frac{3}{16}$ " . Recorded as gentle and quiet.

BIRD MEETINGS AT CLEVELAND.

During American Association for the Advancement of Science week this coming winter, in Cleveland, Ohio, the Wilson Ornithological Club will hold meetings on the 29th and 30th of December, and the Inland Bird Banding Association on December 31st. The annual banquet of the two organizations will be held with the Cleveland Bird Club.

SEE THE INSECT SHOW THIS MONTH.

Everyone is urged not to miss the Second Annual Insect Show sponsored by the St. Louis Entomological Club, to be on display at the Central Public Library from December 6th until the end of the month.

It will include exhibits from most of the large collections in St. Louis and St. Louis County, and will be interestingly instructive.

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and prospective entrants in the next insect collection contest ought to find this show a real attraction.

(HOW TO OBSERVE EROS).

another observation must be made from one to five days after the first observation. The same region should be examined. If the planet was seen on the previous date, it will have moved some distance from its former position and can be picked up readily by reference to your drawing or mental picture (if your memory is good). If too long an interval is allowed to pass between successive observations, Eros will move outside the observed field and your possible observation of it on the previous date can be told only by its absence and not by actually seeing it in a new position.

All the observations should be reported to the Astronomy Group Secretary at a meeting of the Astronomy Group.

Stuart L. O'Byrne
Secretary, Astronomy Group.

Write some news for "Nature Notes".

Webster Groves Nature-Study Society
A BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN NATURE-STUDY SOCIETY

(Organized in 1920)

Webster Groves, Mo.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BIRD GROUP MEETING IS POSTPONED
 FROM FRIDAY NOV. 28 to DECEMBER 13

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Editor

NATURE NOTES

** ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER - 1930 **

GENERAL MEETING.

Friday December 5, 8 PM, at the U.S. Entomological Laboratory, 527 Ivanhoe Place. Mrs. Satterthwait will have charge of this meeting, and will show and describe "Pictures in the Poconos of Pennsylvania".

FIELD TRIP.

Saturday December 6 - Sunday December 7. A General Field Trip to the "Lodge" of the Nature Study Society. The chimney is finished, logs will be burning in the fireplace and the Lodge will be cozily comfortable. Latest reports indicate that the Antire Road may not be open thru to the Lodge but you can park at the end of the concrete about half mile or so east of the Lodge,-- or you can take the longer route via Manchester Road to Old State Road west of Ellisville, thence South to Eureka and East on Antire Road, on which the concrete portion of the road is completed to the side road leading to the Lodge. Come Saturday,--or Sunday,--or both:--or you can stay over night at the Lodge if you wish to.

GROUP MEETINGS

Photography:-- Monday December 1, 8 PM, at the Mueller residence, 12 Armin Ave., Glendale Heights. "Making lantern slides from photographs of insects".

Geology:-- On Thursday December 11, the Geology Group and all other members of the society are invited to attend a meeting of the Academy of Science in the Washington Univ. Medical Hall, Scott and Euclid Avenues, St. Louis, to hear Dean McCourt of Washington University speak on "Man and Rock". 8 PM. Be sure to come.

Ornithology:-- The meeting postponed from ~~xxxxxxx~~ November 28 will be held on Saturday December 13, with the same subject ("Migrations of Birds") at the Jones residence, 690 Bonita Ave. Webster Gr.

Juniors:-- No regular meeting in December,-- but there will be a trip made to the new Bird House at the Zoo some day during the holidays, date and arrangements by phone. from Mrs. Pickens.

Anne A. Jones, Secretary.

"ON TO CLEVELAND"

Go if possible; make this trip a HUNDINGER. The American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Nature-Study Society and about 50 other scientific organizations, including the Wilson Ornithological Club, the Inland Bird Banding Association, the entomological, astronomical, microscopical, ecological and other societies directly interesting to you, will meet at Cleveland beginning at 9 AM December 29. New York Central, and Pennsy Roads charge \$28.65 for fare only, and the better trains carry Pullman coaches only; lower \$5.63, seat, \$3.00 one way. The Nickel Plate fare is about \$1.50 less, Pullman rates the same. The Wabash is offering round trip tickets between St. Louis and Toledo on Fridays and Saturdays to and including Dec. 13 at \$16.50. No reduction on this. From Toledo to Cleveland the Association Plan will total about \$4 or slightly over. We hope the low rates will be in effect on December 27. If so, the economic trip will be on Wabash, 6.30 PM, Saturday Dec. 27, sleeping in free reclining chairs, pillows 25 c., each way.

At Toledo, visit the European Corn Borer Headquarters, going or returning. Buy tickets over New York Central or over Lake Electric Line on certificate plan, one way. Have certificate validated while in Cleveland and get half rate back to Toledo. Make it a point to get to Cleveland in time to visit S. Prentiss Baldwin Bird Laboratory and Sanctuary Sunday afternoon. Register and get the big directory of programs at 9 AM Monday morning, then rush to the Nature-Study Society and to the Wilson Bird sessions, beginning at 9.30 AM.

A. F. Satterthwait.