



# nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

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## Arctic Nat'l Wildlife Refuge at 9/14 Meeting

Doug Corbett

The subject for our first meeting of the membership year is be a very timely one: Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)—much in the new lately because of proposed oil drilling there. We will begin at a **new time, 7:30 PM**, in the auditorium of St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh Blvd. in Frontenac.

Richard Spener and his wife Toni Armstrong have just returned from ANWR on July 29. On this trip—their third to this region—thousands of caribou passed their campsite. They have canoed three of ANWR's rivers and traveled through the Brooks Range up to Prudhoe Bay, for a total of 45 days spent in ANWR. Please join us for their slides of wildlife, birds, scenery, and oil in this Alaskan wilderness. ∞

### in this issue:

Free the Kennedy Woods .....	2
Member profile.....	4
Spring Botany.....	5
Bird Reports.....	11
Conservation Report .....	15
Buttfluying .....	16
Events.....	21

## Dues

Randy Korotev

If the address label on this *Nature Notes* says "exp: 31-08-2001," you will only receive one more issue of *Nature Notes* unless you pay your dues soon. Please send \$15 to Randy Korotev, WGNSS Treasurer, 800 Oakbrook Ln, Saint Louis, MO 63132-4807.

Thanks to all of you who paid your dues this summer, especially those who contributed a bit extra or renewed at the sustaining level. The cost of producing *Nature Notes* has risen sharply over the last year and we need the extra help if we are to avoid raising dues. ∞

## New Members

*Welcome to these new members:*

Linda Davis..... Ste. Genevieve  
 Catherine Devine ..... Webster Groves  
 Kenneth Foerstel Jr. .... Bloomsdale  
 Charles Guenther & Margaret Gilleo  
 .....Ladue  
 John & Marilyn Harlan.....Crestwood  
 Terry Kelley.....St. Ann  
 Phyllis Oakes..... Glencoe  
 Jane Schaefer..... University City  
 Noel Schanen .....St. Louis  
 Caryn & Michael St. Clair .....  
 ..... University City  
 Janeine Starek..... Valley Park  
 Penny Steffen.....St. Louis

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Free Kennedy Woods — Honeysuckle Harvest

Randy Korotev

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Free the Kennedy Woods” will be held on Sunday, Nov. 4. The goal of the effort is to cut and kill the bush honeysuckles that have invaded the understory of the J. F. Kennedy Memorial Forest in Forest Park. The honeysuckle is not native. It’s a security hazard to park users and a detriment to the long-term survival of the forest. The honeysuckle, which spreads rapidly and forms impenetrable thickets, has thick foliage by the end of March. In May and June when seedlings of native trees and shrubs sprout, there is no light reaching the forest floor under the honeysuckles, so the natives do not thrive.

Like previous years, we will assemble in many small teams of two or three people. One or two people will cut the honeysuckle, the other will follow behind and paint the herbicide Roundup on the exposed stump. This procedure is very effective in the late fall because the Roundup is taken into the roots—try it in your yard!. Of the plants cut last fall, very few came back this past spring. Also, by early November the honeysuckle is easy to identify because it’s practically the only deciduous shrub that still has leaves.

The last two years we have had over 100 participants, and the impact in the areas we have focused is noticeable. Native plants are taking over where the honeysuckle was removed and birders and other persons who enjoy the woods can actually see what’s around the next curve in the trail. If we can continue the same level of effort, all the large berry-producing plants in the woods will be gone in about 3 years. This year we will concentrate on the area along Valley Drive. We will put our headquarters on Valley Drive south of the stone bridge in

woods, *not* at the picnic shelter as in previous years. (See map at web site, below.)

Date: Sunday, Nov. 4—rain date: Nov. 11

- ✓ Time: Two shifts—10:00 a.m. to noon and noon to 2:00 p.m.
- ✓ Place: Take Valley Drive west from the Zoo, past the Art Museum, and park where you can. Find the tent.
- ✓ What to bring: Cutting tools (loppers, small saw, or hand pruner), long sleeved shirt, gloves, drinking water

To volunteer, or for more information, contact members of the Kennedy Woods Advisory group: Ben Senturia (726-2060), Ken Cohen (725-1147), Jim Holsen (822-0410), Randy Korotev (rlk@levee.wustl.edu), or Mr. Honeysuckle ([honeysuckle@treeswallow.com](mailto:honeysuckle@treeswallow.com)). We would particularly like to hear soon from veterans who would be willing to be team captains. We will keep up-to-date information on our web page:

<http://treeswallow.com/honeysuckle>

### Blame it on the computer

Anne McCormack

Perhaps you remember this breath-taking total in our last issue’s article on Big Day ’01: “Composite total—206!” Well, it ain’t necessarily so. Not trusting my own counting skills, I let the data base count the number of species recorded. Only I forgot to tell the thing not to count those species marked “missed.” Hence, the real report should be:

<i>Composite total...179</i>	
'00 .....	185
'99 .....	190
'98 .....	177
'97 .....	195
'96 .....	195
'95 .....	188
'94 .....	179
'93 .....	164
'90 .....	193
'86 .....	180

## **Why not volunteer with WGNSS at Riverlands September 29?**

Dianne Benjamin

WGNSS needs volunteers of all ages and abilities at a Riverlands family event on National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 29. WGNSS is leading bird walks every 2 hours from 9 AM—2 PM and is hosting a display table. Come celebrate in the fun: bluebird house construction workshop, shoreline cleanup, youth fishing clinic, nature photography workshop, outdoor adventure seminars, and hands-on activities for children of all ages. WGNSS will come together with Riverlands staff, US Fish and Wildlife, Illinois DNR, Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers (MoNEP), Greenway Network, and Alpine Shop. Please help WGNSS make this event a success by contacting: Dianne Benjamin, WGNSS Membership Chair, 314. 997-2419. ∞

## **Why not volunteer with WGNSS at Conservation Forum Oct. 4?**

Dianne Benjamin

WGNSS needs a few good members at our display for "Conservation Forum 2001" between 5 PM and 10 PM Thursday, October 4th at The Living World, Saint Louis Zoo. WGNSS's display will illustrate "Songbirds in Decline." Come to learn from keynote speakers Dr. Barry Chernoff, Conservation International and Chicago's Field Museum Curator, and Dr. Jan Alick, Missouri Botanical Garden Curator. Enjoy a light supper and mingle with other conservation organizations. Come to support speaker Yvonne Homeyer, WGNSS Conservation Chair, explaining why we are losing and how we can save our songbirds. To volunteer, please contact: Dianne Benjamin, WGNSS Membership Chair, 314. 997-2419. ∞

## **Nature Nut: Barbara Lawton**

*Here we begin a series of articles profiling our members. The questions were devised by Linda Virga, the answers are written by this month's Nature Nut—Barbara! Barbara*

*Lawton is a Life Member of WGNSS.*

*Who or what prompted your initial interest in nature?*

From early childhood—summers in the Adirondacks, love of outdoors, getting to know natural history through experiences, books, adult friends.

*What persons, books, etc. have been highlights in your development as a naturalist?*

In college I met Ann Morgan, an early ecologist. I've had many adult friends who encouraged me and were interested in teaching me. Locally, people like Marshall Magner and many more I've met through WGNSS: Jack and Pat Harris, Father Sullivan and more!

Many books over the years have been inspirational, from *Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold, to *The Beak of the Finch*, by Jonathan Weiner.

*Are you active in any other environmental groups?*

In addition to WGNSS, I've been a member of Stream Team, checking stream quality regularly for about a decade. I'm a Master Gardener at Missouri Botanical Garden, and I'm active at the Shaw Nature Reserve. I belong to The Nature Conservancy, Audubon and others.

*Which accomplishments, activities, and endeavors do you value most highly?*

Accomplishments: *Seasonal Guide to the Natural Year in Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas*, 1994, from Fulcrum Publishing, and also my several gardening books.

Activities: The time spent with the WGNSS Botany Group—wonderful people and I learn so much.

Endeavors: My upcoming book on the mint family for Timber Press, due early

2002. My most recently published book is *The Magic of Irises*, Fulcrum.

Organizations: Serving as a reserve public information officer with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) since 1996. I have served in federal disasters in 14 states.

*What are your hopes for the future?*

I hope to keep writing natural history, gardening, science stuff for my general audiences—maybe more books.

*Other hobbies, occupation?*

I'm a long-time member and past president of Garden Writers Association of America (GWAA). From 1972 to 1990, I wrote a weekly garden column for *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. I'm the mother of Cindy Gilberg (Gilberg Perennial Farms), and Bill Lawton, president of a Ft. Myers, Florida travel agency.

I enjoy swimming at Tree Court's mineral spring pool and biking on our wonderful trails. ∞

## Spring Botanizing

Carl Darigo

Except for the annual week-long spring botany trip in May, the Botany Group continued their Thursday outings, with the following attending one or more times, Father James Sullivan, Sandy & Dave Alspaugh, Leonard Blake, Marvin Boisseau, Marlene & Thane Bopp, David Bruns, Nancy & Wayne Clark, Jeanne Clauson, Carl Darigo, Joyce & Bill Davit, Walt Frerck, Suzanne Greenlee, Sue Gustafson, Pat & Jack Harris, Karen Hensel, Nels Holmberg, Barbara Lawton, Leslie Lihou, Harold Meyer, Jeannie Moe, Betty & Bob Nellums, Fran & Tom O'Gorman, John Oliver, Marge & Jim Ruschill, Suzy & Dick Russell, Al Seppi, Betty Tanner, Kathy Thiele, and Martha Younkin, and son Adam.

March 1, Robertsville State Park, Franklin County—seven persons trekked park roads, bottomland forest near the old scout

camp and traditional harbinger of spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*) sites under a sporadic, near-freezing drizzle, but nary a flowering plant was found. Al Seppi brought in a blossoming winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*) from a neighbor's yard in Illinois, but the group decided not to recognize this ringer as the year's first flowering plant sighting. Not far from an abundance of Adam & Eve orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*) leaves in the forest, a nice patch of sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) was seen in a wet site below high tension wires; also Nels Holmberg spotted a cut leaf grape fern (*Botrychium dissectum*). The long dearth of flowering plants led to other pursuits, such as a fruiting clump of *Atrichium alte-cristatum* (high-rib catherinea moss), Father Sullivan finding *Favolus alveolaris* (hexagonal-pored polypore) a fungus with aptly-described pores, Jack Harris with another fungus, *Schizophyllum commune* (common split gill) and Al coming up with *Par-motrema hypotropum* (curly lichen), named for its tendency to curl away from the substrate. However, Bob Nellums found the best trophy, a fair-sized set of deer antlers.

March 8, Pea Ridge Conservation Area, Washington County—six members enjoyed a crisp and sunny 45° day to check on the witch hazel at the previously-known Indian Creek site. *Hamamelis vernalis* (Ozark witch hazel) was indeed in full bloom in the creek's gravel bars, although the fragrant aroma was less prevalent and Father Sullivan noted that flowers seemed more yellow/orange and less red, with petals somewhat more slender; perhaps the long winter had some effect. The plants were also seen along a tributary about 3/4 mile distant, indicating a wide distribution. A bunch of reddish-appearing shrubs along the creek was identified as *Cornus amomum* (swamp dogwood). Betty Nellums took honors for sighting the year's 2nd flowering plant, a ragged dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*),

then later successfully called the genus on a wild petunia (*Ruellia strepens*) dried plant test. The group noticed that coral berries (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) were still present, indicating these fruits may not be palatable to wildlife. Jack Harris spotted a clump of yellow and black feathers of unknown origin, which birder Al Seppi researched further but could not identify the host bird.

March 15, Missouri Botanical Garden—temperature was moderate in the 50's, but a threatened rain forecast sent five people to the Garden, although scattered drizzle did not prevent some outside walking. Two plants on display in Ridgway were seen in full bloom later in Schoenberg Temperate House, an orange-green euphorbia (*Euphorbia dendroides*) and Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*) having denser and deeper pink flowers than our native tree. Also seen here were yellow flowers of the rare native Missouri pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*). In the Camellia House was seen a large fern, mother spleenwort (*Asplenium bulbiferum*), laden with leafy bulblets on the lower leaf surfaces. Many bulb-type plants were blooming over the grounds, including white, yellow and purple daffodils (*Narcissus* spp.) and delicate lavender squill (*Scilla* sp.). Father Sullivan pointed out the ash (*Fraxinus*)-like buds of *Chionanthus virginicus* (fringe tree), both trees in the Oleaceae family, and *Tsuga canadensis* (eastern hemlock) with two white stripes on the lower leaf surface, characteristic of the genus. A *Corylus avellana* tree with pale red female flowers carried the unusual common name of Harry Lauder's walking stick, apparently due to the gnarled trunk, and nearby was *Helleborus orientalis* (lenten rose), whose brownish-purple blossoms mirrored the current season.

March 22, Young Conservation Area, Jefferson County—under a slight, but steady 50° drizzle, six persons walked a portion of

the Taconic Trail, then searched the bottomland and bluffs above LaBarque Creek for *hepatica*. A total of 12 flowering species were listed; Father Sullivan started the festivities with *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (shepherd's purse) and *Draba verna* (vernal whitlow grass), Pat Harris found a questionable *Veronica polita* (wayside speedwell). She added *Thlaspi perfoliatum* (penny cress), *Lamium amplexicaule* (henbit) and *L. purpureum* (dead nettle). Tom O'Gorman weighed in with *Claytonia virginica* (spring beauty) and Al Seppi spotted the hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*). Remainder of the 12 were male catkins of red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), harbinger of spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*) and false rue anemone (*Isopyrum biternatum*). Nels Holmberg found the oblong, ridged egg case of a non-native praying mantis; the native insect's egg case is smaller, smooth and cylindrical. After tromping through abundant, budding bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Father Sullivan led the troops through a one-foot deep, boot-soaking creek ford, in a fitting finale to a wet day.

March 29, Katy Trail State Park, St. Charles County—on a cool, cloudy day, nine people walked the Katy Trail at the Weldon Spring access. Slightly exceeding last week's total, 13 flowering species were seen, including *Androsace occidentalis* (western rock jasmine), *Corydalis flavula* (pale corydalis), *Lindera benzoin* (spice bush), *Ranunculus abortivus* (small flowered crowfoot), *Sibara virginica* (Virginia rock cress) and *Viola rafinesquii* (Johnny jump-up). A few fruits of possible *Smilax illinoensis* (carrion flower) were found, but additional plants will be searched for in the future to confirm identification. Several garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) plants were spotted and destroyed; the invasive plant has not previously been seen along this

stretch of the trail and hopefully is not gaining a foothold.

April 5, Rockwoods Reservation, St. Louis County—a good crowd of 18, including David Bruns of the Rockwoods staff, enjoyed a welcome 70° day while touring the Trail Among the Trees. Among flowering plants seen were *Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches), *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot), *Corylus americana* (hazelnut), *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass), *Anemonella thalictroides* (rue anemone), *Carex albicans* (early spring sedge) and *Viola sororia* (common violet). After pointing out several old quarry building foundations, near a giant 80-year-old cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), David explained that cottonwood and sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) are the first trees re-inhabiting the old quarry sites. Also seen along the trail were scarlet cup (*Sarcoscypha coccinea*), one of the first fungi to appear in spring, *Dermatocarpon miniatum* (rock tripe), a common lichen with single-point attachment to rock faces and *Schistidium apocarpum* (common beard moss), blackish-appearing plants also growing on rocks.

April 12, Silver Mines Recreation Area, Madison County—nine persons took advantage of a very nice, 70° spring day to check St. Francis River flora near the Highway D picnic area and old river bridge. With Father Sullivan pursuing Easter Week duties, Pat & Jack Harris did a commendable job as substitute leaders. Three phlox species were seen, blue phlox (*P. divaricata*), prairie phlox (*P. pilosa*) and the rare cleft phlox (*P. bifida*). Other interesting flowering plants included *Erythronium rostratum* (yellow trout lily), *E. albidum* (white trout lily), *Mertensia virginica* (bluebells), *Sedum ternatum* (three-leaved stonecrop), *Trillium sessile* (wake robin), *Sassafras albidum* (sassafras), *Thaspium trifoliatum* (yellow meadow parsnip) and *Viola striata* (pale violet). Some time was

spent checking *Luzula campestris* (wood rush), a rush family member common in oak-hickory forests, whose flowering stage has a completely different appearance than the normally seen fruiting plants. Butterfly enthusiasts Jack Harris and Tom O'Gorman had numerous sightings, including falcate orange tip (*Falcapica midea*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*) and red admiral (*V. rubria*).

April 19, Engelmann Woods Natural Area, Franklin County—a crowd of 18 overflowed the parking lot, then on a cloudy 65° day, traversed the almost 300 feet elevation drop to the site's lush bottomland. As was anticipated, the yellow celandine poppies (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) and white trillium (*Trillium flexipes*) were in abundance. Also seen were coral root orchid (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*) and narrow-leaved glade fern (*Diplazium pycnocarpon*). Sedges were making a spring-time comeback, with *Carex blanda* (woodland sedge), *C. meadii* (Mead's sedge) and the wide, lily-like leaves of *C. albursina* (white bear sedge), being found. Engelmann Woods is reputed to be good morel habitat, but Jack Harris spotted the only one, a tiny, shriveled yellow morel (*Morchella esculenta*), which proves that either the season is poor, or the place had already been stripped by mushroom hunters.

April 26, Washington State Park, Washington County—16 persons enjoyed an 80° day while touring the bottomland section of the 1000 Steps Trail, then covering the Petroglyph glade. New members along for the first time were Walt Frerck, and Marlene & Thane Bopp. In the bottomland, besides the abundant *Collinsia verna* (blue-eyed Mary), also seen were *Asarum canadense* (ginger), *Geranium maculatum* (wild geranium), *Arabis shortii* (rock cress), *Camassia scilloides* (wild hyacinth), *Polygonatum biflorum* (Solomon's seal), *Viola pubescens* (yellow violet) and a possible

*Trillium viride* (green trillium). Trees in full bloom were pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*) and Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*). Father Sullivan identified the season's first bug, *Gastrophysa cyanea*, a beetle on a dock (*Rumex* sp.) leaf, then took time off from lunch to find numerous fire pink (*Silene virginica*) plants on the hill behind the lodge. Kathy Thiele spotted a flush of shaggy mane (*Coprinus comatus*) mushrooms on a rotten log; this species is a delectable edible, but would have liquidified into an inky mess before reaching the pot. The recently-burned glade was resplendent with a display of plants, among which were *Clematis fremontii* (Fremont's leather flower), *Hypoxis hirsuta* (yellow star grass), *Dodecatheon meadia* (shooting star), *Lithospermum canescens* (orange puccoon), *Viola pedata* (bird's foot violet), *Senecio plattensis* (prairie ragwort), *Arenaria patula* (sandwort) and *Eleocharis compressa* (flat-stemmed spike rush.) Near the park entrance road, Jack Harris and Leslie Lihou spotted the rare prairie iris (*Nemastylis geminiflora*).

May 3, Chapel Hill Road, Franklin County—nine persons had intended to visit the Miller Farm glade, but due to a directional mix-up settled for a nice walk along a country road, with agreeable 80° weather. Seen along the roadside were *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist), *Silene virginica* (fire pink), *Viola striata* (pale violet), *Senecio obovatus* (squaw weed), *S. glabellus* (butterweed), *Ophioglossum engelmannii* (Engelmann's adder's tongue), *Iodanthus pinnatifidus* (purple rocket), *Salvia lyrata* (lyre leaved sage) and *Asclepias quadrifolia* (whorled milkweed). Owners of the nearby Indian Creek Gallery invited the group to tour their stained glass workshop and also check the property for plants, where were found *Castilleja coccinea* (red Indian paintbrush), *Penstemon pallidus* (pale beard tongue), *Dodecatheon meadia* (shooting

star) and *Tradescantia longipes* (dwarf spiderwort). On the way home, a stop was made at Robertsville State Park where Pat Harris spotted flowering Adam & Eve orchids (*Aplectrum hyemale*).

May 10, Lost Corner Farm, Ste. Genevieve County—on another nice 80° day, host John McCammon guided eight people over a glade and through woods on this private property. Seen on the glade were *Asclepias viridis* (green-flowered milkweed) complete with an *Oncopeltus fasciatus* (large milkweed bug), *Scutellaria leonardii* (Leonard's skullcap), *Polytaenia nuttallii* (prairie parsley), *Senecio plattensis* (prairie ragwort) and *Calamintha arkansana* (calamint). The forest habitat provided *Woodsia obtusa* (blunt lobed woodsia), *Botrychium virginianum* (rattlesnake fern), *Polypodium virginianum* (common polypody), *Krigia biflora* (false dandelion), *Heuchera americana* (alum root), *Senecio aureus* (golden ragwort), *Corallorhiza wisteriana* (coral root orchid) and *Lemna minor* (lesser duckweed)

May 17, Miller Glade, Franklin County—a group of 10 survived a hot, 85° day to survey a privately-owned glade, generously hosted by Ron Oesch, who has done much restoration work on the approximate 15 acre site, located off Hwy K, five miles east of Meramec State Park. Martha Younkin & son Adam, neighbors of Nels Holmberg, and Joyce & Bill Davit were welcomed. The glade had a large number of nice native plants, among the more outstanding being *Asclepias viridis* (green flowered milkweed), *Matelea decipiens* (climbing milkweed), *Eryngium yuccifolium* (rattlesnake master), *Swertia caroliniensis* (American columbo), *Delphinium carolinianum* (Carolina larkspur) and *Perideridia americana* (American squaw root). Zizia-person Pat Harris identified *Z. aureus* (golden Alexander), a new entry for the plant list. Father Sullivan pointed out two

(among numerous) bugs, *Archimerus alternatus*, a plant-feeding type, and *Trichaltica scabricula* (ash-leaf beetle). Butterflies were numerous, one of which spotted by Jack Harris was the Baltimore checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*). Ron explained that the many tiny snails seen, white-washed rhabdotus (*Rhabdotus dealbatus*), were fairly common on Missouri glades.

May 31, Bell Mountain Wilderness, Iron County—six people drove the 100 miles to Bell Mountain Wilderness Ottery Creek Trailhead, meeting Alan Brant, as he pursued the rare Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*) for the Mark Twain National Forest. Tim Smith & Peggy Horner of the Department of Conservation also joined the group. Near the trailhead Father Sullivan found a spectacular *Aruncus dioicus* (goat's beard) with many flowering panicles. The parking area was replete with tiny *Panicum laxiflorum* (lax-flowered panic grass) and several hawthorn trees (*Crataegus crus-galli*), with large green fruit while the dominant *Carex* on the forest trail was *C. rosea* (convoluted sedge). On the glades, a previous population of Mead's milkweed was seen, but no new plants discovered. Other interesting glade plants included *Carex crinita* (fringed sedge), *C. glaucoidea* (blue sedge), *Callitriche terrestris* (terrestrial starwort), *Oenothera linifolia* (sundrops), *Melica nitens* (three-flowered melic grass), *Linum medium* (sucker flax) and *Orbexilum pedunculatum* (Sampson's snake-root).

Many thanks to Pat & Jack Harris for contributing to this article. ∞

### **Ornifolkian Dancing with Mike Flieg**

Joe Struckhoff

I am far from being a technical birder and my hearing, sight and memory have a lot to be desired, however, the promise of sing

new birds keeps my avian appetite alive. The Ornifolks Lek-a-Day trip, as featured in *Nature Notes*, was right up my alley, since I need most of the ground dancers of my life list. The trip produced 3 Missourians, 1 Californian, 1 new Yorker and 1 Floridian—a mixture of birding venues of these United States.

Mike Flieg had completed this same trip the week before and knew where we most probably would see the species he had noted in his WGNSS article. A busy seven days—many miles of travel, but the trip was “as advertised.” We saw Greater Prairie Chicken, Mountain Plover, Sage Grouse, Rosy Finches, Sharp-tailed Grouse—the best dancers, Blue Grouse, White-tailed Ptarmigan—not, Gunnison Sage Grouse, Less Prairie Chicken, Black Rail—a lot of work, but Mike is good. My bird of the trip was a beautiful Barn Owl, my first.

I am a lister—11 life birds, 115 species.

I recommend this trip to one and all. This price was right, lots of birds, beautiful scenery, and professional guidance. ∞

### **Highlights of ASM's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in St. Louis**

Paul Bauer

Three days of intense birding and socializing culminated on Sunday morning, May 6, in one of the most spectacular warbler fall-outs in my birding memory of over 50 years. Four days of a slow-moving weather front north of the city, and the unique migrant trap oasis-effect of urban parks combined to hit Tower Grove Park as a mob of eager birders arrived! More details on this later. Two year of detailed planning and six months of intense efforts by up to 50 people came together much better than even I expected.

This 100th Anniversary Spring Meeting of Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) had many firsts:

- 3 rather than 2 days of field trips. Nearly half took part in the full day of Fri. field trips.
- 15 field trips to 10 locations. This was possible only because Charlene and Jim Malone were able to recruit nearly 40 volunteers to serve as leaders and escorts. My personal and our collective thanks to each WGNSS and Audubon person that helped make these field trips so productive and enjoyable.
- 130 people registered plus 30 additional field trip leaders.
- 178 species of birds found, including 33 warblers! Three days of birding and the peak of our spring migration helped; but this was only in the Missouri half of the St. Louis area. The use of personal radios between groups at Tower Grove may also have boosted lists.
- Paying to bring nationally-known speaker, Pete Dunne. Our members fully supported this in a vote at our Fall 1999 meeting. About 125 persons attended the Saturday dinner, and experienced Pete's unique presentation of a one-act play of famous birders from the past and present.

So many people expressed praise for our field trip leaders: "They tried to show us every bird!" It made this old man very happy to learn that the torch had been picked up so well by the next generation of birding leaders.

At the Saturday evening program, I declared, "St. Louis is the birding Mecca of the Midwest!" Certainly I was pleased with the success of events up to that point but I had not clue about the Sunday morning warbler fall-out. Matt Gerheart of Kansas City e-mailed that he logged 14 species of warblers, Black-billed Cuckoo, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Philadelphia Vireo *all in one tree!*

After 100 years, what about our future? I noticed in our history book that ASM had over 1,000 members in 1947. With so many new people interested in birding, I believe ASM could reach that strength again. How? Invite two non-member birding friends to each meeting. More members means more leaders with energy!

Could WGNSS and St. Louis Audubon apply this same idea to promote growth? Why not? ∞

## **2001-2002 Season**

### **WGNSS/Audubon Walks Start**

Jim & Charlene Malone

This season will be starting a bit earlier with a walk on Saturday, August 25th with a quest for shorebirds migrating through the region. Please meet at Horseshoe Lake State Park, Hwy 111 entrance, shelter 1 & 2 parking lot (first parking lot on the right past the entrance) at 7:30 AM and go until early afternoon. The walk will start here and proceed to where any shorebird habitat might be in the area with the most likely route being Horseshoe Lake to Riverlands to Two Rivers NWR (formerly Mark Twain NWR) in Calhoun county, Ill.. Because shorebird habitat is not always predictable, the route will be determined then. Please bring scope, bins, field guides and dress for the weather (hot, humid and out in the sun with no shade). Bring plenty of water and light snacks. Most birding will be from the car, but there could be some hiking. Leaders will be Jim Malone and Paul Bauer. Call Jim Malone at 636-536-1119 for more information.

The second walk of the new season will be Saturday, September 8th. This walk will start in the NW corner of Tower Grove Park at the Gaddy Bird Garden at 8:00 AM. We will bird there for any fall passerines stopping off in the Park. The next stops will be "where the best birds are." This will be

an *all day* walk, so bring a lunch and plenty to drink. Bring a scope, bins, field guide and dress for the weather. Leaders will be Jim Malone and Paul Bauer. Call Jim Malone for more information, above.

The last walk in September will be the 4th annual Carlyle Lake Birdwalk/ Pelagic on Saturday, September 22. Please meet at the Carlyle, Ill., McDonalds at 7:00 AM. From there we will go to Hazlet State Park and hike the trails to find migrating passerines. From there, we will go on to the pelagic out of the West Marina. The registration fee will be \$15-\$20 (dependent upon number of people signed up, boats rented and cost of gas, plus a minimal donation to St. L. Audubon) We will eat lunch on the lake, so bring a day backpack to carry bins, lunch, drink, and any other items that will be needed. NO SCOPES on the boats, but bring a scope for birding other parts of the lake. Dress for the weather/sun and wear comfortable, waterproof hiking shoes because moderate to *long* hikes could be the norm. This is an *all-day* event, but you can leave at any time. Target birds will be migrating shorebirds, passerines/fall warblers, gulls, waterfowl and raptors. The last few years have produced some great rarities such as Long-Tailed Jaeger (!!), Parasitic Jaeger, Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher, Red Phalarope and Ibis species. The lake is *the place* in St. Louis to regularly find the few Sabine's Gulls that migrate through the area. Last year's trip provided views of the birds within 20 feet. Dan Kassebaum, the resident expert of Carlyle Lake, will be co-leading this trip. With Dan's expertise and knowledge of the Lake's habitat, some good birds are sure to be seen. Other leaders will be Jim Malone and Paul Bauer. For more information and to register, call Jim Malone, above. *Registration starts immediately and ends September 14.* Directions: Take I-55/I-70/ I-64 over the Poplar Street Bridge into Ill.. Turn east onto I-64 and continue until

exit 19. Go north on US 50 through Lebanon, Ill. to Ill.-127 at Carlyle. At this intersection/stoplight, turn left and go to the McDonald's restaurant parking lot. ∞

## **Hummingbird Banding at Missouri Parks**

Lanny Chambers

The public is invited to watch a demonstration of hummingbird banding at **Meramec State Park on Saturday, Aug. 25 and at Onondaga SP, Sunday, Aug. 26.** I'll set up at the park visitor centers from **noon to 7:00 PM.** People are encouraged to bring cameras with macro lenses for in-hand photos. Kids of all ages will get to help release banded hummers. ∞

## **Let's Talk about Birds, Baby**

WGNSS's Ornithology group will continue to meet on the second-to-last Sunday of each month at 4:00 PM. The topic on Sunday, September 23 will be "Raptor Migration—Kettles & Kites." Sunday, October 21's topic: "Earthwatch in Churchill, Manitoba—Gulls, Polar Bears, and the Politics of Peat."

We'll have a pot luck supper. Bring a dish and join the fun. Everyone is invited. Meet at Vicki Flier's, 18 Algonquin Wood. For more information, call Vicki: 314-968-9166 or e-mail [RRVVCC@AOL.com](mailto:RRVVCC@AOL.com)

### *tyson nature line*

Call 935-8432 for a summary of the latest bird sightings in the St. Louis area. Please report any unusual birds to Connie Alwood, 524-8111. ∞

## **NEXT DEADLINE:**

### **Sept. 7**

Submissions—handwritten, typed, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 or [mccormacka@earthlink.net](mailto:mccormacka@earthlink.net)

## May 2001 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

### Abbreviations:

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

CL = Carlyle Lake

FP = Forest Park

HL = Horseshoe Lake

Lost Valley Trail = LVT

MTNWR = Mark Twain Nat. Wildlife Refuge

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands

TGP = Tower Grove Park

### *early arrival dates:*

5/1 Nighthawk, Black-billed Cuckoo

5/5 Dickcissel, Mourning Warbler

5/6 Wilson's Warbler, Hudsonian Godwit, Black-bellied Plover

5/7 Bewick's Wren

5/11 Bell's Vireo

5/12 Painted Bunting

5/17 Olive-sided Flycatcher

*Sightings:* An apparent Anhinga was reported on Dabbs Road at MTNWR on 5/19 (CM, IOS group). On 5/12, Tom Bormann located a Least Bittern near HL. Virginia Rail and American Bittern were found at BCA on 4/29 (MAA). Kent Lannert found an American Bittern on 5/1 at the old Collinsville Road golf course, which is now part of the Indian Lake wetlands mitigation area. Another American Bittern was seen, along with a Bald Eagle, along Hwy. 79 on 5/3 (IH). Six Black-crowned Night Herons were observed on 5/12 at Simpson Park in Kirkwood by Judy Reich and four were observed on 5/24 at Des Peres Park by Barbara Estill. Jane Zetta saw Glossy Ibis and Tricolored Heron near HL on 5/10 and Frank Holmes also saw the Glossy Ibis on 5/13. One Sora was seen at Eagle Park on 5/5 (YH). A Wood Duck with 13 babies was seen in FP on 5/13 (WK). A Cooper's Hawk was observed dining on a chipmunk in FP on 5/18 (RK & MAA). Myrna Deaton located Black-necked Stilt at Lot #3, CL, on 5/2. That same location produced 750

Semipalmated Plovers and 2 Sanderlings on 5/10 (KL). On 5/18, Bob Chapel found an assortment of Piping, Semipalmated, Golden and Black-bellied Plover, also at Lot #3, CL. A Hudsonian Godwit was seen at CL on 5/6 (DK) and another was seen at REDA on 5/12 by Judy Reich. Ian Hunt observed Marbled Godwit and Ruddy Turnstones at Lot # 3, CL, on 5/12. Four Whimbrels were spotted at REDA on 5/26 (Josh Hoffman). Several Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Short-billed Dowitchers and Peeps stopped over at BCA on 5/11 (Jim Mohrmann). A Woodcock was found in FP on 5/13 (Anthony Floyd of Lubbock, Texas). Dan Kassebaum and an IOS group found adult Red Knot at Lot #3, CL, on 5/19. At that same place, Kent Lannert reported 300 Dunlin and Ruddy Turnstones on 5/15. On 5/11, there was a Reeve at Lot #3, CL (Chris Woods, DK). Late in the month, the following good counts of shorebirds were reported: on 5/21, 3 Red-necked Phalaropes, 2 Sanderlings, and 20 Stilt Sandpipers at CL (P&BJ); on 5/27, 80 Dunlin, 28 Ruddy Turnstones, Spotted & Stilt Sandpipers on Hwy. B in St. Charles County (J Mo); 80+ Dunlin, 37 Ruddy Turnstones at REDA and 18 Black-bellied Plovers at Harbor Point (J&CM).

Six Franklin's Gulls were located on Hwy B on 5/28 by Jeannie Moe and Dave Rougles. Black Terns were found in late May in four separate locations: at HL on 5/23, 150 were seen (m. ob.); at REDA, 50 were counted on 5/26 (m. ob.); at CL, 300 were found at CL (m. ob.); and on Hwy. B in St. Charles County on 5/28 (Jeannie Moe and Dave Rougles).

A Black-billed Cuckoo was a good find for TGP on 5/1 (RAB, JC). Dennis Bozzay saw a Black-billed Cuckoo at BCA on 5/6 and another visited Margaret Terpstra's back yard in late May. A Nighthawk was sighted by the Barkers at their home on 5/29. A Chuck-will's-widow was heard at

the home of Margaret Terpstra on 5/4. An Acadian and a Least Flycatcher were observed in TGP on 5/1 (MAA, N. Solodar). On 5/12, Willow Flycatcher was present at MTC and Alder Flycatcher at LVT (m. ob.). Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen at TGP on 5/17 (T Be), at Hilda Young C.A. on 5/27 (D Bz), and at HL on 5/28 (B Ru). Ian Hunt found a Bewick's Wren at LVT on 5/8. Two Veeries and a Hairy Woodpecker were seen at TGP on 5/5 (D&ND). Another Veery was observed at TGP on 5/12 (YH). A flock of 20+ Cliff Swallows were flying over the Shorebird Area at BCA on 5/26 (JZ, YH). Bell's Vireo was found in two locations: on 5/1 at Weldon Spring C.A. (CA) and on 5/12 at BCA (m. ob.).

A female Cerulean Warbler was seen in TGP on 5/4 (Ian Hunt); this species is rarely seen in migration, probably a result of the fact that its population has decreased by 90% in the Midwest since the 1970's. On 5/19, Cerulean and Worm-eating Warbler were observed at West Tyson Park (DR) and a male Cerulean was heard singing at Rockwoods on 5/24 (D Br). There were several Bay-breasted and Black-throated Green Warblers at TGP on 5/3 (NB). On 5/15, at TGP, two Mourning Warblers (Mick Richardson) and Canada and Wilson's Warblers were observed (T Be). Hooded, Black-throated Green, Magnolia and other warblers were seen at Wilson Park (FH). On 5/6, 23 warbler species were found at TGP (Mo. Aud. Soc, m. ob.). Connecticut Warbler was found in several places the weekend of 5/19/20: one was heard at Shaw Nature Reserve on 5/19 (DB), one was found at TGP on 5/20 (BK), and one was heard at LVT on 5/20 (YH). At the end of May, Mourning Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Least Flycatcher were seen in TGP (IH). Grasshopper Sparrow was reported twice: on 5/3 at Clarence Cannon (IH) and on 5/10 on Bruns Road (Th. Group). A Lark Sparrow was

seen at the Katy Trail Access on 5/13 (J. Mo) and on the Blue Grosbeak Trail on 5/28 (YH). A possible Bachman's Sparrow was observed by Helen Wuestenfeld at her feeder on 5/5. On 5/12, LeConte's, Henslow's, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were all observed at the Shorebird Area of BCA (m. ob.). Although Henslow's Sparrows were seen in various locations in BCA in April and May, they didn't remain into breeding season as they did last summer. Dickcissels arrived throughout the area around 5/5. One was found in BCA on 5/26 (YH). Blue Grosbeak was seen at HL near the Borrow Pit on 5/5 (FH). Again this year, Dan Kassebaum located Painted Bunting in East St. L. near the Casino on 5/10.

*Comments:* Dan Kassebaum had 153 species in Clinton County, Ill. on 5/6, including Hudsonian Godwit, Black-bellied Plover and 100 American Pipits. Across from Tower Grove Park, three Locust trees on Gurney Court drew 15 warbler species including Cape May, Bay-breasted and Yellow Warblers, Philadelphia, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Clay-colored Sparrow and more! We are pleased that our visiting Missouri birders were on hand for our best landbird migration day of the spring, which included many Cape Mays. According to Connie Alwood, there were only two "good" days for Neotropical migrants all spring. Wilma Kennell found Mourning, Redstart, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee, Nashville, Wilson's and Black-throated Green warblers in her yard on 5/14 and 5/15, all at her dripper. Jane Walker had a Mourning Warbler on 5/20 and a Wilson's a few days before. Hedda Edwards from Colorado found a possible hybrid oriole at Carlyle on 5/28. Jeannie Moe found a partial albino Cowbird on the Katy Trail parking lot on 5/13. A Great-crested Flycatcher was eating insects on the ground on 5/30 at Dennis Bozzay's

home in Crestwood. Margaret Terpstra's Black-billed Cuckoo was a great yard bird.

*Contributors:* Connie Alwood, Mary Ann Auer, Nick Barber, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Rose Ann Bodman, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozzay, David Bruns, Jackie Chain, Dick Coles, Doug Corbett, Dale & Nancy Delaney, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Ian Hunt, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Wilma Kennell, Bob Kleiger, Randy Korotev, Kent Lannert, Jim & Charlene Malone, Anne McCormack, Jeannie Moe, David Rabenau, Bill Rudden, John & Nancy Solodar, Mike Thelen, Helen Wuestenfeld, Jim Ziebol, many observers. An asterisk means "documented." To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or email Yvonne at [homeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:homeyer@earthlink.net) by the last day of the month. If you want to send photos or videos of birds reported, please mail them to Jim Ziebol, 3900 Berger, St. Louis, Mo. 63109. We will keep them on hand for future reference. ~

## June 2001 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

*Abbreviations:* see "May Report," p.11.

*Sightings:* From 6/4 to 6/15, 4 Ruddy Ducks were seen at HL (FH, KM). On 6/16, Snow Goose, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup and White Pelican were present at REDA (J&CM, FH). Five Ruddy Turnstones and an adult Laughing Gull were found at Parking Lot #3, CL, on 6/2 (KL). Dan Kassebaum found a Willet and a Marbled Godwit on Levee Road at the end of the month. Dabbs Road in MTNWR produced 10 White-rumped Sandpipers and 2 Hooded Mergansers on 6/14 (J&CM). On 7/1, 3 Least Sandpipers were found in St. Charles County (CM). Frank Holmes observed 4 Franklin's and 1 Herring Gull at HL on 6/1. On 6/4, 26 Common and 40 Black Terns were seen at HL (FH). A Common Tern was a good find at REDA on 6/16 (J&CM)

and three days later, on 6/19, an immature Forster's Tern was observed there (FH). Charlene Malone located 2 Eurasian Col-lared Doves at Hwy. 94 and Hwy. B in St. Charles County on 6/30. Three Least Terns were found at REDA on 6/2 (J&CM) and again on 6/16 (DB) and on 6/17 (G&TB). Frank Holmes saw a Cooper's Hawk at HL on 6/16. On 6/30, Jean Cook saw 3 Screech Owls at her home in Clayton. On 6/9, Jim Ziebol observed the Rufous Screech Owl family (2 adults and 2 fledglings) living in the backyard of Becky and Debbie Ciodini in Rock Hill. (They also had a Barred Owl living in their yard this past winter).

On 6/6, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Willow Flycatcher were found at MTC (KL). A Black-billed Cuckoo was observed at REDA on 6/17 (G&TB). A family of Yellow-throated Vireos was observed at Shaw Nature Reserve on 6/30 (RG). Mark Peters saw a Cerulean Warbler on his property in Jefferson County, along with several Chats and a Prairie Warbler. A late Tennessee Warbler was found in FP on 6/14 (MF). A Prairie Warbler was located at Shaw Nature Reserve on 7/6 (m. ob.). A pair of Hooded Warblers was seen in Castlewood on 6/3 (MB) and one was seen at Olin Nature Reserve on 6/10 (FH). A visit to TGP on 6/2 produced Great Crested Flycatcher, Pewee, Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Jim Mohrmann). A Grasshopper Sparrow was sighted on Bruns Road on 6/17 (G&TB). The Thursday Group saw a Blue Grosbeak at the Weldon Spring Blue Grosbeak Trail on 6/7. Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Hazlet State Park, CL, on 6/22, by Illinois ornithologist Steve Bailey. Dan Kassebaum observed 2 male Painted Buntings in East St. Louis on 6/2.

Dennis Bozzay had a good day at Hilda Young C.A. on 6/12, observing Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Yellow-

throated Warbler, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, and Baltimore Oriole.

*Contributors:* Connie Alwood, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Mike Brady, Mike Flieg, Ron Goetz, Frank Holmes, Dan Kassebaum, Kent Lannert, Jim & Charlene Malone, Keith McMullen, Helen Wuestenfeld, Jim Ziebol, many observers. An asterisk means "documented." To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or email Yvonne at [homeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:homeyer@earthlink.net) by the last day of the month. If you want to send photos or videos of birds reported, please mail them to Jim Ziebol, 3900 Berger, St. Louis, Mo. 63109. We will keep them on hand for future reference. ☺

## July 2001 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

*Abbreviations:* see "May Report," p.11.

*Sightings:* Five Least Bitterns were found at MTC on 7/7 (DB). MTC also produced 2 Least Bitterns and 1 American Bittern (probably a breeding dispersal bird) on 7/19 (JZ, N. Snider, K. Thiele). King Rail, 2 Least Bitterns and a nesting Double-crested Cormorant were observed at Clarence Cannon NWR on 7/22 (J&CM). At Horseshoe Lake on 7/13, there were 6 species of herons and egrets numbering over 300 individuals (JZ), and approximately 500 egrets and herons were observed on 7/28 (m. ob.). The Thursday Group saw about 200 assorted herons and egrets along Hayford Road in St. Charles County on 7/26. On 7/6, 800 Killdeer were seen at the same location (T Be).

As of the middle of the month, shorebird reports were sparse. Willets were seen in 2 places on 7/24: five were observed in Monroe County, Ill. (DK) and one was observed at REDA (CM). Ron Goetz located a Solitary Sandpiper at Shaw Nat. Res. On 7/15. Short-billed Dowitcher was seen on Hwy. C at MTC on 7/8 (CA). David Becher found Solitary Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper

and Lesser Yellowlegs at MTC on 7/8. An adult Laughing Gull was present at HL on 7/15 (DK). Mississippi Kites were reported in great numbers throughout the area, with 2 sightings in Des Peres (Margie Richardson) and 2 at his home (CA). Torrey Berger observed a Peregrine Falcon from his downtown office on 7/13. A Eurasian Collared Dove was seen by Kraig Paradise at his Spanish Lake home on 7/9 and another was seen on Hwy. 94 in St. Charles County on 7/22 (CM, CA). Five Red-headed Woodpeckers and a Hooded Warbler were observed at Castlewood SP on 7/1 (T Be) and 35 Red-headed Woodpeckers were sighted in Monroe Co. Ill. on 7/28 (KL, T Bo). On 7/7, a Marsh Wren, Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo were found at MTC (DB). A Sedge Wren was located at REDA on 7/14 (G&TB, CM). Blue Grosbeak were found twice: on 7/7 along Layton Road at HL (JZ, YH) and on 7/14 at a location near HL.

*Comments:* Thanks to the participation of the following people, our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Breeding Bird Survey at Busch CA (including Lost Valley and Blue Grosbeak Trails) was a great success. All the lakes and all the roads in Busch were surveyed by: David Becher, Dennis Bozzay, Jeannie Moe, Anne McCormack, Connie Alwood, Kent Lannert, Bruce Wetteroth, Doug Corbett, Paul & Barbara Johnson, Loy Barber, Tom Parmeter, Torrey Berger, Mike Grant, Sue Gustafson, Bill Rudden, Yvonne Homeyer, Jim Ziebol, Tom Bormann, Ron Goetz, Nancy Snider, Kevin Renick. Special thanks to Jim Moe, who tallied the survey results on a spreadsheet for each of the past 3 years. With his help, our data is transformed into a meaningful and usable format.

A possible Rose-throated Becard was sighted at Gilbert Lake (HW, IM). More about this bird in the next issue.

*Contributors:* Connie Alwood, George & Terry Barker, David Becher, Tom Bor-

mann, Ron Goetz, Dan Kassebaum, Kent Lannert, Jim & Charlene Malone, Irene Mondhink, Margie Richardson, Nancy Snider, Kathy Thiele, Helen Wuestenfeld, Jim Ziebol, many observers. An asterisk means "documented." To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or email Yvonne at [homeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:homeyer@earthlink.net) by the last day of the month. If you want to send photos or videos of birds reported, please mail them to Jim Ziebol, 3900 Berger, St. Louis, Mo. 63109. We will keep them on hand for future reference. ∞

## **Conservation Report**

Yvonne Homeyer

Breeding Bird Survey: In June, WGNSS conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Breeding Bird Survey at Busch C.A., Lost Valley Trail, and Blue Grosbeak (Weldon Spring) Trail. For a list of those individuals who contributed their time and expertise see "July 2001 Bird Rport," page 14. A special thank you to Jim Ziebol, who organizes the survey and prepares the color distribution maps.

Holnam Update: The proposed project to construct the largest cement plant in the world and quarry a 2000-acre limestone strip mine along the Mississippi River in southern Jefferson Co. and northern Ste. Genevieve Co. is still on hold. Despite requests for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from elected officials, public agencies, national environmental organizations, local environmental groups, the Heritage Preservation Coalition started by Karen Holden in Ste. Genevieve County, and from concerned individuals, the Corps of Engineers has still not decided whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. Instead, the Corps has asked Holnam to conduct an Environmental Assessment and then give that data to the Corps. The Corps will then issue an Environmental Assessment report and proceed with one of 3 options: deny the permit, issue the permit,

or conduct further study in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement. The requests for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have been overwhelming. At last count, requests for an EIS have come from Mo. Gov. Bob Holden, US Sen. Dick Durbin, US Congressman Lacy Clay, Sen. Patrick Dougherty, Sen. Wayne Good, Rep. Joan Bray, Rep. Barbara Fraser, Rep. Cindy Ostmann, Rep. Kathryn Fares, Ill. Sen. Evelyn Bowles, Mayor Francis Slay (City of St. Louis), the St. Louis County Council, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Defense, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest, Prairie Rivers Network, Mississippi River Basin Alliance, River Alliance of Wisconsin, American Rivers, American Lands, Les Amis, Missouri Parks Association, Missouri Audubon, Sierra Club, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, St. Louis Audubon, Endangered Species Coalition, St. Louis Herpetological Society, American Bottom Conservancy, Heritage Preservation Coalition, concerned individuals, and of course, WGNSS! An effort of this magnitude obviously involves many people, and we are lucky that so many committed individuals have been willing to devote their time and energy to work together to fight this proposed project. We owe a special debt of gratitude to our attorney Maxine Lipeles and the students and staff at the Environmental Law Clinic of Washington University. And thanks also to Karen Holden (whose 160 acres in Morrison Hollow are adjacent to the Holnam site), who has graciously allowed WGNSS members to do birding surveys and botany walks on her property.

North County Truck Stop (Proposed). Dora Gianoulakis, a former Board member and current President of the Spanish Lake

Community Association, is busy fighting a proposed truck stop in the vicinity of I-270 and Lilac. The proposed site contains Watkins Creek, which empties into the Mississippi River. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, please call her at 314-741-4100. ∞

## **Butterflies Anyone?**

Dennis Bozzay

In its first year and a half of being the St. Louis Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) has come a long way. From just a handful, the membership has grown to over 100. With the hard work and contagious enthusiasm of "Founding Fathers" Yvonne Homeyer and Jim Ziebol, the butterfly group has gather people from all interests.

The beauty of butterflies may be obvious with their varied and colorful flight in fields and gardens, splashing their blues and yellows, oranges and reds, as they visit flowers of equal dazzle, but the more you lean about them, the more questions you raise. What compels and guides the familiar Monarch to its inter home in Mexico thousands of miles away? And return! Where did that Mourning Cloak come from when yesterday's temperature was below freezing? And what the heck is that small gray one with big eye-spots that barely stops to rest?

A plethora of species, over 120 in the Saint Louis area—one show-off after another—provides a challenge to their identification. The skippers are especially difficulty—for some, me included—with their small size, fast movements and similar appearances. But once you learn field marks, understand that many species have particular seasons—some amazingly brief—know habitat and flight "jiz," along with the patient mentoring from fellow butterflyers, their ID become less work and more fun. The great thing is you can take it to whatever level of intensity you want.

Taking your own special interests and skills, whether it be birding, botany, or you're just generally curious, there is room for butterflies. If you're a birder, you can use the same skills applied to butterflies. Several excellent field guides allow you to ID a species just as in birds: key field marks, migration or breeding seasons, there is even an equivalent of an LBJ. And birds eat butterflies. Or do they? When a Blue Jay spits out that Pipe-vine Swallowtail, you'll know why. As in birds, Florida, Arizona and Oregon all have their specialties. And there's that rarity that wasn't on the checklist: remember the Slaty-backed and Ross's Gulls?

Botany folk with their knowledge of native plants are at a real advantage because plant ID goes hand-in-hand with nectar sources and host (larval food) plants. Many of our butterflies get their names from their host plant.

If you're a gardener, you're halfway there. You probably have butterflies visiting your yard throughout the summer. With often small changes in your garden, you can attract more and more butterflies and even witness their life cycles as they lay eggs, turn into often bizarre caterpillars and pupae, and you'll never have to leave your backyard.

St. Louis NABA is an active group of friendly people. Regular field trips are taken to some of our favorite old haunts as well as to new ones. Butterfly classes are offered and there are inform get-togethers.

For me, the whole thing has been a wonderful revelation of our miniature world, an awareness of the often overlooked. When you pay attention to butterflies and their complex interactions, you pay attention to plants and insects, to the health of our environment, to pesticides spraying and to habitat destruction. And you appreciate even more a sunny meadow full of wildflowers.

St. Louis Chapter NABA welcomes new members Join us on an upcoming field trip or video presentation. For more info call Dennis Bozzay at 314-968-2714, or visit: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabas/stlouis.htm>

## **Master Naturalist Certificate**

Vicki Flier

In cooperation with the St. L. Audubon Society and the St. L. Community College at Meramec's Biology Dept., the Continuing Education division proposes to offer a Master Naturalist Certificate Program.

There are three main components:

1. Three core academic courses
  - Conservation and Ecology (BIO:117)
  - Field Botany (BIO:119)
  - Field Zoology (BIO:120)
2. Three elective courses to be chosen from:
  - Marine Biology (BIO:144)
  - Field Ex. in Marine Biology (BIO:145)
  - Desert Ecology (BIO:146)
  - Field Ex. in Desert Ecology (BIO:147)
  - Ozark Ecology
  - Field Experience in Ozark Ecology
  - Introduction to Geology (GEO:102)
  - Introduction to Astronomy (PSI:111)
  - Meteorology (PSI:123)
3. Six elective workshops offered through Continuing Education. This semester's:

### **Fall Butterflies**

Thursdays 6:30–8:30 PM, 9/6 & 9/13  
plus field trip 9:45 AM 9/16  
sponsor: St. L. North American Butterfly Association  
taught by Jim Ziebol, Yvonne Homeyer  
fee: \$31.50

### **Fall Reptiles**

Wednesdays 6:30–10 PM, 9/12 & 10/3  
plus 2 one-day field trips, to be announced  
sponsor: St. L. Herpetological Society  
fee: \$63

### **Identifying MO Native Grasses**

Thursday 9 AM– 5 PM, 9/20  
plus field trip 9/21  
sponsor: MO Native Plant Society  
fee: \$38.50

### **How to Lead a Field Trip**

Tuesday 7:30–9 PM, 9/25  
taught by Paul Bauer  
sponsor: St. L. Audubon Society  
fee: \$5

### **Birds of the Fall**

Wednesdays 7–9 PM, 9/5 & 10/24  
plus 2 six-hr. field trips, 9/8 & 10/27  
sponsor: St. L. Audubon Society  
fee: \$56

### **Holistic Approach to Backyard Birding**

Tuesdays 6:30–8:30 PM, 9/4 & 9/11  
plus field trip, 9/15  
sponsor: Webster Groves Nature Study Soc.  
taught by Anne McCormack  
fee: \$28

If you are interested in the Master Naturalist Certificate come to our Open House at Meramec Community College (MCC) at **7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21, 2001**, to learn about this exciting new educational and fun opportunity in our community. Meet some of the instructors, find out about the different societies and their membership goals and sign up if you are interested in one or more of the topics. Refreshments will be available.

For location at MCC or for more information please call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166. Workshop topics will change each semester. To register for classes please call Meramec's Continuing Ed.: 314-984-7777.

After successful completion of these three components, Master Naturalist Certificates would be awarded. These educated and trained Master Naturalists would then be able to share their knowledge through volunteer and professional opportunities at nature and green facilities. ☺

## **New Book by WGNSS Member**

Pen Central Press recently published a book by long-time member of WGNSS, Beverly Letchworth. The book is entitled *Leaf Bird Days and Firefly Nights: Personal Renewal Through Nature Journaling*. Beverly says, "My book speaks to the joy, awe, amusement and a peace that the natural world gives to anyone who opens their awareness to it." ~

## **Venezuela With Dale & Nancy**

Dale & Nancy (Delaney EcoTours, Ltd.) will be leading a 10-day nature tour to Venezuela during the last half of January 2002. The trip will visit two highly productive habitats:

1. the rain forests of the Amazonian lowlands which host a number of very fancy bird species; and,
2. the panoramic marshes and savannas of the Everglades-like "llanos" which provide endless wildlife spectacles.

Details will be announced in the next issue of the WGNSS newsletter. Until then, if you have questions, please call Dale and Nancy at 636-230-9675.

## **Tanzania during Wildebeest Migration**

Join St. Louis Audubon to experience a wildlife and birding safari to Tanzania during the Wildebeest migration and calving: Feb 28–March 10, 2002. This safari may be our most exciting adventure. We are in the Serengeti when 2 million wildebeest and over 300,000 zebra, giraffe, eland, and topi are migrating. We expect hundreds of bird species still wintering in east Africa.

Destinations include: Lake Manyara National Park in the Great Rift Valley, Serengeti NP, Oldupai Gorge, the Ngorongoro Crater. We use local guides, small groups, a relaxed pace, and budget costs. All air fare from the US is included at group rates. For

more information, contact Paul Bauer at 314-921-3972. See the website: [www.stlouisaudubon.org](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org)

## **Deadlines for Nature Notes '01**

Marjorie Richardson

Mailing parties to send out mail *Nature Notes* start at 10 AM Oak Bend County Library and are usually over by noon. Any member who wishes to help is welcome.

### **Dates for NN in 2001**

10 AM Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes Kirkwood

<b>mailing party</b>	<b>deadline</b>
Sept. 17	Sept. 7
Oct. 15	Oct. 5
Nov. 19	Nov. 9
Dec. 17	Dec. 7

## *tyson nature line*

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

## **NEXT DEADLINE:**

### **Sept. 7**

Submissions—handwritten, typed, IBM or Mac to: Anne McCormack, 587 Andrews, St. Louis MO 63122-5722 or [mccormacka@earthlink.net](mailto:mccormacka@earthlink.net)

## NEED DIRECTIONS?

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.
- Usual meeting place is Teal Pond parking lot.

### **St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters**

- The membership meets on the second Friday of the month, at 7:30 PM (new time).
- All are welcome. Bring a friend!
- 1640 South Lindbergh in Frontenac. We usually meet in the auditorium.
- Take 40 to Lindbergh south, left at the second light into library.

### **Tower Grove Park**

- Take 44 to Kingshighway south, east (left) on Magnolia, 1st right into park.
- In park, 1st right (west), past tennis courts & stable to 1st picnic area on right (Gus Fogt Site). ∞

## Key to WGNSS Calendar

### **birding field trip**

each Thurs..... call Dottie Herweg 314-966-2274  
most Sat (not June or July) .....  
..... call David Becher 314-576-1146

### **board meeting**

1<sup>st</sup> Wed 7 PM Sept.–May .....  
..... call David Rabenau 314-968-8128

### **botany field trip**

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

### **conservation meeting**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed..... call Yvonne Homeyer 314-963-7750

### **entomology meeting**

last Sun..... call Marshall Magner 314-961-4588

### **ornithology meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> to last Sun.... call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166  
or e-mail RRVVCC@AOL.com

### **general meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> Fri. 7:30 PM call Doug Corbett 636-861-2829

### **mailing party for Nature Notes**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mon. (not June/July) 10 AM.....  
..... call Margie Richardson 314-965-8974

### **Nature Notes deadlines**

10 days prior to 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon. ....  
..... call Anne McCormack 314-965-8091

### **membership expires/renewal due**

Aug. 31

### **Spring banquet**

Thurs. early May call Pat McCormick 636-825-2842

### **Big Day birding competition**

Usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. May

### **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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## 2000-2001 WGNSS Board

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# Webster Groves Nature Study Society

## MEETINGS

### Wednesday Sept. 5

7:00 PM Board meeting at David Rabenau's, 429 Belleview Avenue, Webster Groves, 314-968-8128. All members are welcome.

### Friday Sept. 14

7:30 PM program in the auditorium of St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh in Frontenac. *Note time change.* Richard Spener & Toni Armstrong present slides from Arctic Nat'l Wildlife Refuge.

## BOTANY

### Thursdays Aug.-Oct.

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 message is sent every Wed. advising when and where the field trip is scheduled. To receive it, send your e-mail address to Jack Harris at jahar@mac.com

## ENTOMOLOGY

### Sunday September 23

7 PM at Magners', 516 Bacon Ave., 314-961-4588. Show and Tell. Bring comments, specimens, slides, photos, etc. from summer vacations. Projector and screen will be available.

## BIRDING

### Thursdays in August

8:00 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. Dottie Herweg: 314-966-2274.

### Saturday August 18 & Sept. 1

7:30 AM "Where the birds are." Parking lot. of Kohl's, Olive and I-270. Meet in the SE corner (nearest highway). Bring lunch. For more info, call David Becher 314-576-1146.

### Saturday Aug. 25

7:30 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

### Saturday August 25

7:30 AM. WGNSS/Audubon shorebird ramble. Meet at Horseshoe Lake, Hwy 111 side, shelter 1 & 2 parking lot. Leaders: Jim Malone, 636-536-1119 and Paul Bauer, 314-921-3972.

### Thursdays Sept.-Oct.

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block n. of Manchester. *Note time change.* Questions: call Dottie Herweg, above.

### Saturdays September 8 & 22

WGNSS Birding 8 AM *Note change of starting time.* Riverlands Teal Pond parking lot. Bring lunch. For more info, call David Becher, above.

### Saturday September 8

8:00 AM. WGNSS/Aud. Meet at Tower Grove Park/Gaddy Garden. Then, ALL DAY walk to "where the birds are." Bring lunch/drink. Leader: Jim Malone (636-536-1119).

### Saturday September 15 & 29

8 AM Tower Grove Park. Past tennis courts and stable to first picnic area on right. Bring lunch. For more info, call David Becher, above.

### Saturday September 22

7:00 AM. WGNSS/Aud. 4th annual Carlyle Lake bird walk/pelagic trip. *Registration ends Sept. 10.* Fee ~ \$15-\$20/person. ALL DAY trip. Bring portable lunch/drink. Call Jim Malone (636-536-1119) to register.

### Sunday Sept. 23

4:00 PM Ornithology group meeting. Topic: "Raptor Migration—Kettles & Kites." Pot luck supper. Bring a dish and join the fun. Everyone is invited. Meet at Vicki Flier's, 18 Algonquin Wood. For more information, call Vicki: 314-968-9166 or e-mail RRVVCC@AOL.com

### Sun. Oct. 21

4:00 PM Ornithology group meeting. Topic: "Earthwatch in Churchill, Manitoba—Gulls, Polar Bears, and the Politics of Peat." For more information call Vicki Flier above.

### Nature Notes deadline Sept. 7

## JOIN WGNSS

Send \$15 to Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132

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

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# Webster Groves Nature Study Society

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership categories (circle one):

Individual or Family:.....\$15

for 1st class mail..... add \$5

Student .....\$5

Life .....\$300

(lump sum or equal payments over 5 yr.)

Please make check payable to: Webster Groves Nature Study Society

Please mail this form with check to:  
Treasurer: Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Ln., St. Louis MO 63132