



# nature notes

Journal of Webster Groves Nature Study Society

March 2001 Vol. 73, No. 3

## March Meeting with Butterflies!

Doug Corbett 1st VP

On Friday, March 16th, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, along with the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), is sponsoring a panel discussion on planting a garden for butterflies. There will be four speakers: Barry Ritter, a local grower, and three members from both organizations; Jack Harris, Dennis Bozzay, and Kraig Paradise. These three will discuss setting up your garden to attract butterflies. Barry will present slides of plants available from local nurseries that he supplies.

NABA will provide brochures and pamphlets with information on landscaping for backyard wildlife. They will also be providing complementary seeds if you are interested. The meeting formally begins at 8:00 PM, but we will be available at 7:30 PM to answer questions prior to the meeting. We meet at the St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh, south of Clayton, across from Plaza Frontenac in the auditorium.

Please note the date is the **third Friday of March.** ~

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## Officer Elections

David Rabenau

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers:

Treasurer: Randy Korotev

Secretary: Deborah Littmann

This slate will be presented at the March general meeting and the officers will be elected at the April general meeting. The term for both of these positions starts in May and continue for two years.

In addition, the Board wishes to give our heartfelt thanks to Jeannie Moe who faithfully served out an unexpired secretary's term. Busy on the North American Butterfly Association Board and volunteering at Busch CA, Jeannie was gracious enough to also carry on this additional work for us this past year.

Besides the announcement of these officer nominees, Vicki Flier will serve as Ornithology Chair replacing Kevin Renick. Kevin would like more time to focus on a new business and several other endeavors in his life. He won't be far from the fold, in any case, and already has some exciting ideas about renewing a WGNSS group focused on the study of natural sounds. We thank Kevin for his service over the past several years. Vicki, for her part, already has plans for monthly ornithology discussions and topics.

Finally, the Board will appoint one Member-at-Large position in May. ~

## Thanks Claybreakers!

WGNSS has received a \$50 contribution from the Claybreakers Garden Club in honor of our two-time past president, Blaine Ulmer, who gave a talk on birds to the club. Thank you, Blaine, and thank you, Claybreakers! ~

## More Year List Totals for 2000

Tom Bormann .....278\*  
Paul Bauer .....239  
Margot Holsen .....215

\*Tom is right behind Connie Alwood, who listed 287 for 2000—see Feb. '01 *Nature Notes*. Congratulations to all! ~

## Bird of the Year— New for St. Louis

Paul Bauer

My St. Louis area list total for 2000 was 239—a personal high so far and I wasn't really trying. Many birds were added in the last month!

### My best birds of the year—new for the St. Louis area—are:

Snowy Plover .....4/22/00  
Little Creve Coeur marsh  
Painted Bunting .....7/30/00  
East St. Louis waterfront

### Others that were good:

N Goshawk .....10/7/00  
Little Creve Coeur parking lot  
Little Gull .....3/00  
Riverlands  
Western Kingbird .....Big Day  
Rt. 3 Granite City IL  
Winter Wren .....12/30/00  
Busch  
Snow bunting .....Dec  
Riverlands  
Red-throated Loon .....10/25/00  
Riverlands  
Western Grebe .....11/30/00  
Riverlands  
White-faced Ibis .....8/19/00  
Horseshoe Lake IL

### And of course for 2001:

Smew! New for St. Louis & Missouri. ~

## Bird of the Year

Dianne Benjamin

Shrouded in mist mingling from the thundering river gorge below and the cloud forest canopy above, I am perched on slippery rock atop the highest single drop waterfall in the world, Kaieteur Falls, Guyana. Elusive Scarlet Macaws fly silently overhead. Will this be my only look, as when atop the canopy walkway in Amazonian Peru in 1999?

A single modest wooden sign announces the spectacularly dangerous 741 foot waterfall drop. Twice the height of Victoria Falls and five times that of Niagara Falls, here the Pakaraima Plateau serves up the tea colored Potaro River 400 feet wide. Stained brown by tannins it rushes to the mighty Essequibo River which meanders several hundred miles north to its gaping 21-mile wide mouth at the Atlantic Ocean.

Amerindian legend tells how Kaie, Patamona's chief, paddled over these falls, sacrificed himself to the great spirit Makonaima, and saved his tribe. Was he inspired by the White-tipped and White-collared Swifts who plunge through the water, defy the torrent, and roost behind the falls? Then as now, my travelling companions and I and 100 orchid species have the place to ourselves. Not a commercial intrusion in sight. One in three humans who look for a jaguar here see one. I am looking at Scarlet Macaws landing on a cliff face just across the boiling falls.

After a tropical rain shower, we trek several miles along the canyon gorge rim, expertly led by our bush pilot who a few months earlier flew Prince Charles here. Doubt HRH got this far up the trail. Shocking orange Guyanan Cocks-of-the-Rock on their lek are difficult to observe quietly. Almost-as-good-as-sex excitement is building to a birdwatching climax. At last we reach our lookout point, misty clouds part, equatorial sun shines in, and a rainbow bends below us toward the distant Kaieteur Falls. The pilot's wife, a Glaswegian Scot who had a bit role in James Bond's first movie *Dr. No*, told us Sir Arthur Conan Doyle set his "Lost World" here. On the horizon, Scarlet Ma-

caws fly in and out of their nesting sites beside the falls.

Globally endangered, *Ara macao*, the largest parrot species, is found only in rain forest pockets from Mexico to Amazonia, relying on large tracts of mature trees. Guyana, the size of Britain, remains 80% virgin rain forest. 98.5% of Guyanese live on 2% of the land. Only 150 miles of paved roads greet only 2000 tourists per year. Most Guyanans and almost all of the rest of you have never seen Kaieteur Falls. I am called "Guyana": Land of Many Waters.

The only English-speaking country in South America, Guyana was abandoned by the British to Socialist dictators in the 1960's and is now the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere (behind Haiti). More funding upkeep humble ballfields in the oft-flooded capital city Georgetown (12 feet below sea level) than this remote national park. Rivers polluted by gold mines (buy only panned gold) threaten species like the tiny golden tree frogs we see living in giant 10 foot high bromeliad leaf cups up here in the cloud forest.

Yet hope is the thing with feathers...the rainbows ends where the Scarlet Macaws are nesting. Guyana has a 95% literacy rate. Our eco-tour charter plane also delivers new school books. We proudly are given hot-off-the-press Smithsonian's "A Field Checklist of the Birds of Guyana" cataloging 786 species and making even reserved Brit twitchers smile. The National Geographic Society funds wildlife research here for my UM-St. Louis friends. *Wild Kingdom's* Stan Brock introduces his medical team to us at the airport. We see Peace Corps in villages. *Animal Planet's* Mark O'Shea films giant river otter restoration efforts the month before we paddle the Rupununi River. And my friend's sister & brother-in-law, the new U.S. Ambassador to Guyana, just bought a field guide to enhance their birdwatching in country.

As for seeing scarlet, best-selling novelist Barbara Kingsolver and her University of Arizona ornithologist husband Steven Hopp invite you (*Audubon*, September 2000).

"Picture a Scarlet Macaw: a fierce, full meter of royal red feathers head to tail, a soldier's rainbow-colored epaulets, a skeptic's eye staring from a naked white face, a beak that takes no prisoners."

For a day, for a price, I saw how a Scarlet Macaw looks in flight against a blue sky, how it forages for fruit seeds and nuts, and how it feeds its vulnerable young (two egg clutches, no new nests until two-year-old offspring disperse).

In Guyana they say, "Yuh can't suck cane and blow whistle." Do not try to carry out two tasks at the same time. Save the rainforest...it is not just a saying...See red...See scarlet too. ∞

## January 2001 Bird Report

Jim Ziebol & Yvonne Homeyer

Abbreviations:

BCA = Busch Wildlife Area

HL = Horseshoe Lake

REDA = Riverlands

CL = Carlyle Lake

TGP = Tower Grove Park

FP = Forest Park

MTNWR = Mark Twain Nat. Wildlife Refuge

MTC = Marais Temps Clair

REDA = Riverlands

TGP = Tower Grove Park

It was a banner winter for Harris's Sparrows and Snow Buntings, with 4 of the latter on the Collinsville Circle Count alone. A Barrow's Goldeneye was surpassed only by a Smew, although the true origins of the Smew will likely never be known. A pair of Smeews can be purchased for \$550 from a waterfowl breeder in Tennessee. The presence of the Smew certainly livened up the January and early February birding for people across the country, as we had many visitors from other states.

Pied-billed Grebes were located at HL on 1/28 (D Bz) and a Horned Grebe was seen many times at REDA (P&BJ, J Mo, D Bz). The first Double-crested Cormorant reported was at HL on 1/28 (D Bz). White Pelicans first appeared at REDA on 1/27 (m. ob.). In January, the following duck species were observed at REDA: Green-winged Teal,

Wigeon, Gadwall, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, and Red-breasted, Hooded and Common Merganser (P&BJ, J&CM). Jeannie Moe and Dennis Bozzay found Am. Black Duck toward the end of the month. Charlene Malone hotlined Barrow's Goldeneye from REDA on 1/12 and it was seen by many birders throughout the month. This unusual find was quickly followed by another, when Mike Grant was one of the first to see the Smew at REDA on 1/13. St. Louis Audubon and Kansas City Audubon birders were present for the event. It was officially identified by Roger McNeill and Matt Gearhart. The Smew was in normal wild plumage and appeared to be unbanded.

Two Turkey Vultures were soaring along I-55 in Jefferson Co. on 1/24 (YH, JZ). Cooper's Hawks were numerous area-wide, with one reported eating a Rock Dove at HL on 1/28 (D Bz). On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Paul and Barbara Johnson and Jeannie Moe observed a Sharp-shinned Hawk at BCA. At HL on 1/28, all the accipiters were seen, including a sub-adult N. Goshawk (JZ, FH). Red-shouldered Hawk was seen near the stables at BCA on 1/6 (J&CM) and again on 1/21 near Hampton Lake (J Mo). A Harlan's Hawk, a very dark individual, has been present near HL for at least 4 winters. (T Be).

An unusual form of Red-tailed Hawk, an adult rufous morph, was observed three times: on 1/10 at the Hwy. 143 slough (J&CM), on 1/21 (MT), and on 1/22 near Alton Barge (FH). A dark-phased Rough-legged Hawk was reported from CL on 1/15 (J Mo). Dave Hoehne observed 2 Peregrine Falcons on the ice at REDA on 1/12.

Franklin's Gulls were found on 1/9 at the Chain (T Be), on 1/10 at REDA (G&TB), and on 1/11 at REDA (Dottie Herweg & Th. Group). That same day, the Thursday Group also found a Bonaparte's Gull and a Lesser Black-backed. On 1/9, an Iceland Gull was located at REDA (PB). A first-year Thayer's Gull was seen at CL on 1/15 (J Mo) and a rare adult was seen at REDA on 1/21

(J&CM). John Solodar found the darker form of Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fus-cus intermedius*, at REDA on Jan. 4 (m. ob.). During the week of 1/15, Laughing Gulls, Franklin's, Ring-billed, Herring, up to 6 Glaucous, including one adult (BR), Iceland, Thayer's, Lesser Black-backed, and Great Black-backed Gulls were all seen at REDA (CA, m. ob.).

On 1/15, Jeannie Moe observed 11 Pheasants at Hazlett State Park, CL, and on Jan. 4, 19 Turkeys were observed from Hwy. 143 (CA). A Great Horned Owl was seen on Walker Island, HL, on 1/23 (D Bz). A really good find at REDA was the Snowy Owl on 1/16 (Dave Ziolkowski). Twelve other birders re-located it up to the end of the month. Saw-Whet Owl was observed at Hazlett State Park, CL, on 1/21 (Mary Anne Auer, J&CM). Dan Kassebaum found Long-eared Owl there on the same day. At CL, Jeannie Moe discovered 2 bird legs with taloned feet that probably belonged to a Long-eared Owl killed by a Great-Horned Owl. Mike Grant located Brown Creeper and Red-breasted Nuthatch at BCA on 1/6. The Johnsons found a Winter Wren at REDA on 1/20.

Yellow-rumped Warbler was regularly reported during January, with several at Busch on Jan. 2 (P&BJ). Harris's Sparrow was found in 6 locations, including Lou Hanes' feeder, Calhoun Co., Ill. Spotted and Rufous-sided Towhee were present on the Katy Trail on 1/3 (T Bo). Red Crossbills were seen by many birders at the Fallen Oak Trail, BCA, with up to 15 present at times (P&BJ, Bob McFall, and DB). Two Field Sparrows and a Swamp Sparrow were seen at HL on 1/23 (D Bz). The Barkers found Purple Finch at BCA on 1/13. Thirty Lapland Longspurs were seen at REDA on 1/1 (T Be). The last Snow Bunting at REDA was reported on 1/13 and one was also seen regularly at Mastodon State Park. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was present in a huge mixed flock on Bischoff Road on 1/23 (D Bz; photo). The Great-tailed Grackles found on the Orchard Farm Christmas Count were found well into January (BR, Tom Parmeter).

*Comments:* A Mute Swan, rescued near Godfrey, Ill. in December, was released back into the wild in January (Jaynie Doerr). Joe Smentowski had 3 Bald Eagles while canoeing near Scott's Ford on the Meramec. He relates that MDC personnel have observed 13 at Meramec Springs, which does not freeze in the winter. The Barkers had a Carolina Wren in their backyard on 1/19.

David Sibley and Ken Kaufmann have produced 2 excellent new field guides. Sibley's is intended for more advanced collections but would serve a beginner as well. The illustrations are extraordinary. Kaufmann's is a good photographic guide and will enhance any birder's library. Computer-enhanced photographs are used.

*Contributors:* Connie Alwood, George & Terry Barker, Paul Bauer, David Becher, Torrey Berger, Tom Bormann, Dennis Bozay, Frank Holmes, Yvonne Homeyer, Dan Kassebaum, Jim & Charlene Malone, Jeannie Moe, Bill Rowe, John Solodar, Mike Thelen, Jim Ziebol, many observers. An asterisk means "documented."

To submit a report, call Jim Ziebol (314-781-7372) or email Yvonne at [yhomeyer@primary.net](mailto:yhomeyer@primary.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 Committee Report**

Yvonne Homeyer

**Busch Conservation Area:** If any of you have driven down Road B recently, you have noticed dozens of healthy, mature trees lying in dead piles along the edge of the road. These piles are the result of a new project to cut down trees as part of an "early successional management" effort. "Early successional" means, if you cut down the trees that are there now, something else will grow up in their place. The purpose is to provide habitat for quail and rabbits. Nothing will be planted in these locations. This project is part of \$1,500,000 habitat "enhancement" fund

that the Mo. Dept. of Conservation unfortunately received. How many trees could have been planted with this money instead? If you are unhappy about the senseless tree cutting going on at Busch these days, please contact Mike Schroer at 636-441-4554, ext. 226, or [schrom@mail.conservation.state.mo.us](mailto:schrom@mail.conservation.state.mo.us). Ask him to stop the project immediately, especially because spring migration is just around the corner. Only 20% of the trees have been cut down so far, so we do have time to try and stop further destruction. PLEASE ACT NOW.

**Holnam Cement Plant:** The Holnam matter has taken many interesting twists and turns in the last month. First, you might have noticed more publicity (at last) about this massive project. On Jan. 24, the day of the public workshop, the *Post Dispatch* ran a page one story about the proposed project and mentioned environmental concerns. The *Post* also published an editorial on Feb. 4 urging that the project be put on hold. This was preceded on Feb. 1 with an editorial cartoon showing a cement truck dumping cement on EPA, represented by an arm sticking out of the cement pile holding "Clean Air Rules." This was in reference to the lawsuit that the Coalition for the Environment and Sierra Club, represented by Lew Green, won when a federal judge ordered EPA to make a finding by March 15 whether St. Louis should remain in the "moderate" category of nonattainment for ozone, or whether St. Louis should be bumped up into "serious." Then, Ray Hartmann ran a stinging editorial against Holnam in the Feb. 7 edition of the *Riverfront Times*. The *St. Genevieve Herald* ran an article about Holnam in its Feb. 7 issue, which started out "Score two for the environmentalists" and went on to mention the lawsuit victory and the outcome of the Jan. 25 meeting of the Land Reclamation Commission. At the end, a Holnam spokesman was quoted as saying that permitting activities were going to keep them busy for some time. This was quite a contrast to his quote in the *St. Genevieve Herald* a week before the public workshop when the same

spokesman indicated Holnam would have all its permits in place by early April.

The workshop in Ste. Genevieve was well attended by environmental groups, local residents, the Corps of Engineers, some agency representatives, and Holnam. Sue Gustafson, Dianne Benjamin and Jim Ziebol created a display board highlighting the environmental importance of the property as a natural area. The display board drew people's attention to the environmental table throughout the workshop. Present on behalf of WGNSS were: Sue Gustafson, Dianne Benjamin, David Rabenau, Jim Ziebol, Pat McCormick, Wilma Kennell, Anne Craver, and the Environmental Law Clinic. Other groups represented were the Coalition for the Environment (also represented by the Clinic), American Bottom Conservancy, Sierra Club, Endangered Species Coalition, and St. Louis Herpetological Society. Considering that the workshop was on a weekday in Ste. Genevieve, the turnout was even more impressive.

The following day, several of us appeared before the Land Reclamation Commission (DNR) in Jefferson City to discuss Holnam's application to expand mining operations from 64 acres (permit granted last fall) to 35 new acres. Maxine Lipeles convinced the Commission that it was premature for them to consider Holnam's application and the Commission returned the application to staff for further processing. As a result of our letters in late December, DNR sent an inspector to the Holnam property who wrote up a Notice of Violation, claiming that Holnam had strayed outside the 64 acres into the 35 acres before the permit for the 35 acres had been granted. At the time of writing this report, both the 35 acre application and the Notice of Violation are still pending before DNR.

Then, on Feb. 6, Holnam filed an application for a permit to begin carrying out its mining plan **for the entire 1400+ acre, 100-year limestone quarry**—even though the cement plant has not received any agency's approval. This application was filed with the Land Reclamation Commission of

DNR. When the public notice is published, we will alert you to send in public comment letters—as many of you did in late December. Holnam is piecemealing the project by trying to go ahead with the quarry before the Corps and other agencies have decided whether they can build their cement plant and harbor.

The Corps of Engineers' public comment period closed on Feb. 5. The Corps is deciding whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, as so many individuals and federal and state agencies have requested. The EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mo. Dept. of Conservation are against the project.

The next meeting of environmental groups is Wed. Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Coalition. The Conservation Committee will not have a separate meeting in February. For more information, call me at (314) 963-7750 or email me (note new email address) at: [yhomeyer@primary.net](mailto:yhomeyer@primary.net)

## **Get The Jump On Spring Migration!!!**

Jim Malone

The St. Louis Audubon Society is offering Audubon and WGNSS members a spring weekend birding trip in Illinois from April 27th -29th. The last week in April is a bit early for the peak of Spring migration in St. Louis, so we decided to move South to meet the birds! During this extended weekend trip (Fri-Sun.) we will visit such beautiful locations as Oakwood Bottoms, LaRue-Pine Hills, Pomona, Cave Creek, Little Grand Canyon, Giant City, and Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. We will be searching through hardwood forests, lowland bottoms, Mississippi River bluffs, riparian areas, and lakeside habitats at the peak of migration.

Possible birds encountered on this trip will include a wide variety of warblers like nesting Cerulean, Blue-winged, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, and even Swainson's Warblers. We will also have a great chance of seeing (or hearing) Chuck-Will's-Widow, Black Necked Stilts, Blue Grosbeaks, Black Vul-

tures, Fish Crow, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, migrating hawks, and a great variety of shorebirds and passerines. This will be a wonderful opportunity to fine-tune those Spring birding skills before the peak of migration in St. Louis! We will be doing a bit of walking on this trip, but the scenery is some of the best you'll find anywhere.

Reservations for this trip will be taken on a "first come—first served" basis and it may be necessary to limit numbers.

If this sounds like a great weekend to you, contact Jim Malone at [stlaud@inlink.com](mailto:stlaud@inlink.com) or (636) 536-1119 to reserve a space. We will be asking for a \$40 per person donation from each trip participant to help cover our costs. Come join us for this spring migration extravaganza! ∞

### *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. ∞

### **Earth Day 2001 in Forest Park**

Sun., April 22 from 9–1, Operation Clean Stream invites you to bring a canoe to the boathouse in Forest Park to bring attention to a clean outdoors. Shore parties will work the banks so a canoe is not a requirement. Bring gloves. Trash bags and refreshments will be provided for all registered volunteers. Call Operation Clean Stream at 636-225-6605. ∞

### **Science Seminar Series at Zoo**

Free programs at the Zoo: 7:30–9 PM in The Living World, north side of Zoo. Free parking in the North lot. For more info, call 314-768-5466.

Feb. 21 "Alzheimer's Disease: Who will develop it?" by Dr. J Morris, Washington U.

March 14 "Dating Rocks: Modern Techniques for Determining the Age of Dinosaurs and Earth," Dr. J Encarnacion, St. L U. ∞

*PM 636-825-4842*



**viewing the smew**

### **Smew Déjà Vu**

Ted Floyd

[*Editor's note:* Mr. Floyd is affiliated with the Great Basin Bird Observatory in Reno, Nevada, as coordinator of the Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas <http://www.gbbo.org/> ]

By January of 2001 most "listers" had heard about the Smew that spent the winter

**photo by Randy Korotev**

in St. Louis, Missouri. Many "chasers," in fact, had already been to see the bird.

As Chasers go, I'm an opportunist. I'm not so diehard as to travel thousands of miles for the sole purpose of seeing one dumb bird. But neither am I a purist who would turn his nose up at the prospect of an easy lifer in his

own—or his neighbor's—backyard. In other words, the Chasers call me lazy, and the Watchers think me decadent.

So when I just happened to be in St. Louis visiting relatives during the last weekend of January, it would have been plainly inexcusable not to have searched for the Smew. The plan was simple. An Illinois birder, Allan Burns, would pick me up in the pre-dawn darkness, whisk me off to the stakeout, show me the Smew, and return me to my relatives in plenty of time for a full day of sightseeing, reminiscing, and admiring my infant nephew.

The only remaining consideration was whether my wife Kei would accompany us. For Kei, the decision-making process always involves a conceptually straightforward tradeoff between the beauty of the bird and the magnitude of the effort required to find it. A little brown job in a stinking salt marsh is out of the question, while a whooping crane from the comfort of an observation blind is a no-brainer.

In case of the Smew, even Peterson's simple sketch suggested a lovely bird. And a recent photograph from the web confirmed that we were dealing with something spectacular. But it was too cold and too early. And we were jetlagged. And we had a long day ahead of us. So Kei stayed home with the in-laws.

Allan arrived punctually, he skillfully navigated the dark and deserted city streets, and he had us at our destination well before sunup. Everything was going according to plan, until there was enough light for two realizations to sink in: (1) the place was huge; and (2) it was loaded with birds. The nearest patch of open water harbored a sizable flotilla of Canvasbacks and Canada Geese, along with smaller offerings of just about everything else: Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes, Ruddies and Ring-necks and Redheads, and even a handful of neck-banded Trumpeter Swans. On the ice beyond, a mighty company of gulls stood watch over the proceedings. And farther back still, in a yet larger patch of open water,

was assembled an even more massive armada of ducks, geese, and gulls. It was an understatement when Allan likened the challenge before us to finding a needle in a haystack.

So it was time to go to Plan "B"—drive around looking not for birds, but rather for birders, and have *them* find the Smew for us. (If any purist Watchers have made it this far, I commend you for your forbearance and apologize for the revulsion you must surely be feeling.)

Our revised strategy paid instant dividends.

The act of seeing a life bird is always an occasion for philosophizing, and so it was in the case of this latest addition to my life list. On the one hand, the Smew got high marks for sheer spectacle. Allan put it well: the bird reminded him of one of those fancy white candies draped with thin ribbons of dark chocolate. There was a certain mystique about this ornate and ultra-rare waif from the other side of the earth, and nothing seemed amiss when it turned out that every birder in our little gathering was from out of state.

On the other hand, the whole situation elicited feelings of nostalgia—even atavism—in me. (Am I starting to recapture the respect of the Watchers who have made it this far?) That's because, the Smew notwithstanding, everything else about our surroundings reminded me of my boyhood in the valley bottomlands of the Mississippi River drainage: a barge lumbering by and churning up the ice floes, against a backdrop of lifeless factories and distant gray hills, and beneath a low canopy of unsettled and amorphous cloud cover. And a beautiful bird, a *life* bird, enlivening and—dare I say?—ennobling the psychic landscape of life in the mill towns of the Mississippi River valley. The Smew—incontestably exotic and exquisite—was a paradoxical throwback to my youth.

Toward late morning, I was sightseeing with Kei, my sister Cathy, my sister-in-law Desiree, and my nephew Griffin. We were shown the famous Arch, the retrofitted train



station, the cookie-cutter baseball stadium, and eventually the municipal zoo. It is a truism to say that the inhabitants of the zoo—pandas and lemurs and such—were an exotic bunch. But the zoo was also the unofficial residence of a host of icons from my childhood: a brash Blue Jay perched on a trashcan, and Cardinals chasing about in the planted shrubbery; a gray squirrel tightrope walking along a telephone wire, and the still-discernible odor of sweetgum and ginkgo berries smooshed underfoot; all of it against a backdrop of lifeless factories and distant gray hills, and beneath a low canopy of unsettled and amorphous cloud cover.

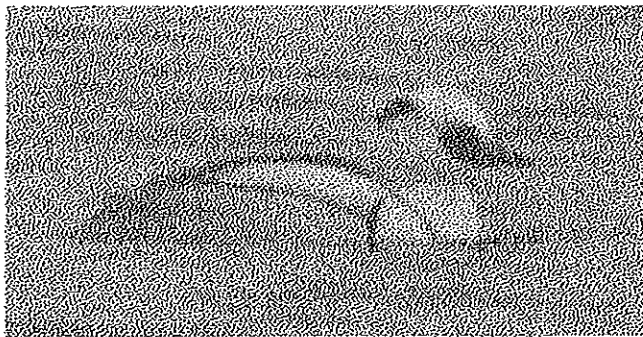
When we arrived at the aviary, my relatives graciously condescended to accompany me inside and to feign interest at the ornithological offerings that awaited us. Inside the aviary I was struck by, if anything, an even heightened sense of *déjà vu*. It was as if I had been transported back in time to the Pittsburgh Aviary, a sixteen year old, marveling at the divers and dabblers and waders from wonderful and faraway lands that I dreamt one day of visiting. In the ensuing years I would travel to many of these places, and some part of me was now reviewing the panoply of impressions and experiences summarized around me here. But another, a greater, part of me was standing—indeed


*still* standing—in simple wonder at the beauty and pageantry before me.

I was brought out of my reverie by Kei, who was staring shellshocked at, of all things—a Smew. Her discovery was utterly unanticipated, and in some objective sense, considerably more dramatic than my only other, essentially preordained, encounter with a Smew just a few hours earlier. From Kei's perspective, the sighting was perfectly acceptable, and infinitely more satisfactory than the prospect of having had to stand on that freezing cold river bank just to accomplish the same objective. It didn't matter in the least—and indeed it was an added bonus—that the bird was paddling, improbably, among palm fronds and pink flamingos.

Just as it didn't bother me that the other Smew was, improbably, in the company of Mississippi River clippers and manmade viewing platforms. Indeed it was an added bonus—in fact it was the whole point—that in the midst of such ordinariness and familiarity so extraordinary a creature might appear. ∞

**photo by Jim Rathert**



Next Deadline: March 9 

Anne McCormack

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

## Key to WGNSS Calendar

### birding

each Thurs ....call Dottie Herweg 314-966-2274  
most Sat..... call David Becher 314-576-1146

### board meeting

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

### botany

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

### conservation

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

### entomology

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

### general meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Fri. 8 PM....call Doug Corbett 636-861-2829  
note: March & April '01 will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri.

### 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  
no issue in June or July

### membership expires/renewal due

Aug. 31

### Spring banquet

Thursday, May 3, 2001 call Pat McCormick 636-825-2842

### Big Day birding competition

Sat. May 12, 2001

## Need directions?

### Busch Wildlife Area

- Take 40 west toward St. Charles Co., left on 94, right on D, follow signs
- Hampton Lake—usual meeting spot—is the first beyond headquarters

### 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.

### Mark Twain NWR

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

### Riverlands Environmental Dem. Area

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

### St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters

- All are welcome. Bring a friend!
- 1640 South Lindbergh in Frontenac.
- 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 Foyt Site).

### 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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## Saint Louis Area Sighting List for 2000

by Paul Johnson

This is a composite list of bird sightings in the "St Louis Area" which is defined as the area within 50 miles of the nearest border of the city of St Louis. The list was compiled primarily from sightings reported in Jim Ziebol and Yvonne Homeyer's monthly bird report column in *Nature Notes*.

A Y in the columns labeled MBRC Review List and IORC Review List indicate that the species is rare enough in the respective state that sightings warrant review by the Committee.

### Composite St. Louis Bird Sightings List for 2000

MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
		<b>LOONS</b>		
		Red-throated Loon	IL & MO	Carlyle Lake Mar 25 by Dan Kassebaum; REDA Oct 14 by Dave Becher
		Common Loon		
		<b>GREBES</b>		
		Pied-billed Grebe		
		Horned Grebe		
		Eared Grebe	IL	Horseshoe Lake Mar 12 by Dave Becher & Torrey Berger; Carlyle Lake Apr 22 by Dan Kassebaum
		Western Grebe	MO	REDA Nov 30 by the Thursday Group
		<b>PELICANS</b>		
		American White Pelican		
		<b>CORMORANTS</b>		
		Double-crested Cormorant		
Y	Y	Neotropic Cormorant	IL	Carlyle Lake May 20 by Dan Kassebaum. Documentation submitted and decision is <i>pending</i>
		<b>HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS</b>		
		Great Blue Heron		
		Great Egret		
Y	Y	Tricolored Heron	IL	Stump Lake Aug 4 by Steve Bailey & Carlyle Lake by Dan Kassebaum. Documentation submitted and accepted for both sightings
		Little Blue Heron		
		Snowy Egret		
		Cattle Egret		
		Green Heron		
		Black-crowned Night-Heron		
		Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	IL	Granite City Mar 23 by Frank Holmes & three in TGP Apr 20 by John Solodar
		Least Bittern	IL	Horseshoe Lake Jun 11 by Frank Holmes
		American Bittern	MO	LCCL Mar 31 by Wilma Kennell and M.ob
		<b>IBIS AND SPOONBILLS</b>		
	Y	Glossy Ibis	IL	MTNWR Jun 6 by Helen Wuestenfeld; Horseshoe Lake Aug 3 by Dan Kassebaum. Documentation submitted and accepted for both sightings
	Y	White-faced Ibis	MO & IL	BCA Shorebird Area May 2 by George & Terry Barker; Horseshoe Lake Aug 18 by Dan Kassebaum . IL documentation submitted and accepted
		<b>DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS</b>		

MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
Y		Mute Swan	IL	Eagle Lake/Peabody Wildlife Refuge on Feb 6 by Mary Regan
		Tundra Swan		
		Greater White-fronted Goose		
		Snow Goose		
		Ross's Goose	MO & IL	First sighting of year: REDA Jan 9 by Bill Rowe & Randy Korotev. Subsequently seen area wide
		Canada Goose		
		Wood Duck		
		American Wigeon		
		Gadwall		
		Green-winged Teal		
		Mallard		
		American Black Duck		
		Northern Pintail		
		Blue-winged Teal		
		Northern Shoveler		
		Canvasback		
		Redhead		
		Ring-necked Duck		
		Greater Scaup		
		Lesser Scaup		
		Oldsquaw	IL & MO	Jan 2 at Carlyle Lake by Dan Kassebaum & at Horseshoe Lake by Dave Becher & Bill Rudden; REDA Nov 27 by Jim & Charlene Malone
		Black Scoter	MO	REDA Apr 2 by Ken Thompson
		Surf Scoter	MO	REDA Apr 3 by Jim and Charlene Malone
		White-winged Scoter	IL	O'Fallon IL Sewage Lagoon Nov 6 by Tom Borman
		Common Goldeneye		
		Bufflehead		
		Hooded Merganser		
		Red-breasted Merganser		
		Common Merganser		
		Ruddy Duck		
		<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>		
		Turkey Vulture		
		<b>OSPREY</b>		
		Osprey		
		<b>HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES</b>		
		Mississippi Kite	MO	May 5 at TGP by Lawrence Schriewer and in Des Peres by Dottie Herwig; May 8 TGP by Loy Barber; May 26 Webster Groves by Brian Meilleur; Jun 22 Webster Groves by Scott Marshall; Jun 29 Fort Kaskaskia by George & Terry Barker; Aug 9 University City, adult feeding an immature, by Randy Korotev; Aug 13 two kites in her yard by Barbara Estill; Aug 22 three Kites at Larson Park by David Rabenau
		Bald Eagle		
		Northern Harrier		
		Sharp-shinned Hawk		
		Cooper's Hawk		

MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
		Northern Goshawk	MO & IL	At his feeder Feb 2 by Jim Teeple; Carlyle Lake Apr 3 by Dan Kassebaum; LCCL on Oct 7 by Paul Bauer, Joe Eades & M.ob
		Red-shouldered Hawk		
		Broad-winged Hawk		
		Red-tailed Hawk		
		Rough-legged Hawk		
		Golden Eagle	MO	St Charles Cnty, MO Nov 12 by Bill Rowe
		<b>FALCONS AND CARACARAS</b>		
		American Kestrel		
		Merlin	MO & IL	Hwy 94 St Charles Cnty, MO Feb 16 by Mike Grant and Doug Corbett; Carlyle Lake Apr 18 by Connie Alwood & Kent Lannert; Horseshoe Lake Aug 17 by Dan Kassebaum; Carlyle Lake Sep 23 by Torrey Berger; Calhoun Cnty, IL on Nov 30 by the Thursday Group
		Peregrine Falcon		
		<b>TURKEYS</b>		
		Wild Turkey		
		<b>NEW WORLD QUAIL</b>		
		Northern Bobwhite		
		<b>PHEASANTS AND PARTRIDGES</b>		
		Ring-necked Pheasant		
		<b>CRANES</b>		
Y		Sandhill Crane	IL	MTNWR Staff reported a flock of 6 birds at the refuge on Nov 2
		<b>RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS</b>		
		King Rail	MO	REDA on May 5 by Charlene Malone, May 18 by Dave Hoehne & Jun 10 by George & Terry Barker; CCNWR Jul 25 by Tom Borman
		Virginia Rail	IL & MO	Carlyle Lake Apr 22 by Dan Kassebaum; REDA May 15 by Kent Lannert
		Sora		
		Common Moorhen		
		American Coot		
		<b>AVOCETS AND STILTS</b>		
		American Avocet	IL & MO	Apr 22 at MTNWR by Bill Rowe and Carlyle Lake by Dan Kassebaum; LCCL May 2 by Jim Jackson; Moredock Lake in Monroe Cnty, IL Sep 9 by Dennis and Mary Regen; REDA Nov 2 by George & Terry Barker
		<b>PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS</b>		
		American Golden-Plover		
		Black-bellied Plover		
		Semipalmated Plover		
		Killdeer		
		Piping Plover	IL	Horseshoe Lake Aug 6 by George & Terry Barker & M.ob
Y	Y	Snowy Plover	MO	LCCL Apr 22 by Mike Thelen, Jean Cook and M.ob. Documentation submitted and accepted
		<b>SANDPIPERS</b>		
		American Woodcock		
		Common Snipe		

MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
		Short-billed Dowitcher		
		Long-billed Dowitcher		
		Hudsonian Godwit	MO & IL	LCCL Apr 22 by M.ob; MTNWR May 11 by Charlene Malone; REDA on May 13 by Viola Buchholtz
		Marbled Godwit	MO & IL	BCA Apr 20 by Jeannie Moe; LCCL Apr 22 by Dave Becher; Horseshoe Lake Aug 12 by Jim & Charlene Malone
Y		Whimbrel	IL	
		Upland Sandpiper	MO & IL	Carlyle Lake Apr 9 by Dan Kassebaum; REDA Jul 7 by Yvonne Homeyer; St Charles Airport Jul 22 by Tom Borman
		Greater Yellowlegs		
		Lesser Yellowlegs		
		Solitary Sandpiper		
		Spotted Sandpiper		
		Willet	MO	LCCL Apr 22 by M.ob; Carlyle Lake Jun 30 by Dan Kassebaum; REDA Jul 1 by Dave Becher
		Ruddy Turnstone	MO	REDA May 13 by Dave Becher & Aug 11 by Paul Bauer
		Red Knot	IL	MTNWR May 27 by Lou Hanes & Helen Wuestenfeld; Horseshoe Lake Aug 18 by Dan Kassebaum, Kent Lannert & Jim Ziebol
		Sanderling		
		Semipalmated Sandpiper		
		Western Sandpiper		
		Least Sandpiper		
		White-rumped Sandpiper		
		Baird's Sandpiper		
		Pectoral Sandpiper		
		Dunlin		
		Stilt Sandpiper		
		Buff-breasted Sandpiper		
Y	Y	Ruff	IL	Collinsville Road Golf Course, Madison Cnty, IL Apr 3 by Jim and Charlene Malone; Hill Lake, Monroe Cnty, IL Apr 4 by Keith McMullen. Documentation submitted and accepted for both sightings
		Wilson's Phalarope		
		Red-necked Phalarope	MO	REDA May 10 by John & Nancy Solodar; Horseshoe Lake Aug 17 by Dan Kassebaum; Carlyle Lake Sep 30 by Jim & Charlene Malone, Torrey Berger, & M.ob
		<b>JAEGERS AND SKUAS</b>		
Y	Y	Parasitic Jaeger	IL	Carlyle Lake Nov 5 by Dan Kassebaum. Documentation submitted and a decision is <i>pending</i>
		<b>GULLS</b>		
		Ring-billed Gull		
Y	Y	California Gull	IL	Carlyle Lake Jan 9 by Dan Kassebaum & M.ob. Documentation submitted and accepted
		Great Black-backed Gull	IL & MO	Horseshoe Lake Borrow Pits Jan 14 by John Solodar; REDA Feb 10 by George & Terry Barker

MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
		Glaucous Gull	IL	Carlyle Lake Jan 8 by Bob Kleiger & M.ob; Chain of Rocks during Christmas Week by Bill Rowe
		Iceland Gull	IL	Horseshoe Lake Borrow Pits Jan 26 by Jim Ziebol
		Thayer's Gull	IL	Horseshoe Lake Borrow Pits Jan 17 by Torrey Berger; Lock 26 Jan 27 by George & Terry Barker
		Herring Gull		
		Lesser Black-backed Gull	IL	Horseshoe Lake Borrow Pits Jan 17 by Frank Holmes; Carlyle Lake Nov 16 by Tom Borman
		Bonaparte's Gull		
		Laughing Gull	MO & IL	REDA May 6 by Randy Korotev & Bill Rowe; Carlyle Lake Jun 13 by Dan Kassebaum; Carlyle Lake Jul 9 by Kent Lannert
		Franklin's Gull		
Y		Little Gull	MO	REDA Sep 29 by Dave Becher. Documentation submitted and accepted
Y		Sabine's Gull	IL & MO	Carlyle Lake on Sep 16 by Kent Lannert; REDA Sep 24 by Jeff Lundt. Documentation submitted and accepted
		Black-legged Kittiwake	IL	Carlyle Lake Jan 22 by Dan Kassebaum
		<b>TERNs</b>		
		Caspian Tern		
		Common Tern	MO	REDA, Apr 18 by John & Nancy Solodar, May 20 by Connie Alwood & Jun 22 by Steve Daly
		Forster's Tern		
		Least Tern	IL	Jun 19 at Horseshoe Lake by Torrey Berger and at REDA by Charlene Malone; REDA Jul 21 by Jackie Chain; Horseshoe Lake Aug 7 & 9 by Dave Becher, Bill Rowe, & Frank Holmes
		Black Tern		
		<b>PIGEONS AND DOVES</b>		
		Rock Dove		
Y	Y	Eurasian Collared-Dove	MO & IL	The colony at Sunset Park in Florissant MO has been documented and accepted. Carlyle Lake colony has been heavily documented with photographs. It has grown to at least 13 birds. This past year birds have been sighted in Red Bud, Fairview Heights, Millstadt and several counties in southern Illinois
		Mourning Dove		
		<b>CUCKOOS</b>		
		Black-billed Cuckoo		
		Yellow-billed Cuckoo		
		<b>OWLS</b>		
		Eastern Screech-Owl		
		Great Horned Owl		
		Barred Owl		
		Northern Saw-whet Owl	IL	Hazlet SP, Carlyle Lake in January by Dan Kassebaum



MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
		Long-eared Owl	IL	Calhoun Cnty, IL Jan 6 by George & Terry Barker; Carlyle Lake Apr 9 by Dan Kassebaum
		Short-eared Owl	IL	2000N Road, Carlyle Lake Jan 18 by Mary Reagan; St Charles Cnty, MO Jan 31 by Paul Bauer; Carlyle Lake Apr 9 by Dan Kassebaum; REDA Oct 7 by Kevin Richmond; Peabody Coal Nov 11 by John Loomis
		<b>NIGHTJARS</b>		
		Common Nighthawk		
		Chuck-will's-widow		
		Whip-poor-will		
		<b>SWIFTS</b>		
		Chimney Swift		
		<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>		
		Ruby-throated Hummingbird		
Y	Y	Rufous Hummingbird	MO	Glencoe, MO Dec 16 by Lanny Chambers. Documentation submitted and a decision is <i>pending</i> . The bird at Anne McCormack's was caught and measured by Lanny. The bird escaped before he finished taking all the measurements but those he got are indicative of a Rufous. This sighting is being documented.
		<b>KINGFISHERS</b>		
		Belted Kingfisher		
		<b>WOODPECKERS</b>		
		Red-headed Woodpecker		
		Red-bellied Woodpecker		
		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
		Downy Woodpecker		
		Hairy Woodpecker		
		Northern Flicker		
		Pileated Woodpecker		
		<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>		
		Olive-sided Flycatcher		
		Eastern Wood-Pewee		
		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		
		Acadian Flycatcher		
		Alder Flycatcher		
		Willow Flycatcher		
		Least Flycatcher		
		Eastern Phoebe		
		Great Crested Flycatcher		
		Western Kingbird	IL	Route 3 Apr 22 by Frank Holmes. The week of Jul 23 Dan Kassebaum reported 13 on Front St, East St Louis, IL & Kent Lannert reported 6 along the biking trail to Chain of Rocks Bridge
	Y	Eastern Kingbird		
	Y	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	MO & IL	Carlyle Lake Aug 19 by Dan Kassebaum. IL documentation submitted and accepted. Nesting in Union, MO Jul 7 by Don and Cheryl Delashmit. Documentation submitted and accepted. See Note 6
		<b>LARKS</b>		

MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
		Horned Lark		
		<b>SWALLOWS</b>		
		Purple Martin		
		Tree Swallow		
		Northern Rough-winged Swallow		
		Bank Swallow		
		Cliff Swallow		
		Barn Swallow		
		<b>WAGTAILS AND PIPITS</b>		
		American Pipit	MO & IL	REDA Feb 29 by Barbara & Paul Johnson; Bruns Rd, Madison Cnty, IL Mar 19 by Dennis Bozzay and Jeannie Moe; Horseshoe Lake Borrow Pits Mar 26 by Bill Rowe & John Solodar
Y	Y	Sprague's Pipit	IL	Carlyle Lake Apr 24 by Dan Kassebaum. IL Documentation submitted and a decision is <i>pending</i>
		<b>KINGLETS</b>		
		Golden-crowned Kinglet		
		Ruby-crowned Kinglet		
		<b>WAXWINGS</b>		
		Cedar Waxwing		
		<b>WRENS</b>		
		Carolina Wren		
		Bewick's Wren	MO	Returned to the Delashmits' property in Franklin Cnty, MO, Mar 25 where they have nested for several years. George Winter Park May 14 by Loy Barber; CSP Jul 4 by Tom Borman
		Winter Wren		
		House Wren		
		Sedge Wren		
		Marsh Wren		
		<b>MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS</b>		
		Gray Catbird		
		Northern Mockingbird		
		Brown Thrasher		
		<b>THRUSHES</b>		
		Eastern Bluebird		
		Veery		
		Gray-cheeked Thrush		
		Swainson's Thrush		
		Hermit Thrush		
		Wood Thrush		
		American Robin		
		<b>GNATCATCHERS</b>		
		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		
		<b>CHICKADEES AND TITS</b>		
		Carolina Chickadee		
		Black-capped Chickadee		
		Tufted Titmouse		
		<b>NUTHATCHES</b>		

MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
		Red-breasted Nuthatch		
		White-breasted Nuthatch		
		<b>CREEPERS</b>		
		Brown Creeper		
		<b>SHRIKES</b>		
		Loggerhead Shrike		
Y		Northern Shrike	MO & IL	The bird originally seen Dec 12, 99 on Dwiggins Road in St Charles Cnty, MO stayed around until about Jan 17. Horseshoe Lake Borrow Pits Feb 6 by Barbara & Paul Johnson. MO & IL documentation submitted and accepted
		<b>CROWS AND JAYS</b>		
		Blue Jay		
		American Crow		
		Fish Crow		
		<b>STARLINGS</b>		
		European Starling		
		<b>VIREOS AND ALLIES</b>		
		White-eyed Vireo		
		Bell's Vireo		
		Yellow-throated Vireo		
		Blue-headed Vireo		
		Warbling Vireo		
		Philadelphia Vireo		
		Red-eyed Vireo		
		<b>WOOD WARBLERS</b>		
		Blue-winged Warbler		
		Golden-winged Warbler		
		Tennessee Warbler		
		Orange-crowned Warbler		
		Nashville Warbler		
		Northern Parula		
		Yellow Warbler		
		Chestnut-sided Warbler		
		Magnolia Warbler		
		Cape May Warbler		
		Black-throated Blue Warbler	IL	Carlyle Lake Sep 30. Only report for the year
		Yellow-rumped Warbler		
		Black-throated Green Warbler		
		Blackburnian Warbler		
		Yellow-throated Warbler		
		Pine Warbler		
		Prairie Warbler		
		Palm Warbler		
		Bay-breasted Warbler		
		Blackpoll Warbler		
		Cerulean Warbler		
		Black-and-white Warbler		
		American Redstart		
		Prothonotary Warbler		
		Worm-eating Warbler		
		Ovenbird		
		Northern Waterthrush		

MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
		Louisiana Waterthrush		
		Kentucky Warbler		
		Connecticut Warbler	MO	TGP May 17 by Mary Ann Auer; near Horseshoe Lake Sep 29 by Torrey Berger
		Mourning Warbler		
		Common Yellowthroat		
		Hooded Warbler		
		Wilson's Warbler		
		Canada Warbler		
		Yellow-breasted Chat		
		<b>TANAGERS AND ALLIES</b>		
		Scarlet Tanager		
		Summer Tanager		
		<b>SPARROWS, TOWHEES, JUNCOS</b>		
		Eastern Towhee		
		Spotted Towhee	MO & IL	Calhoun Cnty IL Feb 26; SNR Mar 23 by Jim Jackson; Forest Park Apr 7 by Randy Korotev; BCA during the Christmas Count
		American Tree Sparrow		
		Chipping Sparrow		
		Clay-colored Sparrow	MO & IL	St. Louis University Oct 3 by Nick Barber; Bruns Road, Madison Cnty, IL Oct 5 by Torrey Berger; MTNWR Oct 7 by Helen Wuestenfeld; BCA Oct 15 by Dennis Bozzay & Jeannie Moe
		Field Sparrow		
		Vesper Sparrow		
		Lark Sparrow		
		Savannah Sparrow		
		Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	IL	Horseshoe Lake Oct 7 by Dave Becher & M.ob; Horseshoe Lake on Nov 5 by Connie Alwood
		Le Conte's Sparrow		
		Henslow's Sparrow	MO & IL	WSCA Apr 28 by Bill Rowe & George & Terry Barker; BCA May 23 by Charlene Malone (these birds stayed through the summer, potentially nesting); Calhoun Cnty, IL Jul 5 by Helen Wuestenfeld & M.ob
		Grasshopper Sparrow	IL	May 6, Horseshoe Lake by Frank Holmes & School House Rd, Madison Cnty, IL by Barbara & Paul Johnson & M.ob
		Fox Sparrow		
		Song Sparrow		
		Lincoln's Sparrow		
		Swamp Sparrow		
		White-crowned Sparrow		
		White-throated Sparrow		
		Harris's Sparrow	MO & IL	Near MTNWR HQ Feb 15 by Lou Hanes; Bend Rd, Horseshoe Lake Mar 11 by Dick Coles; BCA Mar 25 by Jeannie Moe; REDA Nov 5 by Mike Thelen
		Dark-eyed Junco		
		Lapland Longspur		
		Smith's Longspur	IL	Carlyle Lake Apr 9. Photographed by Al Seppi

MBRC Review List	IORC Review List	Species	State	Comments
		Snow Bunting	MO & IL	2000 N Road, Carlyle Lake Jan 18 by Mary Reagan; REDA feeders mid Dec by George & Terry Barker and M.ob
		<b>SALTATORS, CARDINALS AND ALLIES</b>		
		Northern Cardinal		
		Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
		Blue Grosbeak		
		Indigo Bunting		
Y	Y	Painted Bunting	IL	A nesting pair found in East St Louis Jul 29 by Dan Kassebaum, Keith McMullen & M.ob. Documentation submitted and accepted
		Dickcissel		
		<b>BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, GRACKLES, ETC.</b>		
		Bobolink		
		Red-winged Blackbird		
		Eastern Meadowlark		
		Western Meadowlark	IL & MO	Monroe Cnty, IL Apr 7 by George & Terry Barker; Carlyle Lake Apr 9 by Dan Kassebaum; REDA May 21 by Dennis Bozzay; Dwiggins Rd, St Charles Cnty, MO Dec 16 by Tom Borman & Kent Lannert
		Yellow-headed Blackbird		
		Rusty Blackbird		
		Brewer's Blackbird		
		Common Grackle		
Y	Y	Great-tailed Grackle	MO & IL	CCNWR Oct 29 by Bill Rowe. Documentation submitted and accepted. Horseshoe Lake Nov 22 by Tim Deaver. IL Documentation submitted and accepted
		Brown-headed Cowbird		
		Baltimore Oriole		
		Orchard Oriole		
		<b>FINCHES, SISKINS, CROSSBILLS</b>		
		Purple Finch	MO	BCA Jan 12 by Jeannie Moe; TGP Apr 22 by Bruce Wetheroth; Fallen Oak Trail, BCA Dec 12 by Tom Borman
		House Finch		
		Pine Siskin		
		American Goldfinch		
		<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS</b>		
		House Sparrow		
		Eurasian Tree Sparrow		
<b>Total Species Seen</b>			303	This total includes four species on the Review List that have been documented but the Record Committee decision is still pending.

**Sightings of the following species were reported in *Nature Notes* but are not included in the year total**

Species	State	Comments
Mute Swan	MO	Currently considered not a wild species in Missouri and is not countable. It is countable in Illinois.
Trumpeter Swan	MO	Currently considered not a wild species in Missouri and Illinois and is not countable.

Abbreviations:

BCA	–	August A. Busch CA
CCNWR		Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge
CSP	–	Castlewood State Park
Cnty	–	County
LCCL	–	Little Creve Coeur Lake
MTNWR		Mark Train National Wildlife Refuge
REDA	–	Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area
SNR	–	Shaw Nature Reserve (Shaw Arboretum)
TGP	–	Tower Grove Park
WSCA	–	Weldon Springs Conservation Area

Notes:

1. The species order is based Clement's Birds of the World: A Checklist, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. This is the taxonomic order used by the American Birding Association and my birding database.
2. The state where the sighting occurred is provided for those species needing documentation or for sightings of birds listed as rare in the Webster Groves Nature Study Society Checklist of Birds of the St. Louis Area
3. MBRC is the Missouri Bird Record Committee. Documentation forms and instructions are available through the Audubon Society of Missouri web site, <http://www.mobirds.org/> .
4. IORC is the Illinois Bird Record Committee. Documentation forms and instructions are available through the Illinois Ornithological Society web site , <http://www.chias.org/ios/> .
5. The Missouri and Illinois Bird Record Committees have review lists of species that are rare enough to warrant documentation. Additionally, any species listed as accidental or casual or is not listed on the respective state's checklist should be documented.
6. Summer sightings and nesting of this species outside of Southwest Missouri should be documented.

Special thanks go to Connie Alwood, Dan Kassebaum, Charlene Malone, and Bill Rowe who provided help and guidance in the creation of this list.

If anyone has comments on this year's list or suggestions for next year, please call me at 636.532.5041.

# Webster Groves Nature Study Society

## meetings

### Wednesday March 7

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

### Friday March 16

7:30 PM: answer questions before program at 8 PM in the auditorium of St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh in Frontenac. Joint meeting with North American Butterfly Association (NABA). Four speakers: Barry Ritter,; Jack Harris, Dennis Bozzay, and Kraig Paradise. They will discuss setting up your garden to attract butterflies. Barry will present slides of plants available from local nurseries that he supplies. Please note the date is the **third Friday of March.**

### Thursday May 3

WGNS Spring Banquet at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster.

## botany

### Thursdays Feb-April

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

## conservation

Contact Yvonne Homeyer (314-963-7750; homeyer@primary.net) for date of next meeting.

## entomology

### Sunday February 25

7 PM at Manger's, 516 Bacon Ave., 961-4588. Jim Ziebol will present the program, "Some Local Butterflies and Skippers through the Eye of a Camcorder."

### Sunday March 25

7 PM Manger's. Ted Macrae will present "Discovering New Insects: A Detective Story."

## visit:

[www.wgnss.org](http://www.wgnss.org)

## birding

### Thursdays Feb.-April

8:30 AM at Des Peres Park on Ballas, one block north of Manchester. In May, switch to 8 AM. Questions: call Dottie Herweg: 314-966-2274.

### Sat. Feb. 24, March 17

8 AM Riverlands. Meet at Teal Pond. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

### Sat. March 10, 24, 31, April 7

8 AM "Where the Birds Are." Meet at SE corner of Kohl's parking lot, Olive & 270. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

### Saturday March 10

8 AM Audubon/WGNSS Mark Twain NWR Meet across highway 100 from the Brussels Ferry, just North of Grafton, Ill. Bring lunch. More info, call Jim Malone at 1-636-536-1119.

### Sunday, March 25

8:00 AM St. L. Audubon/WGNSS Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles Co. Meet at Hampton Lk. More info, call Jim Malone above.

### Saturday, April 7

6:00 PM Busch St. L. Audubon/WGNSS Woodcock/Owl Prowl. Meet at Hampton Lk. Bring a flashlight. Call Jim Malone above.

### Saturday April 14 & 28

8 AM Tower Grove Park, west of stables. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

### Saturday April 21

8 AM Busch, meet by Hampton Lk. Bring lunch. Leader: David Becher, 314-576-1146.

### Friday, April 27-29

St. Louis Audubon: Spring birding trip to southern Illinois. \$40 For reservations, call Jim Malone: (636) 536-1119 or stlaud@inlink.com

### Saturday May 12

Big Day!

### Nature Notes deadline March 9

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



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 Nature Study Society  
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 St. Louis MO 63119

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## Membership Application

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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 yrs.)*

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