

MISSOURI & ARKANSAS
THE OZARKS & TALLGRASS PRAIRIES

MAY 8-17, 2009

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Missouri & Arkansas: The Ozarks and Tallgrass Prairies

A Natural History Odyssey

May 8-17, 2009

Leader: Steve Hilty

This was one of the wettest spring seasons on record in Missouri and Arkansas. During our trip strong weather systems developed all around us, but, miraculously, we managed to completely avoid these thunderstorms and floods, and suffered no delays and no lost field time. We were able to find all 18 species of breeding warblers, including the usually difficult to locate Swainson's Warbler. Many warblers were seen repeatedly. However, we did not see large numbers of migrant warblers this year, a result perhaps of our slightly later tour dates this year and possibly some species having already moved northward.

We enjoyed a pleasant morning at Prairie State Park with migrant and resident species much in evidence. Tops on the prairie were two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, one of which was studied at close range in the scope in a section of unburned prairie. We also registered a surprising migrant Red-breasted Nuthatch at a small woodlot, and a Northern Waterthrush, as well as such resident species as Bell's Vireo and Henslow's Sparrow, several male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds feeding at *Castilleja* (paint brush) on the prairie, and a Prothonotary Warbler at a wooded strip pit. Spring flowers were abundant with yellow star grass, spring beauty, rose verbena, wild hyacinth, and others dotting the prairie in abundance.

Because of the broad natural history focus of this trip and the varied activities each day, a review of trip highlights reveals much more than birds. Indeed, the rarest birds of the trip were not the first items to be mentioned by participants at the end of the trip. Instead, what came to mind most frequently were beautiful places such as Blue Springs; the authentic folk music at Mountain View, Arkansas; the beauty and peacefulness of floating the Buffalo River; unusually good opportunities to see beautiful birds, among them numerous Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and Blue-winged and Hooded warblers; a gray fox racing across the road at dawn; unusual plants such as wild quinine, climbing milkweeds, and Venus' hair ferns; and the overall beauty of this region. Indeed, for those living in heavily populated coastal areas, the extensive forest and the small number of people living here come as a surprise.

Seated comfortably in Wild Bill's canoes, we drifted lazily down the Buffalo River one morning, listening to a serenade of warblers, vireos, and thrushes, and looking up at splashes of yellow coreopsis and blue spiderworts decorating little shelf-like openings above cliff faces. A day later, near Mountain View, our group entered Blanchard Cave and descended 20 stories underground into the marvelous and largely unseen world of darkness beneath the Ozark plateau. Caves honeycomb the Ozarks, and their architects are the tens of thousands of springs that dot the region—some mere seeps on hillsides, and others (ranking among the largest in the world) big enough to supply populations of our largest metropolitan areas. Everywhere there were warblers and a great many new plants and, in Mountain View, traditional crafts and music were on display. We concluded our trip with a pleasant visit to historic Mammoth Springs, then visited three dramatically different springs the last day—one that boils up with great force, one that issues from a cliff, and one that flows silky-smooth and blue as sky.

Our lists reflect the wide range of activities on this trip—birds, plants, butterflies, mammals, and reptiles, as well as traditional Ozark crafts and music, even a little geology, but they hardly do justice to the beauty and charm of this region. With all of the natural history, it's a full-packed trip, and we think it will leave you with fond memories of one of North America's loveliest and gentlest regions.

THE ROUTE:

May 5. Prairie State Park; afternoon drive to Eureka Springs.

May 6. Roaring River State Park in morning; picnic lunch and the White River Bald (Ruth Henning State Park) before entering Branson, Missouri.

May 7. A.M. at Mincy Conservation area and Bee Creek and drive to Harrison, Arkansas. Afternoon on the Hide-out-Hollow trail near Compton, Arkansas.

- May 8. Upper Buffalo River country including Lost Valley; Alum Cove State Park was closed broken limbs from a winter ice storm blocked the trail; late p.m. on Baker Prairie in Harrison
- May 9. Buffalo River float trip from Buffalo Point to Rush Landing (old Zinc Mining town). Late afternoon drive to Mt. View. Evening music at Mt. View.
- May 10. Early morning birding and botanizing in Blanchard campground; late morning tour of Blanchard Cave; afternoon at the folk center; more music at Mt. View.
- May 11. Morning at Gunner Pool Trail and campground in Ozark National Forest; afternoon drive to Mammoth Springs.
- May 12. A day of springs—Greer Spring, Falling Spring and Blue Spring. Early morning birding along the Eleven Point River; afternoon along Current River and drive back to Springfield Missouri for conclusion of trip.

A NOTE ABOUT THE LISTS: The lists include all of the birds, and most (but probably not all) of the plants, animals, butterflies, and reptiles that were mentioned, or noted somewhere. There are bound to be omissions here and there.

LIST OF BREEDING & MIGRANT BIRDS SEEN: Species only heard are marked with a double asterisk (**). Boldface indicates uncommon, local, or of special interest. SH = observed only by S Hilty

Wood Duck, Bee Creek (3 in flight); Mammoth Springs (ca. 15 including males, females; one female with seven ducklings)

Mallard, 1-2 at Mammoth Springs; not sure if the birds we saw this year were wild birds (perhaps not)

Wild Turkey, 5 at Prairie State Park; 1 near Blanchard

Northern Bobwhite, 1 at roadside south of Greer, Mo (seen mainly by Jean); hd and 1 flushed at Prairie State Park (seen by SH)

Great Blue Heron, almost daily

Green Heron, Roaring River State Park; Buffalo River; Sylamore Creek

Black Vulture, several (10+) in Bee Creek area; also Blanchard

Turkey Vulture, daily

Red-shouldered Hawk, hd at Hide-out-Hollow and Lost Valley; seen at Gunner Trail

Broad-winged Hawk, see over Buffalo River; hd along Gunner Trail

Red-tailed Hawk, Buffalo River and Blanchard area

[we saw no Greater Prairie Chickens and learned that the population at Prairie State Park, one of its last strongholds in Missouri, may number no more than 30 over the more than 4000 acre park]

Killdeer, Prairie State Park (hd); Mammoth Springs

Spotted Sandpiper, several along Buffalo River where they breed

Rock Dove, Feral birds daily in towns

Mourning Dove, daily

Barred Owl, hd in Lost Valley and seen by Jean

Common Nighthawk, heard and seen at Springfield; Harrison; Mt. View etc.

Chimney Swift, pair over Mincy Bald; Buffalo River and daily thereafter

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, also seen almost daily; male at *Castelleja* in prairie was unforgettable

Belted Kingfisher, heard or see along Buffalo River

Red-headed Woodpecker, one at Prairie State Park; 1 at Mammoth Springs

Red-bellied Woodpecker, heard or seen daily

**Hairy Woodpecker, heard once by SH; not seen

Pileated Woodpecker, heard or seen almost daily

Olive-sided Flycatcher, Roaring River (1); another at Blanchard Campground (uncommon migrant)

Eastern Wood Pewee, seen at Roaring River; heard at Blanchard Campground; seen at Eleven Point River

Acadian Flycatcher, heard almost daily in forested areas; seen at Lost Valley in upper Buffalo River Valley; also seen along Eleven Point River

**Least Flycatcher, hd at Roaring River

Eastern Phoebe, daily, near creeks and rocky areas; bridges; old buildings

Great Crested Flycatcher, heard almost daily; seen at Bee Creek and Blanchard Campground

Eastern Kingbird, Prairie State Park (migrating groups of 4-8; total of 50+ seen); Mammoth Springs and along roadsides elsewhere

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, pair on 4th floor window of Radisson Hotel in Branson; also on fences in open areas in vicinity of Harrison and Mt. View etc/

White-eyed Vireo, heard or seen almost daily; sassy voice
Bell's Vireo, seen well at Prairie State Park; also at Baker Prairie in Harrison
 Yellow-throated Vireo, Roaring River; seen best at Eleven Point River
 Blue-headed Vireo, 1 at Roaring River; 2 at Gunner Trail
 Warbling Vireo, seen well at Mammoth Springs
Philadelphia Vireo, two seen from Ponca bridge over Buffalo river; rather scarce migrant
 Red-eyed Vireo, daily; commonest bird in the Ozarks
 Blue Jay, daily
 American Crow, daily
Fish Crow, Roaring River (several); Branson (Shoney's Parking lot on Highway 76); Buffalo River (5 at Rush);
 Mammoth Springs
 Horned Lark, Prairie State Park (seen close in middle of gravel roads)
 Purple Martin, finally seen in numbers around Mammoth Springs
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow, almost daily
 [Tree Swallow, 1 at Mammoth Springs Hotel (seen early a.m. by SH only)]
 Cliff Swallow, Prairie State Park; large colony at White River bridge at Calico Road, Arkansas
 Bank Swallow, Prairie State Park (several small migrating groups of 2-4 each)
 Barn Swallow, almost daily
 Carolina Chickadee, Prairie State Park (a hybrid zone with Black-capped); birds we heard seemed almost closer to
 Black-capped; all other areas throughout Ozarks
 Tufted Titmouse, all areas
Red-breasted Nuthatch, Prairie State Park (1 in woodlot); scarce migrant here
 White-breasted Nuthatch, seen daily except Prairie State Park
 Carolina Wren, heard and/or seen in all areas
 House Wren, Prairie State Park (1 in campgd area)
 **Sedge Wren, 1 heard by SH in Prairie State Park
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Roaring River and most days thereafter
 Eastern Bluebird, daily; speckled fledgling at Blanchard campgd.
 Swainson's Thrush, two migrants seen at Roaring River (perhaps seen only by SH)
 American Robin, daily
 Wood Thrush, seen at Roaring River; last day at Blue Springs; heard daily
 Gray Catbird, heard almost daily; seen at Bee Creek; Harrison, Arkansas (behind hotel); Mammoth Springs etc
 Northern Mockingbird, daily
 Brown Thrasher, numerous at Prairie State Park, Harrison, Arkansas (behind hotel); Mammoth Springs
 European Starling, urban areas
 Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*, one flock behind hotel at Harrison, Arkansas
Blue-winged Warbler, seen at Roaring River State Park; hd at Blanchard Campgd and Eleven Pt. River
 Tennessee Warbler, 1 seen at Roaring River; hd on Buffalo River and at Eleven Pt. River
 Northern Parula, heard and/or seen daily; many excellent studies
 Yellow Warbler, 2 at Prairie State Park
Magnolia Warbler, one briefly at Roaring river; three (male and two females) at Blanchard Campgd.
 Yellow-throated Warbler, Roaring River; Bee Creek; hd most other areas; Ponca bridge over Buffalo River
 Pine Warbler, Blanchard Campgd; hd at Greer parking lot
 Prairie Warbler, west of Branson (seen beautifully) Mincy Bald (hd)
Cerulean Warbler, much has been made of its decline and this species, especially in the eastern US; we saw a
 beautiful male at Bee Creek; heard 1 along Buffalo River; heard 1 near Rush and then saw one at the Rush
 Picnic area
 Black-and-white Warbler, heard or seen (males and females) almost daily (except Prairie State Park)
 American Redstart, another breeder seen or hd. daily (except Prairie State Park)
 Prothonotary Warbler, gorgeous bird at Prairie State Park
Worm-eating Warbler, a pair seen really well near Greer Springs
Swainson's Warbler, one in Eleven Pt. River campground (rather quiet unobtrusive)
 Ovenbird, seen or hd. almost daily except Prairie State Park
 Louisiana Waterthrush, seen or hd. daily except Prairie State Park
Northern Waterthrush, 1 heard and seen repeatedly at Prairie State Park; a migrant here
 Kentucky Warbler, another warbler seen or hd. almost daily; particularly common voice
 Common Yellowthroat, hd. and/or seen in most areas including Prairie State Park

Wilson's Warbler, Blanchard Campgd (1); Eleven Point River (1)

Hooded Warbler, hd. daily in Ozarks and seen on at least 3 separate days including Roaring River; Gunner Trail; and Eleven Point River

Yellow-breasted Chat, seen at Prairie State Park and Eleven Point River; hd other places.

Summer Tanager, seen at Mincy Bald; Blanchard Campgd and probably elsewhere; several heard

Scarlet Tanager, see at Roaring River; Hide-out-Hollow Trail; heard elsewhere Common breeder in oak-hickory forest on slopes and ridges.

Eastern Towhee, Prairie State; Lost Valley; Baker Prairie; Mammoth Springs Hotel; Eleven Point River

Chipping Sparrow, seen daily around parking lots, campgrounds and woodland borders

Field Sparrow, Prairie State Park (many); Mincy

Henslow's Sparrow, Prairie State Park (2 birds seen well in scope)

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 2 (1 in scope) at Prairie State Park; rarely seen migrant here

Savanna Sparrow, several at Prairie State Park

Lincoln's Sparrow, one at Prairie State Park; late migrant

White-crowned Sparrow, at least 20+ at Prairie State Park

Northern Cardinal, all areas

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 5+ at Prairie State Park; also Roaring River; hd. along Buffalo; several seen at Blanchard Campgd

Blue Grosbeak, male at Mincy Bald and another behind hotel in Harrison (both immature males)

Indigo Bunting, daily in amazing numbers (the sound of the Ozarks!)

Dickeissel, common to abundant at Prairie State Park; State Line south of Bee Creek; north of Hardy, Arkansas;

Red-winged Blackbird, daily

Eastern Meadowlark, daily

Common Grackle, mainly Roaring River and Mincy/Bee creek area; Mammoth Springs

Brown-headed Cowbird, daily

Baltimore Oriole, only 1 at Prairie State Park; 1 at Roaring River; 1 male at Mammoth Springs Motel (far fewer than two years ago!)

Orchard Oriole, 4 at Prairie State Park; 3 at Blanchard Campgd (where very territorial); Falling Springs Picnic area

House Finch, Springfield; Branson; Mt. View and probably other urban areas

American Goldfinch, daily (brilliant yellow males)

House Sparrow, almost all towns

LIST OF MAMMALS:

Armadillo, dozens of road kills (won't they ever learn?); none seen alive

Big Brown Bat, Blanchard (several clustered in walkway overhang)

Gray Squirrel, throughout Ozarks (smaller in size than next species)

Fox Squirrel, Lost Valley; only 1 or possibly 2 seen

Eastern Cottontail, one at Prairie State Park

Gray Fox, one sprinting across road just north of Eureka Springs

Raccoon, one outside Skillet Restaurant at Ozark Folk Center; digging for seeds spilled from bird feeder

River Otter, one briefly seen swimming along edge of Buffalo River above Rush

White-tailed Deer, 25+ at Prairie State Park; also on day 3; and doe with spotted fawn near Ponca Bridge (near Lost Valley); another on road into Gunner Trail in Ozark National Forest

Elk, 22 along Buffalo River below Lost Valley (a reintroduction)

Beaver pond in upper Buffalo Valley (below Lost Valley) but no beavers seen

Muskrat, 6-8 in lake at Mammoth Springs, Arkansas

American Bison, twenty or more at Prairie State Park

LIST OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

**Blanchard's Cricket Frog, *Acris crepitans blanchardi*, heard along Buffalo River

**Northern Spring Peeper, *Hyla crucifer*, Hide-out-Holler' trail (hd)

Gray Treefrog, *Hyla chrysoscelius*, this was the small "toad" sitting on top of the log as we were walking up the Greer Springs trail; large blotched markings behind eye and onto neck, etc, are perfect

**Bullfrog, *Rana catesbeiana*, heard in a couple places

Northern Fence Lizard, *Sceloporus undulatus*, Sylamore Creek and around Folk Center

Red-eared Slider (turtle), *Chrysemys scripta*, Mammoth Spring lake
Common Map Turtle, *Graptemys geographica*, this is the common turtle on the Buffalo
Three-toed Box Turtle (Tortoise), *Terrapene carolina*, several along roads including Prairie State Park
Speckled King Snake, *Lampropeltis getulus*, Mammoth Springs
Black Rat Snake, *elaphe obsoleta*, one at edge of highway near Current River, Missouri, last day (did not stop to try and see it)

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS: we did not attempt to identify many butterflies; the following short list includes a few species that I recall being discussed

Swallowtails (Papilionidae)

Zebra Swallowtail
Easter Tiger Swallowtail
Spicebush Swallowtail
Spring Azure, common

Brushfoots (Nymphalidae)

Pearl Crescent
Red Admiral
Red-spotted Purple
Monarch

Skippers (Hesperiidae)

Several seen but none identified

Moths

Virgin Tiger Moth, road to Gunner Campground

LIST OF TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES IDENTIFIED

Ash Family (Olaceae)

White Ash, *Fraxinus americana*, in all riverbottom areas (U-shaped leaf scar)
Green Ash, *Fraxinus pensylvanica*, not sure this one was ever identified anywhere
Blue Ash, *Fraxinus quadrangulata*, limestone bluff above Sylamore Creek (squarish stems)

Bean (Pea) Family (Fabaceae)

Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, common
Yellow Wood, *Cladrastis kentukea*, Lost Valley; Blanchard Springs parking lot etc
Black Locust, throughout
Mimosa Albizzia julibrissin
Honey Locust, Prairie State Park etc
Bristly-Locust (or Rose Acacia), *Robinia hispida*, Eleven Point River

Beech Family (Fagaceae)

Ozark Chinkapin, *Castanea ozarkensis*, Lost Valley
Carolina Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*, Lost Valley
White Oak, *Quercus alba*, all areas
Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*, Eleven Point River (where we parked)
Post Oak, *Quercus stellata*, Ruth and Paul Henning State Park
Chinkapin Oak, *Quercus meublenbergii*, many areas
Southern Red Oak, *Quercus falcata*, Mammoth Springs Park etc
Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*, various areas ; especially Hide-out-Holler' overlook
Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris*, Prairie State Park
Blackjack Oak, *Quercus marilandica*, "Hide-out-Holler" trail etc.
Black Oak, *Quercus velutina*, all areas
Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos*, Blanchard Springs Cave parking lot

Birch or Hazel Family (Betulaceae)

River Birch, *Betula nigra*, Buffalo River
American Hornbeam or Musclewood, *Carpinus caroliniana*, Blanchard area.
Eastern Hophornbeam, *Osrya virginiana*, Blanchard area

Bittersweet Family, (Celastraceae)

Burning Bush, *Euonymus atropurpureus*, I recall seeing this in a couple places but not sure I pointed it out; small with green stems and twigs

Bladdernut Family (Staphyleaceae)

Bladder-Nut Family, *Staphylea trifolia*, Lost Valley; Blanchard Springs, Greer, etc.

Buckeye Family (Hippocastanaceae)

Ohio Buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*, Roaring River State Park and many other areas; common

Red Buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*, Roaring River; Ozark Folk Center

Horsechestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Blanchard Visitor's Center (noted by SH while group was in cave; not pointed out to group)

Buckthorn Family (Rhamnaceae)

Carolina Buckthorn, *Rhamnus caroliniana*, Ruth and Paul Henning State Park

Cashew Family (Anacardiaceae)

American Smoketree (*Cotinus obovatu*, Ruth and Paul Henning State Park; along Sylamore Creek at Gunner Trail

Fragrant Sumac, Ruth and Paul Henning State Park; Gunner Pool etc

Smooth Sumac, all areas

Poison Ivy, abundant everywhere (apparently nobody was affected by it even though some of you actually handled it! but not so potent in spring)

Cedar Family (Cupressaceae)

Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginianus*, all areas

Ash Juniper, *Juniperus ashei*, Ruth and Paul Henning State Park (should have seen it here but I think that I forgot to point it out; multiple trunks that "stool" rather than a single trunk

Citrus Family (Rutaceae)

Hop Tree (Wafer-Ash), *Ptelea trifoliata*, shrub hanging over Blue Springs (a few tiny flower; perhaps our last new plant of the trip)

Custard Apple Family (Annonaceae)

Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*, Roaring River State Park etc (maroon-colored flowers; also many other areas)

Dogwood Family (Cornaceae)

Eastern Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*, throughout Ozarks

Ebony Family

Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*, Mincy Bald

Elm Family (Ulmaceae)

Northern Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*, all areas; examined at cemetery at Falling Springs Falls

Dwarf Hackberry, *Celtis tenuifolia*, rocky bluffs; balds; above Sylamore Creek

Winged Elm, *Ulmus alata*, Ruth and Paul Henning State Park etc; rocky areas

Slippery Elm, *Ulmus rubra* (common everywhere)

American Elm, *Ulmus americana*, possibly seen on one of last days of trip (not seen by SH); a few still present in Ozarks

Grape Family (Vitaceae)

wild grape, *Vitis* spp., common; none identified to species

Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, everywhere

Ginseng Family (Araliaceae)

Hercules' Club or Devil's Walking-Stick, *Aralia spinosa*, Blanchard area; also Roaring River (largest leaf in North America!)

Heath Family (Ericaceae)

Mountain Azalea, *Rhododendron prinophyllum*, Hide-out-Hollow (only one in flower)

Farkleberry, *Vaccinium arboreum*, Hide-out-Holler' trail; Gunner Pool Trail etc

Deerberry (High bush Huckleberry), *Vaccinium stamineum*, Hide-out-Holler' Trail; Gunner Trail

Low-bush Huckleberry, *Vaccinium pallidum*, Hide-out-Holler' trail (common)

Holly Family (Aquifoliaceae)

American Holly, Blanchard Springs Visitor Center (not pointed out but beside main entrance door)

Deciduous Holly or Possumhaw, *Ilex deciduas*, Blanchard Springs parking lot (one still with a few berries)

Honeysuckle Family (Caprifoliaceae)

Buckbrush or Coral Berry, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, Prairie State Park etc; all areas

Common Elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis*, Mammoth Springs; Bee Creek etc

Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, lots of areas throughout

- Southern Arrow-wood, *Viburnum dentatum*, walkway to Blanchard Springs; Gunner Trail (where flowering)
 Rusty Black-Haw, *Viburnum rufidulum*, Roaring River State Park; just about all areas; shiny leaves
- Laurel Family (Lauraceae)**
 Spicebush, all forested areas
 Sassafras, all areas
- Leatherwood (Mezereum) Family, Thymeleaceae**
 Leatherwood, *Dirca palustris*, various areas including Lost Valley; Gunner trail; Greer etc
- Lily Family (Liliaceae)**
 Common Greenbrier *Smilax rotundifolia*
 greenbrier sp., *Smilax* spp.
- Linden Family (Tiliaceae)**
 American Basswood, *Tilia americana*, Blanchard Springs trail; Greer
- Magnolia Family, (Rubiaceae)**
 Tulip Tree or Yellow Poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, one in flower at Gunner Campgd (introduced there?)
- Magnolia Family (Magnoliaceae)**
 Cucumber Magholia (tree), *Magnolia acuminata*, Lost Valley; Gunner Trail etc
 Southern Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*. Not native but planted in several towns.
- Maple Family (Aceraceae)**
 Box Elder, all areas (leaves like Poison Ivy but opposite, not alternate)
 Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum*, towns; along Buffalo River
 Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*, widespread in bottomlands
 Red Maple, Hide-out-Holler' Trail etc; various other areas as well
- Mulberry Family (Moraceae)**
 Osage Orange, *Maclura pomifera*, Prairie State Park
 Red Mulberry, *Morus rubra*, Lost Valley; Gunner etc (a native species); rough upper leaf surface
 White Mulberry, *Morus alba*, Harrison (behind hotel), etc (mostly towns); smooth upper leaf surface
- Pines Family (Pinaceae)**
 Short-leaf Pine, *Pinus echinata*, throughout Ozark highlands
- Plane Tree Family (Platanaceae)**
 Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, along rivers
- Rose Family (Rosaceae)**
 Downy Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*, various areas
 Wild Plum, *Prunus americana*, Prairie State Park (Bell's Vireos in this thicket)
 Black Cherry, Prairie State Park, etc.
 Southern Crab Apple, *Pyrus angustifolia*, Prairie State Park (large flowering tree in maintenance area)
 Prairie Rose, *Rosa carolina*, Prairie State Park (may have seen this; very low growing in prairie)
 Unidentified Rosaceae along road near Eleven Point River
 Multiflora Rose, introduced; widespread and common
 Blackberry, *Rubus* sp., in bloom along fence rows last few days; tall canes
 Dewberry, *Rubus* sp, extensively flowering at Prairie State Park, Mincy Bald etc (very low growing)
 Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius* flowering in sandy bank of Sylamore Creek (beautiful spotted flowers)
- Sapodilla Family**
 Gum Bumelia, *Bumelia lanuginosa*, Prairie State Park; Blanchard etc
 Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, one noted from bridge over Sylamore Creek and Gunner Trail
- Saxifrage Family (Saxifragaceae)**
 Wild Hydrangea , common; not in bloom
 Missouri Gooseberry, *Ribes* sp., common everywhere, incl. Prairie State Park
- Trumpet Creeper Family (Bignoniaceae)**
 Northern Catalpa, *Catalpa speciosa*, native to a few northeastern Arkansas counties; Blanchard
 Trumpet Creeper, *Campsis radicans*, Eleven Point Parking lot and ditch (where we parked); invasive
- Walnut Family (Juglandaceae)**
 Mockernut Hickory, *Carya tomentosa*, various forested areas (fragrant leaves)
 Pignut Hickory, *Carya glabra*, Hide-out-Holler' Trail (reddish leaf stems)
 Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*, Hide-out-Holler' Trail (greenish leaf stems)
 Numerous unidentified hickory trees
- Willow Family (Salicaceae)**
 Eastern Cottonwood, Prairie State Park

Prairie Willow, *Salix humilis*, along creek in Prairie State Park
Sandbar Willow, *Salix exigua*, and/or other willow spp, Buffalo River

Witch Hazel Family (Hamamelidaceae)

Vernal Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis vernalis*, Bee Creek; Blanchard; Buffalo etc; riversides
Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, all forested regions

LIST OF HERBACEOUS PLANTS IDENTIFIED; 2005 (not a complete list)

Acanthus Family, Acanthaceae,

Hairy Wild Petunia, *Ruellia humilis*, Gunner Trail

Arum Family, Araceae,

Jack-in-the-Pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*, Lost Valley and most other Ozark areas
Green Dragon, *Arisaema dracontium*, Roaring River; Bee Creek

Barberry Family, Berberidaceae

May Apple, *Podophyllum peltatum*, all wooded areas

Aster (Sunflower) Family, Asteraceae,

Pussy's Toes, *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, all areas; Hide-out-Holler'; Gunner etc

Giant Ragweed, *Ambrosia*, roadsides (not flowering)

Common Ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, roadsides (not flowering); roadsides; parking lots; dissected leaf

Compass Plant, *Silphium laciniatum*, leaves present; Prairie State Park; Ruth Henning State Park; roadsides

Tickseed Coreopsis, *Coreopsis grandiflora*, Mt. View; yellow disk flowers; thread leaves; roadsides

Tickseed (Lance-leaf) Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*, Mincy etc; the commonest *Coreopsis* here; many species of *Coreopsis* generally difficult to separate

Ox-eye Daisy, *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*, roadsides everywhere (alien)

Daisy Fleabane (Prairie), *Erigeron annuus*, prairies/roadsides (long narrow leaves); seen last few days of trip

fleabane sp, *Erigeron sp.*, roadsides; species with tiny flowers (not identified)

Woodland Sunflower, *Helianthus divaricatus*, a few along Greer Springs trail; only 1-2 with blossoms

Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*, a few along roadside just prior to our entrance into Yellowville (did not stop for these and we never saw others in flower)

Potato Dandelion, *Krigia dandelion*, Prairie State Park; also seen in Lost Valley (the flower stems have NO leaves);

Dwarf Dandelion (or Two-flowered Cynthia), *Krigia biflora*, Roaring River; Lost Valley; Alum; Gunner;

Greer etc; commonest in wooded areas (not prairie); has 1-2 clasping leaves mid-way on stems; we may have confused this and previous species as this is the one we were seeing last several days of trip (not previous species)

Common Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*, all areas

Leaf-Cup, Small-flowered, *Smallanthus (Polymnia) canadensis*, many areas (not flowering); rather fuzzy stems and petioles with prominent toothed stipules at base of petioles

Yellow Leafcup, *Smallanthus (Polymnia) uvedalia*, Many roadsides (not in flower); has deep-cut leaf shape and lacks the leafy stipules at base of petioles that are prominent in previous sp.; not pointed out but abundant on roadsides especially at Bee Creek

Golden Ragwort, *Senecio pauperculus* or sp.?, prairies; narrow lanceolata-shaped leaves at base

Western Daisy, *Astranthium integrifolium*, small bluish daisy common at Rush canoe take-out; roadsides

Prairie Dock, *Silphium terebinthinaceum*, glades; NF (plant with huge arrowhead leaves); roadsides

Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*, Prairie State Park; roadsides (alien) etc

Wingstem, *Verbesina helianthoides*, seen in several places; prominent "winged" stems; not flowering

Wild Quinine, *Parthenium integrifolium*, roadside on south side of bridge over Eleven Point River on Highway 19; not in flower but has distinctive wavy-edged and sharp jagged-toothed leaves; used medicinally

Bean Family, Fabaceae (Legumes),

Wild Bean, *Strophostyles sp.*, common bean-like understory plant almost everywhere

Blue False Indigo, *Baptisia australis*, roadsides; especially Branson area

Buffalo Clover, *Trifolium reflexum*, seen right along roadside at Eleven Point River (close to bridge) but I was not sure what it was and then later forgot to point it out

Long-bracted Wild Indigo (or Cream Wild Indigo), *Baptisia leucophaea*, Prairie State Park; Mincy Bald

Goat's Rue, *Tephrosia virginiana*, one almost in flower in roadside ditch on Gunner Trail

Tick Trefoil, Stick Tight, *Desmodium spp.*, Lost Valley; Alum Cove State Park; Greer etc (not in flower)
Sampson's Snakeroot, *Psoralea sp.*, Gunner Trail (large patch in flower along roadside)
Sensitive Briar, *Schrankia (Mimosa) nuttalli*; seen on prairie (not in flower)
Black Medick (small yellow clover), *Medicago lupulina*, roadsides everywhere
Yellow Sweet Clover, *Melilotus officinalis*, roadsides throughout
Red Clover, *Trifolium pratense*, roadsides everywhere
Crimson Clover, *Trifolium incarnatum*, roadside above Buffalo National River
White Clover, *Trifolium repens*, roadsides everywhere
Crown Vetch, *Coronilla varia*, mainly noted at edge of Mammoth Springs (pink clumps of blossoms)
Wood Vetch, *Vicia caroliniana*, Roaring River (individual white blossoms) etc
Yellow Wood Sorrel, *Oxalis stricta*, Prairie State Park and throughout trip
Violet Wood Sorrel, *Oxalis violacea*, Prairie State Park (a few)

Bellflower Family, Campanulaceae,

Venus' Looking Glass, *Triodanis perfoliata*, one plant lying over in roadside on our Gunner Trail walk; prominent deep purple flowers on long spike

Birthwort Family, Aristolochiaceae,

Wild Ginger, *Asarum canadense*, moist woodlands

Borage (Forget-Me-Not) Family, Boraginaceae,

Wild Comfrey, *Cynoglossum virginianum*, Lost Valley; Gunner
Orange Puccoon, *Lithospermum canescens*, Baker Prairie (I believe this is the species growing here)

Buttercup Family, Ranunculaceae,

Doll's Eyes (Baneberry), *Actaea pachypoda*, Lost Valley; Greer (not flowering)
Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, Lost Valley; Gunner; Greer etc
Leather Flower, *Clematis spp.*, Gunner trail above Sylamore Creek (some were flowering); also noted Lost Valley and other sites (not flowering)
Dwarf Larkspur, *Delphinium tricorne*, Roaring River etc
Carolina (Tall) Larkspur, *Delphinium exaltatum*, little openings on Buffalo River cliffs; Gunner trail etc
Round-lobed Hepatica, *Hepatica nobilis*, Lost Valley; Greer etc (NF)
Early Buttercup, *Ranunculus fascicularis*, Prairie State Park (not identified at time)
Hispid Buttercup, *Ranunculus hispidus*, many areas; roadsides (not identified at time)
Hooked Buttercup, *Ranunculus recurvatus*, normally common throughout Ozarks but I only noticed one and didn't point it out at the time; Lost Valley
Buttercup, *Ranunculus spp.*, several seen but not identified to species

Buckthorn Family, Rhamnaceae

Rattan-vine; Supple Jack, *Berchemia scandens*, Gunner trail above Sylamore Creek; Rush; Ruth and Paul Henning State Park (where not climbing)

Cactus Family, Cactaceae,

Prickly Pear, *Opuntia compressa*, Gunner trail (growing atop a large flat rock)

Day-Flower Family, Commelinaceae,

Ohio Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohioensis*, esp. prairies; also throughout Ozarks
Ozark Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ozarkana*, Roaring River (white flowers)
Spiderwort sp., *Tradescantia sp.*, notably small blue one at Roaring River; very dark leaves; purple blue flowers

Dogbane Family, Apocynaceae,

Blue Star, *Amsonia ciliata*, Roaring River etc.

Evening Primrose Family, Onagraceae,

Missouri Primrose, *Oenothera missouriensis*, Mincy area (none in flower)
Cut-leaf Primrose, *Oenothera laciniata*, roadside stop a few miles south of Yellville

Geranium Family, Geraniaceae

Carolina Cranesbill, *Geranium carolinianum*, roadsides; Roaring river; several other areas
 Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum*, Roaring River

Grass Family, Poaceae,

Big Bluestem, *Andropogon gerardi*, prairies
 Broomsedge Bluestem, *Andropogon virginicus*, Prairie State Park
 Giant Cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*, Bee Creek; Eleven Point and Current River (riverbanks)
 Fescue grass, *Fescue sp. (prob rubra etc)*, roadsides where escaped

Honeysuckle Family, Caprifoliaceae,

Yellow Honeysuckle, *Lonicera flava*, semi-woody vine seen throughout but not in flower
 Trumpet Honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, Baker Prairie (where an invader); alien; red tubular flowers
 Horse Gentian (Wild Coffee), *Triosteum perfoliatum*, Roaring River; this plant has small tubular flowers tucked in at base of leaf petioles (unusual); not common

Honwort Family, Ceratophyllaceae

Coontail (Honwort), *Ceratophyllum demersum*, Falling Springs Falls; Blue Spring etc; common aquatic plant (one of about sixty spp) growing in Ozark spring branches

Iris Family, Iridaceae,

Crested Iris, *Iris cristata*, Lost Valley; Gunner Trail (not flowering)
 Blue-eyed Grass, *Sisyrinchium (exile) campestre*, Prairie State Park; Rush; Gunner Trail etc;

Lily Family, Liliaceae,

Wild Onion, *Allium c. var. canadense*, prairies and woodlands (not flowering)
 False Garlic, *Nothoscordum bivalve*, Prairie State Park (not flowering)
 Wild Hyacinth, *Camassia scilloides*, prairies (common in low wet areas)
 Yellow Star Grass, *Hypoxis hirsute*, prairies etc; abundant at Prairie State Park etc
 Solomon's Seal, *Polygonatum biflorum*, Roaring River; Lost Valle; Gunner etc
 False Solomon's Seal, *Smilacina racemosa*, wooded areas; Roaring River; Gunner trail; Greer
 Green Trillium, *Trillium viridescens*, Roaring River
 Purple Trillium, *Trillium recurvatum*, Lost Valley
 Perfoliate Bellwort, *Uvularia perfoliata*, Lost Valley; Blanchard; Sylamore Creek etc
 *Spanish Bayonet, *Yucca sp.*, cultivated in yards, cemetary at Falling Spring Falls, etc
 Soapweed Yucca, *Yucca glauca var. mollis*, Gunner Pool Trail along Sylamore Creek

Madder Family, Rubiaceae,

Small Bluet (or Least Bluet), *Hedyotis crassifolia*, lawns everywhere; minute blue flowers
 Long-leaved Bluet, *Hedyotis longifolia*, Hide-out-Holer' Trail; Gunner Trail etc
 Bedstraw, *Galium aparine*, roaring River; Lost Valley; all areas
 Bedstraw (Prairie), *Galium obtusum*, Prairie State Park

Milkweed Family, Asclepiadaceae

Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*, Prairie State Park (not in flower)
 Green-flowered Milkweed, *Asclepias viridis*, Prairie State Park
 Four-leaved Milkweed, *Asclepias quadrifolia*, Lost Valley; Gunner Trail
 Climbing Milkweed, *Matelea decipiens*, Gunner Trail (purple flowers)

Mint Family, Labiatae,

Ohio Horse Mint, *Blephilia ciliata*, Gunner trail (several places); rings of flowers
 Bee Balm; or Horsemint; or Wild Bergamot, *Monarda russeliana/fistulosa*, Bee Creek; Lost Valley; Gunner; Greer etc; white flowers with tiny black dots
 Lyre-leaved Sage, *Salvia lyrata*, everywhere but few in flower; first noted in Lost Valley; common at blue Spring parking lot
 Dead Nettle, *Lamium purpureum*, Roaring River
 Hairy Skullcap, *Scutellaria elliptica*, fairly common along Gunner trail above Sylamore Creek

Moonseed Family, *Menispermaceae*

Moonseed, *Menispermum* sp., seen at Lost Valley; Gunner Trail; near Blue Springs; not identified; three-lobed leaf

Mustard Family, *Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)*

Winter Cress or Yellow Rocket, *Barbarea vulgaris*, everywhere (yellow in fields everywhere)

Water Cress, *Nasturtium officinale*, near spring branches i.e. Mammoth Springs; Greer

Field Cress (Pepper Grass), *Lepidium campestre*, tiny white flowers; prairies; roadsides; Bee Creek

Mustard sp., *Thlapsi (perfoliatum or arvense) ?*, like previous species but larger; tiny white flower; heart-shaped seeds; Bee Creek in the wildlife plantings

Shepard's Purse, *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, a few along roadsides at Prairie State Park

Dame's Rocket, *Hesperis matronalis*, tall purple flowering plants that escape from gardens; roadsides; Prairie State Park

Nettle Family, *Urticaceae*,

Wood Nettle, *Laportea canadensis*, woodlands (alternate leaves; not flowering)

Nettle (stinging), *Urtica dioica*, opposite leaves; seen somewhere but not sure where; immature plants that have not yet developed stinging hairs; no flowers present

Nightshade Family, *Solanaceae*,

Ground Cherry, *Physalis longifolia*, Gunner tail above Sylamore Creek; the only one we saw

Parsley Family, *Umbelliferaceae (or Apiaceae)*,

Yellow Pimpernel, *Taenidia integerrima*, Gunner (delicate plant)

Hemlock sp., *Conium maculata?*, RoaringRiver; Blanchard; roadsides; not sure of genus but believe it is *Conium* (also known as Poison Hemlock)

Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, prairies (not flowering but with characteristic yucca-like leaves)

Prairie Parsley, *Polytaenia nuttallii*, rather thick stems; common at Prairie State Park; yellow umbels

Meadow Parsnip, *Thaspium trifoliatum*, thinner more delicate plant than previous; roadsides ; also yellow umbels

Sweet Anise, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, several (believed this sp. and not *O. claytoni*) at several places including Roaring River; Bee Creek etc

Queen Anne's Lace, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, roadsides last few days

Several species we saw remain unidentified in this difficult family

Phlox Family, *Polemoniaceae*,

Prairie (Blue) Phlox, *Phlox divaricata*, prairies etc. (or maybe *P. pilosa*; this not identified beyond genus)

Downy Phlox, *Phlox pilosa*, the common one in Ozarks

Glade Phlox, *Phlox bifida (prob. this sp)*, seen only at beginning of Lost Valley trail; small, low-growing; petals narrow and pale and bifurcated forming a Y at tip

Jacob's Ladder, *Polemomium reptans*, Bee Ck; Lost Valley

Pink (Carnation) Family, *Caryophyllaceae*,

Mouse-eared Chickweed, *Cerastium vulgatum*, Prairie State Park (star-shaped small white flowers)

Deptford Pink, *Dianthus amerida*, above Blanchard Springs and again at Mammoth Springs; a few small but intensely pink flowers at tip of slender stem

Fire Pink, *Silene virginica*, many areas; first at Roaring River; also Gunner; Blanchard; etc

Plantain Family, *Plantaginaceae*,

English Plantain, *Plantago lanceolata*, Baker Prairie and one or two other places; has fairly thin lanceolate basal rosette of leaves and very tall central spike with whorl of tiny flowers at tip; apparently not a native species

Plantain, *Plantago rugelii*, the common plantain with shiny broad leaves; grows along sidewalks, lawns, waste areas; very common

We also saw other unidentified *Plantago*

Pokeweed Family, *Phytolaccaceae*,

Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*, seen around Falling Springs Falls and the nearby cemetery

Poppy Family, *Papaveraceae*,

Blind Eyes (Orange Poppy), *Papaver dubium*, roadside south of Yellville (an alien but pretty)
Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, Most damp woodland areas including Bee Creek (none in flower)

Primrose Family, *Primulaceae*,

Shooting Star, *Dodecatheon meadia*, Prairies (only a few noted but we saw both white and lavender ones)

Purslane Family, *Portulacaceae*

Spring Beauty, *Claytonia virginica*, Prairie State Park (common)

Rose Family, *Rosaceae*,

Five-finger Cinquefoil, *Potentilla simplex*, everywhere
Goat's Beard, *Aruncus dioicus*, roadside above Gunner Campground (tiny white flower on spikes; does not look like a rose)
Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria virginianum*, flowering in a few places
Indian Strawberry, *Duchesnea indica*, native of Asia (and sometimes called Japanese Strawberry); we saw a patch of these at Falling Creek Falls picnic area; small red strawberries not particularly sweet

Saxifrage Family, *Saxifragaceae*,

Alumroot, *Heuchera americana*, cliffs; Lost Valley; Blanchard; Gunner; Greer; etc; root has powerful astringent qualities ; used in herbal medicine

Sedge Family, *Cyperaceae*

Plantain-leaved Sedge, *Carex plantaginea*, Lost Valley (common); etc

Smartweed Family, *Polygonaceae*,

Virginia Knotweed , *Polygonum virginianum*, Lost Valley; Gunner and at Greer; identification provisional; may be this or a related sp. (i.e. *P. persicaria*) ; has prominent dark thumb prints on center of leaves hence often called "Lady's Thumb" (NF)
Curly Dock (or Sour Dock), *Rumex crispus*, all areas (NF); noted along roadsides and parking lots; waste areas; very tall one along roadside on Gunner Trail

Snapdragon Family, *Scrophulariaceae*,

Indian Paintbrush, *Castilleja coccinea*, Prairie State Park (good bloom this year)
Wood Betony, *Pedicularis canadensis*, PSP; Roaring River etc.
Arkansas Beard-Tongue, *Penstemon arkansanus*, at Mammoth Springs (tall with pink stripes in petals)
Prairie Beard-Tongue, *Penstemon tubaeflorus*, Prairie State Park
beard-tongue sp., *Penstemon sp.?* elsewhere throughout Ozarks, probably *Penstemon tubiflorus/digitalis*
Showy (Purple) Beard-Tongue, *Penstemon cobaea*, Yellville; one of the showiest plants in the Ozarks and quite local; this purple one also occurs in a few counties in Missouri and a white variety occurs in eastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma
Woolly Mullein, *Verbascum thapsus*, Roaring River and many other areas (not flowering); an alien

Spurge Family, *Euphorbiaceae*,

Flowering Spurge, *Euphorbia corollata*, Prairie State Park; a thin delicate plant with two opposite leaves at each branching of stem
Wood Spurge, *Euphorbia commutata*, Roaring River; Bee Creek; Gunner trail; almost round leaves that are sessile and with surround stem

Stonecrop Family, *Crassulaceae*,

Widow's Cross, *Sedum pulchellum*, rock ledges at Blanchard Campgd; Gunner trail

Touch-Me-Not Family, *Balsaminaceae*,

Jewel-Weed, *Impatiens capensis*, many wooded areas (not flowering)

Valerian Family, *Valerianaceae*,

Corn Salad, *Valerianella sp.*, prairies etc (tiny white flowers on delicate plant)

Vervain Family, *Verbenaceae*,

Rose Verbena (Vervain), *Verbena canadensis*, Prairie State Park

Violet Family, *Violaceae*,

Canada Violet, *Viola canadensis*, Lost Valley; Gunner etc; common inside wooded areas; white flowers on stem that also has leaves

Bird's Foot Violet, *Viola pedata*, Prairie State Park

Johnny Jump-Up, *Viola rafinesquii*, Prairie State Park

Common Blue Violet, *Violet sororia*, roadsides and waste areas; common and invasive (as in my lawn)

Waterleaf Family, *Hydrophyllaceae*,

Woolen Breeches (Appendaged Waterleaf), *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*, Roaring River

Virginia Waterleaf, *H. virginianum*, Roaring River etc.

Hairy Phacelia, *Phacelia hirsute*, Buffalo River Bridge near Lost Valley/Ponca area

Small-flowered Phacelia, *Phacelia gilioides*

Water Lily Family, *Nymphaeaceae*,

Spatterdock (Yellow Pond Lily), *Nuphar luteum*, pond by prairie; Falling Springs Falls (many in flower)

Yam Family, *Dioscoraceae*,

Wild Yam, *Dioscorea quaternata*, woodlands (common throughout; opposite leaves usually 3-5 in whorls)

Horsetail; Scouring Rush, *Equisetaceae*,

Common Horsetail, *Equisetum arvense*, Blue Springs trail (these are not flowering plants; more closely related to ferns)

Ferns: seen at various times during the trip

Christmas Fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, almost all forested areas

Ebony Spleenwort, *Asplenium platyneuron*, a few along trails; Lost Valley etc

Maidenhair Fern, *Adiantum pedatum*, Lost Valley, Greer, etc.

Venus'-hair Fern (or Southern Maidenhair Fern), *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, hanging down beneath cliffs along Sylamore Creek; same genus as Maidenhair Fern;

Walking Fern, *Asplenium rhizophyllum*, Greer Springs (many on rocks)

Lip-Fern sp, *Cheilanthes sp.*, Gunner Trail; along cliff

Purple Cliffbreak Fern, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, Gunner Trail; along cliff etc

Rattlesnake Fern, *Botrychium virginianum*, Lost Valley; Gunner

Bracken Fern, *Pteridium aquilinum*, big patch along roadside in a couple places, especially in Mark Twain National Forest along Highway 19 north of Eleven Point River

Unidentified

I have photographs of several unidentified plants including one very downy, alternate-leaved woody shrub; some of these identifications may be forthcoming at a later date.