

# COMMON NAMES

Jordan Dunn

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The Magnificent Field



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claytoniana* – Interrupted Fern), by Jordan Dunn

The Magnificent Field  
[www.magnificentfield.com](http://www.magnificentfield.com)



for Sharon Beth Gray  
1985–2016



April 16 — Yahara Place Park

mud willow black willow  
muskrat willow archway willow

archway

geranium stone eastern cherry stone

steel blue pine sky

muskrat willow tail  
webfoot wake

river birch orion  
starlight

willow  
archway

cottonwood geranium stone

clasping closed  
bloodroot flower

bloodroot stones  
found among young  
boneset in cranberry and mallow  
ditches

April 17 — Nine Springs

song sparrow prairie pastoral

red twig osier twig dogwood

tree swallow

unpack a cardinal image    this self  
in battle with dame's rocket

blackbird racket

two sandhill notebook landings  
outright    sun opened

painted turtle dandelion

honeysuckle willow march    a dressed up  
bunch grass dressed with sparrows



April 23 — Garver Feed Mill

yellow rocket honeysuckle

sideway crow's thistle foot hops

maple to maple hops maple

flown down mallards

land in the leaf compost windrow puddle

two work gloves

matted under fresh

burdock leaves

April 24 — Baxter's Hollow

speckled louisiana alder thrush  
watered speckle thrush

eastern towhee leaf toss divot

pileated woodpecker

gnatcatcher

numerous sapsucker ladder backs

willow patch goldenrod  
last year's stem gall  
split open in my hand an insect  
inside bound tightly to itself

wild strawberry below blue jay call

quartzite  
lichen  
tumble in creek  
tumble

blackberry cane leaf-out

black flies in sun in scat

whitetail deer hoof-print mud

early sedge fiddlehead tree base

first sole geranium flower

red admiral sunning wings

on tall dormant grass

one

compton

tortoiseshell

on the maple duff moss twig

standing water pussy willow buds

rushing otter creek trailside hepatica

wood anemone

marsh marigold patches

in cabbage patches

May 5 — Wingra Oak Savanna

blackbird sycamore  
garlic mustard flower

yellow rumped maple bud warbler

creeping charlie  
jack in the pulpit  
violet anemone  
little  
flowered  
buttercup waterleaf

white flowered swallow

poor dutchman willow body  
may apple may body

clear weed jewel weed hackberry weed

a train of thought bundled in oak blossoms

limestone spring water flows

prairie trillium crow ladder jacob's ladder  
ninebark geranium

watercress creek stone moss  
sand  
pebbles

yellow warbler cottonwood  
bud catcher  
gnatcatching pond willow

recombinant buckthorn shore  
duckweed algae settlement

binocular moment  
with the cardinal on the toppled boxelder  
makeshift bench

systematic patience the sora returns  
in voice if not in view

marsh wren clack clack clack  
better at sitting than studying

catbird toothwort shadow bush  
green heron flyway

ruby crowned sunlit kinglet bedstraw robin  
ceremony of bluebells above  
mallard pond stones

pheasant back mushrooms, dead tree cowbird

glade of bristly buttercup

a bench to remember remembering  
in the pure bindweed of memory

May 13 — Cherokee Marsh

violet rookery stump

oriole weep

7 robins knotweed temporality

frog trill highbush thorned  
bramble

apple blossom

archway

redstart ash lily

blackpoll buttercup

small flowered  
dogwood

dandelion basswood  
dogtooth lily

maple log sculpture

smooth sumac

hairy sumac  
red and white sumac

blackbird display  
at trail bottom  
under hickory blossom

prothonotary dogwood  
crinkle weed

boxelding tanager  
scarlet marsh grass  
moss mound canary grass

polypore wren ladder

not in the water  
but on the oak branch  
a wood  
not water  
duck

maple sapling rain showers

prairie opening  
shooting stars



May 15 — Cherokee Marsh

vole runs in cottonwood shadow  
across gravel

house wren willow house

hickory glossed yellowthroat  
willow side

arrowhead river cresting

fox snake  
wasted  
in controlled burn  
ashen sloped  
prairie

solomon's seal  
opens in oak  
opening

May 22 — Mazomanie Oak Barrens

Black meadowlark oak  
sand barren  
blackberry  
field sparrow

prickly pear  
nightjar  
nighthawk perch

mullein  
sand cress

boxelder autumn olive spurge

abandoned railroad  
improvement

cloud break sun drives out mosquitoes

railroad  
tracks

one side

buckthorn honeysuckle white pine  
black oak grosbeak singing

other side

lupine  
unflowered  
rattlesnake master

lark sparrow cloud break oak oak oak

meadowlark perched on last year's  
mullein  
flower  
spike

ground  
squirrel poised  
in high alert

no target shooting allowed

hairy puccoon wind picks up  
drives down  
from the bluffs

separating myself into pieces

five  
united parts  
a funnel shaped  
future

passes me on to lupine and sand shadows

a shelf of clouds  
carries over the bluff  
returns  
order to the meadow

May 23 — Gibraltar Rock

baneberry flower white or red

interrupted fern grove

pine wind

wild strawberry

garlic mustard bedstraw

geranium

bridge

solomon's seal

starry solomon's plume

merry bells

zig zag perfoliate

pewee pewee pewee

waist-high sweet

cicely

yellow wood violet

a grosbeak sandstone

juniper ledge

4 vulture outcrop

wild columbine vertigo

maiden hair  
linden copse

an altar

of hickory sapling flower  
jack in the pulpit  
bedstraw  
trillium  
buttercup

June 11 — Cherokee Marsh

angelica

clover winged hawkweed

cow parsnip flowers    showered  
with cottonwood seeds

          hickory trunk  
poison ivy vines  
vines up basswood    red oak

rain showers

          a full rainbow  
                  in habitat

June 19 — Cherokee Marsh

road grade separates wet prairie  
from  
wet prairie

some bulrush sedge  
and cattail

bird's foot  
trefoil

aspen shoots

spiderwort curly dock

eruptions of chicory

false  
foxglove  
beardtongue

oxeye petal-less purple coneflower mixed

prairie clover



mullein  
fleabane

pale purple coneflower    red admiral oak

deer fly killdeer

only flower names disappear  
in the mind today

field to field

shade to sun  
to thunderhead horizon

cottonwood walkway

lower into bur reed

boardwalk

arrowhead

blue flag

night

shade

nobody grass nowhere

summer deepens itself  
despite my willow reed body

deeper into blackbirds

nonsense honeysuckle clouds  
a care for the oak

river widening    lotus fills in  
the surface  
emptiness  
of open water

cumulus thickenings

dogbane flowers    trailside  
hawkweed  
shifter

oxeye yellows of goldfinch  
celebrates summer warblers  
and dragonfly  
dartings along water lily paths

oncoming thunder shower  
little outflows quake  
cottonwood leaves

at second glance  
the vetch becomes  
a mystery

June 26 — Meadowbrook Park

planted tree lines

alder  
river birch  
red maple

bridge over mud gulley

a place name creek name

black eyed susan    rosinweed

fleabane blackbird

cottonwood    catbird walnut  
ragweed

bur oak in a deer cage  
thistle tower

flowering mint  
framed in  
by bottlebrush grass

black eyed  
susan

and fleabane    dappled sun grove

three caged oaks  
for  
three white tailed  
deer

two mulberry stumps  
one sucker clump offers  
ripe fruit

milkweed cluster flower globe

yellow coneflower buds

a line of honeysuckle  
and boneset

July 5 — Cherokee Marsh

canada  
wild  
rye

pure spike  
of timothy      a dead bee  
   there  
   on the crown

burdock's  
mammoth risings

sawtooth  
indigo  
thistle

beard tongue  
gives over  
                 to fleabane  
                                 and susan

pale  
purple  
cone  
flower

sumac reed canary invader

oxeye flowers

prairie clover flowers

butterfly weed  
crouched  
in bent grass

swallows on the line

spheres of milkweed lofted  
in goldenrod stems

blackbird checks from  
post to point  
to post

catbird wanders its call on long wind  
carries above the warbler call  
then carries on

wild grape

common dogbane

kingbird perch  
on silt fence stakes  
circle the settling pond

jimsonweed  
funnels  
kildeer

elderberry patch  
beside gravel road

twilight  
flowers  
against the approaching  
dark

Jordan Dunn is the author of several chapbooks including *The Greek Herbal of Dioscorides* (Oxeye Press), and *The Land of Little Rain* (Well-Greased Press), as well as various pamphlets and broadsides. A full-length collection, *Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action*, is forthcoming from Partly Press and the Lynden Sculpture Garden. He lives with his family in Story County, Iowa, where he edits and publishes Oxeye Press.