

THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

January 1990



JANUARY'S PROGRAM: Join us Tuesday, January 30 for an evening with Paula Ford (no, not Fjord) who will present a slide presentation relating her experiences in Scandinavia last year. Her program, "Exploring Norway" will begin at approximately 7:30 pm, following the business segment of the meeting at 7:00 pm. As always, meetings are held at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren at Union Avenue and 28th Street in Altoona.

1989 Christmas Bird Count

Angeline Stout

On December 16 with gusting winds and temperatures between 0°-14°, 34 people counted birds. Many were discouraged by the weather and spent their time counting birds at feeders or drove through the countryside counting from their cars. The Bontas, (Bruce, Marcia, Steve and Mark) chose neither of these ways, instead they spent hours hiking their fields and woods and turned in an impressive count of 42 species. The team of Dave Kyler and Melvin Lane were not far behind seeing 40 species. A total of 62 species and 4,074 individuals were seen which was close but not good enough to surpass the record of 66 species seen in 1986. Of the 62 species seen, 9 were single sightings. Two species (to this compilers knowledge), noted with *, were seen for the first time on our Christmas Bird Count.

Great Blue Heron	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3
Tundra Swan	15	White-breasted Nuthatch	68
Canada Goose	3	Brown Creeper	5
Mallard	101	Carolina Wren	16
Turkey Vulture*	2	Winter Wren	4
Coopers Hawk	1	Golden Crowned Kinglet	48
Red-tailed Hawk	7	Ruby Crowned Kinglet	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	Eastern Bluebird	36
American Kestrel	3	Hermit Thrush	6
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	American Robin	62
Ruffed Grouse	8	Northern Mockingbird	3
Wild Turkey	16	Cedar Waxwing	46
Killdeer	1	European Starling	612
Rock Dove	116	Yellow Rumped Warbler	2
Mourning Dove	267	Northern Cardinal	133
Eastern Screech Owl	1	American Tree Sparrow	148
Great Horned Owl	1	Field Sparrow	4
Belted Kingfisher	4	Song Sparrow	27
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	White-throated Sparrow	53
Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	Dark eyed Junco	782
Downy Woodpecker	70	Snow Bunting*	3
Hairy Woodpecker	15	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Yellow-shafted Woodpecker	5	Common Grackle	3
Pileated Woodpecker	16	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Horned Lark	250	Purple Finch	8
Blue Jay	90	House Finch	224
American Crow	132	Pine Siskin	46
Common Raven	4	American Goldfinch	60
Black-capped Chickadee	178	Evening Grosbeak	14
Tufted Titmouse	106	House Sparrow	207

AL BURD - EUGENE ROOT MEMORIAL FUNDS

Collette Heller

The Al Burd Memorial Fund has reached a total of \$485 and the Eugene Root Memorial Fund is now at \$189. Suggestions for the use of these funds were accepted and studied by a committee. We are pleased to announce that by unanimous vote of the Board, these funds will be used to construct a bird viewing window in the new educational building now being built at Fort Roberdeau. This window with accompanying feeders and shrubs will be dedicated to the memory of those two great members.

If you have not already contributed to these funds, this would be an excellent time to do so. We now have a specific project identified, and any additional donations would greatly increase our ability to enhance this important new facility. Contributions and further suggestions may be forwarded to:

Janet Neely
Treasurer, JVAS
8 South Montgomery Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bruce Bonta

Since there were no volunteers to serve on the Nominations Committee we will receive nominations from the floor at both the January and February meetings.

We will need nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President and Secretary. Janet Neely has consented to remain as our Treasurer, for which I extend my thanks.

I am proposing to take nominations at the 2 meetings to allow more of our members the opportunity to make their opinions known. Voting will be done during the March meeting, as per our charter, with the new officers being installed at our April banquet.

I can't stress too strongly the importance of these elections, for without these positions being filled we once again will be at risk of having our charter with National being revoked. This would be a sad way to end our 20th year!

Please plan to attend these two meetings they could be the most important meetings we will hold this year.

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING PROJECT

Jim Winsor

The Altoona Shade Tree Commission, in cooperation with WALY Radio and Mid State Bank, is sponsoring a community tree planting project for the new 17th Street area.

The plan is to plant 40 red oak trees along the street between First and Grant Avenues, then continuing toward Pleasant Valley Boulevard, planting a total of as many as 75 trees. The Commission seeks contributions from organizations, businesses and individuals to pay for the purchase, planting and early maintenance of the trees. A contribution of \$200 will enable the Commission to purchase a tree, prepare the ground, plant the tree and erect a plaque near the base of each tree, identifying the donor.

Planting is scheduled for April 28, a Saturday. This will be a community event: donors who wish to plant a tree, other citizens, and community officials will be in attendance. This will be a true Arbor Day and Earth Day celebration.

The Juniata Valley Audubon Society, through vote of the Board, has purchased one tree. Additional contributions will be gratefully accepted. If you, your organization or business would be interested in purchasing a tree, please contact me, Jim Winsor, 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602. Telephone: home 943-8213, office 949-5180.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Jim Winsor

The International Issues Interest Group met most recently on December 8. Inclement weather forced the cancellation by our scheduled speaker, but in spite of this, we had a highly productive meeting. Two items of business occupied most of our time.

Plans for the visit by Cecilia Mendiola and Antonio Brack are becoming more firm. The Peruvian conservationists are to arrive on April 20. Antonio Brack will be here until the 28th; Cecilia Mendiola will stay on until May 9. Their itinerary is packed with environmentally related activities with JVAS: visits to local natural areas, participation in Earth Day activities in State College and Bedford, visits to

classes at Altoona Campus and Bedford Schools, tree planting day in Altoona, birding, dinners with JVAS members (including our banquet), and a visit to Washington. Much more is planned than can be listed here -- see Bruce or Marcia Bonta for more information.

Mark Bonta gave a full report on the activities of the Philippines subcommittee. We're continuing to send educational materials, birding equipment, and letters to the Asian Wetlands Bureau. The subcommittee has participated in two separate conferences in Washington during November. Both conferences dealt with the role of nongovernmental organizations in conservation work there, and at both conferences, JVAS's relationship with the Asian Wetlands Bureau was cited as a program to be emulated. Mark, who has now departed for Africa, has turned over the coordination of the Philippines subcommittee to Laura Jackson. We're appreciative of all the fine work done by Mark and the subcommittee so far and look forward to further development of this program under Laura.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please submit items for the February issue before Friday, February 16 to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Ivyside Park, Altoona, PA 16603 (949-5180).

KID'S NATURE PAGE WINTER WONDERS OF NATURE by Roy Boyle

Winter is the time when most people huddle in the house and hide from the cold and the snow. Nature deals with the cold and snow in many ways. Squirrels store acorns in the fall and sniff them out in the winter. Groundhogs have fattened up for an underground sleep while the plump black bear slumbers under fallen trees or in rock crevices and holes. The Canada Goose flies south while the little chickadee stays here actively eating during the day but lowering its body temperature at night to conserve its energy. Oak trees drop their leaves and become dormant while the hemlock with its wax-protected needles keeps its needles all year round. Snow may make it tough for some animals to get around but for animals like the shrew and mole it provides an insulating blanket from the extreme cold and protection from predators like hawks and owls. Stories of a fox unfold when the tracks are followed from place to place. The flowers of summer are now the dried seeds of winter making them a challenge to name. Winter isn't a desolate, dreary, cold frigid world to be stared at through a window. Go play in the snow and follow a deer as it wanders through a field. Enjoy the wonders of wintertime!

NATURE IN WINTER WORD SEARCH

Below are many of the things that make winter what it is. See if you can find all 14. Words can be found forwards, backwards, diagonally, up and down.

Birdfeeder	Snow	B L U E J A Y A C S I G E
Bluejay	Suet	I O W L X T R X L E O R T
Cardinal	Tracks	R E N U C X R F D H W O A
Chickadee		D E E R T A A A D E F U N
Cold		F D E D E J R N C H Y N R
Deer		E A R U T C U D K K F D E
Evergreen		E K G D A O H X I S S P B
Groundhog		D C R H R L S U D N T I I
Hibernate		E I E G G D L H O R A N H
Migrate		R H V E I B D W F G I L E
Owl		H C E D M S S U E T M D F

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P. O. Box 2378
Altoona, PA 16603

DATED MATERIAL

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I	O	W	L	X	T	R	X	L	E	O	R	T
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