

SNYDER

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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"The Tolling of the Bells"

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were.

Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee. - John Donne

The March Meeting

Date: THURSDAY
Time: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Conference room, Altoona Public Library

Our film-lecture falls on the last Tuesday of the month, our usual meeting date; so, in order to have a regular meeting and at the same time avoid any conflicts during the week before Easter, Thursday the 19th seemed the best alternative. This will be a last minute briefing and preparation for the film. All members and guests are urged to attend.

Mr. Harry Chittester, president of a newly formed conservation group - Trout Unlimited - will be our guest for an informal discussion on local water pollution. Mr. Chittester will inform our group exactly what role Trout Unlimited has set for itself in our area's conservation efforts. He has something to say and says it well. This will be a highly informative talk.

A short film in color titled "Blessing on the Woods" will be shown at 8:00 O'Clock. It is a tribute to Nova Scotia's woodlands expressed in poetry and recorded in filmed scenes that convey the imagery of each line.

Progress Report on the Film-Lecture

Advance publicity is running on schedule. Tickets are now on sale at the two Book and Record Shops, Burchfields, Treese's Drugstore, Gardner's Candy, the Altoona Campus and the Science Office of the Altoona High School. Tickets may also be purchased by calling John Orr - 943-5629. Members wanting tickets to sell should also call in. Posters will be placed in public places on or about March 15th. Watch the papers for more details. Anyone having questions or suggestions should direct them to any of the officers.

William Anderson, the lecturer-photographer of the film "Our Unique Water Wilderness - the Everglades" - has won many awards for his work. He and his wife operate as a team. As is usual for the Audubon films, Mr. Anderson will personally narrate his own film. This feature plus his craftsmanship and the beautiful color make an impressive impact.

Tickets are \$1.00 for adults and \$.50 for students. There will be tickets available at the door but we hope not too many. Try for the advance sale. Bring money for tickets sold to the March 19th meeting or to the film. Also, remember that we have decided members should purchase their own tickets.

Conservation Committee

Edmund McConnell is our new Conservation Committee chairman. One of our most important committees is now operating. Members are needed. A new Audubon service will function within this group and be known as our "Pollution Center". Contact this center with any questions of concern or reports regarding pollution found in this area. Call:

Ed McConnell
2522 West Chestnut Ave.
Altoona, Penna. 16601
943-4243

A Prodigious Feat

The State College Bird Club has recorded a very impressive list of birds for the year 1969. The club observed a total of 225 species within a radius of twenty-five miles of State College. It was a record year with more birds being seen in one calendar year than ever before. The best species of all perhaps was the parasitic jaeger, an ocean bird that seldom comes to shore except to nest. Dr. Merrill Wood of Penn State says that any jaegers in Pennsylvania are accidental visitors. An accidental species is one recorded once or very infrequently and not expected again.

Our February Meeting

Rep. Denny Bixler was a most engaging speaker. He is involved and interested in conservation and is in a position to help us - all politics aside. It would be nice to have him back soon as a speaker.

Spring Migration

Geese have been seen heading north. The song sparrows are singing. And there is a foot of snow? Time to get ready. When the ice breaks on the reservoirs, especially at the Horseshoe Curve, head out yourself north or in any direction, even along riverways to catch the waterfowl and shore birds coming through. A gull was seen two weeks ago. We'll soon see the end of all this snow!

SST

The new White House Environmental Council takes a dim view of SST development. Members of the President's newly appointed Council on Environment say that they have grave doubts about our proceeding with the development of the supersonic transport - because the technology to solve all the serious environmental problems it presents just doesn't exist. Russell E. Train, an attorney, former judge, and conservationist serves as Council chairman. The supersonic transports are said to be a great potential threat to our upper atmosphere. They would be the super-giant polluters of the rarified higher altitudes, not to mention the sonic-boomers of ground level.

Trip to Sapsucker Woods

The Blair Garden Club has invited Audubon members to join their group on a bus tour to Cornell University and its Laboratory of Ornithology and famous Sapsucker Woods preserve. This will be an overnight trip tentatively scheduled for the 12th and 13th of June. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Yoder will be guides for the group. Contact Mr. Yoder for more information and watch for news in future Gnatcatchers. Cost of trip will be disclosed in near future.

New Books

Several new books - paperbacks - on the environment have been brought out in conjunction with the proposed April 22nd Teach-in. The teach-ins are environmental awareness sessions to be held in schools across the country.

(1) "The Environmental Handbook" published by Ballantine Books. \$.95 (2) "Eco-tactics: The Sierra Club Handbook for Environment Activists", published by Pocket Books \$.95 (3) "How to Think about the Environment", published by Harper & Row. \$1.25.