

SNAGTCAJTBK

Vol 2 No. 4

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

April 1970

Prologue

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,  
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,  
There is society where none intrudes,  
By the deep sea, and music in its roar.

I love not man the less, but nature more,  
From these our interviews, in which I steal  
From all I may be, or have been before,  
To mingle with the universe, and feel  
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.

- George Gordon, Lord Byron  
From Child Harold's Pilgrimage

The April Meeting

Date: THURSDAY  
Time: 7:30 P.M.  
Place: Childrens' Theater, Altoona Public Library

"I'm late, I'm late! I'm late for a very important date! One might think this is a White Rabbit speaking but it's really just a silly Gnatcatcher's way of saying the usual. Seriously, the Gnatcatcher makes an essential urgent plea for a good turnout at our April meeting this Thursday evening. Two outstanding and pertinent talks with slides accompanying from two speakers well informed on environmental action. At 8:00 Rep. William Witt will begin an informal discussion on state and local conservation problems. It was for Mr. Witt that our meeting date has had to be changed a second time this year. This will be a time for questions. Rep. Witt is joint chairman of the House-Senate Conservation Committee. He should have some answers.

Alan Miller, our Audubon field representative for the mid-Atlantic states, will be the second speaker. Alan has a slide program dealing with pollution as mainly studied in Pennsylvania, so the two talks should relate. As it is quite a trip for him from his home in northern New Jersey, we have good cause to present an interested audience that night.

A Note on the "teach-in"

On April 22nd past, there was great exuberance seen on the part of area youth caught up in breaking wave of environmental awareness. Almost all schools devoted time to the issue. In the opinion of your president and another teacher at Altoona High, Mr. Hughes, both of whom worked with S.O.A.P. (Students Organized Against Pollution), the day had its desired impact. Awareness was the keynote. All-day assemblies featuring speakers and films at the high school were followed in the evening by a "teach-in" rally at Logan Jr. High School. The evening affair was somewhat of a disappointment to all who worked so hard for its success. Over seventeen speakers gave their time for workshop seminars. The main speaker, Dr. Paul Simkins, an expert on population problems, came up from Penn State for the event. It was evident that the general public felt this was strictly a student affair. The students and teachers were generally apathetic to make matters worse. We had all the elements of a meaningful educational experience but too small an audience. Publicity can share the blame but there is also a feeling that the current concern with pollution is just a fad. S.O.A.P. came in for some criticism of the negative sort. The walk to school and bicycle parade later in the day were criticized. It should be readily apparent that such youthful exuberance is only meant to be symbolic. Nobody was telling the public to give up their automobiles. The students deserve our support. Together we have much to gain in this fight for our lives. As an active conservation group, let us work more closely with them. April 22nd was not the end of this matter. The days to come should show it was only a beginning.

#### Albino Robin

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kensingger report an albino robin this spring on the grounds of the R.B. Smith elementary school in Hopewell. This is the second year it has been seen there. Anyone interested should take Rt #36 to Loysburg going through the gap past Rt 26 intersection until hitting Rt #26 again where you turn left to the school. The bird flies back and forth between the right hand corner of the school and a farm situated nearby.

#### New Books

A few new books, just off the presses, are available to our members at 20% off:

1. ecotactics: The Sierra Club Handbook for Environment Activists \$.75 w/discount
2. The Environmental Handbook (Prepared for the First National Environmental Teach-In) \$.75
3. The Population Bomb by Paul R. Ehrlich \$.75

These books will be available for sale at our Thursday meeting.

#### Rock and Mineral Show

The Blair Rock and Mineral Club will hold its annual rock and mineral show May 1st and 2nd from 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. at the Ganam Station Firehall. There will be many interesting displays set up for this very popular event. A number of dealers will have exhibits and sales of their specialties. One of the largest collections of geodes in the country will be brought in for this affair with an expert available to show the proper cutting of them. These geodes will be sold. The clubs first show late last summer especially appealed to youngsters.

#### Film-lecture Report

In short, our initial venture into public film-lectures gave us a lot of experience for the future programs but little profit. We did realize a profit of approximately \$40.00. A report in further detail will be given at the Thursday meeting.

#### Membership Renewals

All members or possible future members are urged to mark "Juniata Valley Audubon" as their branchstatus on membership renewals.

#### May Field Trip

After such a long hard winter we now are having great spring weather. May would be a good time to get out for early flowers, spring warblers and such. John McCall will organize a trip soon.

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