

THE
JUNATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Vol 3 No 6

November 1971

The Cow In Apple Time

Something inspires the only cow of late
To make no more of a wall than an open gate,
And think no more of wall-builders than fools.
Her face is flecked with pomace and she drools
A cider syrup. Having tasted fruit,
She scorns a pasture withering to the root.
She runs from tree to tree where lie and sweeten
The windfalls spiked with stubble and worm-eaten.
She leaves them bitten when she has to fly.
She bellows on a knoll against the sky.
Her udder shrivels and the milk goes dry.

- Robert Frost

THE SHANDON HILLS

The second Audubon Wildlife Film will be shown tonight - Thursday, November 18th in the auditorium of the Altoona Area High School.

Greg McWilliam and his wife operate as a team in presenting their film "The Shandon Hills". The lonely, harsh, rolling prairie land of central California is the locale of this production.

Again we urge everyone to support the film series. Bring your friends with you. Tickets will be sold at the door as usual. The doors open at 7:00; the program begins at 8:00 P.M.

We had a crowd of 230 plus or minus a few for Bob Davison's film. Let's try to better this tonight. See you there.

Transportation to Wildlife Films

Call 943-5629 if you need a ride to the films. Rides to the high school and home will be provided. Please call if transportation is a problem.

The November Meeting - Something of Special Interest

Tuesday, November 30th - the last Tuesday of the month - we will meet in the Childrens' Theater of the Altoona Area Public Library at 7:30 P.M. November's meeting will be an informal gathering along the interest lines of our members. It is hoped arrangements can be made with the library to stay a bit beyond 9:00 and to have refreshments - coffee, tea and cookies.

This will be a chance for us to share our many past experiences and current endeavors. Everyone is always welcome to take part in these monthly meetings which are actually quite informal all the time. May we suggest that everyone bring something of special interest he has happened upon;

Third Annual Christmas Bird Count

Plans are now being made for the annual Christmas Bird Count. The date is January 2nd 1972. This outing rates high with many members. It is a dawn to dusk affair for some and a shorter jaunt for others. Those interested should sign up and get their \$1.00 fee in. Culp, Sinking Valley is the center of this census of birds. The December Gnatcatcher will carry all the details. The bird count takes the place of our December meeting and concludes on that Sunday with a covered dish dinner for all members at the Skelp Grange Hall in Sinking Valley. The two week count period runs from Sunday December 19th until Sunday, January 2nd. Get your long underwear ready!

Highway Beautification Act and Control of Outdoor Advertising

One of the major provisions of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 provides for the control of outdoor advertising signs, displays and devices in areas adjacent to the interstate system and the Federal-aid to primary systems. Controversy had occurred over this "Billboard control" provision and Congress did not appropriate the funds to implement the removal of billboards as called for in the 1965 law. As a result, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation declared a moratorium on the program until this year because he had no funds to reimburse the states on a 75% matching basis for billboard removal.

Congress has now funded the program and the Secretary has lifted his moratorium and the control of billboards can begin.

However, as a part of the law, states are required to have enabling legislation for zoning and other controls - and the State Highway Departments must enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Transportation to determine the size, lighting, and spacing of signs permitted in commercial and industrial zones and areas, and to define a commercial or industrial unzoned area.

As of this writing, there are still 19 states which do not have appropriate legislation and agreements with the Secretary.

A major provision in the law also states:

Federal-aid highway funds apportioned on or after January 1, 1960, to any State which the Secretary (of the Dept. of Transportation) determines has not made provision for effective control of the erection and maintenance along the Interstates Systems and the primary systems of outdoor advertising signs, displays and other devices which are within six hundred and sixty feet of the nearest edge of the right of way and visible from the main traveled way of the system, shall be reduced by amounts equal to 10 per centum of the amounts which would otherwise be apportioned to such state - until time as such state shall provide for effective control.

What this means is that without appropriate legislation and agreements, billboards will not be controlled along the Interstate system and primary highway system in these states, and it means that these states will also lose ten percent (10%) of the Federal aid highway funds it would normally have received.

Make your views known to our legislators. Contact the key people.

The Highway Beautification Act of 1965 is in Title 23 of the United States Code.

Contributions to the Gnatcatcher

Send articles and other materials to the Gnatcatcher. We will publish anything! Poems especially. Anything. Where have you been? What have you seen? Birds, flowers, mushrooms, rocks, ferns, trees, mosses, fossils, animals, people, grasses, lizards, and birds again?

Carolina Wren

A beautiful bird with a clear trill of a voice. He may be seen at the Kiwanis Farm around the buildings. Will he be here when we are counting on him? This pretty wren seems to be moving its range northward.

Juniata Valley Audubon Society
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pennsylvania 16602

NOVEMBER 18TH

THE SHANDON HILLS; TONIGHT - 8:00 P.M. ALTOONA AREA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM.