

CONDOR

 JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
 Wherein out Saviour's birth is celebrated,
 This bird of dawning singeth all night long,
 And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad,
 The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike,
 No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm.
 So hallowed and so gracious is that time.

- William Shakespeare

The Third Annual Christmas Bird Count

The bird count is slated for Sunday, January 2nd. Those interested in participating as active counters should call John Orr - 943-5629 as soon as possible. Plans are now being made for coverage of the territory. The official count is limited to one day of a two week period - starting December 18th. We are taking our chance with the last day. Species seen in our count area on days of the two week period but not on the count day may be listed in our report to National.

It is hoped that coverage will become better each year. The dawn to dusk affair is open to all - sign up with a team. Each team will have a captain who will report his groups totals at the covered dish supper at the end of the day. Not all teams will be in the field all day. Our area is a circle 15 miles in diameter centered on Gulp, a crossroad in Sinking Valley. The outer line of the circle takes in the Canoe Creek dam breast, the Kettle Reservoir, the Spruce Creek bridge at Spruce Creek, the Bellwood and Lower Tyrone reservoirs and Mt. Etha. Other localities or spots within the circle include Tyrone, Bellwood, Tipton, Greenwood, Skelp, Birmingham and Greer School, Ironville, Scotch Valley, Turkey Valley, Yellow Springs, Point View and Water Street. People are needed to cover these areas. Please try it. A \$1.00 participation fee is required of each counter to help defray the expenses of publishing the count. This is an official fee and must be paid on or before the 2nd of January.

Specific locales good for sighting birds are not entirely covered in current plans. Help is needed. Bellwood has never been covered in our count. Nor Tyrone. Canoe Creek dam has ducks! They haven't been identified. We hoped the dam would be filled in time for the census but there are as of this date only a few acres backed up. Feeders are great places to sight unusual species. Locate the good ones and open one or two yourself.

Unusual species must be positively identified. All characteristics must be listed. If in doubt don't count! Accuracy is more important than anything. Dress warmly. Long underwear is good to have. So are oatmeal cookies. And a hot thermos.

The supper will be at the grange hall at Skelp at dusk - about 5:00 P.M. or so. This has become a nice tradition for our group. It has been a nice social gathering. Bring some friends. It is fun to share the enthusiasm of the final census tally. Bring one item - main dish, vegetable, salad, relish or dessert - large enough to feed 8-10 hungry mouths, to be put on buffet table. If food is not possible, you may make a small contribution to the committee for defraying the expense of butter, rolls, and coffee, etc. If you have questions call 943-5629. A late owl hunt will definitely be part of this year's count. In the past a slight effort was made to locate owls but this year an all out attempt is planned. This is an after dark affair that could see a "first" - namely, an owl!

Some Good Birds To Look For

Even the most expected species can elude the bird watchers on a Christmas Bird Count. An overcast day seems to keep the birds low and away. Many feel that a good snow cover gives best contrasting background for picking up birds. The snow also brings birds together at times - as for example - along manure strips, at feeders, or along roadsides where seeds and gravel may be had. Of course, a blasting snow-storm will really do us in. Snow coming down heavily hurts our chances. The following is a list of those species that would be great ones if they are sighted this January 2nd.:

Ducks*	Great horned owl	Red-breasted nuthatch *	Turkey*
Grebes*	Saw whet owl	Northern shrike	Rufous-sided towhee
Goshawk	Cooper's hawk	Lapland longspurs	Common redpoll*
Bobwhite	Red headed woodpecker	Robin*	Pine grosbeak
Barn owl	Common raven	Winter wren	White-winged crossbill
Screech owl	Carolina wren*	Gedar waxwing*	Common grackle
Snowy owl	Red-winged blackbird	Fox sparrow	House finch
Purple finch	Chipping sparrow	Rusty blackbird	Swamp sparrow
Chipping sparrow	Field sparrow	Great blue heron*	Carolina chickadee

These are species that could be found in winter. It is not a complete listing. It is a challenging thing to go off on a search for the unusual bird. Try it.

Seedling Sale

Earl Higgins has proposed a seedling sale as a project for our group. We can handle the bulk of the paperwork on an advance mail or phone order business -- all cash in advance. A nursery would supply the small seedlings. We would arrange a pick-up point the third Saturday of April where everybody who bought trees could get them. The species available would be ponderosa pine, Mugho pine, white pine, Douglas fir, Colorado blue spruce, multiflora rose, autumn olive, American red-bud, flowering dogwood, pink dogwood, white birch, chinese chestnut. This would be a good project - one we could begin in early January. If interested let Earl know - he is listed under Tyrone in the phone book.

Acadian Reflections

Robert Fultz will be the film-lecturer January 3rd. at the Altoon Area High School auditorium. The film is about the land of Acadia in Maine. We need a gigantic effort to make this a nice showing - a nice audience. The speaker appreciates it. We need the money to cover the entire program. Bring your friends. Advertise the film by word of mouth. Please help our film series. Monday is the first day of school year after New Years. Reserve the 3rd of January now for this great wildlife film. Show begins at 8:00 P.M. Plenty of parking in the library - Vo-tech lots. off 17th St.

Juniata Valley Audubon Society
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REMEMBER THE BIRD COUNT
AND THE COVERED DISH SUPPER!

REMEMBER THE FILM: JANUARY 3, JANUARY 3, JANUARY 3, JANUARY 3!