

9144
JUN 1972
JUN 1972

THE

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

October 1972

Vol 4, No 6

Starling

A starling communes on a basin
With a plaster-of-paris bird,
Cocking its head around to hear
A song so seldom heard.

- Al Le Maire

(A published poet friend of Gladys and Howard Glisson)

The October Meeting

The monthly meeting on October 31, the last Tuesday, promises to be an exotic happening. Al Richardson will present his slides on "Flowering Plants of Puerto Rico". The slides were taken during Al's stay between 1941-42 while working with an archeological engineer on an airport. Tropical vegetation was photographed and studied by Al at a nearby agricultural experimentation center. DON'T MISS THIS PROGRAM OR YOUR LIFE WON'T BE COMPLETE.

DATE: October 31st PLACE: Childrens' Theater of the Altoona Public Library

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

Hawk Mountain Trip

An informal trip to Hawk Mountain, located near Kempton, Pa. about 30 miles North of Reading, Pa. is planned for November 4th. Al Richardson is planning to leave Friday or Saturday morning with the hopes of being on Hawk Mountain Saturday morning, dine in a nearby village, attend an evening lecture Saturday in the sanctuary's Common's Room and spend Sunday morning on the mountain. Lodging will be in a nearby motel. Anyone wishing to attend this field trip please contact Al for details and transportation arrangements. Al's phone no. is 943-7640.

Red-tails come through in November as well as golden eagles, the latter never being too numerous.

Blue Birds Sighted

A flock of blue birds were sighted by Earl Higgins on the Wallace A. Ritley property near Spruce Creek, Pa. The birds apparently were on their way south. If you have seen any odd or attractive sightings of flora or fauna let us know. (It's your big chance to get published). Earl says there were 15 birds in the flock.

Christmas Bird Count

It's in the air! It's in the blood! It's the 4th annual count. Get ready for the unexpected. We never know what great surprises will be found on a count. The information hasn't come in yet from National Audubon but look in November's Gnatcatcher for news. Last year was wet. With luck we'll have a cold day with the ground snow covered. In the plans now is a covered dish dinner/meeting of our members and friends, an event that is both fun and informative. Before the late days of December we should be keying in on those species to be expected in our area. Perhaps at the November meeting a program could be presented on identification. (Call John Orr - our Bird Count compiler - for details).

President's Telephone Number

President of the local Audubon - Earl Higgins - may be reached by phone at 684-0350, a toll free call from Altoona/Hollidaysburg. Keep in touch and up to date. Call Earl

October Trip

The October field trip to Colerain Park and Indian Lookout was attended by 7 people. We met at Colerain Park, went up Tussy Mountain to the State Forest clear-cut to observe and hear the silvicultural reasons for clear cutting State Forest Lands. In the clear-cut the vegetation was extremely variable: witch hazel loaded with capsules, sweet birch, dogwood trimmed with scarlet berries, black gum with the first turning leaves, tulip tree, cucumber tree, basswood, red oak, white oak, chestnut oak and Hercules club with its massive leaves. Evidence of deer browse was seen on poke berry, red maple, tulip tree, and other tree species. Towhees were abundant and an unidentified hawk was sighted.

Moving on to Indian Lookout, we noticed monarch butterflies on their migration south. While on the trail to the lookout an American chestnut about 4-5 inches in diameter was found growing but it looked infected with the "blight", a fungus disease that has wiped out the chestnut as an economically important tree. The view from Indian Lookout is spectacular anytime of the year.

State College Film Series

The State College Bird Club will present in conjunction with National Audubon a film-lecture series (one film already presented) this fall and next winter and spring. The films are shown in the State College High School auditorium on Westery Parkway. Times: 8:00 P.M. Price: \$1.00 adult \$.50 juniors - up to high school. Tickets available at the door. Here is the current schedule:

Monday, November 6, 1972 "The Living Jungle" - Grey McMillan

Tuesday, December 5, 1972 "Our Unique Water Wilderness - The Everglades# - William A. Anderson

Friday, February 16, 1973 "Four Fathom World" - Harry Pederson

Wednesday, March 7, 1973 "Bermuda - Land and Sea" - Dr. William J. Jahoda

All of these lecturers have been in Altoona except the last one. William Anderson presented his Everglades film to us three years ago. It is long but quite good. Call 943-5629 for more information on the programs themselves.

Unusual Sparrows and Ducks

New bird records have been uncovered by Audubon Society members for Southwestern Pennsylvania during the past few weeks. A clay-colored sparrow was captured in a mist net by Joe Grom, naturalist at the Le-Todam Nature Center, North Park. A Harris sparrow was recorded by Joe Bures at Belle Vernon. And two tufted ducks were sighted on Lake Arthur by Bill Robinson and Scott Robinson. (Sep. 24th)

Subscription to Gnatcatcher

If not currently a member of National Audubon (which includes local membership with no local dues) you may continue to get or newly subscribe to the Gnatcatcher for the rate of \$1.00 for 9 issues a year. This covers our costs of printing.

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

SEE INFORMATION INSIDE ON SUBSCRIPTION RATES
FOR NCM-MEMBERS. *****