

GNATCATCHER

 JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Do You Fear the Wind?

Do you fear the force of the wind,
 The slash of the rain?
 Go face them and fight them,
 Be savage again.
 Go hungry and cold like the wolf,
 Go wade like the crane:

The palms of your hands will thicken,

The skin of your cheek will tan;

You'll grow ragged and weary and swarthy,

But you'll walk like a man!

- Hamlin Garland

First Fall Meeting

Fred Long, Bell Telephone engineer and president of the Blair County Historical Society, will be our first guest speaker of the 1973 - 1974 season. He is the first lecturer in a full series of programs planned for this year. Hiking and biking are two of Fred's big interests and he will share them with us. This meeting will give everyone a good chance to pump Fred about what is happening locally of historical interest. Fort Roberdau plans, the Blair County Historical Society, hiking and biking trails, and much more are sure to be items of question at this time.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL AUDUBON SOCIETY: Tuesday, September 25th.

PLACE: Childrens' Theater of the Altoona Area Public Library

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

Fall Field Trip?

We had a nice July field trip to Mt. Etna. Over a dozen members and friends had an enjoyable and informative tour of the iron works site. Miss Casselberry was with us and we had a personal tour of her most interesting house (the former paymaster's office and company store). A small group went looking for locks of the Pennsylvania Canal and found them upstream towards Williamsburg.

There are many places we could take field trips to: should there be one this fall? Present suggestions to Paul Luckner, field trip chairman. Where would you like to go in October?

In Praise of Al Burd

How can a group of young people say "thank you" for hours of work and sharing of years of knowledge and know how? This is the problem of the Sylvan Know 4-H Club for days of work and guidance given them by Mr. A.W. Burd, of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society. Mr. Burd identified and/or brought into the area of the 4-H Conservation Site over 60 wildflower specimens and over 45 tree and shrub species. As if this alone were not enough, he formulated a method of marking all identified species with more or less permanent, inexpensive labels made from plastic jugs and discarded reinforcement rods. Talk about bridging the generation gap: Mr. Burd has the answer - instead of criticizing the youth you give help and guidance. Thanks again Mr. Burd from all the 4-H members.

- Mary Slippey

P.S. Our club has been recommended for National Honors. If we receive any awards we can give the credit to one person - Mr. Burd.

(I have a complete list of identified species for any members of the Audubon Society who would like to visit the site or help us add to our collection.)

Our Vice-President Moves

We wish nothing but the best for Al Richardson and his wife who are now living in South Carolina. Al has been active in the cause since the very beginning of interest and the actual formation of a local branch of Audubon. JVAS owes Al a lot - let us send him our many thanks and our wish to have him keep in touch with us from his new state. We will give you Al's new address in our next issue of The Gnatcatcher.

Ron Wilson Moves On

Our friend Ron Wilson has left the Lemmon House (Portage R.R. historical site) to take a new position in Indiana. Although Ron was in our area but a short time he gave out with lots of ideas and we will miss him. He says that if our group needs anything pertaining to the National Park Service that he will help us with it. His new address is: Ronald G. Wilson / Supervisory Park Ranger / Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial / Lincoln City, Indiana 47552.

Some Notes From A Member

Truth Close has many ideas of where one can travel for outdoor experiences and not be too far from Altoona. It's true, there is so much to see and do - and The Gnatcatcher would like to share others' experiences. Truth tells us that in Butler County there are the remnants of a glacial lake at Moraine Park. Also in the area - near McConnells Mills - is a restored mill and a covered bridge. Near Butler on Rt. 8 from Slippery Rock to Grove City is a park noted for its unusual flora: the blazing star, a prairie flower. For all the details of these sites and for directions on how to get there see Truth (942-7886).

Miscellaneous Notes:

Where is "Peoples' Park?" Is it dead? Will a new location be found for 6th/7th Avenues to the north along 9th Avenue? (Or, to put it another way: should the state highway on 6th and 7th continue to run through the high school complex?) Have you seen any interesting birds? Flowers? Trees? Etc? Send us your account or call in: 943-5629. State College Bird Club should have its annual film series starting soon. Watch the Altoona Mirror for dates and program. The Lemmon House is a fascinating place to visit. It has a museum and several trails to walk. John Orr is doing a study including slides of all pre-Civil War stone structures in Blair County. If you know of any unusual or out of the way stone constructions let him know. Hawk Mountain is now having the broad winged hawk migrations. The sanctuary is about 3 1/2 hrs. from Altoona east of Harrisburg on Rt. 22. Write to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary / Kempton, Pa. for information on the hawking or on membership.

Tussey Mountain Hawks (And Ravens)

John McCall reports that he saw a raven September 12th at the Tussey Mt. Fire Tower...and two more September 19th. Many hawks are coming past the tower. Get there by 9:00 A.M. for a couple hours. John saw a "kettle" of hawks move past this Wednesday - namely the broad-winged hawk, the most numerous of the birds of prey coming through in the fall. He also saw red-tailed hawks and sparrow hawks. To get to Tussey Tower go to Coleraine Park (Spruce Creek), go up over the mountain from the park and follow the road past Indian Lookout a good distance, following the signs. From the tower you can see the lake at Stone Valley.

The Gnatcatcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602

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