

GNATCATCHER

 JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 6 No 1

January 1974

The Grey Squirrel

Like a small grey
coffee-pot
sits the squirrel.
He is not

all he should be,
kills by dozens
trees; and eats
his red-brown cousins.

The keeper, on the
other hand
, who shot him, is
a Christian, and

loves his enemies,
which shows
the squirrel was not
one of those.

- Humbert Wolfe

January Meeting - "Colonial Naturalists"

DATE: January 29th

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

 PLACE: 28th St. Church of the Brethren
2800 Union Avenue
Altoona

We begin the new year with a new meeting place. It's easy to find - on the corner of Union and 28th St. There is nice parking behind. We will have a bit more freedom to stay past the hour of 9:00 and to have refreshments - coffee, cookies, etc. - which is a change from our life at the library. Like the library, the new location is central and easy to get to.

John Orr will show a film entitled "Mark Catesby: Colonial Naturalist" and will outline briefly the other important colonial naturalists - Audubon, Bartram, Wilson and others. The film runs about a half hour and is in color. It's a production of Williamsburg, Va. - the national park service made it.

Bring a friend - come out for a pleasant and educational evening. Our meetings are very informal and you can meet new and interesting people at them.

The February Banquet is Now Set

We have decided to move our banquet up from May to February. Joan Stern from Roaring Spring will be our guest speaker. She plans to talk about art, nature and country life. Watch for all the details in a late note attached to this issue or in the next Gnatcatcher which will be out early. At this point we will be having at 6:30 P.M. a catered banquet at the 28th St. Church of the Brethren.

Call in to Margaret Chonko for your reservations (price will be set and firm and available from her in next few days.) Please call her for the specifics. 942-8070. This will be our third annual banquet and should be as nice as the first two. Mark the date on your calendars.

Elections/New Officers

A new slate of officers will be ready for voting when we meet next Tuesday. This will be an important item on the night's agenda so if at all possible get in for this election.

Christmas Bird Count - a report

About 15 people took part in getting our 1973 census in on Dec. 30th. We had a few teams out moving around in cars and on foot and with the great help of a few feeder watchers we were able to get 34 different species of winter birds. This is pretty good considering the number of observers and the territory but is not that great. 40 birds would be really great and 50 would be outstanding - 60 seems to be out of sight, although Chambersburg, to our south 90 miles gets 74 or 75 in their best years.

We had over 2,500 total individual birds seen. Most unusual probably was the red-headed woodpecker seen by Paul and Linda Luckner on the back road in Sinking Valley. We'll have a nice list or report coming on these bird counts the first five years but will give you here only a list of the 34 birds seen on this count. No horned larks or meadowlarks - or killdeers! - of course they were there but we couldn't find them. The day was sunny - very sunny - and it was cold with a wind that in the open valleys blew pretty hard.

Those out were: John McCall, John Orr, Linda Amelang, Roxanne Shank, Paul and Linda Luckner, Kurt Gansauer, Jack Hancock, Charlie Walter, Mel and Margaret Chonko and Margaret's sister and brother-in-law. Watching and doing a wonderful job at the feeders were Bill Murray, Katherine Everts, Joe McMullin, Laura and Dorothy Irwin, Gladys Hoover and Mrs. Lee McCartney.

The 34 birds seen:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| red-tailed hawk | belted kingfisher | blue jay |
| marsh hawk | pileated woodpecker | common crow |
| american kestrel | red-bellied woodpecker | black-capped chickadee |
| ruffed grouse | red-headed woodpecker | tufted titmouse |
| ring-necked pheasant | hairy woodpecker | white-breasted nuthatch |
| mourning dove | downey woodpecker | brown creeper |
| carolina wren | house sparrow | evening grosbeak |
| golden-crowned kinglet | cedar waxwing | cardinal |
| american goldfinch | purple finch | slate-colored junco |
| tree sparrow | White throated sparrow | song sparrow |
| mockingbird | starling | mallard |
| | rockdove | |

Winter birds

Call in any unusual birds seen this winter so we can list them in the Catcher. Call in to 943-5629 - John Orr).

The Catcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602

SPECIAL INVITATION:
EVERYBODY COME TO OUR
JANUARY MEETING!