

*G. W. A. S. B. S. C. H. E. S.*

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 JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
 

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 The Bat
 

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By day the bat is cousin to the mouse.  
He likes the attic of an aging house.

His fingers make a hat about his head.  
His pulse beat is so slow we think him dead.

He loops in crazy figures half the night  
Among the trees that face the corner light.

But when he brushes up against a screen,  
We are afraid of what our eyes have seen:

For something is amiss or out of place  
When mice with wings can wear a human face.

- Theodore Roethke

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 The March Meeting - Pennsylvania Wildflowers
 

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TIME 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Twenty-Eighth Street Church  
of the Brethren

DATE: March 26th - Tuesday

2800 Union Avenue / Altoona, Pa.

PROGRAM: Al Burd's Wildflowers

Al Burd will again treat us to a spectacular show of flora photographed by him in slides and accompanied by an informative informal narrative. Al, like Jim and Mr. Deckerhoff of Claysburg, is one of those great experts on trees and plants. They are our local amateur botanists - a group of specialists who are quite remarkable in their knowledge and their love of the plants found in our state. If you come to this March meeting you will see for yourself just what Al knows and what he does. His slides are beautiful. Don't miss this wonderful flower show!

We are fitting in nicely to our new meeting place. It is nice to have refreshments and the chance to combine them with good, down to earth personal conversation. We have a chance to talk with friends, with our officers, with those who have given programs and with new people who are just getting involved with the Juniata Valley Audubon Society.

So, spread the word. A good program deserves good people as an audience. Bring your friends. Bring yourselves!

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 The Annual Banquet
 

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Many members have said that we had a very nice banquet last February. Joan Stern's talk was interesting and informative. We could sense the link or connection between her as the artist and nature as a subject - and also that link between artist and Audubon member. It brought to mind John James Audubon and his many sided background.

The meal was really good and our thanks go to the church for their catering of it. Nearly 50 members and friends attended this our third annual banquet!

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 Recycling
 

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Any individuals or groups who are studying or directly connected with recycling methods should write to Mr. and Mrs. Lefferts Hutton, Box 289, New Hope, R.D. Pa. 18938 for detailed materials on that subject. They are working with a group or coalition (started by them) that is active and concerned with returnables, metals, plastics, paper and other aspects of energy conservation.

Anyone who would like to work at setting up a file of information on this subject could help in getting us into more of an active role or position relevant to upcoming legislation, letter writing, etc. We have some materials now but there is much that could be done. Any volunteers?

Notes on Migrating Birds

John McCall reports a bluebird near his place in Sinking Valley. This is a bird we are very much concerned about for its numbers have declined. Keep us posted on when and where - and how many - bluebirds you find.

John Orr had a "field day" for waterfowl at the Mill Run and Horseshoe Curve reservoirs Sunday, March 10th. He saw 22 whistling swans, 20 herring gulls and 9 different ducks. The ducks were: mallard, redhead, scaup, bufflehead, hooded merganser, red-breasted merganser, old squaw, canvasback and ring-billed. The Bedford Gazette reported a huge flock of migrating swans that seem to stop every year at a farmer's pond. The flock is reported to have number 400! A recent whistling swan that was seen with a mate at Lakemont Park had a black collar on its lower neck. Dr. Wood from Penn State tells us that these marked birds are part of a study being done by the Fish and Wildlife Bureau to relate swans in migration to airplane traffic. We have reported the swan to the bureau.

Southern Spring

Al Richardson has written us and asks that we extend his best wishes to all his old "birding friends." Here is part of his letter: "We had an unusually warm January here (Beaufort, South Carolina), I'm told, with temperatures in the mid 70's for many days, which started many of the spring flowers into bloom. Redbuds have been magnificent, many big, old trees, and narcissis and azaleas, as well as Carolina Jessamine have been in bloom for over two weeks. And of course the camellias are at their height in late Jan, early February. Some flowering cherries and pear trees are also in bloom - so it has been a really delightful season even though we have had quite a lot of rain and temperatures in the mid 40's to mid 60's. We have early things coming up in our garden, like peas, lettuce, onions, turnips and radishes and have planted cabbage and potatoes within the week. So let me send assurances that spring is on the way and that the robins have started north again! I have seen many small flocks within the last week, - around here and as far north as Florence, S.C. The greatest thing is that I have seen at least six bluebirds over near our office in Walterboro, where I work. There are also reports of flocks of cedar waxwings recently, which descend on the still remaining berries of the pyracantha shrubs, and clean out the whole crop in a few hours." (His letter is dated February 1<sup>st</sup>!)

All address is 114 N. Hermitage Rd, Beaufort, So. Carolina.

Miscellaneous

1. Send contributions and correspondence to Gnatcatcher and address below.
  2. Contact president Mike Chonko on any subject. If you are interested in working on one committee or another he will advise you on this.
  3. Meetings are always the last Tuesdays of each month except December (bird count month) and the three summer months - June, July and August when we don't meet.
4. Consider how appropriate a student membership would be as a graduation gift for the high or college seniors. \$6.00 to the National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022 and they will send a very attractive gift card for you.

The Gnatcatcher  
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