

JUNIOR MEMBER

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JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Reflections

On the surface of a swift-flowing stream the reflections of things near or far are always indistinct; even if the water is clear and has no foam, reflections in the constant stream of ripples, the restless kaleidoscope of water, are still uncertain, vague, incomprehensible.

Only when the water has flowed down river after river and reaches a broad, calm estuary or comes to rest in some backwater or a small, still lake -- only then can we see in its mirrorlike smoothness every leaf of a tree on the bank, every wisp of a cloud, and the deep blue expanse of the sky.

It is the same with our lives. If so far we have been unable to see clearly or to reflect the eternal lineaments of truth, is it not because we too are still moving towards some end -- because we are still alive?

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn (b. 1918)
(a prose poem)

The Last Meeting - May 1974

TIME: 7:30 P.M. DATE: May 28th - Tuesday PLACE: 28th St. Church

of the Bretheren - Union Avenue & 28th St., Altoona, Pa.

PROGRAM: "Happenings at the Park" - Betsy Duncan-Clark

and Gary Smith from the Portage R.R. National Park will present talks about their work as well as slides showing what is happening at the Portage R.R. site. Betsy also works at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. She began with the park service as an "urban intake ranger" with the opportunity to see and work in a number of our National Parks. She is now responsible for visitor services and development of environmental education programs. Her home town is Chicago and she has a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Mississippi.

Gary Smith is the Camp Director and head of the Youth Conservation Corps and its camp which runs this summer with 25 boys and girls from Pa. (chosen from a very large number of applicants by lot). This is a federally funded work, recreation and community service. Gary is a member of National Audubon.

So - this promises to be a highly interesting program with two young park service people coming in to share their experiences with us. Since this is our last meeting until September let's take advantage of a fine program. We will have our usual refreshments and our chance to get together.

Field trips:

It is hoped that at the May 28th meeting a trip can be set up - possibly to Black Moshannon - for the early part of June. A date suggested is Sunday, June 2nd. Another topic to be discussed is summer trips. Some members want to plan at least one trip per month for June, July and August since we don't have regular meetings then.

Birds Sighted:

Anne Krick reports a few rose-breasted grosbeaks at her feeder (near Keith Jr. High) and also she has been observing a male cardinal catching bumble bees which were then fed to the female. Mike and Margaret Chonko have seen a rose-breasted grosbeak at the Kiwanis Farm and Carole Lehman records a flock of 14 at a feeder! It is helpful to keep a record of what you've seen and when you sighted it each spring. Dr. Wood of Penn State has written a book on Pennsylvania birds that is a must for bird watchers in our state. If you want the cost, address, etc. ask at the meeting or call the Gnatcatcher.

Report from the Executive Committee

We now have a bank balance of \$461.74. At the May 17th meeting it was decided to send \$150.00 of that balance to National as payment on our film series debt. The book which we've had placed in the Altoona Area Public Library in memoriam to Marjorie Isenberg is Game Birds of North America. Those of our members who can - or are able - please begin to think about and collect items, materials, etc. for use in the November arts festival. Our participation in this event last fall resulted in much good publicity for the Audubon cause. We will be taping a John Wiley segment June 5th and it will be shown June 10th. Does anybody have access to unicorn pods? If so, let Margaret Chonko or the Gnatcatcher know.

Our April Meeting - a Thank You

Thanks go to Dr. Thomas Russo of the Altoona Campus for his very clear and informative talk on solid waste. It was a special sort of program in which he was able to get all of us involved informally with many questions. An excellent program!

Peoples' Park

Could we write some letters to the Altoona Mirror, to city officials or to Dr. Hill and Dr. Hayford giving our views on the miserable plot of ground that has seen an invasion of parkers - it is really a park for cars! - give it some thought. Wouldn't it be nice to have a beautiful public park with trees and flowers, walls, and tangles and thickets, children's play area of sand and swings and anything else you can picture as being natural for a large city block park in an up and coming section of town. It would service many local residents and would really complement the school complex and the public library across from it.

The Gnatcatcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602
943-5629

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Birds Wanted:
Anne Erick reports a few rose-breasted grosbeaks at her feeder (near Little Dr. Hill) and also she has been observing a male cardinal catching purple bees which were then fed to the female. Mike and Margaret Chonko have seen a rose-breasted grosbeak at the Kwanita Farm and Carol's labrador reports a flock of JA at a feeder! It is helpful to keep a record of what you've seen and when you sighted it each spring. Dr. Wood of Penn State has written a book on Pennsylvania birds that is a must for bird watchers in our state. If you want the cost, address, etc. ask at the meeting or call the Gnatcatcher.