

THE

GNATCATCHER



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The Old Walking Song

The Road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing it with eager feet,
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands meet,
And whither then? I cannot say.

- J.R.R. Tolkien

The Annual Banquet - February 21st

Our February meeting is the annual banquet at the Twenty-Eighth Street Church of the Brethren social hall. This date is one week earlier than our usual last Tuesday of the month. Parking is fine at the church but members and friends still may want to double up in getting there. Call John Orr at 943-5629 if you need a ride. It will be set up to get you at any place - don't miss the meeting for lack of a way in to the church.

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

DATE: February 21st.

PROGRAM: Frank Dunstan, our
Mid-Atlantic Region

representative will speak on his experiences with Audubon. He did graduate work in Zoology at the University of South Florida while serving as Warden-Biologist for the National Audubon Society at the Tampa Bay Wildlife Sanctuaries. Frank became Mid-Atlantic Regional rep on July 1, 1977 and now helps administer the programs of the National Audubon Society in the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

One topic of special interest in his talk to us will be the relationship of our local branch to National. This will be our first chance to meet Frank and the program is sure to be as fine as those we've enjoyed so much in the past.

Please call in for your reservations right away as the deadline is the 18th of February. Call Martha Sullivan (695-0052) for reservations. If receiving the newsletter late call her anyway to see what can be done. If unable to reach Martha call Mary Slippey (695-5200) or Claire White (943-4516).

Tickets are \$3.75. The menu is ham with sweet potatoes, salad, appetizer, beverage, bread and dessert. Another fine home-style meal prepared by the church!

Please attend. Bring some friends for a nice evening - a good program and a delicious meal.

The Planetarium Sky Show

The January meeting was held at the Altoona Area High School's Neil Armstrong Planetarium. A small crowd enjoyed a fine presentation of the winter skies. Parking was as rare as a pine grosbeak on a night that challenged many local folk. The basketball game held just around the corner in the field house did the damage on the parking. No one felt dejected at the small crowd at our meeting for - large or small - the people made up our group - a group that moves forward, carries on, in its own small determined way.

The Master Bird Chart

Don Wharton's chart for listing each bird as sighted this year will be at the February banquet/meeting. Bring your lists of birds and the dates. What can be listed would be first birds sighted in month to month migration as well as any unusual species seen at any time. The list may record any bird seen within a 25 mile circle centered on Culp in Sinking Valley. Call Don regarding any species at 695-6959.

Public Library Display

A beautiful pair of window displays has been set up by our group at the library. Colette Heller directed the effort and everyone should get in to see it. Our group's purpose is explained through a great variety of materials. Colette was helped by Al Burd, Claire White and Truth Close. A number of members contributed the items shown - and a few others worked on the windows - the March newsletter will credit them!

Audubon Summer Ecology Workshop

Anyone interested in attending the one week environmental workshop at Greenwich, Conn. - and anyone who has a recommendation to make as to who might like to go - please contact Bill Rosevear at the meeting or at 674-5021 (reverse the charges). We are sponsoring one person to this excellent learning experience. A week anywhere from June 25th to August 19th may be chosen. Audubon has a nice brochure on the camp and a supply will be at the meeting. College credit may be had for the hours spent there.

Up-coming Meeting

Plan now for March - back to regular last Tuesday - when we will be having a "talk-about" - just a gettogether on items important to us. This is a different slant but the executive committee felt a time was needed for the members to tackle issues and interests in an evening informal as usual. In April will be a talk by Paul Kurtz on geology.

Winter Birds

Redpolls were sighted by John Orr in January and February at his house in Altoona. He also reports pine siskins (3) seen February 14th. The Burgoons on Lower Brush Mt. Rd. and the Lehmans in Juniata Gap both have had a brown thrasher all winter. Watch for crossbills and pine grosbeaks in conifers.

1977 Christmas Bird Count Report

American Goldfinch 79	Hairy Woodpecker 10	Red-Tailed Hawk 7
American Kestrel 19	Horned Grebe 2	Red-Winged Blackbird 39
Black-Capped Chickadee 123	Horned Lark 18	Ring-Necked Pheasant 2
Blue Jay 112	House Sparrow 282	Rock Dove 229
Brown Creeper 12	Killdeer 2	Rough-Legged Hawk 13
Brown-Headed Cowbird 34	Mallard 130	Ruffed Grouse 2
Canada Goose 8	Marsh Hawk 3	Song Sparrow 49
Cardinal 108	Mocking Bird 5	Starling 654
Carolina Wren 1	Mourning Dove 16	Tree Sparrow 76
Cedar Waxwing 9	Northern Screech Owl 3	Tufted Titmouse 90
Common Snipe 2	Pileated Woodpecker 3	Turkey 2
Common Grackle 6	Pine Siskin 2	White-Breasted Nuthatch 48
Common Crow 84	Purple Finch 2	White-Crowned Sparrow 3
Dark-Eyed Junco 216	Red-Bellied Woodpecker 4	White-Throated Sparrow 56
Downey Woodpecker 51	Red-Breasted Nuthatch 1	Winter Wren 2
Evening Grosbeak 112	Red-Headed Woodpecker 2	Bluebird 4
	Peregrine Falcon 1	House Finch 13

Grand total for one day (Dec. 18th, 1977) - 50. New record. Also seen in count period: Meadowlark and Kingfisher.

The Gnatcatcher
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