

THE

GNATCATCHER



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 10 No 4

April 1978

Blue-Butterfly Day

It is blue-butterfly day here in spring,
 And with these sky-flakes down in flurry on flurry
 There is more unmixed color on the wing
 Than flowers will show for days unless they hurry.

But these are flowers that fly and all but sing:
 And now from having ridden out desire
 They lie closed over in the wind and cling
 Where wheels have freshly sliced the April mire.

- Robert Frost

The April Meeting: First Spring Gathering

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM: Geology of Blair County

DATE: Tuesday - April 25th

After a record or near record winter snowfall we've emerged into bright and rainy times. The April meeting next Tues. surely looks to be a breeze: no snow, no problem parking - and no mire as Frost describes in our poem above. Our monthly meeting place is most ideal with its large parking lot, bright, clean well-lighted social hall and nice kitchen. It was tough, though, getting on-street parking this winter. Some people have remarked that it was a time for few visitors as the modern lifestyle saw its parking spots disappear under tons of snow. So, it's time get us all back together for more good programs, important work to consider and do, and some good company, refreshments and a chance to learn more about nature.

Paul Kurtz will be our guest speaker this month with a program on our county's geology. Mr. Kurtz lives in Bellwood and is a prominent area educator. A program on geology fits in nicely with our group's varied and pertinent range of interests. A number of new activities and projects are planned and Bill Rosevear will be talking about a few of them on Tuesday. Support your programs and your group by attending the first spring meeting of our 10th year.

The Regional Waterfowl Census

On April 2nd, a Sunday, John Orr, George Mahon, Fran Burgoon and Bill Rosevear were out making a sweep of a large 25 mile diameter circle looking for water birds. The following is a compilation of their efforts:

shoveler, male	1 (M/R)	Count Center = Culp, Sinking Valley
shoveler, female	1 (H/R)	
American wigeon	m 4, f 2 (P/G)	
ring-necked duck	m 1 (M/R); 52 mixed (P/G)	
hooded mergansers	m 1, f 4 (S/V); m 4, f 4 (C/Ck); 2 (P/G)	
scaup ducks	raft of approx. 40 (C/Ck)	
red-breasted mergansers	2 m, 3 (H/C); 1 m, 4 f (M/R)	
pintails	2 m, 1 f (H/C)	
wood ducks	1 m, 2 f (M/R)	
mallards	2 m, 3 f ((M/R); 1 m, 1 f (H/C); 1 (C/Ck); 1 m, 1 f (P/G)	
Canada goose	1 (P/G)	
whistling swan	43 (P/G); 1 (M/R) & 9 (C/Ck)	
pied-billed grebe	2 (Lakemont Park); 3 (C/Ck)	
horned grebe	1 (C/Ck)	
coot	1 (P/G)	
ring-billed gulls	9 (C/Ck); 39 (P/G)	
Bonaparte's gull	15 (C/Ck)	
killdeer	2 (C/Ck); 1 (P/G)	
kingfisher	1 (P/G)	

Key: (Symbols)
 P/G - Prince Gallitzin
 M/R - Mill Run
 C/Ck - Canoe Creek State
 Park
 H/C - Horseshoe Curve

S/V - Sinking Val.

Audubon Ecology Workshop Scholarship Winner

Peggy Goodman, a teacher and a member of our group has been selected to be our first Audubon Workshop winner. She will use the scholarship to attend the camp in Greenwich, Connecticut for one week this summer.

PAC Meeting - April 29th (Saturday)

Representatives from the 15 Pennsylvania Audubon branches meet quarterly in Harrisburg at the William Penn Museum. Anyone who wants to go should call John Orr (943-5629) or Bill Rosevear (674-5021). Some members might want to attend with friends who could spend the day visiting the museum. The officers would like members to consider attending for the experience of working and talking with the other Auduboners from all over Pennsylvania. It's not a formal gathering but rather an informal, working session.

Upcoming Events and Activities

May 7th - Big Day in May (Bird Count)
May 21st - Bluebird Trail at Prince Gallitzin
Tour with Bill Rosevear, Park Naturalist - 1:00 p.m.
May 30th - Pennsylvania Forestry - Gary Scott, forester.
June 24th - Picnic and Nature Walk at Stone Valley with naturalist Corky Potter.

Alaska Slide Show at Library

Bill Rosevear led a discussion and presented the slide show on the Alaska lands. A small, but appreciative crowd attended and enjoyed the latest showing of this program. Many thousands of people have viewed the slides - in schools, at Prince Gallitzin, and at group meetings. We've sent \$20.00 to the Alaska Coalition as a donation.

Bellwood Bluebird Project

The Bellwood Women's Club is working with Bill Rosevear in setting up houses in their area. They have 3 or 4 houses up already. Bluebirds have been sighted in the vicinity. Other groups are urged to consider setting up bluebird trails.

Local Sightings:

Janet DeMuth saw a woodcock at her farm in Sinking Valley a week ago. John Orr saw a fox sparrow at his home April 6th. Dallas Webb helped an injured loon and released it at the Kettle Reservoir. It had been found in Altoona.

What is the World's Smallest Bird?

The bee hummingbird! Weighs $\frac{1}{18}$ th of an ounce, is $2\frac{1}{4}$ " long. Most of its length is in its beak. Where does it live? (Your question)

Tentative Chapter Goals

Bill Rosevear, president, listed the following 10 tentative chapter goals at the February banquet:

1. More active members
2. Reading room / Workroom
3. File cabinet
4. Mimeograph machine
5. Slide projector / slides
6. New Constitution / Incorporation and Tax Status
7. Teachers Workshop
8. Poster contest
9. Wild bird seed sales
10. Telescope for birding

The Gnatcatcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602

Tele: 943-5629

President: call collect at 674-5021

Mrs. William J. Heller
425 Bellview Blvd.
Bellwood, Pa. 16617

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Altoona, Pa.
Permit No. 238