

THE

Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
Vol 12 No 1 February 1980



Spring Pools

These pools that, though in forests, still reflect
The total sky almost without defect,
And like the flowers beside them, chill and shiver,
Will like the flowers beside them soon be gone,
And yet not out by any brook or river,
But up by roots to bring dark foliage on.

The trees that have it in their pent-up buds
To darken nature and be summer woods --
Let them think twice before they use their powers
To blot out and drink up and sweep away
These flowery waters and these watery flowers
From snow that melted only yesterday.

- Robert Frost

The First Meeting of the New Year

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

DATE: February 26th - Tuesday

PLACE: 28th St. Church of the Brethren - 28th St. & Union Ave. / Altoona, Pa.

PROGRAM: Media Mix - a short tape from Steve Bonta, one of our members who is now spending a year on a student exchange in Argentina. Steve went out on his own Christmas Bird Count this year. He will report on this and some other natural phenomena - a la Charles Darwin. (Note: Sundays at 9:00 evenings, ch. #3 features a 7 part series on Darwin. Excellent. Much of the portrayal deals with Brazil and Argentina.) Steve sends tapes back to his parents and brothers. This is a good one!

Plus: Bill Rosevear's short slide program on Maple Sugaring at Prince Gallitzin State Park. The park's sugaring dates: March 3rd - 21st. Members are welcome to take part.

And - a few important business items.

Audubon Meetings

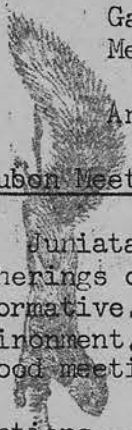
Juniata Valley Audubon meetings are open to the public and are informal gatherings of folks interested in learning more about nature. They are always informative. Bring your friends. Relax and learn a little bit more about our environment. Refreshments always served! Let's start the new year off with a good meeting.

Elections - President & Secretary Bill Rosevear will be giving up the presidency in April. He can not succeed himself so we need some nominations (even one will do). Give names to John Orr (943-5629) who is chairman of the Nominating Committee. New Officers will be voted upon in March and installed in April at the banquet.

April Banquet Make your plans now to attend our annual dinner. The date: Tuesday evening, April 29th at the 28th St. Church of the Brethren. Plans for the banquet are in motion and all details will be given in the March issue of The Gnatcatcher.

Winter Bird Outings With the next good snow, a few members will be getting out within the count circle for some winter birding. If such a snow should descend upon us, call John Orr (943-5629) to be included. Some good birds have been seen: baltimore oriole - John Orr, Dec. 22nd; gray catbird - Marcia Bonta, right before Christmas; great blue heron - Joe Bentivegna, at Chest Creek; bluebirds - Bill Rosevear, wintering over at P.G. St. Park. Call in any and all good winter birds to The Gnatcatcher.

PAC Meeting Scheduled for March. Call Bill Rosevear or talk to him at the meeting if you want to go along down to the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg. We need one or two members to represent us.



The Christmas Bird Count 1980

Another success! 51 different species (Old record = 50), 4,839 total of all birds counted. Also: 2 species sighted in the count period but not seen on the 16th of December. Lots of people out. A bit too overcast. No snow. Not too cold. The many observers gave us the high total and a few very unusual birds. Bill Rosevear saw a common yellow-throat near the Juniata River not far from Watt's Farm. Dave Drews and Charles Yohn saw 12 yellow-rumped warblers along the Juniata below Spruce Creek. Katherine Everts saw 1 winter wren in her yard in Sinking Valley.

The total list:

mallard 201
black duck 3
American widgeon 1
sharp-shinned hawk 2
red-tailed hawk 10
kestrel 19
marsh hawk 1
ruffed grouse 8
ring-necked pheasant 4
killdeer 1
snipe 2
rock dove 722
mourning dove 24
owl (species) 1
kingfisher 13
pileated woodpecker 2
downy woodpecker 106
hairy woodpecker 22
red-bellied woodpecker 7
horned lark 110
blue jay 181
common crow 218
black-capped chickadee 318
tufted titmouse 151
white-breasted nuthatch 108
brown creeper 7
winter wren 1
Carolina wren 6
mockingbird 12
American robin 1
eastern bluebird 4
golden-crowned kinglet 5
ruby-crowned kinglet 1
starling 1,212
common yellow throat 1
yellow-rumped warbler 12
house sparrow 408
rusty blackbird 2
common grackle 3
brown-headed cowbird 5

cardinal 175
evening grosbeak 39
purple finch 6
house finch 28
pine siskin 2
American goldfinch 76
dark-eyed junco 468
tree sparrow 61
field sparrow 12
white-throated sparrow 26
song sparrow 31

In count period but not on count day:

1. screech owl
2. great-horned owl

Counters: Rose Lardiere, George Mahon, John and Marian McCall, Bill and Paulette Rosevear, Dick and Louise Magee, Marcia and Mark Bonta, Jack Troy, Dorothy Blair, Dave Drews, Charles Yohn, Lucy Breslin, Paul and Linda Luckner, Roxanne Krysak, Al Burd, Fran Burgoon, Don Wharton, Colette Heller, Wilson and Teddi Kreitz, Joyce White, Lee McCartney, George Given, Janet DeMuth, Katherine Everts, Nadine Batcheler, Bill Murray, Dick Hunter, Bill Anslinger, and compiler of the count:

- John Crr

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