

THE

GRASSCATCHER

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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I Have...

I have not so much emulated the birds that musically sing,
I have abandon'd myself to flights, broad circles.
The hawk, the seagull, have far more possess'd me than
the canary or mockingbird,
I have not felt to warble and trill, however sweetly,
I have felt to soar in freedom and in the fullness of power,
joy, volition.

- Walt Whitman

First Meeting of the New Season

DATE: September 30th

PLACE: Fort Roberdeau Nature
Center - at old Kiwanis .
Farm in Sinking Valley .

DAY: Tuesday

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: Birds of Prey

A Pennsylvania Game Commission film recommended by the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary people. Compare your thoughts with Walt Whitman's. Early fall is full of hawks moving south and this film will help you get to know them better. Also - our group will be afield October 18th down to the Pulpit along Rt. #30 just north of Chambersburg in the mountains.

Enjoy Blair County's nature center at Fort Roberdeau. Besides this wonderful film there will be time to take a walk over the trails of the center. Those who wish to may plan their evening for an earlier hour. There will be a few people to lead walks at 6:00 p.m. Meet them and get an extra hour of observation in before the meeting.

The program will be presented in the meeting room of the white Kiwanis Farm building. Dress for cool weather. Anyone needing a ride out should call John Orr (943-5629). Refreshments will be served to one and all. Take a look when there at the new Pa. Game Commission posters of wildlife that Juniata Valley bought for the nature center. This regular meeting is one of 7 regular dates for programs in the 1980-81 season. The remaining six will be at the 28th St. Church of the Brethren in Altoona.

Field Trips in September and October

1. Bonta's Farm - a mini-trip to the mountain-top farm of Bruce and Marcia Bonta. Meet at 1:30 p.m. in the parking lot of DelGrosso's Restaurant (Tipton). Someone will be there to guide you to the farm. Or - meet at 2:00 p.m. at the bottom of the Bonta's mountain (where their road starts up) The ride up their road is a rough one, so members may want to park at DelGrosso's and carpool with 4-wheelers.

DATE: September 21st (Sunday)

2. The Pulpit - Hawk watching at a rocky precipice just off Rt. #30 on the last mountain before Chambersburg. This field trip will originate at the Family Host parking lot at 7:30 a.m. October 18th (Saturday). Dress warmly for it can be quite windy and cold at this site. Members will carpool down from the restaurant parking lot. Bring a light lunch or snack. There are a couple nice restaurants/diners for a late afternoon meal in McConnellsburg nearby. Those hungry will stop there. on the way home.

The 1980-81 Audubon Program

Marcia Bonta must be congratulated for chairing the Program Committee to a full season's program - the first time a whole year's events have been set up in advance and printed in brochure form. 200 extra program brochures have been run off for libraries and anywhere else they might be offered to the public. Get an extra copy at the September meeting for a friend. Thanks, too, go to Wilson and Teddie Kreitz, Truth Glose and Bruce Bonta who worked with Marcia on this project.

PAC Meeting - October 10, 11, 12th

Members of our executive committee will be attending a fall gathering of The Pennsylvania Audubon Council at the Stone Valley outdoor ed center of Penn State. The meeting is a leadership conference and should provide our group with many ideas relevant to goals and priorities. Members of 18 Pennsylvania Audubon branches will be attending. Juniata Valley Audubon is co-hosting this week-end workshop with the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Membership Honors Fall Our Way

On Saturday morning, July 19th, Colette Heller was pleasantly surprised to be called forward to the podium by National Audubon Society president Sussell Peterson who announced that the Juniata Valley Audubon Society was one of only three branches in the entire six state region that had successfully met its membership drive quota. He presented Colette with a check for \$90 - our bonus earned by enlisting 18 new members in a 6 month period. The place was Messiah College just south of Harrisburg. Wilson and Teddie Kreitz, John Orr and Colette, president of JVAS spent three profitable days at the Middle Atlantic States Regional Conference. These four people worked hard in covering workshops and large group presentations dealing with energy problems, toxic waste disposal, non-game legislation, acid rain threats, bluebird protection, wildlife plantigs, forest management, wetlands, and specific Audubon concerns - things such as membership, education, finances, public relations, and state organizations. Dr. Russell Peterson, president of National, delivered a great speech to the 250 or so conference participants. He told us that it takes \$5.00 for print Audubon Magazine, \$2.00 to handle membership, \$6.50 for dues split to local branches and \$6.50 left for National, -- all out of a \$20 single membership fee. This \$6.50 provides only 34% of the total funds needed for National Audubon Society's operations! Dr. Peterson said that the 1980 balanced budget went for three National commitments: (a) research - a dedication to building a reputation as a "voice of reason" in setting priorities, testifying, and analyzing data; (b) education - radio, T.V. spots, education films, nature centers, camps, Audubon magazine; (c) membership - 444 chapters nationwide. 415,000 total members in U.S. Chapters need to get more involved - work to keep lapsing memberships from going to drops. A brief highlighting of the conference will be made at the October meeting.

Kestrels in Town

Joan and Harry Noonan, members, of 1703 22nd Avenue, report kestrels nesting up under the eaves of their house for the 2nd consecutive year. These hawks raise families each year in the city of Altoona!

Seed Sale - 1980

Scheduled for November 15th (Saturday) - all day at Imler's Agway, 6th Ave. Rd. (going from Eldorado towards Ducansville). 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Consider your needs and plan for this one time a year sale. Profits go for our scholarship given annually to an Audubon camp.

The Gnatcatcher
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