

GNATCATCHER

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JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1980

What is more cheerful, now,
in the fall of the year, than an
open-woodfire? Do you hear those
little chirps and twitters coming
out of that piece of apple-wood?
Those are the ghosts of the robins
and blue-birds that sang upon the
bough when it was in blossom last
spring. In Summer whole flocks of
them come fluttering about the
fruit-trees under the window: so
I have singing birds all the year
round.

- Miss Mehitabel's Son

(Thomas Bailey Aldrich 1836-1907)

The October Meeting

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

DATE: October 28th (Tuesday)

PLACE: 28th St. Church of the Brethren
28th St. & Union Avenue, Altoona, Pa.

PROGRAM: Birds of Peru and Ecuador

Dr. David Pearson, world traveler and Penn State biology professor, will be our special guest Tuesday evening. He will present a talk and slide show on the flora and fauna of Peru and Ecuador. Born in North Dakota, Dr. Pearson was raised in Minnesota and developed an interest in birds in his earlier years of life along the Mississippi flyway. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Seattle and has become a specialist in tiger beetles.

October's program also features Stephen Bonta, son of Marcia and Bruce Bonta and a member, who will share the billing with our guest from State College. Steve recently returned from over a year's stay in Argentina on a Rotary exchange and will relate some very interesting highlights of his naturalist ramblings in that country. Steve will have some specimens to show you.

The October program is one of the outstanding series of monthly engagements arranged by Marcia Bonta's Program Committee. This year's calendar of activities is the best our group has ever had. Treat yourselves to the major monthly programs and pick out a few field trips to go on. Our printed calendar of events is out and will be available at the meeting for those who need additional copies.

Parking is ample. Refreshments are served. Friends are welcome! Any members who have not yet attended a meeting of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society should not worry about knowing anyone or feeling out of place. Our meetings are very informal and are open to one and all - including the public.

Third Annual Seed Sale

Under the auspices of seed sale director Bill Rosevear, the JVAS / Agway project is now set up: seed may be ordered in a few days when the order forms reach you by mail. Feathered Friend, Bird Snack, Sunflower and Niger (thistle seed) will again be offered. The profits of this worthwhile fundraiser go towards our annual scholarship to an Audubon summer camp and also, this year, will go to aid the Nature Center at Fort Roberdeau. Your purchase of seed really helps our group and the price is right. We undersell most all seed outlets anywhere nearby. Remember, too, at this time of the year: a bag of birdseed would make a pretty heavy gift for someone you know.

The Pulpit Trip - Hawks Again!

This has to be shaping up into an annual trek. Sixteen people traveled down to Tuscarora Mt. just off Rt. #30 Saturday, October 18th to see nearly 100 birds of prey sail down

south. The weather threatened to cancel the trip but luckily the rain held off till after 12:00 noon. Sighted were: 41 sharp-shinned hawks, 4 Coopers, 1 merlin (best sighting by us for the day), 4 red-tails, 11 marsh hawks and 6 or so turkey vultures. Our friends from the Conococheague Audubon Society (Chambersburg) saw 1 goshawk and 1 peregrine falcon. We missed both of those birds. Also sighted were ravens, 1 loon, lots of ruby-crowned kinglets, an immature red-headed woodpecker, juncos, blue jays, unidentified finches, robins, titmice, cedar waxwings, crows, black-capped chickadees and 1 solitary vireo. Al Burd was in charge.

In Memoriam...Stephen Heller

Our deepest sympathies go out to Colette Heller, our president, and to her husband, son and daughter on their loss of son and brother Steve. Our words, our thoughts, our small acts of concern do not add up to much but perhaps they can help Colette and her family in some small way, in some positive manner. Our group has given a memorial book for Steve to the Bellwood-Antis Public Library.

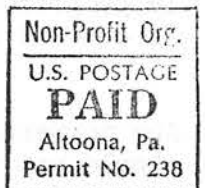
Pennsylvania Audubon Council Meeting Eight members of our Executive Committee became quite involved in the October 10, 11, and 12th conference at the Penn State Stone Valley complex. Nearly 100 leaders of 14 different Pa. Audubon groups attended a very informative and action oriented meeting. JVAS cohosted this event and can feel proud that it went off so well. A top priority was agreed upon; namely, that PAC should throw its efforts into work-for the final passage of the Pa. Non-Game bill - HB 2081 - the "Wild Resources Conservation Act." PAC is going to start off with support for a program that will reintroduce the osprey as a breeding species into our state. This is just one aspect of the non-game concerns. Others will be dealt with at a second conference in April at Stone Valley. HB 2081 takes in both the non-game bill and the wild plant bill. In September the House passed this bill 180-0. Write senators in Harrisburg, now, asking them to move on this piece of legislation. Just a short note will do. At the October meeting, Wilson and Teddie Kreitz, co-chairmen of our Conservation Committee will be selling the Game Commission non-game kits at \$5.00 @. The main item in this packet is a very nice patch depicting a flying squirrel as the symbol of this new Pa. effort at helping wildlife.

TV Shows of Note Sunday, October 26th at 6:00 p.m. ch#3 "Travels to Elk County" The Pennsylvania elk herd is featured.
Sundays: 8:00 p.m. the Cosmos series. Excellent science programs.

Gnatcatcher Subscriptions Non-members ~~not~~ receiving the newsletter may continue getting it by sending in or giving to John Orr at the meeting \$1.00 to cover postage. If we do not hear from you your name will be deleted from our mailing list.

Important Dates November 22nd = Seed Sale Pick-Up Day at Imler's Agway on 6th Avenue in Eldorado. (NOTE: this a change from the November 15th date given in the calendar of events.)
November 16th - Fossil Hunting Trip. Meet Teddie Kreitz at Family Host parking lot at 1:30 p.m. (Her number is 695-0126)

The Gnatcatcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602



John Hunter Orr
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602