

JUNIATA VALLEY

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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November 1980

Inidan Summer

Inidan summer, that halcyon time of fall, comes in different years and in diverse parts of the country at varying times of October and November. It has no fixed date, no definite duration, this time of golden haze and glinting gossamer with its sense of drifting and reprieve. The very nearness of winter accentuates its charm. It also underscores its swift and transient nature. Thomas De Quincey described the season as "that last brief resurrection of summer in its most brilliant memorials, a resurrection that has no root in the past, nor steady hold upon the future, like the lambent and fitful gleams from an expiring lamp." It has many names in many parts of the world: Second Summer, Counterfeit Summer, St. Martin's Summer, The Fifth Season, Fall Summer, All Hallow's Summer, Summer Close, The After Heat and The Summer of Old Women.

Greek mythology accounted for a somewhat similar period of calm before winter as a special gift of the gods to the kingfisher, or halcyon, a bird that was believed to build a floating nest at sea and to raise its brood during these "halcyon days" of sunshine and warmth. Early settlers in America assumed that the autumn fires of the Indians, burning off the prairies, caused both the hazy atmosphere and the abnormal warmth. Hence their name for the season: Indian summer. Meteorologists credit warmer air masses moving northward from the Gulf with producing this succession of tranquil days.

- Edwin Way Teale (1899 - 1980)
(Autumn Across America)

Edwin Way Teale

The author of our quote this month died this fall at age 81. He was a most noted naturalist, photographer and illustrator who wrote over 30 books - North With the Spring, The Lost Woods, A Walk Through the Year, to name a few. He combined a scientist's eye for detail with a poet's love for language. Teale became interested in the out-of-doors during childhood visits to his grandfather's farm in Indiana. He put over 100,000 miles of travel and two decades of effort into a four-part series on the American seasons. This work won him much acclaim and many readers. In 1965 his Wandering Through Winter won him the Pulitzer Prize. In Autumn Across America Teale describes briefly Hawk Mountain and traverses our state on his odyssey through the season moving east to west across the country.

The November Program

TIME: 7:30 a.m. PLACE: 28th St. Church of the Brethren
Union Ave. and 28th St. Altoona, Pa.
DATE: Tuesday, November 25th

PROGRAM: "Wild Turkey Country" - a film presentation by Mike Onkik, Research Herdsman at Penn State. Mike spoke at our annual banquet two years ago and is well remembered and spoken of by one and all for his very spirited and informative talk.

All members are urged to support your program committee in another of its fine monthly presentations. Bring some friends. Forty people came to the October meeting to hear Dr. Pearson - let us see sixty at this month's affair! Refreshments are served. Parking is behind the church in the lot and adjoining streets. Those of you who have not yet made it to an Audubon meeting should treat yourselves to an evening of pleasant conversation, light refreshments and very stimulating turkey lore.

3rd Annual Wildbird Seed Sale

PICK-UP DATE TIME: Saturday, November 22nd
9:00 - 3:00

Bill Rosevear, director of the seed sale, says that extra seed will be available for those who missed ordering in October. Imler's Agway, on 6th Avenue Road just past Eldorado going out as if to Ducansville, is the pick-up point and our group will be ready to help out in any cases of schedule conflict or in case of loads too heavy for purchasers to carry. Let us know (through John Orr at 943-5629) of any problems. If unable to get out for pick-up, try to get a relative or neighbor to help you out. Try to double up if need be both to save gasoline and to make it easier for yourselves. There will be a limited number of bird feeders available for sale: tray and tube types as well as suet and hummingbird feeders. Remember: all proceeds of this annual sale go to support our summer Audubon workshop/camp scholarship project. Imler's is getting in a large load with ours - Feathered Friend, Birdsnack and Sunflower - so we'll have seed for anyone not yet supplied adequately for winter. Plus: seed makes a great gift!

Twelfth Annual Christmas Bird Count! Get ready. From 1969 to 1980. A lot of years there. JVAS is sure to again challenge the best of past years' countings. What new species will turn up? A barn owl? A saw-whet owl? A raven? A lapland longspur? A swamp sparrow? A Mexican eagle? Census compiler, John Orr is working now to set up teams for count circle areas. Individuals should get in touch with him - especially new people with a desire to try their hand at accurate counting and personal questing or thrusting for identity. Those going out are looking for something besides birds. The personal challenge of hours spent out-of-doors in hiking about looking at "things" is what the count is all about. Of course, hot thermoses of coffee and batches of oatmeal cookies lend a strong flavor to the outing.

New maps will be ready. A new handout is being prepared. Areas should now be given the once-over by team heads. Habitats should be scouted out. Lists ought to be made up in preparing for the day:

SUNDAY / DECEMBER 21st / 24 HOURS

Sinking Valley's Culp crossroads is the exact center of the circle which is $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles in radius. December's Gnatcatcher will offer more detailed instructions. One other important part of count day must be mentioned now:

COVERED DISH SUPPER / SKELP GRANGE HALL
Dusk to 8:00 or 9:00 p.m.

Get in touch with Paulette Rosevear or Olga Orr with your plans for covered dish delicacies. Hot meat and vegetable dishes, breads & rolls, desserts, salads, etc. Let them know. This wind-up of the big day is most enjoyable and enlightening. See how the counts are tallied. Share some great food. Young and old are all welcome. The place is the same - Skelp Grange Hall just over the mountain from Rt.#220. Call John Orr as soon as possible to get in on this 12th year's census. (943-5629)

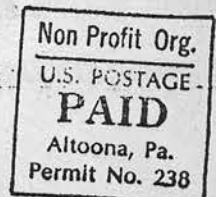
Alaska: Success A compromise bill was finally worked out allowing the bill to be signed into law by President Carter.

October Meeting: Double Treat / No Tricks - First Stephen Bonta with a very nice talk on his year in Argentina and then Dr. David Pearson with a wonderful slide presentation on flora and fauna of Peru and Ecuador. A perfect program. Everybody loved it. Thanks to both.

Game Commission Non-Game Patches: Kits with nice patches make a great gift and are supportive of our efforts to help non-game species in Pennsylvania.

Audubon Gift Memberships: Student, Senior Citizenship, Regular, Family or Whichever - all or any one are great gift ideas. National will provide cards.

The Gnatcatcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602
943-5629



Non-Game Patches
(kit) + Audubon
membership info
Available at Nov.
Meeting.

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