

THE
JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Vol 13 No 1

February 1981

Poems of Transition

February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen lake again.

March brings breezes, loud
and shrill,
To stir the dancing daffodil.

- Sara Coleridge

March Winds

March winds and April showers
Bring forth May flowers.

February Twilight

I stood beside a hill
Smooth with new-laid snow,
A single star looked out
From the cold evening glow.

There was no other creature
That saw what I could see --
I stood and watched the evening star
As long as it watched me.

- Sara Teasdale

The Winter is Past

For. lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of the singing birds is come,
And the voice of the turtle is heard
in our land.

- The Song Of Solomon

March

Dear March, come in!
How glad I am!
I looked for you before.
Put down your hat --
You must have walked --
How out of breath you are!
Dear March, how are you?
And the rest?
Did you leave Nature well?
Oh, March,
come right upstairs with me,
I have so much to tell!

- Emily Dickinson

The February Meeting

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

DATE: February 24th (Tuesday)

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

PROGRAM:

NATURAL AREAS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Bruce and Marcia Bonta will present a talk-slide show on selected natural areas of Pennsylvania. Those who attended last year's April banquet will remember their fine slide presentation on life atop a mountain - a photo-essay depicting their homesteading high above Tyrone on Brush Mountain. Bruce's photos are first rate. This program will appeal to anyone wanting to learn more about our great and beautiful state. Bring a friend or two. Bring yourselves. Fine company, informal atmosphere and tasty baked goods await those who seek them. Remember: plenty of good parking; no cancellation unless a blizzard hits; listen to the radio for that! Also: if afraid of weather or in other way in need of a ride call 943-5629 to see if something can not be worked out for you.

Marcia Bonta will also share her experiences from last summer's Audubon Connecticut Workshop.

March 15th Field Trip to Prince Gallitzin

Bill Rosevear will offer a maple sugaring demonstration for us at 1:30 p.m., on Sunday; meet at Wissingers Store (31st St.) at 1:00 p.m. for guidance -- or go directly to the Organized Camping Area at Prince Gallitzin State Park.

Gypsy Moth Hearings: Feb. 25th at Science Center, Altoona Campus + Feb. 26th at Sinking Valley Fire Hall -- both dates/meetings are at 7:30p.m.

Project Osprey:

Tax deductible contributions may be made by mail or at meetings for our newest project - financial backing of a joint JVAS / Pa. Game Commission effort at reintroducing the bird as a breeding species in our state. (See Pa. Game News Feb. 1981 issue for article on this project) Send money to president, Colette Heller at 425 Bellview Ave., Bellwood, Pa. 16617 (\$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, \$5 - whatever you wish to give). Donations otherwise should be made to Wilson & Teddie Kreitz at the regular meetings or at the April banquet.

Twelfth Annual Christmas Bird Count

Forty-two observers afield and at feeders saw a grand total of 4,960 birds for a new JVAS count record of 61 different species on count day, December 21st. Everyone has to be proud of such an effort! The one-day total breaks the old record by 10 species! The following took part: Bill Anslinger, Carolyn Bagshaw, Lorain & Nadine Batcheler, Dan & Robin Beck, Dorothy Blair, Bruce, Marcia, Mark & Steve Bonta, June Brandt, Dora Brown, Al Burd, Fran Burgoon, Janet DeMuth, Renatta Dodson, Dave Drews, Katharine Everts, George Givin, Jeanne Hampton, Colette Heller, Teddie & Wilson Kreitz, Paul Luckner, George Mahon, John & Marian McCall, Lee McCartney, Bill Murray, John Orr (compiler), Joe Patt, Nancy Rampe, Bill & Paulette Rosevear, Angeline Stout, Jack Troy, Marcella Weston, Joyce White, Charles Yohn, and -- Joe and Sally Zahradnik.

The count breakdown:

1. mallard	147	21. downy w/pecker	102	41. e. meadowlark	23
2. wood duck	1	22. red-headed w/ pecker	2	42. red/wg. black- bird	70
3. Cooper's hawk	1	23. horned lark	14	43. rusty blackbird	40
4. sharp-shin hawk	3	24. blue jay	173	44. br./headed crow bird	20
5. red-tailed hawk	8	25. northern raven	1	45. cardinal	178
6. rough-legged hk.	10	26. crow	152	46. eve. grosbeak	81
7. marsh hawk	3	27. black caps	359	47. purple finch	43
8. kestrel	15	28. t/titmouse	138	48. house finch	92
9. red-shouldered hawk	1	29. wh/br. nuthatch	121	49. goldfinch	165
10. ruffed grouse	14	30. brown creeper	9	50. junco	513
11. ring-neck	6	31. winter wren	1	51. field sparrow	10
12. killdeer	4	32. Carolina wren	4	52. wh/crowned sparrow	2
13. rock dove	253	33. mockingbird	7	53. Wh/roated sparrow	194
14. common snipe	3	34. catbird	1	54. Song sparrow	55
15. mourning dove	114	35. robin	101	55. tree sparrow	153
16. kingfisher	7	36. bluebird	10	56. rufous-sided towhee	2
17. flicker	3	37. gold/cr. kinglet	30	57. bobwhite quail	2
18. pileated w/pecker	3	38. cedar waxwing	63		
19. hairy w/pecker	27	39. starling	882		
20. red-bellied wood- pecker	10	40. house sparrow	507		
		58. baltimore oriole	1		
		59. great blue heron	1		
		60. pine siskin	3		
		61. chipping sparrow	1		

Notable sightings: baltimore oriole at Batchelers' - in residence there (in Birmingham) / eats grape jelly & suet; chipping sparrow at Stout's up above Rosehill Drive near Greenwood // not positively identified until several weeks after count day by John Orr and Angeline Stout. These two species are the most unusual this year. Also: raven by Bontas at their home; rusty blackbirds by Sternagles in Scotch Valley; bobwhite quail in Tyrone; rufous-sided towhee by Whites in Tipton/Gravierville area. Robins were most abundant. Nothing like it recorded by us before. Upwards of 500 robins were sighted in one instance a few days after the count.

The 62nd bird was the great horned owl sighted (heard) by Bontas in count period but not on count day. (both male & female). "Thanks to one and all who made this year's census a remarkable venture!" - John Hunter Orr, count compiler.

The Gnatcatcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602

943-5629

Annual Dinner: Tuesday, April 28th

Be on the look-out for: crossbills
pine grosbeaks
snowy owls
redpolls
boreal chickadees
shrikes