

THE Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY

AUDUBON SOCIETY



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The outdoors lies deep in American tradition. It has had immeasurable impact on the Nation's character and on those who made its history.... When an American looks for the meaning of his past, he seeks it not in ancient ruins, but more likely in mountains and forests, by a river, or at the edge of the sea.... Today's challenge is to assure all Americans permanent access to their outdoor heritage.

The ORRRC Report

DECEMBER MEETING/CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT There is no regular meeting of the chapter at the 28th St. Church of the Brethren. Instead we will be participating in the 84th Annual International Christmas Bird Count. Our count circle is centered in Culp in Sinking Valley. A map of the count area is included in this issue. It covers a wide range of habitats and needs the efforts of many volunteers to effectively inventory the diverse bird life of this area. If you are interested in spending some time "BIRDING" you can join with us on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17th**. If you are new to birding and would like to spend part or all of the day with an "OLD-TIMER" that can be arranged. For those of you who would rather be an "ARM CHAIR BIRDER" and you live within the count circle you can report the birds seen at your feeders. In any event you are invited to come to the Covered Dish Dinner at the Scalp Grange Hall in Sinking Valley. It is there that everyone heads with their treasured list of sightings, and their favorite culinary contribution. Everyone is welcome - Friends and Family alike. Meal time is 5:00 PM. While the count day is fun and personally challenging, it is also a useful and important source of information for studying trends and cycles at regional and national levels.

For More Information on Counting and Area Assignments contact:
JOHN ORR, 3001 4th Ave., Altoona, Pa. phone 943-5629
For More Information on the Covered Dish Meal contact:
Paulette Rosevear, R.D.1, Box 32, Patton, Pa.
phone 674-5021

SALE ITEMS A number of Droll Yankee bird feeders, Audible Audubon units and extra card sets, Bird Song Records and other items that would make ideal gifts for Audubon members will be offered for sale at the Scalp Grange the evening of the CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.

BIRD WATCHER'S CORNER Did you see the pair of SNOW GEESE at Prince Gallitzin State Park. They spent the week of November 28th to December 3rd resting in the waters of Lake Glendale and feeding in the corn stubble of State Game Lands 108 near the Park Office. The really interesting part of this sighting (get your field guide out) is that one of the geese was white with black wing tips, the other was white headed with black and blue-gray wings and body (a color morph). It is sometimes called the Blue Goose.
If you have an unusual sighting call it in to Marcia Bonta (684-3113)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING The next board meeting will be JANUARY 11, 1984 7:00 PM at our Acting President's home - Colette Heller, 425 Bellview Ave., Bellwood, Pa. You are invited to attend. Call Colette at 742-7481 for directions.

PENN'S CAVE UPDATE Well we are up to 40 people who have signed up for our January 21 visit to this fascinating cave. In addition to the information in the November Gnatcatcher, a guided tour of the EARTH and MINERAL SCIENCE MUSEUM at PENN STATE has been arranged. Meal arrangements are still not finalized. For more information please call Marcia Bonta. (684-3113) She must have any last minute changes by January 10th.

NOVEMBER'S MEETING We had an extremely interesting evening with Wayne Harpster. Over 66 people came to see the excellent wildlife photographs and learn of the secrets of nature. Our Thanks to Wayne for sharing his interest and enthusiasm with us. Also of interest is the reach our chapter enjoys. We had 5 members drive in from Everett, Pa. for the evening.

JOHNSTOWN CHAPTER FORMING A new sister chapter is starting up in the city of Johnstown. They are meeting at the Engineering and Science Building of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Mr. Thomas Dick (phone # 266-7912) is the president of the (tentative) ALLEGHANY PLATEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY. Their territory includes Schellsburg (BEDFORD COUNTY), Nanty Glo, Blairsville, Lisbonier and the Maryland border. Our BEST WISHES to the new chapter!

HUNTINGDON BIRD CLUB A birding club has been formed in the Huntingdon area. They are planning on participating in our Dec. 17th Christmas Bird Count. In addition they will be conducting their own count on December 18th (the next day). If you really like birding and want to make a weekend event of it call David Kyler, project coordinator, at (phone # 673-6030) for more information.

INFORMATION WANTED The chapter has the opportunity to purchase a GESTETNER 460 Stencil Duplicator (mimeo) and a GESTEFAX 455 electronic Stencil Cutter. Table, ink, extra stencils, etc. are included. Asking price is around \$500.00 for excellent condition but 10 year old equipment. Is it worth it? What do you think.? Let a board member know!

NEW ACTING OFFICERS At the November meeting we elected Colette Heller as our president and Marcia Bonta as our Vice president until the regular elections in March. Lets give them all the support that we can.