

GRASSBATE HERB

 JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 7 No 7

September 1975

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Nature's first green is gold,
 Her hardest hue to hold.
 Her early leaf's a flower;
 But only so an hour.
 Then leaf subsides to leaf.
 So Eden sank to grief,
 So dawn goes down to day.
 Nothing gold can stay.

- Robert Frost

September Meeting: Birds of Prey

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

DATE: September 30th

PLACE: Basement of Twenty-Eighth Street Church of the Brethren - Union Ave. & 28th St. (Parking in the rear by entrance)

PHOCHAM: Birds of Prey Identification.

Don Wharton and John Orr will present a practical workshop on hawk and owl identification. Slides and 16 mm films will show the birds' characteristics and migration patterns. Records will supplement the visual presentation. Don just returned from a week-end at Hawk Mountain and will give a brief report on the latest happenings there. It is hoped that members who are watchers will toss in their two cents worth on the good spots to see migrating birds of prey. The lesser seen owls will be dealt with from a local view. The hawks and owls are among the most difficult of birds to identify and do present a real problem in the annual Christmas Bird Count. So, turn out for an educational meeting as we begin a new year. Refreshments will be served. It's about this time that gingerbread and cider appear. Our thanks go again to Reverend Burriss for giving us the use of the basement in his church. It is a beautiful meeting place.

Changing of the Guard

Mike Chonko has switched spots with Don Wharton, a move effective the 12th of this month at which time Mike announced at the September executive meeting that he wished to step down from the presidency four months before his term expired. Don was the president-elect and it is that position that normally transfers the holder into the top spot in February.

Mike has been the most effective president of our branch and has been a leader of the sort we needed. He served so well for nearly two years and the group took a strong turn for the best under his leadership as we moved off into a number of new areas. The conservation committee got off to a start. A sound financial policy came about with our film debts paid off and a healthy balance now at hand. A budget was proposed that would be specific and sound - and it is hoped this will soon be set into action. A great deal of publicity was achieved in many ways by Mike. He knew how to get us involved inside our group as well as outside with other organizations. The monthly meetings were set up very efficiently with a one half hour block of time for our business and the remainder for the program. Much of the business was handled outside the main meeting at the executive committee level where it belonged.

We were lucky to have Mike and our new president - Don Wharton - is likewise a talented leader. He was working close with the affairs of Audubon as president-elect and is now moving quickly and smoothly along in his new role. Everyone should give their support to Don and to the group. Let us work together to make our conservation efforts more meaningful.

October Field Trip: Indian Steps

A trip has been set up for October 5th - a Sunday - to the legendary Indian Steps. Near the Tussey Mt. Fire Tower lie sets of stone steps up and down the steep sides of the mountain. It is believed that Indians built them for quick access up and over to the Pine Grove Mills side in a daring raid on another group who had kidnapped a daughter of a chieftain.

You may not believe that story and there does need to be more research done to be sure! - but: the hike up and down the steps is real. It is a very strenuous trip and only those who feel they are in quite good health should attempt it. If you want to get out for a walk and some hawk watching there is an alternative: a trip to the fire tower right near by the steps. Two groups will meet at different times and each of them can break up for the two spots. Bring a picnic lunch if you wish.

John Orr will be at the signal light at the main intersection of Pine Grove Mills at 9:00 A.M. Sunday morning to lead the early birds.

Al Burd will be at the same spot at 2:00 for the others who come down later. Call Al at 943-0586 or John at 943-5629 for more details if necessary.

It is possible with the right weather conditions that a number of good hawks could be seen from the fire tower. Dress warmly for it can be cold and windy at the ridge tops. Wear good shoes if going to the steps. This might be a good chance to get out to a great area - an area full of wildlife, interesting plants and nice scenery.

Miscellaneous Notes

New brochures are available. Get some at the September meeting to give to friends and acquaintances who might be potential members.

The Blair County Arts Festival - fall festival of crafts, arts, etc. - will be held at the Hollidaysburg Sr. High School again the first week of November. We will have a booth at this event and if you are able to help in working it or in donating items for sale or distribution at it please let Martha Sullivan or Mary Slippey know. We have made money there in the past and have been able to tell people about our group's work. Help out if you can.

Give Audubon magazine and membership to friends and relatives as a Christmas gift. Now is the time to get it on your list. A beautiful gift card will be set up for you and sent if you wish. (National handles it. Send in your money and ask for the card to be sent directly or to you).

We need a permanent office. A storefront might do. Low rent or none. A place to centralize our files, have a phone, etc. Think of some good places.

Trivia quiz: what is our state insect? Reward offered: to finder of one sourwood tree (with or without bees). Apply to Cnatcatcher. Needed: contribution - of any sort for publication in the newsletter.

In Memoriam : Mary Moore Murray

We share the sorrow of Bill Murray whose wife passed away August 7th. She and Bill had the same interests and especially loved to feed the birds at their Point View home. The birds really came in there as did the deer and other animals. Even wild turkeys would move down into their yard for food. All who knew Mary Moore will really miss her and will keep fond memories of her and her home and Bill.

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Altoona, Pa.
Permit No. 238

William Rosevear
RD -
Dysart, Pa. 16636