

THE

GNATCATCHER



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Vernal Sentiment

Though the crocuses poke up their heads in the usual places
The frog scum appear on the pond with the same froth of green,
And boys moon at girls with last year's fatuous faces,
I never am bored, however familiar the scene.

When from under the barn the cat brings a similar litter, --
Two yellow and black, and one that looks in between, --
Though it all happened before, I cannot grow bitter:
I rejoice in the spring, as though no spring ever had been.

- Theodore Roethke

April Program: Energy and Man

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: 28th St. Church of the Brethren

DATE: April 27th

Union Ave. & 28th St. Altoona, Pa.

DAY: Tuesday

Next Tuesday night Dr. Nicholas M. Miskovsky, an Assistant Professor of Physics at the Altoona Campus, will talk to us on the subject "Energy and Man." This program is being set up in conjunction with the Blair County League of Women Voters.

Dr. Miskovsky will talk on modern energy problems, shortages, conservation, alternative sources, energy parks, and more. He was born in Passaic, N.J. and now lives in State College with his wife and four year old daughter. An interesting note on his ethnic background is the artistic skills he and his wife have in the decorating of Easter eggs. Being Ukrainian they are serious artisans of the well known and beautiful Ukrainian egg painting. See the Friday, April 16th Altoona Mirror for a nice article and lots of photos on the Miskovskys.

May Big Day: A Spring Count

This will be the second year for the all day counting of birds within the 15 mile circle. The area is the same as for the Christmas Count but the rules are simplified: count just total different species. Last year we had a grand total from all parties of 80! Not too good. Our goal this year is 100 different birds! (Still not too good. Call John Orr (943-5629) if you want to get in on this count. All are welcome. There will be teams going out to cover areas but it is possible to go anywhere in the circle. People who live within the count area are needed to help out this year. Over 20 species of warblers could be seen, plus many, many others, so - be super careful in making your identifications. If not sure do not count!

DATE: May 2nd DAY: Sunday TIME: All day (and Night) - 24 hours.

PLACE: Christmas Bird Count Circle ONLY.

April 14th Regional Waterfowl Census

This was the first water bird count of any planned sort and it turned out to be pretty good. It was known, of course, that a great number of migratory species can be and have been seen in February and March each year, but we got a bit more pointed in our goal of covering the area. John Orr and Don Wharton were out as a team. Fran Burgoon got out as did Bill Rosevear and Al Burd. Also - Mike and Margaret Chonko with Kurt Gansauer. The following were seen (not listed in official order):

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| canada goose | American coot | Virginia rail | wood duck |
| ring-neck duck | Wilson's snipe | bonaparte's gull | scaups (ducks) |
| belted kingfisher | killdeer | herring gull | horned grebe |
| mallard | American Widgeon | ring-billed gull | bufflehead |
| pied-billed grebe | blue-winged teal | shoveler * | hooded merganser |
| oldsquaw | great blue heron | | |

* (Seen April 3)

THE GNATCATCHER

Bill Anslinger's Program

Many thanks to Bill for his talk on Benedict Arnold's march to Quebec. Close to 60 people came to hear a spirited talk on the overland trek across Maine to Canada. His presentation was one of many that our members have given. Our group has a lot of people with specialized knowledge and from them have come a good number of interesting and entertaining programs. Anne Marie Lehner is the new Program Chairman/Chairperson/Chairwoman (pick one) who has taken over from Margaret Chonko, our able program director of the past several years. If you have ideas for programs, or are interested in giving one yourself, call Anne Marie at 944-2812. Thanks again, Bill!

The Bluebird Trail #2

The new trail is a dotting of houses here there and everywhere from a point south of Sickle's Corner down the valley to the red brick Presbyterian Church. Twenty houses are now up (note there is one at Dallas Webb's in his upper meadow). Bill Rosevear is the person to coordinate all matters of this and the Glendale/Prince Gallitzin trail. One can see and check the houses from the car in most cases. If you live in Sinking Valley or even if not - see Bill and get in on this valuable and exciting project. A map will be typed up for members so they can get out for a ride and see a bluebird or more. (Hopefully!)

Miscellaneous Notes

Mark your calendars, too, for a May 16th trip with Bill Rosevear to learn about bluebirds right in the field. This will be a very informative outing, so get set for it. Details will be given out at the April 27th meeting. Or call Al Burd at 943-0586.

The Media Center at the Penn Alto has some new wildlife films. They will tell you about them if interested. Perhaps you know of people or groups looking for good films of this sort. Our own It Began With Birds is there and a new one - Beaver Pond.

June 25, 26, and 27, are the dates for a Mid-Atlantic Audubon Conference to be held at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa. Anyone can go to this and we need the interaction and feedback from participation. See President Don Wharton for details.

The Audubon patch is available for purchase at meetings for \$1.00 as will be a new Nature Guide Directory which lists many nature centers in the U.S.

Begin your preparation for the June 27th Wild Foods Dinner. Collect items by drying, canning, or freezing. See the Public Library for guides to getting wild foods.

Spring Bird Notes

The 22 species of water birds listed above is a nice total for a day's work. John Orr and Don Wharton were very excited at seeing on that day's outing 8 Savannah sparrows at Canoe Creek near the new beach area. These birds have yellow markings on their heads and a streaking of the breasts. The Canoe Creek area also turned up 1 kestrel and 1 red-tailed hawk. April 8th John Orr saw a flock of 40 whistling swans on the lake there. Bill Rosevear saw on April 4th 12 rough-winged swallows at Prince Gallitzin. He saw the Virginia rail - a good one. The weather for the waterfowl outing was ideal - overcast, 55° with sun later in the afternoon. There was snow at Prince Gallitzin. Call in any unusual birds sighted during these spring months. (943-5629)

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