

THE

GNATCATCHER



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Song of the Open Road

Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.

Henceforth I ask not good-fortune, I myself am good-fortune,
Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, need
nothing,
Done with indoor complaints, libraries, querulous criticisms,
Strong and content I travel the open road.

(Still here I carry my old delicious burdens,
I carry them, men and women, I carry them with me wherever
I go,
I swear it is impossible for me to get rid of them,
I am fill'd with them, and I will fill them in return.)

You road I enter upon and look around, I believe you are not
all that is here,
I believe that much unseen is also here.

I think heroic deeds were all conceiv'd in the open air, and
all free poems also,
I think I could stop here myself and do miracles,
I think whatever I shall meet on the road I shall like, and
whoever beholds me shall like me,
I think whoever I see must be happy.

- Walt Whitman

The May Meeting

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

DATE: May 31st (Last Tuesday of the month)

PLACE: 23th Street Church of the Brethren
Union Ave. & 23th St. / Altoona, Pa.

PROGRAM: America's National Wonderlands: The National
Park System

Our last regular meeting of the year until September! A beautiful color film on the national parks in the U.S. will be shown after the business end of the meeting. Our group has had a fine season of programs - films, speakers and slide shows - some from guests and some from our own members. Programs given by members are of the best and after nine years we've had a lot of those. Many thanks go to everybody who has given us programs and thanks, too, to those who worked at getting them set up. Phyllis Uebelacker is our new program chairperson. Anyone with ideas - specific or general - let her know for we will be working on next fall's schedule now. Her telephone number is: 695-7175.

Refreshments will be served. These need no comment - just come to the meeting and try them!

At the April meeting we handled a lot of business. \$60 was approved for the printing of a nature trail brochure for the Fort Roberdeau outdoor ed center. Work will be picking up on this project and all who have an interest should get in touch with Al Burd for the latest details. Anyone with experience is asked to offer it so this new site will be best developed. Even if it is a little item don't hesitate!

Also at the April meeting it was decided that JVAS should be at the September Keystone Festival at Lakemont. If we do have an exhibit there it would be for two days and would need people to give out literature, answer questions, sell items, and run programs. It is hoped that several slide shows can be offered the public - one of which might be the recent Alaska lands program.

PAC Meeting June 4, in Harrisburg

The Pennsylvania Audubon Council meets quarterly at the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg. Anyone who wants to may attend these meetings. The museum is a nice place to visit and it is possible to combine the two - meeting and museum - while there. Please let Bill Rosevear know if you could get to this upcoming - June 4th - meeting. We need to be represented. Ideally, we will have a regular delegate but until we work this out we need help in getting our group's end of the communicating accomplished. There will be a publicity workshop and a regular business meeting going at the same time. Eleven groups make up the PAC. They are all locals of National. See or call (674-5021) Bill if you can go this June 4th.

The 1977 Regional Waterfowl Census

May 27th John Orr and Don Wharton spotted the following: 1 pied-billed grebe (Lakemont); 2 buffleheads (male), 2 hooded mergansers (m/f), 1 female scaup (all at reservoir along Rt. #22 west of Ducansville); 19 male and 7 female ringnecks on upper Mill Run res., along with 1 m. & 3 f. canvasbacks there; At the lower Mill Run res. were 3 m. & 1 f. buffleheads. At the 2nd Horseshoe Curve res. were 2 m. & 2 f. American widgeons and 3 m. ringnecks. Also at the lower Mill Run res., were 1 m. & 1 f. red-breasted mergansers.

The May 8th Count

Don Wharton and John Orr saw 51 different species of birds Sunday, May 8th. Some of the good sightings were: Wilson's snipe, lesser yellow-legs, solitary sandpiper, spotted sandpiper, ring-billed gulls (12-15 at Canoe Creek), red-headed woodpecker, empidonax flycatcher (unable to tell which of the 3 species it was), horned lark, rough-winged swallow, eastern bluebird, yellow-throat (a warbler), yellow warbler, vesper sparrow, white crowned sparrow, swamp sparrow, red-bellied woodpecker and yellow-throated vireo.

Collette Heller added the house finch and cowbird from Bellwood, and Lee McCartney saw 9 more different species to bring the over-all total for 4 observers to 62. (Not our best effort at in in the three years that we've counted). Lee saw a white-throated sparrow, yellow-bellied-sapsucker, pileated woodpecker, hummingbird, myrtle warbler, indigo bunting and American redstart, and others. (The more common birds are omitted from this May 8th listing.)

Other Sightings:

On April 26th Bob and Sue Montler saw a pied-billed grebe come onto their lawn. They cared for it until able to get it over to the Juniata River near their house in the Loop area of Hollidaysburg. In checking out this report Billy Orr spotted another of these small chicken-like birds in the Juniata near the bridge at the St. Bernardine Monastery just up the road from Montler's. Bill Rosevear reports a black-bellied plover at Prince Gallitzin Park on May 12th. It was along the water near the visitor center. It's an unusual migrant.

The Gnatcatcher
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