

THE

# GNATCATCHER



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 9 No. 7

October 1977

## Acquainted With The Night

- Robert Frost

I have been one acquainted with the night.  
I have walked out in rain - and back in rain.  
I have outwalked the furthest city light.

I have looked down the saddest city lane.  
I have passed by the watchman on his beat  
And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain.

I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet  
When far away an interrupted cry  
Came over houses from another street,

But not to call me back or say good-by;  
And further still at an unearthly height,  
One luminary clock against the sky

Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right.  
I have been one acquainted with the night.

### The October Meeting

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

DATE: Tuesday, October 25th

PLACE: Twenty-Eighth Street Church of the Brethren  
Union Avenue & 28th St., Altoona, Pa.

PROGRAM: WILDLIFE: OUR THREATENED HERITAGE

The Wildlife Federation has sent us a film from Washington D.C. for the October meeting. The film makes a strong case for the conservation, wise use, and management of our national resources. The 30 minute color film shows how bulldozers, pesticides and pollutants have threatened our national heritage of a clean, beautiful, land, abundant with wildlife.

This program is another of an on-going series devoted to studying our endangered species. Members and friends are urged to tell people about the film so that we may have a good turnout. Parking is to the rear of the church. Refreshments are served.

### Fort Roberdeau Nature Center Field Trip

Final plans for a trip to the new nature center will be made at the October 25th meeting. It is tentatively set now for the 30th of October at 2:00 p.m. The area is beautiful now that fall is here and the trails are great. Plan for this outing. Mark it on your calendars!

Bill Rosevear is working hard on the trail brochure and it will soon be ready for individuals and groups visiting the center.

### Christmas Bird Count

Prepare now for our annual count. There are two months to get out looking over the land and the birds. Call John Orr for details and directions. This year's count will again be before Christmas: December 18th - a Sunday. People who have not been on a count should contact John for information. Anyone may participate - in fact, help is greatly needed!

Book Review

A Guide to Eastern Hawk Watching - by Donald S. Heintzelman  
University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1976.  
100 pp. \$5.95. (softbound) Reviewed by Don Wharton.

Donald Heintzelman's Guide to Eastern Hawk Watching (first published in 1972) is now back in print in an enlarged edition. Material new to this version includes an excellent selection of photographs of the raptors as well as revised and expanded chapters on hawk watching lookouts in the Great Lakes Region and Eastern Canada, New England, the Middle Atlantic States, and the Southern Appalachian States. In addition to highly useful chapters on Hawk Identification, Field Equipment, the Migration Seasons, and the Mechanics of Hawk Flight, the chapters on the Lookouts contain what is perhaps the most pertinent information for devoted hawk watchers. Entries for each of the sixty lookouts provide an indication of the quality of hawk flights one may expect to find during both spring and fall migrations as well as a physical description of the lookout, and - perhaps most important - a detailed explanation of how to get there. The growing popularity of hawk watching (or more properly, raptor watching, since it includes eagles, osprey, and falcons) is indicated by the fact that well over half of the lookouts which Heintzelman lists are relatively new, though utilized by increasing numbers as birders go further afield in search of additional promontories from which to observe the magnificent birds of prey. States in the Southern Appalachians, for instance, are just now beginning to accumulate data on newly discovered lookouts. Locally, the Loop Fire Tower on Tussey Mountain between Williamsburg and Alexandria affords a good vantage point from which to observe migrating hawks. A bit further south, the lookout called the Pulpit (on Tuscarora Mountain between McConnellsburg and Fort Loudon) is a well-established site where daily counts are recorded by the Conococheague Audubon Society. A Guide to Eastern Hawk Watching is a convenient, reliable, and highly useful guide for both the novice and the veteran hawk watcher. Copies may be obtained by ordering directly from Penn State Press, 215 Wagner Building, University Park, Pa. 16802.

Many Miscellaneous Notes Telephone Calls. Call Bill Rosevear collect on any Audubon business. (674-5021)

Speakers Bureau: People are needed to talk to other groups. See Phyllis Uebelacker (695-7175).

Mill Run and Ruskin Drive Question: See John Orr if interested in the water problems of this stream. 943-5629

Elections: Major elections will be held in January of 1978. President, Vice-President and Secretary are spots that will be filled. Please submit names to John Orr, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Storage Area Needed: We need a dry garage or other building in the area for our large, wooden display backdrop. See Bill Rosevear if you can donate space.

Gnatcatcher Cost Subscription for non-members is \$1.00 per year. Call in any address changes or problems.

Telechain: Is now being updated. This communication system will be used for important notices and business only.

Social Committee Chairperson: Paulette Rosevear is our Social Committee head. She was not listed in September's Gnatcatcher and the newsletter apologizes for this omission.

The September Meeting: Walt Rosser, Waterways Patrolman of the Fish Commission, gave a very nice program on our turtles and reptiles. His slide/tape programs should be used to get the word out on these species. They would be good for schools. There are 21 species of snakes including 3 poisonous in Pennsylvania. And - 14 turtles! (None poisonous. One dangerous.)

New Audubon Group: We are happy to announce the affiliation with Audubon of a new group: The Conococheague Audubon Society of Chambersburg, Pa!

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