



QUARTERLY

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WINTER • 1980

Vol. XIX No. 1



winter hike

SATURDAY JANUARY 19 . FOX ISLAND

Fox Island naturalist, Pat Bolman, will lead us on a wintertime excursion through portions of this Allen County Park.

The hike will include an inspection of a newly acquired wooded addition on the east end of the Park.

MEET: At the main building off Yohne Road.

TIME: 10:00 AM

BRING: Warm Clothes. Sack lunch and hot drink.

films

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22 . FRANK PARK NATURE LODGE

TWO FILMS:

MAN IN HIS ENVIRONMENT - an essay on the checks and balances of the natural cycle, showing how the processes that regulate other forms of life ultimately regulate humanity as well.

MORNINGS OF CREATION - Portrays, in a visual flow of images and music, primordial forces of nature, and contemplates their textures, forms, and essential beauty.

MEET: At Franke Park Day Camp Nature Lodge.

TIME: 7:30 PM

BRING: Friends and potential members.

lecture

FRIDAY MARCH 21 . NEIL CASE

ACRES Member, Neil Case, manager of the Salamonie Reservoir, will present a program on readings and personal philosophies relating to the outdoors, wildlife, conservation, hunting, etc! Includes anecdotes relating to his experiences in the wild-life field.

Everyone come and bring family and friends. This winter meeting is planned especially for ACRES members and friends in Huntington, Wells and Wabash Counties.

MEET: United REMC Building on State Route 5, southeast of Huntington (right across from the airport).

TIME: 7:30 PM

REFRESHMENTS -

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is ACRES member Sher Waldrop. Sher is an advanced student in print making at the Fort Wayne Art Institute. Her Snowy Owl is an etching.

Winter lifestyles

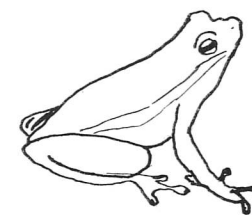


MIGRATORS:

Such creatures move seasonally from one region or country to another, usually to survive through the winter months. Watching the birds fly south together is a good indication that winter is on its way.

DORMANT:

Similar to hibernators, these creatures are asleep, or lying as if asleep. While not awake or active, they are capable of being activated if threatened or endangered. Bears, surprisingly, are not hibernators but are dormant creatures during the winter.



ACTIVE:

These creatures are just as lively and busy in winter as they are in summer. Having no slowing down of any body processes, these animals have the roughest winter since they must constantly search for food to sustain them.

HIBERNATORS:

These creatures survive the winter in a state of inactivity, only their basic bodily functions operating to keep them alive. Many burrow deep into the ground to last out this state. A ground hog's annual rise to the surface indicates that winter will soon be leaving.



LONIDAW fundraising, led by Kay Hough and her committee of ten Kendallville ACRES members has reached 1/3 of the PURCHASE PROJECT goal.

Encouraged by active participation of many Kendallville citizens, the project has received contributions from the Garden Club, Home Demonstration Clubs, Tri-Kappa, Lions, Jaycees, the Kendallville Chamber of Commerce, several local banks and businesses and the Olive B. Cole Foundation, Inc.

Wolcottville Boy Scout Post 2732 presented the LONIDAW Purchase Project with a check for \$251.28. This troop, led by Walter J. Wolf of Rome City has assisted ACRES with work days and raised their contribution to save Lonidaw by various Scout projects.

All sizes of contribution are needed to complete this preservation effort and will be gratefully received by the ACRES office.

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- Miss Mabel E. Thorne, long time teacher at South Side Hi, Fort Wayne, died October 18. Best known to ACRES members as donor of the Thornehill Wildlife Area near Huntington- an area administered by Huntington College for study and research. Miss Thorne was 92.
- Another notable friend of ACRES died Dec. 11 - Albert B. Hostman, known to us as Chief Spotted Deer. Well loved by ACRES members active at Fox Island, Chief Spotted Deer helped dedicate the Ropchan Wildlife Refuge in Steuben County in May '77. He was in his late 60's.

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(BOOK-NOTE) ACRES National Advisory Board member, Durward L. Allen's book Wolves of Minong (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1979) is the wilderness chronicle of wolf/moose survival of Isle Royale National Park.

-- Re-elected for three year terms on the ACRES Board of Directors are Lee Casebere, John Ellenwood, Jane Dustin and Bill Bloch. Joining the ACRES Board for a three year term is Duane Lupke. -----

today

This day is mine!
The clouds, the sun.
There is all outdoors!
What matter if I
have no deed?
No legal writ
in my possession?
Such gifts are free!
Its only we
Who miss the mark
When we don't see.

Just me Nellie Grace Bender

ON SNOWY OWLS

by Lee Casebere

Snowy Owls are birds of the arctic tundra. Generally they endure the harsh arctic winters as long as the food supply is good. Ptarmigan, hares, fish and- most notably - lemmings comprise their staple food items. Periodic "crashes" in the lemming population are often the reason the Snow Owls leave their northern haunts and visit the states in search of good hunting. Being birds of the open, they shun the forested areas on these southward sojourns and are most often seen in open farmland, marshes, beaches, and dunes.

On December 9, 1973 I saw my first, (and only, so far) Snowy Owl while driving through rural Allen County along Route 37. A week later after much contemplation of the mystery of its arrival near Fort Wayne, Indiana, I sat and penned the following:

A week has past since I saw my first Snowy Owl in the wild. I had always hoped to see one someday, but my vision of the time and place were not at all like the real encounter. I hardly expected one to suddenly alight on a utility pole while I was driving along a busy highway. Although I pulled off the road to watch it for a few brief minutes, it seemed more like a dream than reality, and I soon found myself driving away watching a living piece of the arctic fade out of sight through my rear view mirror.

During this past week I have often thought about that Owl. Exactly where did it come from? What prompted such a long journey? Why did it come to Indiana? Where is it now? Each question seemed to spur yet another, and answers came as mere speculations or as nothing at all. Even now there are more questions, some of them the same as before . . . where is that Owl now?

I have read that very few snowy owls that venture south during winter months ever make it back to the arctic. Although they are faced with many perils in a strange land, perils alone apparently fail to explain why many of them never make it back. So they say, snowy owls come south to escape adverse weather and hunger. The benefits are hard to picture. Why fly south to enjoy fine weather and a full stomach only to perish anyway!

I wonder if "my" snowy owl will make it back to the arctic? I suppose it has found out already that it has only exchanged one hostile environment for another. Now it is in man's world where predator becomes prey, and only the cunning creatures survive.

In spite of the dangers facing that bird, I am envious of its travels, whether they are adventures of mis-adventures. How nice it would be to travel far and wide with no strings attached. Although its journey was out of need and not for pleasure, at least owls lives are not cluttered with stop-and-go lights, thoughts and emotions, or perception of time I wonder where that owl is now?

Land is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals. Food chains are living channels which conduct energy upward; death and decay return it to the soil. The circuit is not closed; some energy is dissipated in decay, some is added by absorption from the air, some is stored in soils, peats and long-lived forests; but it is a sustained circuit, like a slowly augmented revolving fund of life.

Aldo Leopold

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