



Osprey with catfish

Ospreys soar over Susquehanna

by J. L. Biesecker

Eagles visit the Donegal section of the Susquehanna Valley from time to time. Whether you are a bird watcher or not, a glimpse of a Bald Eagle is a sight that thrills the heart and stirs the imagination. Only a lucky few see our nation's symbol soaring high above, on his strong 6 1/2 foot wings. Three years ago my wife, children and I were out on the river near Bainbridge, on the fourth of July. I happened to look up.

There, most appropriately considering the day, was a mature Bald Eagle riding the warm afternoon updrafts rising off the river. The memory of the few minutes that we were able to observe him remains with us. The Bald Eagle is not the only giant bird that enjoys the skies and fish of our area.

Large and beautiful, the Osprey is seen infrequently in our area. This splendid bird sails along, with five foot wings held in a graceful arched position. Feeding exclusively on fish, Ospreys are neither a threat to livestock nor are they in competition with the hunter for small game. Yet, in spite of this fact, some men who call themselves hunters continue to shoot these increasingly uncommon birds.

A yearling Osprey was shot by someone last fall near Bainbridge, just off Route 441 along the Conoy creek. Such needless killing was probably done in ignorance. The person could not be considered an outdoorsman, a sportsman or a hunter. He was just a person with a gun and a license. Through his ignorance, he exceeded the limits of his license and bounds of sportsmanship.

Ignorance can be no excuse, because today the situation facing the Osprey and all the larger birds of prey, allow no room for ignorance. Pesticides insidiously attack these birds, robbing them of the ability to replace themselves with

healthy young. The continuing expansion of man robs them of nesting habitat and food sources. Ignorant ranchers slaughter Golden Eagles in our Southwest, unrealistic commercial fisherman decimate the Bald Eagle in Alaska and uninformed kids with guns destroy Osprey on the Susquehanna.

Instead of killing these large birds of prey and robbing future generations of outdoorsmen, we need to learn to identify and enjoy these birds. The one that we have the best chance of seeing in this area is the Osprey. I saw one while canoeing in Canada recently and just a few days ago my family and I saw one fishing on the Susquehanna.

The Osprey is dark brown above and white below, with a lot of white on the head. This causes some people to mistake them for a Bald Eagle, but the white underside and the longer legs also should aid in identification. Other identifying characteristics are the black marks at the joint of the wing and the distinctive arched position of the wings while soaring.

Picture yourself as one who has the good fortune to

observe one of these birds setting its wings, plummeting into the river only a few yards away, then emerging with a squirming fish clutched securely in its talons. As the long, strong wings lift bird and prey out of the river, he turns his head and for a split-second his hunter's eyes meet yours, then he is gone. The experience, the feeling of something unique, the raising of the hackles on the back of your neck, the light in his eye, are all nearly impossible to explain, but they will be shared—shared over a beer with a fellow outdoorsman who can at least comprehend, shared with children in a moment of teaching and someday, perhaps, shared with a grandson while fishing.

This cannot happen to all of us, but it can happen for some future outdoorsman if we cooperate with nature in protecting our great birds of prey. If we all hunt intelligently, knowledgeably and with respect for the wild life around us, perhaps some future fourth of July will find both the Eagle and the Osprey passing by on healthy wings, saluting us.

Samuel Zuch takes course in pensions, profit sharing

The Reading General Office of the New York Life Insurance Company is pleased to announce that Samuel G. Zuch of Marietta, Pa. has successfully completed the Pension and Profit Sharing course administered by the American College of Life Underwriters. In addition, Mr. Zuch has completed the Company's specialized pension course and has attended various seminars relating to retirement security programs. Mr. Zuch has concentrated study in this field because of

the many changes and new rules brought about by the Pension Reform Act of 1974, which affect closely held corporations, partnerships, proprietorships and individuals.

This September Mr. Zuch will again be attending the New York Life Star Club meeting for which he has qualified through his business production in 1974.

The Company joins with Sam in appreciation to his many clients and friends in the area for their continued faithful support.

Rebecca Keller weds K.A. Smith

The marriage of Miss Rebecca Lee Keller to Kenneth A. Smith Jr., 109 Greider Ave., Rheems, took place Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Donegal Presbyterian Church, Mount Joy, with the Rev. Robert C. Murphy officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Keller Sr., 13 Knollwood Drive. She was graduated from Manheim Twp. High School and Willow Street Vo-Tech as a medical assistant. She is employed by K-D Mfg. Co.

The bridegroom is the son

of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Smith, Donegal Heights, Mount Joy. He was graduated from Donegal High School, Winston Churchill Junior College, Pontiac, Ill., and Elizabethtown College, and Elizabethtown College. He is engaged in business with his father at Kenny Smith Sporting Goods Shop, Mount Joy.

Miss Desiree Richards of Elizabethtown was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were: Miss Sue Richards,

Manheim; Miss Brenda Keller, sister of the bride, and Mrs. Suzanne Brooks, both of Lancaster.

Flower girl was Lori Miller, Lancaster. Michael Neal, Marietta, was ring-bearer.

Serving as best man was Ronald Monge of Pekin, Ill., Ushers were Jay Sheely, State College; David Gerberich, Mount Joy; Scott Balthaser, Harrisburg; Michael Keller and Earnest Keller Jr., brothers of the bride, Lancaster.

The couple will live in Rheems.

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