

Christmas 1991

Time to look back and enjoy good memories of 1991. We have fun feeding birds; this is our second year participating in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch. Once every two weeks during the winter we record all the birds we see on a computer-readable form and at the end of March we mail all the forms back to the Lab. Anyone can participate -- write the Lab if you're interested. We rarely see any unusual birds but last week I did see a Carolina Wren for the first time.

Frank's main sport is still bicycle riding, as is Andy's. They compete to see who can be first to the top of the next killer hill -- a good cardiovascular workout for both of them. I, of course, still prefer swimming, but have been doing more and more hiking, and Frank has been joining in. Last April we spent a few days in Shenandoah National Park day-hiking the Appalachian Trail. Gorgeous! New Jersey has some surprisingly scenic ridges in its northwestern corner, the Kittatinny range, which we've also been exploring. In the summer when I'm working at the Silver Bay YMCA Conference Center in the Adirondacks (driving their tour boat!), I hike in the High Peaks area near Keene Valley, NY.

Frank travelled to Moscow and Chernogolovka in June to attend a scientific workshop jointly sponsored by the National Academies of Science of the U.S. and the (former) U.S.S.R. Wow, was he glad to get home. In the nick of time! He was thin, hungry, and sick. To get to the airport in time for the flight back to the U.S. he and a colleague had to flag down a private passenger car in Moscow traffic and beg for a lift, there being no taxis and no public transportation.

Connie and Ted are still in Evanston at Northwestern University where Connie teaches psychology. They're thinking of moving farther out into the suburbs, away from the pollution. Andy's small auto repair business keeps him almost busier than he'd like. Frank's mom, Gertrude, who turned 91 a few weeks ago, is well and active. She enjoyed attending granddaughter Lindsey's wedding in October in Massachusetts, an event that turned into another Stillinger family reunion. All our family news is good news, glad to say.

We wish you only good news all through 1992. Happy holidays!