
The Gnatcatcher

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

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October 1984

October Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 30
28th Street Church of Brethern
7:30 pm

The speaker for the October meeting will be Dr. Jim Winsor. Jim is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the Altoona Campus of Penn State. He teaches botany, ecology, environmental science, and introductory biology. He has a B.A from Wesleyan and M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. In addition to his teaching at Penn State, he has taught at Kalamazoo College and has served as a visiting research associate at Penn State's University Park campus.

Jim's talk will be about the natural history of the jewelweed. Jim, who says he's interested in botany and plant ecology, says, "I'll tell you how the jewelweed gets along with other plants in its habitat."

Jim points out that the jewelweed is known by several names: spotted touch-me-not or Impatiens capensis. It's a familiar plant of streamsides and marshes. Jim researched the flower from 1977-1982.

Don't miss this in-depth look at a familiar, lovely plant.

PAC Meeting

The fall PAC meeting scheduled for October 5-7 was cancelled because of low registration.

November Seed Sale

Saturday, Nov. 10
Imler's

All members should have received order forms. John Lennox is this year's seed sale chairman. He's done a fine job setting things up, but he will be presenting a paper at a conference on the day of the seed sale, so we need help desperately. Please volunteer (tell John at the meeting). We especially need people with strong backs to carry the sacks of seed to cars.

The seed sale is our major fundraiser for the year. Without the seedsale our activities would be severely limited. Please help. Thank you.

Washington Week Update

by Paula Ford

As I reported in the last Gnatcatcher, I spent a week in June in Washington, D.C. working for the Audubon cause. One of my tasks was to ask our Congressman, Mr. Shuster, to support the Oberstar Amendment to the Omnibus Water Bill. Even the Reagan administration supported this amendment (on fiscal, not environmental grounds).

I am sorry to report that I failed to convince Mr. Shuster to vote for the Oberstar version. Apparently, Mr. Shuster thinks a barge canal across Florida is a good idea. Many scientists do not--they're afraid the introduction of salt water into the fresh water habitats of central Florida could be devastating to wildlife.

Father Charles Wolf
by Mary Burgoon

One of the members of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society, Father Charles Wolf, gets his Gnatcatcher half way 'round the world. Father Charles has been living in the Philippines for 40 years as a member of his religious order. He recently visited with relatives in Altoona and Stone Harbor, New Jersey, and spent some time with member Fran Burgoon.

While at Stone Harbor, Fran and Father Charles went birding at the Wetlands to see the birds take off in the morning, and at the Rookery where the birds were coming in to roost for the night.

In the Philippines, Father Charles is thought of as an eccentric; the people wonder why anyone would want to go out of his way to look at birds. He says that the very exotic birds are in the virgin tropical forests and mountains, and he doesn't have the stamina to seek them out now. He also said that the virgin forests are disappearing faster than in any other place. Companies cut down the trees and never think of reforestation.

Father Charles would like to see a color field guide such as Peterson's for the birds of the Philippines. Maybe then more people would become interested in birding.

Father Charles said that he enjoys reading the Gnatcatcher and being informed of the local chapter's activities.

[Editor's note: Thanks, Mary, for this great article. It's exactly the kind of thing I had hoped we could add to the Gnatcatcher. Who's next?]

Correction

Please correct Marcia Bonta's phone number on your 1984-85 program. The correct number is 684-3113.

November Field Trip

Because of a conflict in schedules, the November field trip has been changed. We'll visit Prince Gallitzin State Park. Bob Keppler will have details at the meeting. Or you can call him.

News From MARO (MidAtlantic Regional Office)

Do you have a field jacket, binocular carrier, or hat that would look a little better with an Audubon patch on it? The National Audubon Society patch is a white, flying egret on a blue background with the name of the organization around the outside edge. The 4" diameter patch is \$2.00, and the 2½" diameter patch is \$1.50. To order yours, send a check payable to the National Audubon Society along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Audubon Patch, National Audubon Society, MidAtlantic Regional Office, 1104 Fernwood Ave., Suite 300, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

More from MARO

The environmental health of the Chesapeake Bay has declined significantly in the past decade. The Environmental Protection Agency and the states surrounding the bay have finally decided on a set of priorities for cleaning up the bay, but constant citizen concern and pressure on public officials will be the only insurance that the plan will be carried out. You can help. Subscribe (FREE) to Chesapeake Bay Report, Citizens' Program for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc., 6600 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212.