

THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

Nov. 1984



Paul Weigman On Land Acquisition

Nov. 27, 1984 at 7:30
28th St. Church of the Brethern

Paul Weigman, Director of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Natural Areas Program, will be our speaker for our November meeting. He will tell us how the Conservancy acquires and preserves natural areas.

Paul has degrees in biology from West Virginia University and in elementary education from Pitt. He taught in the Pittsburgh public schools from 1965 to 1969. He's also worked for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institution.

In his work for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Paul has been responsible for the research and development of Pennsylvania's endangered plant list. He also conducted a survey of federally listed endangered plants for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Paul has developed and operates a centralized file of ecological data for 30 counties in Western Pennsylvania. He uses the information to provide objective ecological analyses for specific sites. In fact, Paul was very helpful to JVAS when we were gathering information for the Mill Run petition. He told us exactly which endangered plants might be found in the watershed and saved us much-needed time.

Paul has supplied data for environmental impact statements, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service project reviews, DER permit reviews, and Soil Conservation reviews. He's a member of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Fish Commission's Herpetological Advisory Committee, and several DER Ad Hoc committees.

Paul's talk is certain to be a good one. Make sure you don't miss it.



Reward Offered

You don't have to be a fisherman to deplore the recent fish kill in the Little Juniata Riever. JVAS, at its meeting on October 30, voted to add \$100 to the reward fund begun by the Huntingdon County Trout Unlimited. The money will be used to reward anyone who comes forward with information that leads to the conviction of the person or persons responsible for dumping toxic material into the Little Juniata River near the Grier School.

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission is continuing to investigate the incident. Anyone with information should call Blair County Waterways Conservation Officer Walt Rosser at (814) 832-2462.

Seed Sale Success
by Marcia Bonta

Our seed sale was a great success due to the hard work of friends and members. We would like to give special thanks to Jim Locke and Darla Rugouski for coordinating the seed sale and lifting thousands of pounds of seed, John Lennox, who took over the seed sale at a moment's notice, and Delores Thurheimer, Alice Goodlin, Alice Wolland, and Janet Neely for doing all the paperwork, an absolutely enormous, time-consuming job.

We also appreciate the people who showed up on the day of the sale to help and/or bearing food for the workers--Dora Brown, Al Burd, Fran Burgoon, Colette Heller, Beth Leslie, Glenn Mock, Sally Replogle, Gene Root, Leroy Summers, and Nora and Dick Weicht.

With the money we made our society will be able to continue our contributions to various organizations and causes we believe in and to sponsor people at Audubon Ecology Workshops.

** PLEASE **

Someone borrowed the Encyclopedia of Birds that has been promised to the Altoona Library. Please return it to Truth or to Marcia. It's not fair to keep the book when the library is waiting for it, and it doesn't make our chapter look very good either. Give it back as soon as possible. We'll reimburse your postage if necessary. Thank you.

Thanks

Special thanks goes to my friend Cynthia Spencer for the new Gnatcatcher masthead. --Paula

Christmas Bird Count

This year's Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 15. Bill Rosevear is in charge and will assign teams to cover the count area, a fifteen-mile circle centered at Skelp. Call Bill or Marcia Bonta (684-3113) to sign up for a team.

As usual, there will be a covered dish supper after the bird count. Colette Heller is coordinating the supper, which will be held at dusk at the Skelp Grange Hall. You do not have to participate in the bird count to join in the supper.

Wildlife in Europe
by Steve Bonta

A comment on the raptor situation in Europe: the only raptors which are still widespread here in Spain are the smallest species such as the kestrels (common and lesser) and the sparrowhawk (an accipiter analogous to the sharpshinned). In addition, in arid plateaus where few crops are grown, black kites and griffin vultures are still common. On the whole, however, the bird-conscious traveler in Spain is impressed with the incredible scarcity of medium-sized birds of prey like the buzzards (buteos)

What's more, most mammals of any size have totally disappeared outside the remote mountain ranges and reserves like the Cote Donana. Deer, foxes, badgers, stoats, wildcats, gennets, and other quadrupeds are unheard of outside these areas. Even the more adaptable wild boar is slowly receding. Truly western Europe, for all its manmade beauty is a land worn out by untold centuries of unrestrained hunting, farming, warring, and so forth. It is significant that extinction has been taking place for at least 300 years--the sable and aurochs were wiped out in the 17th century, I believe.

--Barcelona, Spain
Nov. 8, 1984

Help Save America's
Threatened Wildflowers

Many of America's most treasured flowers are threatened with extinction. In fact, experts estimate that one-tenth of the species native to the continental U.S. are in jeopardy. About 240 species, subspecies, and variants of plants in this country are extinct or are feared to be extinct. Another 450 are found only in dangerously small populations.

Help save endangered wildflowers by buying the American Horticultural Society's 1985 Endangered Wildflower Calendar. Proceeds from sales of the calendar will enable the American Horticultural Society to award up to \$250 to nonprofit organizations whose friends or members provide confidential information about the location of plants thought to be extinct. Individuals who report such plants will be eligible for a \$100 reward.

For a list of plants thought to be extinct in your state, send a stamped (37¢) self-addressed, business size envelope to Wildflower Rediscovery Project, AHS, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

Use the coupon below to order the calendar.

Grouse Habitat Book Available

The Ruffed Grouse Society has made available an excellent book, Managing Northern Forests for Wildlife, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Written by Gordon W. Gullion, the 71-page book may be purchased from The Ruffed Grouse Society, 1400 Lee Drive, Coraopolis, PA 15108 for \$3.00 each.

The management guidelines in the book are directed particularly to forested lands where aspens are a part of the forest ecosystem. Generally, the techniques offered are applicable from northern West Virginia and southeastern Ohio through New England, then west to the Rocky Mountains and south to Arizona and New Mexico.

--from Outdoor News Bulletin

Thanks

A late, but hearty, round of applause goes to the following people who helped make this year's Naturefest a success: Darla Rugouski, Bob Keppler, Jim Long, Al Burd, John Lennox, Jim Winsor.

Thanks also go to Darla for the library display--it was great.

YES! I would like to order the 1985 Endangered Wildflowers Calendar. Calendars are available for \$5.95 per calendar, including postage and handling. To order, fill out the coupon below and return it to Endangered Wildflowers Calendar, American Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121. Please make checks payable to the American Horticultural Society. Virginia residents please add 4% sales tax.

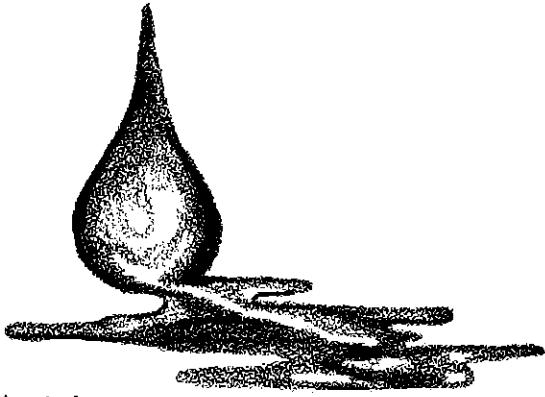
Total Calendars Ordered _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CLEANING UP: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?



"A raindrop is water on its way to the Bay." Have you ever thought about the path that water travels as it moves from one place to another? Raindrops, oceans, reservoirs, rivers, aquifers all contain water that has been used and recycled, providing a constant stream of life. One of the detours water takes is through our homes, where it washes clothes, cooks food, carries away wastes, waters the lawn and a thousand other chores.

Individuals can do many things that will assist in protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers, by using water more carefully. For example:

- Wash your car on a grassy area so water won't run unfiltered into storm drains.
- Let your grass grow a little longer to control runoff.
- Use low-phosphate detergents and household cleaners.
- When fertilizing your grass or garden, use no more than the

- correct amount. That goes for herbicides and pesticides, too.
- Use your dishwasher or washing machine only when fully loaded.
- Put kitchen grease in the trash, not in the sink or garbage disposal.
- Pick up after your dog or cat instead of flushing its droppings away with a hose.
- Dispose of paints, cleansers and chemicals that are so helpful around the house properly, not down the drain.



- Use water saving devices on toilets and shower heads. Flush less often.
- On your boat, use biodegradable boat cleaners.
- Mulch garden and rainspout gullies to reduce erosion.
- Report sewer line breaks and septic system malfunctions immediately to your local health department.
- Recycle used automobile oil.

--from Chesapeake Citizen Report

The Gnatcatcher

Paula Ford, editor

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