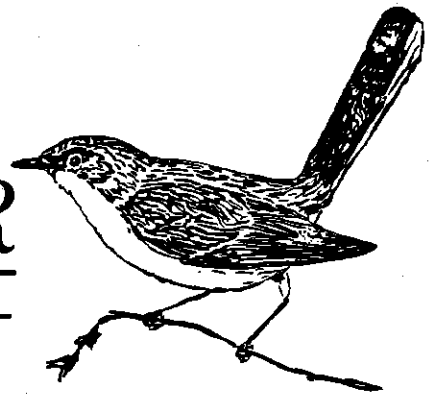


THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

Jan. 1985



Mike and Laura Jackson
On National Parks

Jan. 28, 1985 at 7:30
28th St. Church of the Brethern

JVAS members Mike and Laura Jackson will show slides of their travels to several national parks at the January meeting.

Mike and Laura are excellent photographers. Their displays of pictures of JVAS field trips at several meetings have been terrific.

This is a meeting you won't want to miss.

Christmas Bird Count
by Bill Rosevear

Twenty-nine people participated in this year's Christmas Bird Count. They saw 51 species (3,081 individuals). Here's a list: mallard (114), black duck (1), green-winged teal (2), bufflehead (9), Cooper's hawk (1), Northern harrier (2), red-tailed hawk (3), red-shouldered hawk (1), buteo sp. (1), kestrel (16), ruffed grouse (4), ring-necked pheasant (1), rock dove (235), mourning dove (118), great horned owl (2), belted kingfisher (9), yellow-shafted flicker (7), pileated woodpecker (10), red-headed woodpecker (3), hairy woodpecker (23), downy woodpecker (57), horned lark (80), blue jay (100), common crow (390), black-capped chickadee (156), tufted titmouse (79), white-breasted nuthatch (64), brown creeper (8), winter wren (2), Carolina wren (15), mockingbird (10), robin (2), Eastern bluebird (37), golden-crowned kinglet (2), starling (400), common grackle (153), cardinal (83), purple

finch (14), house finch (151), pine siskin (8), American goldfinch (132), white-winged crossbill (1), rufous-sided towhee (3), junco (214), tree sparrow (33), chipping sparrow (4), white-throated sparrow (100), fox sparrow (1), song sparrow (19), and house sparrow (189). More about the CBC next month.

Field Trips
by Bob Keppler

Our last field trip was to the Penn State Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum and Art Gallery on Saturday, January 5. About sixteen people attended.

Mr. David Snell, curator of the museum, presented a program on the collection. He showed us some unusual minerals. Did you know that there are rocks that can actually bend?

If you missed January's field trip, sorry. But February's field trip is coming up.

The program, to be held at the Altoona High School Planetarium, will be for all ages and will be presented by Mr. Steve Dolak of the A. H. S. Science Department. The date will be set by Mr. Dolak. I should know at the January meeting when the field trip will be held.

Because the Planetarium only seats fifty people, everyone who plans to attend should sign up at the January meeting or call Bob Keppler at 695-0742.

It's Sweepstakes Season Again!
by Darla Rogouski

Have you ever dreamed of winning a paid vacation to Switzerland, Germany, France, or even our own California? Of course you have! We nature fanatics can't help but faint at the beauty of a snow-capped precipice or an ice-laden buffalo in a Yellowstone winter.

We thrive on the simplicities of life. The first robin to snatch an early spring worm, an elegant wood duck gliding silently across a nearby lake, the singing of crickets in an early summer eve. How about the feeling you get when you finally reach the summit of a long morning's hike? You prop yourself against a "padded" rock as the sun penetrates your clothing and rejuvenates your energy. A red tail glides silently over, tilts his wings in a brief hello, and disappears below the tree line.

Because we all enjoy these simple gifts of life, I can't understand why more people don't apply for the Audubon Summer Ecology Camps. Last year we had only two applicants, and we sent both of them! Just think of it! A paid vacation to the camp of your choice! It's like entering the Publishers' Clearing House Sweepstakes and knowing that your chances of winning are much higher and the prizes are much more fulfilling.

You may make lifetime friends and learn about ecology, water resources, astronomy, botany, oceanography, geology, ornithology, camping, canoeing, and much more. You can choose from camps in Wyoming, Maine, Wisconsin, or Connecticut. You can choose the week you'd like to attend.

Now, how many sweepstakes give you that much freedom? You can't go wrong. Get your application at the January meeting. It only takes about a half hour to fill it out. We have booklets that describe all the camps.

Return your application to the education committee by March 10, 1984. This offer is not limited to members and any age may apply.

Thanks, and Best Wishes

Darla Rogouski and Jim Locke have both accepted jobs outside the area. We'll miss them. Darla has been one of the best education chairs this chapter has ever had. And both Darla and Jim were hard workers at our seed sale in November.

Our loss is Presque Isle's gain. We wish both Darla and Jim much happiness in their new jobs and in their new homes. Keep in touch, Darla and Jim.

New Education Chair

We welcome Wency Reimold as our new education chair. Wendy is a soil conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Darla is a tough act to follow, but we're sure Wendy will be a great education chair.

Her phone number is 695-0679. If you have suggestions or questions about the education committee, call Wendy. She'll also handle the applications for the Summer Ecology Camp Scholarships.

Share With Us

Do you have a hobby you would like to share with us? Or do you know someone who would like to exhibit a collection? Please contact Colette Heller (742-7481).

Homes Wanted

Are you handy with a hammer? John Lennox has kindly offered his workshop for bluebird box building once again this year. If you're interested in building boxes for bluebirds call John at 946-1584.


Chesapeake Bay Conference

On Saturday, January 26, a conference on Chesapeake Bay will be held at Millersville University. Wilson and Teddie Krietz and Paula Ford and Craig Cameron will attend. Look for a report in next month's Gnatcatcher.

The Gnatcatcher
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Osprey Update

The JVAS Executive Board recently voted to increase our annual donation to the Osprey Reintroduction Program Fund to \$250. News from the program's director is very good. See his article.

