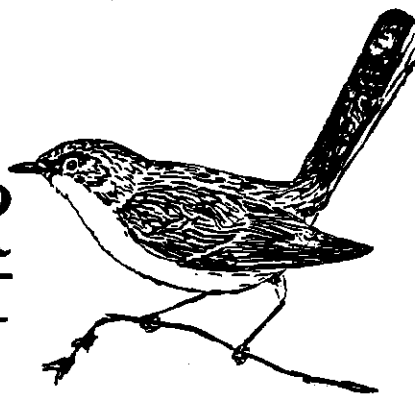


THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society February 1985



North American Bluebird Society Slideshow

Feb. 26, 1985 at 7:30
28th St. Church of the Brethren

Are you tired of winter? Are you sick of slush? Are you eager for spring? If you answered yes, you'll love the slideshow scheduled for our February meeting.

This slideshow, produced by the North American Bluebird Society, will give you that taste of spring that you long for. Melvin Lane will display bluebird boxes and related items at the meeting.



Our chapter bought the slideshow last year after several members saw it at the Cavity Nesters Conference and raved about it to the Executive Board. We're already sharing it with other groups. Paula Ford will show it to the Woodview Garden Club on Feb. 14 and to the Williamsburg Garden Club on Feb. 22. If you know of an organization that would enjoy learning about the life history of one of America's most beautiful songbirds, let Paula know, either at the meeting or by calling 832-2462.

Field Trips by Bob Keppler

It's not too late to sign up for the field trip to the Altoona High School Planetarium on February 25 at 7:00. The program will be presented by Mr. Steve Dolak of the A. H. S. Science Department and will be suitable for children. Those attending should use the 6th Ave. and 13th St. entrance. Hope to see you there.

March's field trip will be on Saturday the 16th. We'll leave the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 6:00 am for Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. Last year 32 species of waterfowl were observed at Middle Creek. If you want to break up the winter and have some fun, join us on the 16th. Don't forget to bring a lunch.

April's field trip will be to King's Gap Environmental Center on the 13th. More details in next month's newsletter.

If you have questions about field trips, call Bob Keppler at 695-0742.

Local Hawkwatching Site

A new hawkwatching site has been designated by the National Audubon Society. The site is located on State Game Lands 097 on top of Tussey Mountain about a mile from Everett. According to District Game Protector David Koppenhaver of Everett, 965 migrating raptors were sighted there last fall.

Last Call
by Wendy Reimold

Don't miss your chance to apply for the scholarship JVAS is offering for the Audubon Summer Ecology Camp. It's a great opportunity to have an educational vacation at the camp of your choice and to bring back new ideas and skills to share with others!

Get your application at the February meeting or by sending a stamped envelope (with two stamps affixed) to Wendy Reimold, R.D. 4, Box 209, Duncansville, PA 16635.

All applications must be submitted by March 10, 1985, to be considered by the committee.

My Baby Snails
by Jessica Ford Cameron

Last fall we gathered up ferns and moss and interesting leaves and made a terrarium. Last week I was looking at the terrarium, and all of a sudden I saw a worm and then a little baby snail. I think there must have been eggs in the dirt. We counted five baby snails in all.

One day the millepede went up to one of the baby snails, and he looked like he was going to eat it. I said, "Oh, no." But he came tumbling down off the glass. Do you think baby snails taste bad to millepedes?

Share With Us

I've enjoyed the contributions members have sent in over the past few months, and I hope you have too. Please share your thoughts and experiences with us.

I'd like to have a regular children's corner in the Gnatcatcher. Any child who sends an article will receive a special surprise. Mail your stories to Paula Ford, 518 W. Second St., Williamsburg, PA 16693. Thanks.

Bushy Tail's Visit
by Rachel Chipperfield

Bushy Tail, the gray squirrel, paid us a visit this morning. The first in several months my husband said. When I first saw him from the lower kitchen window, he looked like two rock doves huddled close to each other. A closer look through the binoculars, however, revealed a furry friend instead of two feathered friends.

It was bushy tail, all right. There he was, with his tummy close to the ground, feasting on sunflower seeds along the brick wall. He was big and fat, with a wide, bushy tail. A rear view of him sitting on top of the wall, or on the ground, showed the tail covering his entire back, except for the head and tiny ears. At times he would sit up, look around, spring to the top of the wall, jump back down to the ground, and resume eating sunflower seeds left uneaten by the birds.

I watched him through the binoculars for twenty minutes. Then he left-- whereabouts unknown.

DO SOMETHING

WILD



Annual Dinner

The annual dinner will be held on April 30 at 6:30 at the 28th Street Church on the Brethren. Walt Pomeroy, our regional Vice President will speak on Alaska: America's Last Frontier.

The dinner will be family style and the menu includes your choice of stuffed chicken breasts or pork chops. The cost is only \$5.50.

Make your reservations early by sending your choice of meat and a check to

Colette Heller
425 Bellview Ave.
Bellwood, PA 16617

...aving the Chesapeake Bay:
The Pennsylvania Connection
...y Lt. Gov. William Scranton, III

...te: Lt. Gov. Scranton delivered
this speech at last month's
Chesapeake Bay Conference in
Millersville.]

Good afternoon everyone. I am
delighted to be here today, and am
especially delighted to see the make-
up of this audience and the
sponsorship of this conference. It
represents just the kind of
cooperative effort needed for the
task at hand.

The Chesapeake Bay is a national
treasure. Its condition is a test of
our commitment to our environment and
to our future. I am here today to
underscore that commitment; to pledge
to you that as far as I am concerned
it will be unwavering so long as I am
in a position to influence it.

But more than that, I am here to say
that in meeting that commitment we
must look to protect another valuable
resource and treasure--our farmland
and our farmers. That effort will be
unwavering as well.

More than a year ago at a conference
of three states and the District of
Columbia I gave our pledge that
Pennsylvania would help save the
bay. That pledge was based on our
clear duty to preserve a unique
ecological resource and upon an
unprecedented coalition of support in
Pennsylvania, including farmers,
environmentalists, and government.

We have much to do to meet our
responsibilities. There is no doubt
about that. But we have made a
beginning. So far we have earmarked
\$2 million toward the effort. We are
the first state to successfully
attract federal funds in the fight.
And it is a fight we've only begun.

Over the next six months we will commit
more than \$1 million for a variety of
specific programs, and we are in the
process of seeking additional state
and federal dollars to expand what we
have started.

For example, we are very close to
finalizing a \$321,000 research
contract with Penn State and an
educational program through the
cooperative extension service for
better nutrient management to help
our farmers keep nutrients for
themselves and reduce water run-off
problems.

We are also finalizing the \$350,000
start-up of a cost-sharing program
through which we can help farmers in
Adams, Chester, Dauphin, Lancaster,
Lebanon, and York Counties pay for
equipment of improvements necessary to
better control water pollution.

Whether this means a new plow for
conservation tillage or the
installment of a sediment-control
pond, our program will be able to
pick up 80% of the cost to farmers,
and that's the kind of help and
encouragement our farmers need and
should have. They are being asked to
shoulder a burden. We will help them
in this, particularly at a time when
farm costs are high.

In addition, we have hired four full-
time nutrient management specialists
in the Bureau of Soil and Water
Conservation, and their sole
responsibility will be to work on Bay-
related problems.

There are other efforts as well, such
as the watershed monitoring and
assessment efforts throughout the
region; tillage projects; education
and promotion programs; pesticide
management programs; and more.

Together these represent a start, a
good start. The Bay cannot be saved
without sound planning and solid
action. We in Pennsylvania need
both, because we in Pennsylvania have
a duty to the Chesapeake, both in
principle and in fact. Fifty percent
of the fresh water in the Chesapeake
comes from Pennsylvania. Thousands
of Pennsylvanians use and enjoy the
Bay for recreation. Millions of
Pennsylvanians enjoy the produce of
the Bay--a bounty that is now
threatened.

part of an ecosystem which
state boundaries. The fish
wildlife of which we are so proud
from and are supported by the
So we have every reason to plan
act and proceed with specific
strategies to save the Bay. It
cannot be saved without such action.
But perhaps more important, it cannot
be saved without the kind of
cooperation represented here today.

It will take sacrifice and hard
work. It will take dedication. But
I believe it must be done. And if we
have problems or stumbling blocks
with portions of our effort, we must
not be deterred.

We face an enormous challenge. In
fact, we face many new challenges
that require new thinking, new
approaches, and new attitudes. This
is one. Those who have been
traditional rivals must become
allies. Those who have worked for
separate gains must now work for
common goals.

I have pledged that our approach
would be a cooperative approach. I
believe that approach is working and
we will continue with it. If we can
agree on our responsibilities--and
your presence here indicated that we
can--then we can cooperate in meeting
those responsibilities.

I am encouraged by the beginning that
we have made together; and I am
hopeful about the results that
together we can accomplish. Thank
you very much.



Be careful with fire.

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. Box 2378
Altoona, PA 16603

