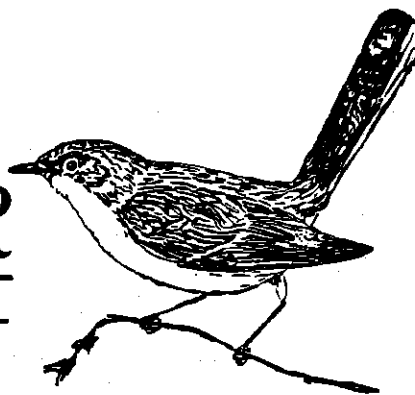


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

April 1985



Happy Birthday,  
John James Audubon

Audubon members across the nation are celebrating the bicentennial of John James Audubon's birth in many ways. A banquet will be held at the General Washington Country Club near Mill Grove on April 26. Walt Pomeroy, our regional Vice President will be the Master of Ceremonies, and Roger Tory Peterson will deliver the keynote address.

JVAS will celebrate Audubon's birthday with special activities at our annual banquet on April 30. We plan to have a display of Auduboniana, so if you have any items relating to the life or work of Audubon, please share them. For more information contact Colette Heller (742-7481).

In addition, Walt Pomeroy will bring some of the commemorative items that will be sold by National all year. You can buy Happy Birthday buttons (\$1) or Michael Harwood's booklet, "Audubon Demythologized," (\$3) at the banquet. If you prefer to order these and other items later, brochures with order blanks will be available both at the banquet and at the May meeting.

Walt Pomeroy to Speak  
on Alaska at Banquet

6:30 pm, April 30, 1985  
28th St. Church of the Brethren

Walt Pomeroy is a native of Michigan and came to National Audubon Society's Mid-Atlantic region in June, 1981. He works with concerned citizens, government agencies, elected officials, and Audubon members in 46 chapters throughout Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia. Because the National Audubon Society is involved with a wide range of environmental issues, his job is never dull. He might be trying to save bald eagles one day and assisting a local chapter in a search for board members the next.

Before joining the National Audubon staff, Walt worked for a number of regional environmental organizations in the Great Lakes region and was the Public Information Director for the state/federal Great Lakes Commission just prior to moving to Pennsylvania. He has served on numerous advisory committees dealing with water resources, wilderness issues, forestry matters, and wildlife. He has been an Audubon member since college and has followed birds and other wildlife with his camera since he was seven.

Walt has travelled extensively through much of the US and Europe. His talk and slide show will focus on his two trips to Alaska--from the Arctic tundra and ocean margins to the Chilkat Valley where bald eagles gather each winter.

## Picnic Planned

Picnic for all members and friends of JVAS is being planned for Sunday, June 23 at the home of Dick and Nona Weicht in Geeseytown.

Games are planned for 2 pm and a hike for 3 pm. Between 3:30 and 4 you may begin barbequeing, if you like. At 5 pm we will have a covered dish dinner and wiener and marshmallow roast.

Directions and more details will be in the May Gnatcatcher. For more information contact Al Burd at 943-0586.

## Woodland Owner's Handbook Available from PFA

For many years, woodland owners in Pennsylvania have needed a complete reference book on the subject of woodland management. At last, such a book is available.

Pennsylvania Forest Association Woodland Owner's Handbook is an outstanding information source which covers all of the important aspects of forest management from the landowner's point of view. It features individual sections about forest ecology, forest management planning, wildlife management, timber sales, and tax aspects of owning land and selling timber. It also includes information about tree identification and tree planting--plus a great deal more.

Contained in an attractive three-ring binder are nearly 40 publications of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Bureau of Forestry, and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

Copies are available for \$13.25 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling from PFA, 410 E. Main St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

## PAC Meeting Highlights

On Saturday, March 30, 1985, Wendy Reimold and Paula Ford attended the Pennsylvania Audubon Council meeting held at Hawk Mountain. The agenda was full of interesting and important items.

Project Osprey--Walt reported that Larry Rymon is hoping for a nesting pair of osprey this year. Stay tuned.

PA Hunting License Fees--These fees have not increased in 12 years. If cutbacks are necessary, education and nongame programs will be the first to go. The first committee hearing on this matter will be in May or June, so now is the time to let your state legislators know how you feel.

New Water Quality Regulations--DER has implemented new regulations that change the point of monitoring water quality. Water will have to meet standards at the point of intake for municipal water systems instead of at the point of discharge. This means that the rivers and streams of Pennsylvania will be used to dilute pollution. The Mid-Atlantic regional office is joining Sierra Club and several other organizations to appeal this DER action which is a real step backward.

Stan Senner--The Executive Director of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary reports that there's recently been an increase in the number of hawk shootings. If you know of such an incident, report it to your local Game Protector and to the Federal Fish and Wildlife agent in Harrisburg.

Hawks and Owls in Danger--Some hunters are calling for a season on red-tailed hawks and great horned owls. These so-called sportsmen blame birds of prey for declines in gamebird populations. We'll keep you posted.

## Worth Repeating

Many people asked Wendy for a copy of this quote from last month's program that we decided to include it in. Chief Sealath of the Duwanish tribe in the state of Washington wrote these words to President Franklin Pierce in 1855:

The Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. How can you buy or sell the sky--the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us yet; we do not own the freshness of the air or the sparkle of the water. How can you buy them from us? Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shiny pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people.

We know the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother

but his enemy, and when he has conquered it he moves on. He leaves his fathers' graves, and his children's birthright is forgotten.

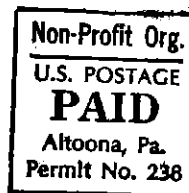
There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring nor the rustle of insect wings. But perhaps, because I am a savage and do not understand, the clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lovely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frog around the pond at night.

The whites too shall pass--perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed and you will, one night, suffocate in your own waste. When the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires, where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift and the hunted? The end of living and the beginning of survival.

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 2378

Altoona, PA 16603



In addition, Walt Pomeroy will bring some of the commemorative items that will be sold by National all year. You can buy Happy Birthday buttons (\$1) or Michael Harwood's booklet, "Audubon Demythologized," (\$3) at the banquet. If you prefer to order these and other items later, brochures with order blanks will be available both at the banquet and at the May meeting.