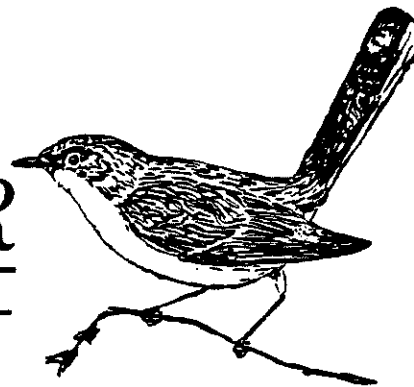


THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

May 1985



Reptiles and Amphibians of Pa. with Wayne Harpster

Tuesday, May 28, 1985 at 7:30 p.m.
28th Street Church of the Brethren

Wayne Harpster, a popular photographer and naturalist, will present a program on the reptiles and amphibians of Pennsylvania. His programs in the past have been very informative. You won't want to miss this one.

Banquet

Our annual banquet was a great success. Walt Pomeroy, our regional vice president, presented a beautiful slide show and fascinating talk about Alaska.

Colette Heller did a terrific job organizing this year's banquet. Our thanks to her and to all the members of her committee.

Audubon Memorabilia

Audubon commemorative items that will be sold by National all year. You can order Happy Birthday buttons (\$1), Michael Harwood's booklet, "Audubon Demythologized" (\$3), and other items from the Mid-Atlantic regional office. Brochures with order blanks will be available at the May meeting.

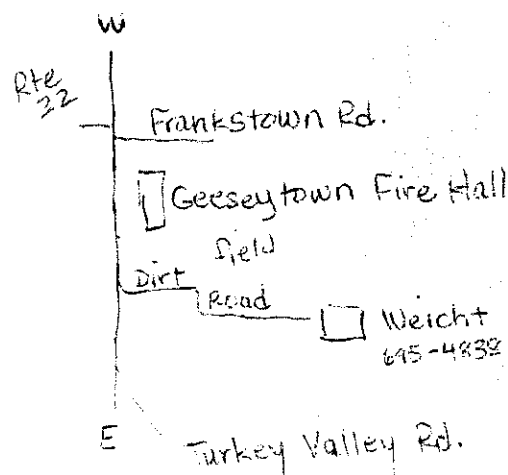
Annual Picnic

A picnic and covered dish dinner for all members and friends of JVAS will be held on Sunday, June 23, at the home of Dick and Nona Weicht in Geeseytown. The picnic will begin at 2 p.m.

Grills, dinnerware, coffee, hot chocolate, and cold beverages, and marshmallows will be provided. Bring hot dogs or hamburgers (and rolls) to grill for your family and a casserole or desert to share.

Activities will include nature games, table games, volleyball, horse shoes, and a hike to a swamp on top of the ridge for a view of Scotch Valley. Bring your guitar, banjo, or violin for a sing along. Storytellers are welcome; we'll have a camp fire. Birdwatchers, bring your gear. Some of the activities will have prizes.

For more information call Al Burd at 943-0586. Here's a map:





Attention Birders!
by Bill Rosevear

Volunteers are needed to help survey Region 35 (easter Somerset County and Bedford County) for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project. The project will map in detail the distribution of all birds known to breed in Pennsylvania from 1983-1988. The project began in 1983 and will run for six or seven years to complete the field work.

Mrs. Ruth Sager, Coordinator of Region 35, will be very happy to have you participate. Expert birding experience is not necessary. You will work individually or in small groups at your own pace. Every little bit of help will be valuable. Very good written instructions will guide you in the survey.

If interested, please contact Mrs. Ruth Sager, R.D.1, Box 176-B, Hooversville, PA 15936. Or call (814) 798-3242.

If you'd like to participate in Region 35, Blair and Huntingdon Counties, contact Mr. David Middleton at Shaver's Creek Nature Center, 267 Recreation Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. Or call Dave at (814) 238-5872 (Nature Center) or (814) 865-1851 (Penn State office).

Speakers' Bureau

JVAS now has an operating speakers' bureau. Club members will present talks on environmental topics from anthropology to wildlife photography to schools and other interested local groups. The slide shows on bluebirds and soil conservation are also available. If you are interested in a program for your organization, contact Arlene Lennox at 946-1584.

Attention Birders
by Paula Ford

Last month I received a letter from a woman in California who was planning a trip to Bedford County in May. She asked me for a bird list for our area. I was stuck. I sent her a list for Lancaster County and tried to point out the birds on that list that she probably wouldn't see, and I recommended Merril Wood's book. But I felt slightly embarassed to say we didn't have a local bird list.

Let's try to put one together. Please keep a list of all the birds you see in Blair County for the next year. I'll volunteer my IBM as the database, and when our list is complete, I'll handle the details of printing the list for anyone who wants a copy.

Please keep a separate list of birds you see at Canoe Creek State Park. When we complete that list, we can distribute it at the Park office.

Why not get into the habit of sending me a list every time you go birding? I'll make an effort to confirm unusual sightings, and if I can't get to the site to confirm them, I'll find someone who can.

This project won't be difficult, and it will be fun. Please include in your lists the species and the location, and the habitat of the sighting. Please try to pinpoint the location, especially for unusual birds; I can't confirm what I can't find.

Send your lists to Paula Ford, 518 West Second Street, Williamsburg, PA 16693. If you need more information, call me at 832-2462. Thanks.

New President Named

At a recent meeting held in Seattle, the board of directors of National Audubon Society named Peter A. A. Berle as president of the Society.

Berle will become Audubon's new chief executive officer on August 1, replacing Russell W. Peterson, who is retiring after six years as president.

Berle will oversee an organization of 500,000 members in 500 chapters, an annual budget of \$25 million, 10 regional offices, the Washington, D.C. office, and 80 nature sanctuaries.

"After almost a year's search, the board believes it has found the perfect person to carry on the dynamic and visionary leadership that has characterized Russ Peterson's presidency," said Donal C. O'Brien, Jr., chairman of the Society's board of directors. "Peter Berle has excelled as a legislator, environmental lawyer, administrator, and teacher. He has proved himself a courageous and resourceful conservation leader."

A partner in the Manhattan law firm of Berle, Kass & Case, Berle served three terms as a state assemblyman from 1968 to 1974. He is remembered by conservationists for leading the floor fight to enact the nation's most comprehensive land-use controls for the six million-acre Adirondack Park, the largest park outside Alaska and the most significant wilderness in the eastern United States.

Berle was selected by Rutgers University in 1971 as the outstanding member of the New York State Assembly. His book, Does the Citizen Stand a Chance--Politics of the State Legislature, was published in 1974.

Berle served as chairman of Governor Hugh Carey's Task Force on the Environment (1974-75) and as a commissioner of the Adirondack Park Agency (1976-79), which administers the park's zoning and other land-use regulations.

From 1976 to 1979 he served as commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. During this time Berle and his staff discovered and confronted the environmental disaster at Love Canal, purchased the 15 remaining privately owned "high peaks" (Adirondack Mountains over 4000 feet), and launched one of the first state efforts to deal with toxic wastes.

Berle and his law firm were involved in one of the first significant environmental lawsuits in the United States--the ultimately successful Scenic Hudson, Inc., suit to stop the Consolidated Edison Company from building a pumped-storage plant on top of Storm King Mountain. He has just completed a major class action suit on behalf of homeowners against the Union Carbide Company for pesticide pollution of the groundwater on long Island.

He has been a visiting professor at the College of Environmental Science of the State University of New York and an adjunct professor at the Hunter College Department of Urban Affairs.

A graduate of Harvard University and the Harvard Law School, Berle is an avid outdoorsman. He was a competitive cross-country skier and ski jumper in college and continues to compete in races. He has canoed, bicycled, and hiked extensively--including a 12-day paddle of the Erie Canal with his son Dolf to publicize the need for converting it into a public park.

Berle lives in Manhattan and the Berkshires with his wife, Lila, and their four children.

Attention Birders, Again!

May 25 has been designated our Big Day for birding this year. Contact Angeline Stout for details at 946-5214. Please call her in the evenings or on weekends. Bring your Big Day lists to the May meeting and we'll compile them. Good luck!

Freebie Offered to Teachers

The Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) has offered to match a scholarship for any Audubon Society that sponsors a teacher to any PEEC Teacher Workshop. Send one teacher; get one free.

If you are interested in this program or would like a list of the teacher workshops being offered, contact Wendy Reimold, Education Committee Chair at 695-0679, evenings.

Education Project

JVAS sponsored three children to attend the Environmental Biology and Geology classes to be offered by the Penn State Altoona Campus. (JVAS cosponsored the classes.) These hands-on field trips for children aged 9 to 12 were held on May 4 and 11. Two of the three professors who led the classes are our own Dr. John Lennox and Dr. James Winsor.

The students who attended were Eric Leibegott (both sessions), Bruce Grianda (biology), and Stephanie Stubler (geology). Congratulations to our young scholarship winners.

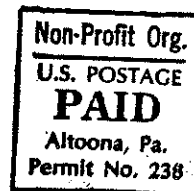
See You in September

This will be the last Gnatcatcher until September. Have a great summer--naturally!

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 2378

Altoona, PA 16603



**DATED
MATERIAL**