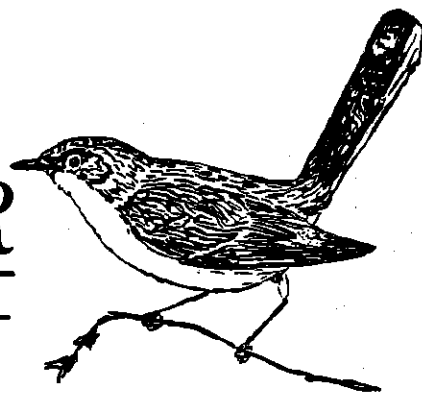


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

Nov. 1986



## Rehabilitation of Raptors and Other Wildlife

On Tuesday, November 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren, Dr. Tom Dick, a veterinarian from Johnstown, will present a slide show and discussion of wildlife rehabilitation.

Tom is the president of the Allegheny Plateau Chapter of National Audubon Society and a dedicated naturalist. His talk is certain to be a good one.

## Coming Events

The next Gnatcatcher will be published in January. In the meantime, don't forget these coming events:

Dec. 20 Christmas Bird Count (see article below).

Jan. 8 Board meeting at Altoona Public Library at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 17 Field trip to Canoe Creek State Park. Meet at picnic pavilion at 10:00 a.m. Jim Winsor, Rob Loeb, and Tom McMann will lead this field trip and will focus on winter trees and winter tracks. Bring a bag lunch.

## Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 20, has been designated JVAS Christmas Bird Count Day. Angeline Stout (946-5214) is coordinating our count this year.

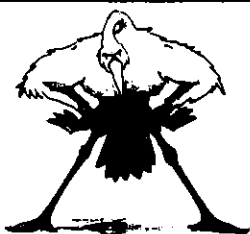
If you'd like to participate in the CBC, please come to the November meeting at 7:00 p.m. to meet with Angeline and sign up for a section of the count area. If you can't make the meeting, you can sign up by calling Angeline.

## Covered Dish

We'll meet at the Skelp Grange Hall at 6:00 p.m. for supper after the Christmas Bird Count. Mary Burgoon is once again coordinating the covered dish dinner.

Please call Mary (695-5857) to let her know you'll be bringing a dish. This is a new procedure this year to try to avoid the possibility of 20 cakes and no beans to go with the meatloaf.

All are welcome at the dinner; you don't have to count to come and enjoy the festivities of tabulating the results.



## Tough Bird

Audubon members are tough birds when it comes to protecting wildlife and the environment. Build your political muscle by reading the Audubon Activist, a bimonthly newspaper published by National Audubon Society. The "Activist" is filled with news of environmental issues, background information, and tips from conservationists around the country who share your concerns and enthusiasm.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Marcia Bonta

BANQUET--I am pleased to announce that Dr. Pete Myers, newly hired Senior Vice President for Science for the National Audubon Society, will be our banquet speaker on April 28, 1987. Dr. Myers's specialty is shorebird migration and habitat and his work has been featured in Pacific Discovery and Bird Watcher's Digest. His banquet topic will be "Great Exertions and Immense Gluttony: Shorebirds Across the Americas."

PA. OSPREY PROJECT--Success at last! Last summer the Osprey Reintroduction Project had 20 marked adult ospreys return to the vicinity of their four hacking locations. Four were 1982 releases and 16 were 1983 releases giving them an unexpected return rate of nearly 45%, more than twice the expected number of returns. Six active nests were located and two pairs produced a total of four young all of which fledged successfully. In addition, of the six nestlings translocated from the Chesapeake Bay area, five successfully fledged. To increase public awareness of the success of their osprey reintroduction work a half hour color film is being produced by cinematographer Michael A. Fitch which should be available for chapters early next year.

WAPITI AUDUBON--On Tuesday, November 11, Bruce and I presented "The Natural Areas of Peru" talk and slide show to Wapiti Audubon, a fledgling group in DuBois. We also told them about our newly formed International Issues Interest Group and the projects we have initiated. They in turn presented us with three boxes of magazines they had collected for Belize as well as a generous check to help us with our international work. It was definitely educational for me to see another Audubon group in action.

PAC MEETING--Paula Ford and I were up at 5:15 a.m. on Saturday, October 25, so we could make it in time for the Eastern PAC meeting at Middle Creek. JVAS also had three representatives--Wendy Reimold and Dan and Jean Sinal-- at the Western PAC meeting the previous week at Slippery Rock. All of us brought back ideas and information we can share on wetlands, the new attempt by Pennsylvania to do something about acid rain, and ways to promote and finance more Audubon Adventures classrooms. At the Eastern meeting we also heard an excellent presentation on Pennsylvania's State Environmental Education Activities in the classroom by the committed and very enthusiastic Director of the Pennsylvania Office of Environmental Education, Dr. Dean Steinhart. Best of all, it looks as if we will be able to form a Pennsylvania Audubon Council for Environmental Action.

NOVEMBER--With all the leaves down, once again it is easy to spot birds and animals in the woods. The unseasonable cold weather brought to our feeder area goldfinches, fox sparrows, and white-throated sparrows as well as northern cardinals, northern juncos, black-capped chickadees, and tufted titmice. On November 12 thousands of tundra swans went over the farm in wavering V's, shining silvery-white in the sunlight. Robins are still abundant, evening grosbeak flocks are in the woods, and bluebirds still call from the telephone wires. There is still much to be seen in the woods and fields especially after a light snowfall when animal tracks give you an idea of the kinds of hidden creatures that live around you.

### Conservation News

The conservation committee is busier than ever. We are working on issues such as acid rain and billboards on the national, state, and local levels. We're also getting involved in the solid waste issue at the state and local levels.

As a member of the conservation committee, you can get involved with one issue or with several. You can focus on local, state, or national aspects of "your" issue. Best of all, you can have the satisfaction of knowing that you've helped to make a difference.

If you'd like to help, you're more than welcome at conservation committee meetings, usually held on the first Thursday of the month at Paula Ford's house. Call Paula (695-4799) for more information.

### Acid Rain

Acid rain is a serious problem in Pennsylvania and across the U.S. and Canada. On Nov. 15 Wes Burket and Paula Ford attended a conference on acid rain in State College.

Speakers included Dr. Maurice Goddard, Ralph Abele of the Pa. Fish Commission, and Adele Hurley from the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain.

Preliminary plans were made for forming a Pennsylvanian coalition to fight for good acid rain legislation both in Pennsylvania and nationally.

JVAS is reaching out to our community in many ways. We're sponsoring 22 classrooms for Audubon Adventures. We're expanding our Speakers' Bureau.

Our budget seems to be the major limiting factor in how much we can do. We're lucky to have plenty of capable members who are willing to work hard for JVAS, but in some cases equipment is a problem.

For example, we have a splendid Speakers' Bureau, but we don't have a slide projector. When one of our members schedules a talk at a school or organization, he has to rustle up a projector.

Can you help? Maybe you could make a special donation for all or part of the cost of a projector. If you made the donation before the end of the year, it would be deductible under present tax laws. If you can help, contact Marcia Bonta (684-3113).

### Cape May Needs Help

Because of Gramm-Rudman budget cuts, the Fish and Wildlife Service will no longer give research grants for studying hawk migration at Cape May.

The Cape May Bird Observatory does not want to discontinue the research because the data are much too important in efforts to protect birds of prey.

Thus, the Observatory has come up with an adopt-a-bird fund raiser. You can adopt a songbird, a hawk, or another bird. The money will be used to support the research, and you'll get information about your adoptee if it's ever reported to the bird-banding lab.

Please contact Colette Heller (742-7481) for more information.



Keep my  
pH  
balanced!

New Policy

Because our Speakers' Bureau is becoming so successful, we need a more efficient way to keep track of our various slideshows, tapes, and videos.

Therefore, at its November meeting, the Board adopted a new lending policy. To borrow chapter-owned materials, please sign them out with John Lennox.

This new policy is designed to make the Speakers' Bureau a little easier to coordinate. It is not designed to keep members from borrowing materials. Please continue to use our many fine slides, videos, and books.

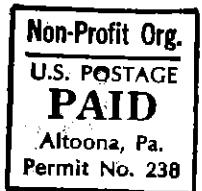
Angeline Stout has put together a program on bird feeding. The program includes slides, a discussion of food preferences, and examples of feeders and types of foods.

If you know a group that would enjoy this program, please contact our Speakers' Bureau coordinator, John Lennox (946-1584) to schedule it.

Good Luck, Wes!

Wes Burket, an active member of JVAS, especially of our Conservation Committee, has joined the Navy. He reported to the Navy Base at San Diego on Nov. 17 for boot camp. We wish him the best of luck in his new career. We'll miss you, Wes. Keep in touch!

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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