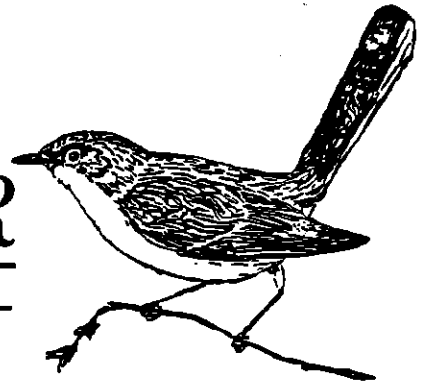


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society January 1986



## January's Program

Do you have spring fever? Are you ready for a dose of colors besides gray and white? If so, don't miss our meeting on January 28 at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren at 7:30 p.m. Craig Cameron and Paula Ford will show their slides of some of Central Pennsylvania's prettiest wildflowers--just the thing for a cold winter's night. Hope to see you there.



## Field Trip News

The January 11 bird identification workshop was a great success. Thirty-one people attended and learned to identify birds likely to be seen in our area. Dave Kyler did a great job presenting slides and his own tips for birders. After the indoors session, we went outside to look for birds and saw some interesting ones-- a red-tailed hawk, several robins, and, of course, the Altoona Campus mallards. John Lennox discovered a new species of critter that lives in burrows and apparently eats shoes!

## Coming Field Trips

On Saturday, February 1, we'll travel to Shaver's Creek Environmental Center for a seasonal discovery walk focusing on animals in winter. Every field trip we've ever had to Shaver's Creek has been rewarding and this one will be no exception.

Meet at the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at noon. Call Bob Keppler, Field Trip Chairman (695-0742), or Paula Ford (695-4799) for more information.

Plan ahead and mark your calendar for March's field trip to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Center. We'll meet at the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 6:00 a.m. or at the Huntingdon McDonalds at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 22. Contact Bob Keppler or Dave Kyler (643-6030).

DO SOMETHING

WILD



## Do Something Wild

When you file your Pennsylvania state income tax, don't forget to do something wild and assign all or part of your refund to the Pennsylvania Wild Resource Conservation Fund. The fund supports projects that help nongame species.

From the President's Desk  
by Marcia Bonta

ADOPT-A-PUFFIN PROJECT--Most of us know how Steve Kress re-introduced breeding puffins to Easter Egg Rock Island off the Maine coast. Last summer there were 20 breeding pairs on the island; 33 birds had legbands, indicating they were Newfoundland transplants hand-raised by Kress and his helpers over the last 12 years. The others were presumably native birds from either Matinicus Rock or Machias Seal Island, the other two Gulf of Maine puffin colonies. These breeding pairs produced 16 fledged puffins.

Now Kress has begun a similar project on Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge in Penobscot Bay. Last summer he transplanted 100 Newfoundland-born puffin nestlings there, in addition to 100 more on Easter Egg Rock, with the help of individuals and Audubon Societies who contributed to National Audubon's Fratercula Fund, set up to finance the Puffin Project.

Anyone who donates \$100 will have his own transplanted puffin chick and will receive reports on its fledging success and details of future sightings.

Contributors of \$15 will receive subscriptions to Egg Rock Update, the project's newsletter which gives information on each year's work on both the puffin project and a related project, the reintroduction of tern colonies.

Make checks payable to The National Audubon Society and send to the Fratercula Fund, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

At its Jan. 9 meeting, the JVAS Board voted to have a puffin can at future meetings. As soon as we raise \$100, we'll adopt our own puffin. Bring your contributions to the January meeting, and start thinking of a name!

THANK YOU--to Angeline Stout, compiler of our best ever 1985 Christmas Bird Count. She did an excellent job of advertising and organizing this event. Also thanks to Mary Burgoon who orchestrated the covered dish supper at the Sinking Valley Grange. I very much appreciated the willingness, time, and effort both women gave to make the day a success for all of us.

TYTOONA CAVE--The January issue of Conserve, the newsletter of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, gives front-page coverage to their recent purchase of Tytoona Cave. Described as a cave of "international significance," the Tytoona Cave Natural Area will be used exclusively for educational and research purposes. Since we have agreed to police and protect the area from vandalism and littering, chairperson John Orr (946-5329) would like as many volunteers as possible for the Cave Committee.

If you are not a member of this excellent land conservation organization, consider joining. Your dues will enable them to buy other naturally significant properties in western Pennsylvania. Send \$15 for a basic membership or \$25 for a family one to

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
316 Fourth Av.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

CHAPTER POLICY--In late November I attended a Chapter Policy Workshop in Pittsburgh where 10 officers of nearby Audubon chapters discussed our relationship with National Audubon. Much of our financial support comes from a dues split we receive for local members from National, but in return we are expected to hold board and membership meetings, organize field trips, publish a newsletter, canvas for new members, and conduct worthwhile conservation and education projects. Every year I send a detailed report to our regional vice president, and he, in turn, renews our certification with National Audubon.

w, for the first time since 1940, when local chapters were first started, the National Audubon Society has decided to update its policies towards its chapters, and we have been asked for our opinions and suggestions.

Our board spent two separate meetings discussing the questions posed by National, and I gave our suggestions at the regional meeting in Pittsburgh. A few of the good ideas that came out of the meeting were

1. National should make a speakers' bureau list available for chapter programs.
2. We should have our own state Audubon office with a full-time representative.
3. Some chapter members should serve in an advisory role to appropriate National Audubon Board committees.
4. Chapters should be solicited for NAS board members.
5. We should encourage NAS board members to attend chapter functions in their areas.

We hope at least some of our suggestions will be used when National draws up its new Chapter Policy Statement in late spring.

From the Conservation Chair  
by Paula Ford

LET'S RECYCLE--We've all been thinking a lot about bottle bills and solid waste lately. Let's do something concrete. Let's at least recycle our magazines.

Instead of sending magazines you don't want to keep to the landfill, bring them to our January meeting. We'll set up a table in the back of the room, and it'll be first-come, first-serve. You can help yourself to any magazines that look interesting to you. Then next month recycle them again. Let's see how it works.



## Christmas Bird Count by Angeline Stout

The following is a tally of the 1985 Christmas Bird Count held on Saturday, December 21:

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>
American black duck	4
Mallard	107
* Wood duck <sup>1</sup>	3
Green-winged teal	2
Killdeer	7
Common snipe	1
Wild turkey	33
Ruffed grouse	6
Ring-necked pheasant	12
Sharp-shinned hawk	6
Cooper's hawk	4
Northern goshawk	1
Northern harrier	1
Red-tailed hawk	21
Rough-legged hawk	3
American kestrel	11
Common screech owl	1
Great horned owl	5
Barred owl	2
Mourning dove	104
Rock dove	338
Belted kingfisher	5
Red-headed woodpecker	2
Pileated woodpecker	11
Common flicker	2
Red-bellied woodpecker	25
Yellow-bellied woodpecker	1
Downy woodpecker	83
Hairy woodpecker	18
Horned lark	200
American crow	334
Blue jay	138
Black-capped chickadee	258
Tufted titmouse	185
White-breasted nuthatch	107
Red-breasted nuthatch	3
Brown creeper	10
Winter wren	2
Carolina wren	15
Golden-crowned kinglet	28
Northern mockingbird	10
Eastern bluebird	4
American robin	31
* Hermit thrush <sup>2</sup>	1
Cedar waxwing	204
Common grackle	1
European starling	525
House sparrow	342
Northern junco	715

(cont. next page)

Cardinal	125
House finch	348
Purple finch	7
Evening grosbeak	627
American goldfinch	180
Pine siskin	4
Rufous-sided towhee	2
White-throated sparrow	213
White-crowned sparrow	1
Field sparrow	9
Tree sparrow	102
Song sparrow	56
Fox sparrow	1
* Golden eagle <sup>3</sup>	1
Northern pintail	1
* Tundra swan <sup>4</sup>	2

1--Wendy Reimold, Teddie & Wilson  
 Kreitz, Paula Ford  
 2--Marcia Bonta  
 3--Steve & Mark Bonta  
 4--Angeline Stout

Not seen on count day, but within count  
 week: woodcock and water pipit

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

Paula Ford  
 763 Applevue Lane  
 Duncansville, PA  
 16635

**DATED  
 MATERIAL**

Thirty-three people took part in this year's count, 20 in 12 parties afield and 13 at feeders. A total of 151 hours were chalked up with our combined effort. Total species for the day were 66; we broke our 1980 record of 61 by 5. Eleven birds were single sightings. Birds with an asterisk will appear in bold print in American Birds, because they are so rare in our area at this time of the year. A big thanks to Mrs. Burgoon and those who assisted her with the covered dish dinner at the grange; all of us who spent the day in the field really enjoyed the meal. Also thank you to all who participated and made this one of JVAS's best counts ever

