

# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

October 1987



## OCTOBER'S MEETING

October's meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the 27th at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren. Speaking to us will be Edward Grossman. A little background for the program:

The March, 1986, Audubon article, "The Decadent Forest," focussed on the problems of the Northwest's old-growth forests with their ancient Douglas firs, sword ferns, calypso orchids, and endangered northern spotted owls. The Reagan Administration has stepped up timber harvesting in these forests. In "The Fight for Old Growth," Brock Evans pointed out, "By 1985 only one tree in ten of the original forest still existed...New research indicates that 90 to 95 percent of all young spotted owls die after they leave their nests; there is no habitat to provide them with a food supply or to escape from predators."

In the summer of 1986, Ed Grossman, a wildlife science major and forest science minor at Penn State, worked for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in the Coos Bay area of Oregon. He conducted ground searches for the northern spotted owl, surveyed streams, built habitat enhancement structures, and mapped areas of concern. He'll bring his first-hand account and slides of this important area to our October meeting.

As a special added feature, Ed has agreed to bring some slides of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge in McGrath, Alaska, where he spent the summer of 1987 working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studying white-fronted and Canada geese.

Don't miss this excellent program.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Marcia Bonta

Tytoona Cave T-Shirt--Truth Close and Janet DeMuth have been working on a design for a Tytoona Cave t-shirt. The board believes that the sale of such shirts to both members and other Blair County residents would be an excellent way to raise money. If you have any ideas about the design of the shirt or would like to help in any way, please contact Truth or me about it.

Bird Feeder Study--Many of us feed birds in the winter and some of us spend a good deal of time watching them as well. Why not use your expertise to help a bird feeder survey planned by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and sponsored by Bird Watcher's Digest? Beginning in November 1987, Project FeederWatch will gather data weekly on winter bird populations, using volunteer observers from across North America. If you can identify the birds that visit your feeder and if you have the time to record those birds on one or two days each week throughout the winter, you can participate. In return for your efforts, you'll receive reports about the distribution and abundance of feeder birds in your region and throughout North America. There is an annual registration fee of \$7.00 which will help cover costs of printing, postage, and analysis of results. Send your name, address and check (payable to Bird Watcher's Digest) to Bird Watcher's Digest, P.O. Box 110, Dept. FW, Marietta, Ohio 45750. You will receive record forms and full instructions from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in October. And remember to order all your seeds from JVAS!

Letter Writers--Many battles for conservation are fought with the pen. Letter-writing can be very time-consuming but it is necessary. Often the sheer volume of letters either pro or con an issue will sway a congressperson's vote. Even if you do not have the time to serve on our Conservation Committee, you may be able to help with letter-writing. If so, please contact Paula Ford (695-4799).

NAS Board Nomination--The nomination election for a NAS Board member from the Mid-Atlantic region was held and Leigh Altadonna of Wyncote Audubon Society was nominated for a three year term. Leigh is a bright and personable man who is an administrator for the Abington School District. He has also worked hard to formalize the Pennsylvania Audubon Council and is committed to efforts that will foster the development of more formal state Audubon Councils as they enhance the viability of Audubon and can promote a more democratic and more effective organization. In addition, he believes that the regional office and chapter network are the foundation of a strong Audubon and that a sense of partnership between all elements of the network are required for a united Audubon that can effectively advance the Audubon Cause. Leigh's name has now been formally placed in nomination by all of our Mid-Atlantic chapters and his name will appear on the official NAS proxy ballot that will be mailed to all members during the week of October 19th. Please remember to sign your official NAS proxy and return it for counting at the Annual Meeting on December 4, 1987 in New York City. Only by a huge outpouring of concern by chapters members in the voting process will we be able to have a viable say in the running of the national organization.

#### CONSERVATION NEWS

Paula Ford

Billboards and sign control continue to be an important issue for our conservation committee. Although the Coalition for Scenic Beauty has postponed its billboard conference Steve Parks continues to be in contact with the Coalition and plans to attend the conference when it's rescheduled. In the meantime he will represent the American Society of Landscape Architects, and I will represent JVAS at Freedom Township's hearings on billboards on Rte. 220.

PennARC (Pennsylvanians for Acid Rain Control) continues to grow. I attended both the executive committee meeting and the general meeting held in Harrisburg on September 27. PennARC members continue to negotiate with Sen. Heinz to push for national legislation to solve the acid rain problem. Nancy Parks, a Sierra Club representative to PennARC, has also met with state DER officials to discuss the problem. Nancy and I will be working with Jack Schwartzman of Ecoaction, Mark Gruin of Appalachian Audubon, and Bob Griffith of the Pa. Recreation and Parks Society to develop a fact sheet, brochure, and position paper for PennARC. ALLARM (Alliance for Acid Rain Monitoring) needs volunteers to monitor acidity of streams in Pennsylvania on a weekly basis. If you're interested, see me at the October meeting for details.

Congratulations to the winner of last month's Thumbs Up Award, Representative Ed Johnson for his continued support of a Bottle Bill for Pennsylvania. If you know of someone (or some group) who deserves a Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down, contact any member of the conservation committee.

If you're interested in conservation, join the committee. You can work on one of our continuing projects or on a project of your own.

#### WORDS FROM THE WILDERNESS

Wendy Reimold

Greetings from "wild, wonderful West Virginia"! I'm doing fine and adapting to life in a small town in the mountains. I miss all of you wonderful friends at JVAS. My door is open for visitors anytime. Come share some of the beauty of "America's best-kept secret." My address is: Wendy Reimold, 235 Morgan St., Kingwood, WV 26537.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

October 27. (Tuesday) Monthly meeting, 28 Street Church of the Brethren. Business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Program: The Habitat of the Northern Spotted Owl. Edward Grossman, Research Assistant on the Spotted Owl Habitat Project, Oregon. (Summer 1986).

November 7. (Saturday) Eagle watching at Tussey Mountain Fire Tower. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Leave PVSC at 7:00 a.m. For information call Bob Keppler (695-0742) or Mike Jackson (652-9269).

November 14. (Saturday) Bird Seed Sale at Imler's Agway. See inserts, this issue.

## OUTBOUND JOURNEYS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Those who enjoy the outdoors will appreciate Marcia Bonta's new book "Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania--A Guide to Natural Places for Individual and Group Outings." The guidebook describes fifty-five natural places throughout Pennsylvania, including virgin forests, spectacular waterfalls, rare botanical localities and unusual geological formations. Most of the areas are accessible from the major population centers of the state.

The unusual features of each site are discussed, and local animal and plant life is described. Along with each site description are provided directions from the nearest city, descriptions of trails, addresses and telephone numbers, hours, availability of group tours and admission charges.

Marcia will have autographed copies of the paperback version at the October meeting.

216 pp. 60 ill. August 1987  
LC 86-43283  
cloth ISBN 0-271-00489-4 \$22.50  
paper ISBN 0-271-00606-4 \$12.75 T

FIELD NOTE  
Tom McMann

We are always hearing and reading about vehicle emissions, acid rain, etc... but how many of us really think hard about it? Well here is something to help you get a perspective.

Recently at work for one week I was given five intersections a day to sit at one-half hour in the morning and then return for one-half hour in the afternoon to count vehicles. I was very surprised to find that some intersections in Altoona and Blair County have over 1000 cars go past in one-half hour!

Maybe the next time you need bread or milk you should take a bike ride. Believe me, it's more fun.

### DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Please send your submissions for the November Gnatcatcher before November 11. Address: 3940 Maple Ave., Altoona, PA 16601. Telephone: 943-8213. All material is welcome and will be printed if space is available.

Jim Winsor

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