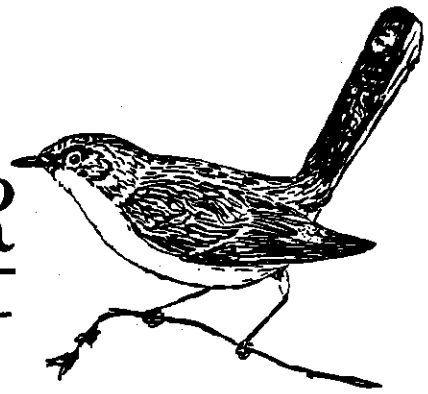


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

November 1988



## NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting will be at 7:30 pm at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren on Union Avenue in Altoona. The program will follow a business meeting.

No matter what your opinion may be concerning nuclear power, Dr. Peter Gould's November program, "Fire in the Rain, The Biological and Human Consequences of Chernobyl," should give you something to think about. Dr. Gould takes no pro or anti-nuclear stand. He merely explains what happened and what the consequences were and still are to humans and nature, not only in northern Europe but all over the world.

Because he has written a popular book about the subject, he was and continues to be in close contact with colleagues who are still making new discoveries about Chernobyl's legacy to humanity. Much of this information has not yet been covered by the media. So come and hear Dr. Gould and be on the cutting edge of information about Chernobyl. P.S. His slides of northern Europe, particularly Sweden, are beautiful and he promises me that because we are an Audubon group he will emphasize Chernobyl's effects on wildlife.

## BOARD MEETING REPORT

Jim Winsor

The November board meeting was made more interesting and productive by the presence of Walt Pomeroy, Regional Vice-president of National Audubon. Following dinner with some of the board members, Walt sat in on the entire meeting, sharing ideas with us and offering suggestions about some of our activities. Our interest was sparked by Walt's showing of a map of Pennsylvania containing the boundary lines of the Audubon chapters. While most of the state is allocated to particular chapters, there are still large areas that Walt hopes to organize. Walt complimented us for our many and wide-ranging chapter activities.

Committee reports were heard. Paula Ford commented on the activities of the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania. The annual meeting will be held April 21-22, 1989, in the JVAS area. Also scheduled (tentatively) for April 1989 is a grant proposal writing workshop to be organized by Barbara Warren. Also, ACP has identified priorities for action during the coming year: environmental education, acid rain, wetlands preservation and recycling.

Jean Senal reported on the work of the education committee, including the use of Audubon Adventures by the local schools and plans for sponsoring summer experiences for teachers.

We also heard reports and discussion concerning membership, conservation issues, the bird seed sale, Tytoona Cave, field trips, international issues, and hospitality.

Perhaps the biggest news of the evening was the vote by the board authorizing the formation of a new permanent committee for wetlands monitoring and conservation. Given the recognized ecological importance of wetlands, their priority in Audubon Council of Pennsylvania strategy, the dearth of regulatory staff at the state and federal level, local controversies about wetlands, and the expressed interest of one of our members to serve as chair, the formation of a permanent committee seems timely. Expect more discussion at our November meeting.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Angeline Stout

December 17th is the date set for our annual Christmas Bird Count. JVAS' area to count is a circle (15 mile radius) which centers on Culp in Sinking Valley. Past participants are needed and newcomers welcome. You may conduct your count at your feeders or go afield in your own back yard or neighborhood. The time you invest will be up to you, be it 1 hr or 24 hrs. Former participants will receive a map, instruction, and a check off list the 1st week of December. If you're interested in joining us this year, see me before or after our November meeting or you may phone me after 7:00 pm at 946-5214. An unofficial tally of the count will be conducted after our covered dish dinner at the Sinking Valley Grange. If you are unable to come to the Grange, results are needed by Dec. 28th. My address is Angeline Stout, 1005 Park Drive, Altoona, PA 16602.

## BREAKWATERS AT PRESQUE ISLE?

Paula Ford

The Army Corps of Engineers is planning to build 58 breakwaters along Presque Isle. The Corps believes that breakwaters will stabilize the beach and prevent erosion.

The Presque Isle Audubon Society (PIAS) is trying to convince the corps reconsider the proposal, which is based on a thirteen-year-old Environmental Impact Statement. PIAS knows the beaches well and points out that breakwaters

- impair natural currents which wash away contaminants and prevent stagnation.
- create eroded beaches downdrift -- scalloped beaches.
- disturb natural processes such as pond creation, dune formation, offshore bars, and sand deposition.
- create dangerous rip currents, scour, and offshore steepening.
- create hazardous and unsightly rock piles at low water and partially submerged rock piles at high water.
- destroy plant and animal habitats.

In addition, the breakwaters will cost millions to construct and maintain.

What you can do: Write to Sen. Heinz and Sen. Spector (please send a copy to Carolyn Baxter, PIAS, Box 1783, Erie, PA 16507). Ask them to demand a new EIS for Presque Isle.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Bruce Bonta

The International Issues Interest Group will be meeting Friday evening, Dec. 2, from 7:00 to 9:00 in the basement classroom of the Eiche Library at the Altoona Campus. Major items for our agenda will include an assessment of several media packages which the group is planning to purchase; we will also look at the draft of a brochure about the degradation of the environment in the tropics which a couple members are preparing. The audiovisuals and brochure will assist members of the group who are planning to go into the schools, clubs, and other community groups to talk about international environmental problems. The group will also talk briefly about new articles and publications and review progress relating to our programs in Peru, Costa Rica, and the Philippines. Visitors and prospective members are welcome to join us.

## PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE

Marcia Bonta

Are you interested in Pennsylvania's plants, wildlife and environmental problems? If so, you should be subscribing to PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE AND OUTDOOR DIGEST published by the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation, an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. Every issue contains at least one in depth article on a Pennsylvania environmental concern. Recent examples are "Wetlands Aren't Wastelands," "The Bay and You," and "Acid Rain: Now a Matter of Legislation." Other articles have discussed: fencerows as a haven for wildlife and native plant life, gardening for butterflies, the importance of weeds, and the Pennsylvanian's Backyard Habitat Program.

In addition, there are six regular columns. "Abele Up Front," by Ralph Abele covers such topics as trash along our roads and the National Rifle Association's new, radical leadership. "Enviro-Notes" and

"The Newsletter" reports wildlife and environmental conferences, studies and problems, again focusing on what is happening in our state. "Living Spaces/Hiding Places" by Bryon Shissler is concerned with wildlife habitat both in your own backyard and in the woods. Pennsylvania naturalist Carsten Ahrens contributes his "Close-Ups" which range from "Our Wild Orchids" to "Turkey Vultures: Nature's Cleanup Squad." Finally, you can learn of a different natural place to take your family in Marcia Bonta's "Outbound Journeys," which features new places not covered in her recent book of the same title such as The Hook Natural Area and Pine Swamp Natural Area.

Next January Pennsylvania Wildlife will contain an article called "The Man Who Loves Barn Owls," a profile of active member Melvin Lane, and the March issue will feature Fran Burgoon, Beryl Sternagle and the late Gene Root's work on the bluebird trail at Canoe Creek State Park as well as Tom McMann's own bluebird trail in "Saving the Bluebirds."

To subscribe, send \$15.00 for one year or \$26.00 for two years to Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation, 2426 North Second Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 12** Thursday - BOARD MEETING - Altoona Public Library, 7:00 P.M.

**Jan. 21** Saturday - WINTER PICNIC - Last year's outing proved to be a big success, so this year we will picnic at Canoe Creek State Park. Burgers and HOT chocolate starting at 1 P.M. Info: 793-4457

**Jan. 31** Tuesday - MEMBER'S NIGHT - Bring ten or so of your favorite slides or displays to share with us and we will provide the popcorn.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

There will be no Gnatcatcher in December.

Please submit items for the January Gnatcatcher by the 15th of the month to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Ivyside Park, Altoona, PA 16603 (949-5180).

## National Audubon Society

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### Chapter Membership Application

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**Yes,** I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.*

Send this application and your check to:

**National Audubon Society**

Chapter Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

LOCAL CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_



*Juniata Valley*

*P.O. Box 2378*

*Altoona, PA 16603*

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Local Chapter Code  
7XCHA