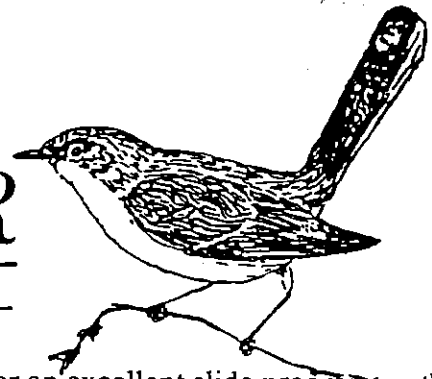


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

November 1990



NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM: Join us on Tuesday, November 27 for an excellent slide program on the island of Madagascar. Barb Warren will be coming from Harrisburg to deliver this talk. The program will begin at 7:30 pm following the business segment which starts at 7:15 pm. All meetings are held at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren on Union Avenue in Altoona.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dave Kyler

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:

With the holiday season rapidly approaching and the cold wind blowing out of the north our thoughts turn to... that's right THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT!!!!

Once again our loyal and trustworthy compiler, Angeline Stout, has taken on the task of organizing the 91st Christmas Bird Count for our count circle in Sinking Valley.

We will be taking to the field and woods bright and early on Saturday morning December 15, 1990, with the hopes of breaking all previous records. We hope that you will be able to join us!!! If you would like to help, in whatever capacity, please call Angeline at 946-5214 A "potluck" supper will follow the days count and will be held at the Skelp Grange Hall at dusk.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Angeline Stout

Tired of Christmas cleaning, baking, or shopping? Why not try another annual event this Saturday, December 15th. JVAS will conduct its 21st annual Christmas Bird Count. This will be National Audubon's 90th Anniversary for the Christmas Bird Count. JVAS count takes place in a 15 mile diameter circle which centers on Culp in Sinking Valley. Total number of birds are counted. You may count for one hour or for the entire day. A covered dish supper will be held after the count 6:00 pm at the Sinking Valley Grange. A rough tabulation is completed. If you are unable to come to the covered dish you may send your results in. For more information see me before or after the monthly meeting Nov. 27th. Angeline Stout, RD#3, Box 72E, Altoona, PA 16601, 946-1783

## AMERICA'S ANCIENT FORESTS

Craig Cameron

A 900 number has been created by the Ancient Forest Alliance. By calling 1-900-990-TREE, a caller will have a letter sent to their congressman or senator in their name. The cost to the caller is \$1.45 per minute and the 900 number will be available for the remainder of 1990. A caller will receive a confirmation postcard with a miniature copy of the letter sent in their name.

## BUZZ

Paula Ford

Buzzworm, an excellent bimonthly environmental magazine, is offering a special deal for environmental organizations, and JVAS's international issues committee is participating.

Here's how it works: Subscribe to Buzzworm through JVAS and we get to keep \$9 of your \$18 subscription fee. We need a dozen subscribers and have four so far. If you are interested see Paula Ford at the November meeting - she'll have sample magazines and information. Or send a check for \$18 (payable to JVAS) to Paula at 206 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Thanks.

## BLAIR COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Craig Cameron

Blair County has submitted its proposed Municipal Waste Management Plan to the Bureau of Waste Management. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 1990 at 7:00 pm in the second floor cafetorium of Altoona Vo-Tech School. The county has turned over the job of hiring a recycling coordinator to Altoona, Logan Township, and Hollidaysburg. In light of the fact that 30 counties have already hired recycling coordinators, Blair County seems to be putting the "cart before the horse." Hopefully, an agreement will be reached and a Coordinator hired to get things rolling.

### OPEN BURNING

Craig Cameron

The Conservation Committee would like to tackle the problem of open burning. We are in the process of obtaining burning ordinances from each city, town, and township. If you could obtain a copy from your town manager or supervisor, please send it to me. Also, any comments from fire departments, health officials, or others concerned with this subject would be appreciated. We will be able to study the ordinances and get the facts before action is taken. Send your ordinances, comments to Craig Cameron, 206 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Thanks to Melvin Lane for being the first to send a copy of Alexandria's ordinance to us!

### FIELD NOTES

- \* We hope that you enjoyed Bill Ettinger's program in October, come share the evening with Barb Warren on November 27th.
- \* Audubon National Convention, Estes Park, Colorado, July 21-27, 1991
- \* Central Pennsylvania Outdoor Sport & Recreation Show, JAFFA Mosque 22, 23 & 24 February 1991

### EDITOR'S NOTE

There will be no December issue. Please submit items for the January issue before Wednesday, January 16 to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, IvySide Park, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 (949-5180).

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

National Audubon will soon announce details for the 1991 National Audubon Convention to be held at Estes Park National Wildlife Camp near Denver, Colorado. The weekend convention will be held July 26-28, 1991, with plenty of side trips and family activities in the Rocky Mountain area during weekdays surrounding these dates.

A group from the Juniata Valley Chapter, with the assistance of Classic Travel, Duncansville, is planning a ten day journey to the convention from July 22 to July 31. Tentative plans include round trip airfare via U.S. Air from Altoona/Johnstown/State College to Pittsburgh, then non-stop to Denver. Accommodations at area motels for ten nights and side trips, including Yellowstone National Park, with a personal travel guide via rental van. Registration fee for the National Audubon convention at Estes Park will also be part of the package. Approximate cost for this enjoyable journey with fellow JVAS friends is \$1000.00, excluding food and personal expenditures.

All those interested please leave a message with Terry Wentz at 695-1810, or Janet Huber at Classic Travel, 1-800-696-8400, Local at 696-3558, before January 10, 1990. Additional details will be available in January.

Plan your 1991 vacation now and join us for a **ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH** next summer.

KID'S NATURE PAGE

by Roy Boyle

WINTER WILDLIFE WONDERS

Surviving through the winter months is important. Wild things are well prepared for the cold. The whitetail deer loses its thin, reddish summer coat and grows a thick coat of fur to keep it warm through the cold months. The hollow hairs are filled with air that hold the warmth close to its body. In the spring, the hairs will fall out and the summer coat will grow back. Black bears deal with the cold a little differently. After putting on layers of fat through the summer, the bear finds a log, stump or crevice and sleeps through the winter. During this time, the bear doesn't eat or go to the bathroom. In January or February, the female bear has her cubs. Almost hairless and weighing around a half pound each, mama bear takes good care of them during her winter rest. Other animals deal with the winter in different ways. The ruffed grouse grows special flaps of skin on its toes that act as snowshoes to help it walk on top of the snow. Frogs and salamanders bury themselves deep in the mud slowing their breathing and heartbeats. All the oxygen they need at this time is absorbed through their skin. Then there are the migrating birds. Songbirds, geese, ducks and hawks head for warmer climates where they can avoid the cold northern winter. Fur coats, deep sleeps, special footgear and extended vacations are just a few ways nature has prepared for the winter. See how many other ways you can find out!

Write the number from the right in front of the critter or plant that survives that particular way.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <u>1</u> Monarch Butterfly | 1 Flies south to the mountains of Central Mexico.            |
| <u>9</u> Beaver            | 2 Flies to a cave and hibernates                             |
| <u>6</u> Canada Goose      | 3 Stays underground, eating from its stored nuts when hungry |
| <u>3</u> Chipmunk          | 4 Loses its leaves to prevent water loss and becomes dormant |
| <u>8</u> Earthworm         | 5 Buries itself in mud of a pond                             |
| <u>5</u> Bullfrog          | 6 Flies south in V-shaped patterns                           |
| <u>2</u> Little Brown Bat  | 7 Wax-covered needles on the tree keep it from losing water  |
| <u>4</u> Maple Tree        | 8 Burrows beneath the frost line and keeps on eating dirt    |
| <u>7</u> Hemlock Tree      | 9 Builds underwater brush pile next to lodge for food supply |

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