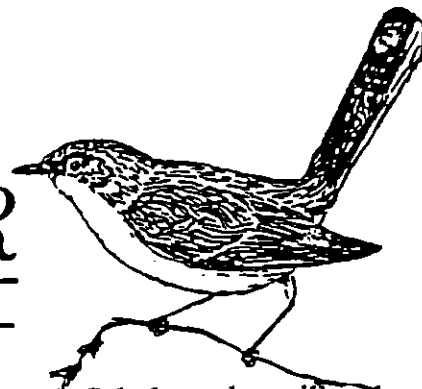


THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

February 1990



FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM: The February program will feature Jack Schultz, who will present "Ecology of Argentina," a travelogue of this fascinating South American country. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm with the business segment, followed by the program at about 7:30. Meetings are held at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren at Union Avenue and 28th Street in Altoona.

NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

Wilson Kreitz

Nominees for 1990-1991 officers of JVAS are:

for President: Dave Kyler
for Vice President: Bill King
for Secretary: Greg Zelinsky
for Treasurer: Janet Neely

PITTSBURGH AVIARY

20 January 1990

Dave Kyler

The Pleasant Valley Shopping Center was the departure point for a day trip to Pittsburgh on the 20th of January. Our destination for that day was the amazing Pittsburgh Aviary, and its many feathered inhabitants. After boarding the rental van we encountered icy roads until we passed Cresson mountain where the sleet changed to rain. The remainder of the trip was wet, but not "wild".

Arriving at the aviary we were met by Chuck Teague, a naturalist, who led us on a two and one half hour tour through the many open, free-flying rooms. There open areas were warm and humid and filled with many species of beautiful birds. In the lush vegetation were colorful pairs either courting or in the process of nest building.

In the BRIDGE ROOM we found Wood Duck, Great Kiskadee, Sun Bittern as well as 68 other species. Blue-crowned Pigeon were nesting on a ledge as Crested Jays were begging for meal worms.

The FOUNTAIN ROOM held paired Grey Hornbills, Montezuma Oropendola and the beautiful Rothschild's Mynah, and 25 others. The noise and visual flights were amazing.

The DESERT ROOM held Greater Roadrunner, Blacksmith Plover and Double-striped Thick-knee. These arid area dwellers were contained behind a vertical wire mesh but could be seen well. All of the special rooms were filled with thick vegetation and had painted murals as backdrops, to provide a proper setting.

My favorite room was the MARSH ROOM where herons, egrets, and teal were in a pool at your feet while Red Lorys were flying about your head. With a little imagination you would believe that you were in the tropics.

After thanking Chuck for the tour we boarded the van, laden with souvenirs from the gift shop, and headed home. Supper was at Dean's Diner, near Blairsville, and was enjoyed by all. We arrived in Altoona at 7 P.M. having escaped dreary, mid-winter Pennsylvania, at least for part of a day.

NOTE: Due to lack of interest, the February field trip to the Pennsylvania State University museums has been canceled. Please give some thought to the upcoming field trips to Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area on March 17th, the trip to Lewis Natural Area on April 14th and the seasons finale to Maine on June 16, 17, 18 & 19th. Thank you.

CANOE CREEK PROGRAMS

Terry Wentz

Three programs have been scheduled during the next month at Canoe Creek State Park. If you have the winter blues or cabin fever, come on out to the park and enjoy the quiet solitude found here during the winter and spring months. If you need information on programs, call the park 8 A.M. until 4 P.M. Monday through Friday at 695-6807.

March 17: **GREEN HIKE** 3 PM at Pavilion #2

Join the naturalist in this celebration of St. Patrick's Day as we walk through the park looking at the green items of nature. Appropriate refreshments will be available. Meet at Pavilion #2 at 3 P.M. for this 2 hour program. Dress for the weather and mud!

April 1: **LIMESTONE KILN TRAIL HIKE** 2 PM at Pavilion #2

Walk the spring woodlands of the park in this mixed look at the natural and historical significance of the Canoe Creek area. Dress for the weather and mud!

BLUEBIRD PROGRAM 4 PM at Pavilion #2

The bluebird is a beautiful bird that can be found nesting in man-made boxes throughout Canoe Creek. Learn about the bluebird and how to attract it to your own backyard in this 1.5 hour program. Dress for the weather and mud!

KIDS' NATURE PAGE

Roy Boyle

Welcome to Spring! The weather is warming and the signs of Spring are appearing as we move into March. The tree buds are swelling as the roots send up the sap stored in the roots all winter. Soon the trees will be putting out new leaves ready for another season of growing. Also, maple trees collecting the sap that will be made into the syrup and sugar we like to eat. It is really quite a chore as it can take up to 50 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup! Flowers are pushing up into our world, also. Already a purplish cone-shaped flower from the skunk cabbage is up and attracting insects. Look for it in swampy and wet areas. Soon, the coltsfoot flower will be blooming along roadsides and empty lots. Coltsfoot looks a lot like a dandelion but will have no leaves until after it has flowered. Coltsfoot can be made into candy or even cough drops. See how many signs of spring you can find as you wander around the wonderful outdoors!

Signs of Spring Puzzle

Write the word in the space provided. Write the SECRET WORD by using the numbered spaces after solving the puzzle.

PUZZLE

1 --1-- -- -- --10-- --2-- -- --
 2 -- --3-- --11-- -- -- -- --15
 3 -- -- -- -- --14-- -- -- --4-- -- -- --
 4 --8-- -- -- -- --12-- -- -- --
 5 -- --6-- -- --7-- -- -- --8--
 6 -- -- -- -- --9-- --13-- -- --
 7 --1-- --2-- --3-- --4-- --5-- --6-- --7-- --8-- --9-- --10-- --11-- --12-- --13-- --14-- --15

CLUES

- 1 A blooming plant that grows outside of the garden.
- 2 Dandelion-like flower that has a leaf shaped like a horse's hoof.
- 3 Night-flying bird that nests in January.
- 4 Insect larvae that will turn into a butterfly or moth.
- 5 On February 2nd, he told us winter was over.
- 6 Yummy candy from the sap of a special tree.

WORD BANK

caterpillar
 coltsfoot
 great horned owl
 maple sugar
 wildflower
 woodchuck

SECRET WORD

7 This spring occurrence happens in wet fields. The critter responsible can be heard saying "neep... neep..." in the evenings. Go listen and watch for this mysterious natural display on warm evenings at sunset or after.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 8 Board Meeting. Altoona Public Library. 7:00 pm
- March 17 Field Trip. Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (see Dave Kyler's article).
- March 27 March JVAS Meeting. Yellowstone, with Mike and Laura Jackson. 28th Street Church of the Brethren. 7:00 pm
- March 30 International Issues Interest Group. Eiche Library Basement. 7:00 pm

ARBOR DAY PLANTING

Jim Winsor

The Altoona Arbor Day Commemorative planting project, "Gateway to Altoona" is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 28. Funds are still being solicited for tree donations and quite a few have been received.

At the suggestion of Peggy Goodman and others, we hope to make this a combined Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration. We're looking forward to wide community involvement on planting day and we hope to be able to show a real grassroots effort to Cecilia Mendiola and Antonio Brock, during their visit under the auspices of the International Issues Group.

The project is sponsored jointly by the Altoona Shade Tree Commission, WALY Radio and Mid-State Bank. Donations are still welcome. A donation of \$200 will purchase a tree, pay for planting costs and a brass plaque erected at the base of the tree with the donor's name. Persons, groups or businesses wishing to donate should contact Jim Winsor (address and phone under "Editor's Note") as soon as possible. Join us in this celebration of the Earth and living legacy to Altoona.

EDITOR'S NOTE

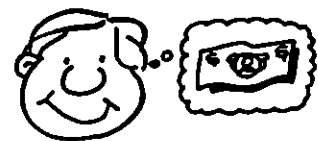
Please submit items for the February issue before Friday, March 16 to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Ivyside Park, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 (949-5180).



Bluebirds suffer a severe shortage of natural cavities in which to nest. Bird houses from Bluebirds Across America can do much to restore the cobalt blue symbol of spring and happiness to healthy population levels.

Write to: National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 123
Horatio, SC 29062

The Best Temporary Jobs in America



The 1990 Census is a big job. We need thousands of part-time and temporary workers. Would you like to be one of them? You just have to pass a simple test and meet a few other requirements, and you can earn from \$5 to \$8 an hour depending on where you live. Call your local state employment office for more information.

Answer the Census.
It Counts for More Than You Think!

CENSUS '90



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

DATED MATERIAL



STAN KOTALA
BOX 866 RD 3
ALTOONA
PA 16601

!Signs of Spring Puzzle
!Answer Key
!
!1 wildflower
!2 coltsfoot
!3 great horned owl
!4 caterpillar
!5 woodchuck
!6 maple sugar
!7 woodcock's flight !