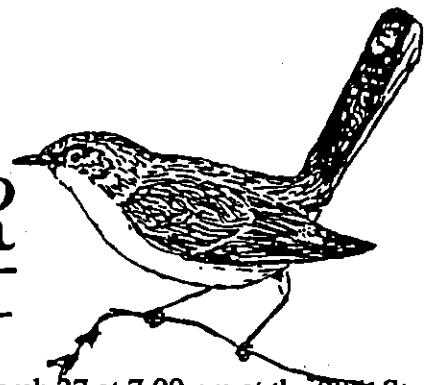


THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

March 1990



MARCH MEETING: The March meeting will be held Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 pm at the 28th Street Church of The Brethren at Union Avenue and 28th Street in Altoona. As is customary, the meeting will begin with the business segment. Following that, Mike and Laura Jackson will present their slide program "Yellowstone -- Fire and Rebirth." Join us for this visit to our first National Park in the aftermath of the fire.

CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY ANNUAL BANQUET

On Tuesday, April 24th 1990, the Juniata Valley Chapter of the National Audubon Society will be holding their annual banquet dinner/meeting at the Sheraton Inn in Altoona, Pennsylvania. The evening promises to be both exciting and interesting with a long line of distinguished visitors. Antonio Brack and his wife Cecilia Mendiola, noted Peruvian conservationists, will be our guests and evening's speakers. Joining them will be Walt Pomeroy, Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice-President, Fran Spivy-Weber, National Audubon's Director for International Programs and members of our sister chapters.

The evening will begin at 6 P.M. with a "get-acquainted" session (cash bar) followed by dinner at 6:30 P.M. The evening's meal will be Roast Turkey with Filling, Fresh Fruit Cup, Tossed Salad, Green Bean Almondine, Whipped Potatoes and Baked Fruit Pies for Dessert. The cost for the evening meal will be \$12.00 per person.

Installation of the new slate of officers, for the Juniata Valley Chapter 1990-1992, will precede the program, which is scheduled to begin at 8 P.M.

Reservations will be accepted by Janet Neely, 8 South Montgomery Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 until the cutoff date of April 16th, 1990. Checks should be made payable to Juniata Valley Audubon. Please make your reservations early in order to be with us to share the "celebration of Earth Day 1990." A form is provided at the end of the newsletter.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT Wilson Kreitz

Election Of Officers

At the March, 1990 meeting we will formalize the election of the officers of Juniata Valley Audubon Society for the next two years.

The nominees are Dave Kyler for President, Bill King for Vice-President, Gene (not Greg) Zielinski for Secretary, and Janet Neely as Treasurer.

Induction of these officers will be during our April meeting at the Sheraton. Walt Pomeroy, Mid-Atlantic Region Vice-President will perform the ceremony.

Election of Director to National Audubon

In the near future all members will be receiving information relating to the upcoming election of representatives to the Board of Directors of National Audubon. The delegate from Mid-Atlantic Region will be Dr. Leigh Altadonna, a member of Wyncote Audubon a Pennsylvania chapter.

I urge all our members to respond to the ballots you will be receiving concerning this election.

1990 Birdathon Teams

The annual Audubon Birdathon will be held on May 12, 1990 for the JVAS area.

Should anyone wish to be on the Blair County team, which this year has high hopes of dethroning the Huntingdon County team and gaining possession of the Migrating Trophy.

If you wish to be a member of the Blair County team contact Wilson Kreitz at (814) 695-0126 for your pledge forms write to 1 Warbler Way, Duncansville, PA 16635.

However should you, for whatever reason, wish to join the Huntingdon County team contact Dave Kyler, (814) 643-6030, R.D. #4, Box 159A, Huntingdon, PA 16652 for pledge forms.

Please let us know by April 5, 1990 so that your names can be included in followup articles.

APRIL FIELD TRIP

Marcia Bonta

Bruce and I will be leading a three mile hike at the Charles F. Lewis Natural Area near Johnstown on April 14. We will leave the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 9:00 a.m. and carpool to the natural area near Johnstown. Please bring a bag lunch and sign up at the March meeting or call me at 684-3113 so I can get an idea of how many people plan to attend.

For those of you who have my book Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania, the Charles F. Lewis Natural Area is discussed on pages 127-129. For those of you who don't, the natural area is a 384-acre tract of mountain land on Laurel Ridge that includes a rushing stream with several small waterfalls, many of the showier ephemeral wildflowers such as white and purple trillium and wild ginger, and a large jumble of enormous boulders and overhanging ledges. We took the circular Clark Run Trail on April 10 several years ago and saw the blooming wildflowers as well as many singing Louisiana waterthrushes along the way. The first part of the ascent is steep but short and the last part likewise so please wear good hiking shoes. For those of you who don't wish to take the trail but do want to see the waterfalls and some of the wildflowers, there are two picnic tables near the parking lot. It should take the rest of us three hours to make a leisurely circuit including getting several views of the Connemaugh Gorge and River below.

"HIGH FIVE" FOR THE BLUEBIRDS

Terry Wentz

I never was an outstanding athlete in high school; I can get by, by playing most any sport, but when it comes to the winning instinct, I lack something. I would rather play for enjoyment and exercise than win at all cost. My interests have always been geared towards the outdoors where human competition is more individualistic. This bit of personal philosophy places in perspective a recent experience.

My youngest son, eight year old Daniel, and I were placing bluebird houses on March 3, 1990. Of course a friendly bribe added some encouragement to help, but Daniel love being outside and constructing things. He helped assemble a bluebird house for cub scouts and now was the time to place it outside. As we finished installing the seventh house of the warm morning; we glanced across New Creek to an earlier installed box. To our amazement, a male bluebird, in his brilliant blue mating plumage, was checking out OUR handywork. The house number has not even been decided yet! Immediately, Daniel's reaction was a "high five" accompanied with a grin from ear to ear.

A "high five" for the bluebirds is worth 10 goals in a basketball game and the bluebird experience will linger long after the glory of a game fades. Participate in an environmental activity with the youth in your life and gain a lasting experience.

ARBOR DAY PLANTING NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Jim Winsor

The "Gateway to Altoona" community planting sponsored by the Altoona Shade Tree Commission, WALY Radio and Mid State Bank has reached the goal of 40 donated trees. In fact, we expect a total of 70 donated trees to be planted along 17th Street in Altoona on Saturday, April 28.

The sponsors invite your participation in what will be a community commemoration of Earth Day and Arbor Day 1990. Whether or not you have donated a tree, please show up early Saturday morning (festivities begin at 8:00 a.m.) and bring a shovel and/or a rake.

We plan to make every effort to make your morning as enjoyable and memorable as possible. Hope to see you there.

JVAS MEETINGS TO BE STYROFOAM FREE

Paula Ford

At the March 8 Board meeting, the JVAS board of directors voted to discontinue the use of styrofoam cups at all JVAS meetings. I have argued (sometimes strenuously!) for this action for many months and I am glad to be able to report on it to active and inactive members.

Active members: When you attend the March 27 meeting, bring a mug. It's quiet easy to do as those who've been attending ACP meetings will tell you. If only all corrective environmental actions were so easy! As an added incentive, we'll be giving a special prize to the owner of the best mug. What's a "best mug"? It might be one with an appropriate message, or one that's especially pretty. We'll know when we see it. No styrofoam or other disposable will be allowed. If you forget your mug, you can a) share, b) forego coffee, or c) borrow one.

Even if you are an inactive member and don't attend meetings, I hope this new policy will interest you. Think about the overabundance of disposables in our lives. How many cups of coffee or tea do you drink per day? Multiply that by 365, and you'll begin to see that this policy is more than a symbolic gesture. We must stop pretending that little things don't add up, because they do. We must stop pretending that solutions to problems can wait, because they can't.

If we can do without disposables at JVAS meeting, why not at other meetings? Discuss this with your colleagues at work or with your friends in other organizations. For example, how many churches serve coffee at a "fellowship hour" on Sunday morning? Why not extend the fellowship to the Earth?

Once we make this small step in the right direction, who knows where it will end? Let me know what you think: call 695-4799.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please submit items for the April issue before Friday, April 13 to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Ivyside Park, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 (949-5180).

BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

RESERVATION FORM

NAME: _____ NUMBER ATTENDING: _____

ADDRESS: _____ AMOUNT OF CHECK
ENCLOSED: _____

PHONE: _____ MAIL TO: Janet Neely
8 S. Montgomery Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

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P. O. Box 2378
Altoona, PA 16603

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