

THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

September 1990



SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM: Join us for an excellent program, "Neighborhood Birds," with Wayne Harpster, noted naturalist and outdoorsman. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. following the business segment which starts at 7:15 p.m. All meetings are held at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren on Union Avenue in Altoona.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dave Kyler

As we begin a new Audubon year we can look back on our past accomplishments and achievements. But at the same time, we must also look forward to the future challenges and pitfalls that we, as an environmentally conscious society, certainly must face.

Our concerns are not only international but local as well. Our local landfills are rapidly filling and we must not only expand recycling but encourage our neighbors to do likewise. Clean air and cleanwater reforms are progressing but need constant input and encouragement. Our most pressing current concern is for a national energy policy, one that will be sound economically and sane environmentally. Our fight to preserve our Alaskan refuge system and Alaskan heritage has just begun.

The new year holds both progress and promise toward our goal of an environmentally sane world. It is up to us to fulfill that goal.

ACP MEETINGS AT CANOE CREEK

Paula Ford

The Audubon Council of Pennsylvania will hold its fall meeting on October 26, 27, and 28, 1990, at Canoe Creek State Park. The fall meeting will be the only weekend-long ACP meeting in 1990-91.

This meeting will afford us a good opportunity for a meeting that can include special workshop and field trip options that cannot be achieved in a one-day meeting. More importantly, the weekend meeting will provide those who attend a fuller opportunity to meet fellow Auduboners from across the state. These meetings are well worth attending.

Here is an abbreviated version of the agenda:

Friday, October 26

*8:00 - 9:00 pm. Alaska 1990: Tales of a Wandering Pennsylvania. Walt Pomeroy, Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President.

Saturday, October 27

*9:45 - 10:30 am. New Directions in Audubon: Planning for the Future. Fran Spivy-Weber, Director of International Issues, NAS.

*10:45 - 12:15 pm. Concurrent Workshops

A: International Issues (Barb Warren)

B: Pennsylvania Wetlands Watch (Walt Pomeroy)

C: Enhancing Audubon Adventures (Leigh Altadonna)

*2:00 - 5:30 pm. Field Trip to Lake Raystown

*8:00 - 9:00 pm. Wetlands of International Significance. Steve Parcels, Audubon Wetlands Coordinator

Sunday, October 28

*8:45 - 9:15 am. ACP Program Update

*9:15 - 10:00 am. Workshop Reports

*10:00 - 11:15 am. ACP Issues

For a more complete schedule of events, please see me at the meeting or contact me at 695-4799. Costs are \$10.00 for registration and \$10.00 for the Saturday buffet dinner (6:00-7:00 pm Saturday).

SOLID WASTE Craig Cameron

In accordance with PA Act 101, Blair County has been working on its 10 year municipal waste plan. Three alternatives have been discussed including recycling, composting, and land filling. Recycling will be implemented first involving several techniques. They include curbside collection, drop off center or materials recovery facility (MRF), buy back center where recyclables are taken and payment is received, and last, special programs for office paper and commercial establishments. A survey has been mailed to the 24 municipalities to receive each one's preference. Bids have also been advertised for various recycling equipment to be used at a MRF. Pennsylvania has mandated that Altoona and Logan Township begin recycling by Sept. 25, 1990. Recycling is simple to do to help our environment and reduce waste going to the land fill. Instead of pitching trash into the garbage can, pitch it in a recycling bin. More on composting and land filling later.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS Marcia Bonta

As I related in the Gnatcatcher last spring, I am now the Blair County compiler for Pennsylvania Birds. If you have an unusual sighting of a bird in the county, please call (684-3113) or write to Marcia Bonta at Box 68, Tyrone, PA 16686 with the species, date and place where you saw the bird. My summer report for the months of July, August and September is due by the middle of October so please be prompt. Although I use some discretion in the number and species of birds I report, I try to include the most important sightings of every reporter. But it is up to the editors, Frank and Barb Haas, to make the final decisions as to what will or will not be published. So don't be discouraged if all the birds you report are not published in the magazine. Many of mine aren't either but that doesn't mean you shouldn't do your best both in your initial observations and in your reports. The only way we can come up with a comprehensive idea of bird species and numbers in the state is by the accurate watching and reporting of many dedicated observers.

NEWS FROM FORT ROBERDEAU Peggy Goodman

In memory of Al Burd who devoted so much time and expertise to the nature area of Fort Roberdeau, J.V.A.S. has placed a large observation window in the newly constructed Activities Building at the fort. Outside the window will be shrubbery, trees and a water source, as well as feeders. This will create a wonderful place to watch the birds so that student visitors will have better opportunities for seeing and learning about them.

Dave Kyles, Janet DeMuth, Truth Close, Colette Heller and Peggy Goodman have worked to coordinate the project with the contractor who built the shell of the building in June. Blair County employees will finish the interior as time and funds permit. The building will serve as a resource, year round, for schools to use as an environmental learning center. It will also be available for church picnics, meetings, etc.

The Fort's Director and its Board appreciate recognition of Al Burd's dedicated service in this tangible way. The window will provide pleasure to many and remind us to keep Al's gentle instructional methods and reverence for the outdoors in our minds as we teach.

Other news from Fort Roberdeau: Janet DeMuth has obtained and placed new identification signs on trees and shrubs along the trails. A grant from the Blair Soil Conservation Commission was used to purchase the signs, and to provide new bridges, water diversion systems and base materials for wet sections. County employees and Boy Scouts have done much work in the last year, but work remains to be done.

Members are invited to guide students in the spring and fall. It's fun, it's easy, and it's rewarding. Call for information - 946-0048.

BOTTLE BILL Craig Cameron

Yes, its back and at a good time! Farmers across the state are asking for a referendum that will allow voters to decide if one should be implemented. This would require a refund be given when consumers return their bottles. Many states already have deposits on bottles and it have been very successful. It would be great if, along with recycling, PA get moving and pass a bottle bill.

**Juniata Valley Audubon Society
Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale**

Now is the time to begin thinking about your winter feeding program. Get your supply of seed and support your local Audubon Society by purchasing top quality seed at low prices.

Bird Seed Sale Order Form

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Description	Price/bag	# bags	Total
50# 100% Oil Sunflower	\$12.60	_____	_____
25# 100% Oil Sunflower	6.60	_____	_____
50# 100% Grey Stripe Sunflower	13.75	_____	_____
25# 100% Grey Stripe Sunflower	7.25	_____	_____
50# Sunflower Blend	14.30	_____	_____
25# Sunflower Blend	7.70	_____	_____
40# Tyco Bird Mix	7.05	_____	_____
25# Tyco Bird MIX	5.50	_____	_____
100# Fine Cracked Corn	8.80	_____	_____
50# Fine Cracked Corn	5.50	_____	_____
100# Shelled Corn	8.25	_____	_____
50# Shelled Corn	4.95	_____	_____
50# White Millet	10.95	_____	_____
25# White Millet	6.00	_____	_____
2# Hanging Suet Feeder	3.30	_____	_____
5# Niger	5.45	_____	_____
50# Peanut Hearts	32.95	_____	_____
50# Sunflower Hearts	29.70	_____	_____
50# Safflower	29.65	_____	_____
Starter kit (10# Tyco Bird Mix, tube feeder, & Peterson's beginner's book) A great gift!	20.00	_____	_____

Subtotal _____

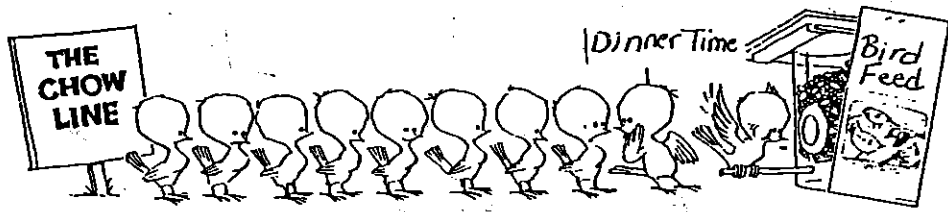
Please add 6% sales tax _____

Delivery (Huntingdon area) _____

Total amount enclosed _____

Detach and retain for your reminder

The deadline for orders is October 9, 1990. If you need help in making out your order, call Bob Keppler at 695-0742. The pickup point is the 28th Street Church of the Brethren parking lot at Union Avenue and 28th Street, Altoona. All orders must be picked up on Saturday, October 13, 1990, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Orders of more than \$35.00 can be delivered within the Altoona area. Orders in the Huntingdon area can be delivered for a \$1.00 surcharge. Checks should be made payable to Juniata Valley Audubon Society and sent with your completed order blank to Bob Keppler, RD 1, Box 45, Crestview Drive, Duncansville, PA 16635.



OTHER ITEMS

AUDUBON BOARD MEETING HELD. The first meeting of the 1990-1991 year was held on Thursday, September 13. We heard committee reports, discussed plans for Fort Roberdeau, the bird seed sale, and the upcoming ACP meeting. This years field trips we described. We also discussed the recent article "Farewell to Africa" in Audubon magazine.

SAVE YOUR GROCERY RECEIPTS from Bi-Lo and Riverside to support Audubon. Ann Borland will be collecting them, with proceeds going to JVAS.

BIRD SEED! Please note that the deadline for bird seed orders is **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9.** Please support the birds and JVAS by using the order form enclosed in this newsletter.

RECYCLING RALLY. Sponsored by Friends of The Environment, the program will be held on Sunday, October 14 from 12-4 pm at Pleasant Valley Shopping Center. Audubon will have a booth. For more information contact Charlie Leiden at 946-9291.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please submit items for the October issue before Friday, October 19 to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Ivyside Park, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 (949-5180).

SIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Altoona, PA 16603

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BOX 866 RD 3
ALTOONA
PA 16601

The secret bird is the HUMMINGBIRD

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ANSWER KEY

By Roy Boyle

KID'S NATURE PAGE