

# GREENGLASS

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JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

April 1973

Spring

When we consider how soon some plants which spread rapidly, by seeds or roots, would cover an area equal to the surface of the globe, how soon some fishes would fill the ocean if all their eggs became full-grown fishes, we are tempted to say that every organism, whether animal or vegetable, is contending for the possession of the planet. Nature opposes to this many obstacles, as climate, myriads of birds and also human foes, and of competitors which may preoccupy the ground.

Each suggests an immense and wonderful greediness and tenacity of life. Each suggests an immense and wonderful greediness and tenacity of life. Each suggests an immense and wonderful greediness and tenacity of life. Each suggests an immense and wonderful greediness and tenacity of life. Each suggests an immense and wonderful greediness and tenacity of life.

In Wilderness is the Preservation of the World

### April Meeting

DATE: April 24th (Last Tuesday of the month) PLACE: "Highland Hall" -- County Courthouse Annex (Penn Street & Walnut)

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PROGRAM: Refreshments & Action

We have switched meeting places from the Altoona Area Public Library to the main meeting room of the Hollidaysburg Courthouse Annex known as "Highland Hall". To get there from Altoona enter the borough, go to Walnut Street with the YMCA on its corner. Turn right there onto Walnut and circle the block to the right and into a parking lot located behind Highland Hall. You can enter the building from the rear out of the parking lot. Entering from the back you find yourself in the basement and must go up one flight of steps to the main meeting room.

This meeting is scheduled as an informal gathering of members, general public, friends, anyone - anyone interested in discussing and working on our environmental problems. Refreshments will be served throughout the entire evening. We may try small group sessions, little workshops or "think-tanks"; each of which would explore one problem or issue. There is of course plenty to talk about -- as always -- but there is likewise plenty to do, so action is the main element of the planned program. (Along with refreshments of course.)

### Second Annual Banquet

DATE: May 22nd PLACE: Marietta's Restaurant / Rt. #22 just above the town of Duncansville intersection on the left.

TIME: 6:30

Our annual banquet has now been arranged. Joe McMullen, a biology teacher at Juniata Valley High School will be our guest speaker. Joe is owner of the Spruce Creek Trout Farm located in Spruce Creek. He lives in that picturesque town and is an active member of Trout Unlimited. It will be interesting to hear from him more about our fellow conservationists in T.U. Joe is also interested in watershed practices and is knowledgeable of the highway controversy of the Spruce Creek Valley.

Fill in the attached reservation sheet or call Margaret Chonko (942-8070) to make your reservations. We hope to have as nice a turnout as last year. Come out for an evening. Bring your friends. Send in now for your tickets.

#### Garden Club Flower Show

The Spade and Trowel Garden Club of Hollidaysburg will be staging a flower show for the public May 12, (Sat.) 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the Junior High School in Hollidaysburg. They will have various exhibits, a number of them dealing with conservation/nature -- one on birds with materials given by us for the program. Audubon membership brochures and other literature will be available. A lot of work is going into making this a valuable learning experience for the general public. Let's support them!

#### May Field Trip to Lemmon House

April 15, Earl Higgins, Roxanne Shank, Al Richardson and Ron Wilson went out for birds, trees, flowers(?), etc. at the Portage National Monument at Cresson. They saw some hermit thrushes, a horned grebe and 3 ring-necked ducks. A second trip is planned for May 13, to the same place, the Lemmon House. This time of year should be great for flowers and especially for migrating birds. We want to work with Ron Wilson in identifying birds, trees, shrubs, and other plants. Meet there at 8:30 A.M. that Sunday morning.

#### Birds Seen

Mike and Margaret Chonko have had house finches all winter at their feeders. These finches were originally restricted in range to the west but now are appearing quite frequently in the east. They seem to be taking hold quite well in a new range. John Orr saw a small flock of pine grosbeaks in February just below the Kettle Reservoir. (about 10 birds all together). Call in your birds to the Gnatcatcher. Keep records for your own use and to pass on to members. Call in for help in identifying shy species. May 12th and thereabouts is a fine time to be out looking for spring migrants. See Dr. Wood's new book -- Birds of Pennsylvania for times of expected migration for all local species.

#### Fate of the Purple Martins

The Oct. 1972 issue of American Birds answers our question as to why few martins have been seen. The flood -- Hurricane Agnes -- last June took its toll of swallows and some other birds. The adverse wet conditions eliminated an insect food supply for them and they did not nest as usual. It seems martins don't feed during heavy wet weather. Some birds were delayed in nesting but came through later. Not so the martins. For more information see our copy of A.B. at the next meeting.

#### Local Conservation Commissions

Pennsylvania now has a bill designed to help local communities preserve their own natural resources. House Bill 197 permits the governing bodies of all Pennsylvania municipalities to establish conservation commissions or to combine them with existing park or recreation boards.

The Gnatcatcher  
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