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GNATCATCHER

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 1 No. 1 April, 1969

Birth of an Idea

After several years of cerebral incubation in the cranium of John Orr a group is finally coalescing out of the primeval societal ooze into a functioning whole. Still unaware of what integral part we will play in the whole organism we are committed to a cause greater than ourselves, and no man should be without a cause greater than himself. Let us make sure no slight antibodies create a rejection of this new transplant.

Our First Field Trip - Fort Roberdeau - Sinking Valley

Place - Kiwanis Camp, Sinking Valley

Time: 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. - Approx.
Saturday, April 26

Directions. From Logan Valley Boulevard at the intersection of Kettle Road, proceed up the mountain, past the beautiful Kettle Reservoir for approximately 9 miles. A large blue sign, Kiwanis, will indicate the left turn. Guides will await you.

Try it, it may open a new window into nature.

The Third Meeting

There will be a meeting on April 29th at the Natural Gas Co, Lloyd Street and Seventh Avenue, Altoona at which time we have decided to informally share our common interests and special interests so that we may become better aware of each other, and also to see photographs of Spring Wild Flowers by Al Burd.

Please Contribute

The editor and his staff of the Gnatcatcher, will need help in building a worthwhile communication channel. Not if, but when you have some message to share with our group, send it to the following address until we establish a permanent address:

Mr. Dallas Webb
Raven Rocks RD #3
Altoona, Pa. 16601

Mr. Frank Swalga
1914 Washington Avenue
Altoona, Pa.

In Congress, Two "Near Misses" Return

Hearings are underway on two major conservation bills which came close to passage last year, but were lost in the closing days of Congress.

Senator Muskie's Air and Water Pollution Subcommittee of the Senate

Public Works Committee has begun hearings on S. 7, to aid construction of sewage plants, control sewage from vessels, and curb oil pollution.

In the House, hearings on Endangered Species bills have been started.

Included are H.R. 248, essentially the same as last year's bill to protect the alligator and rare fur-bearing species, and H.R. 4812, which includes wording designed to clarify language.

Letters concerning this legislation should be addressed to Senators Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Pine Siskins Sighted

November 9th, 1968, John Orr spotted six pine siskins at his home in Pleasant Valley. They flitted nervously past a bay window, darting low through a rose-of-sharon to the thick honeysuckle and then off about the corner, pausing just long enough for positive identification. There have been many reports of this bird in the east in recent years indicating a significant extension of its range from the western United States.

Spring Bird Watching Notes

March and April are fine times for seeing ducks, terns, gulls and other aquatic birds in migration. Local ponds, rivers, lakes or reservoirs are likely stopping places. The reservoirs, are noteworthy, especially the lower two at Horseshoe Curve and the upper and lower ones at Mill Run.

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