

THE

# Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY November 1978



i can't go on

i can't go on

i mean

i can't go on

i really

can't go on

i swear

i can't go on

so

i guess

i'll get up

and go on

- Dory Previn

## The November Meeting

It is our pleasure to host a guest speaker from a fellow chapter to the south of us next Tuesday evening - he is Charley Brightbill from the Conococheague Audubon Society. Charley will present a slide program and talk on hawks and hawk watching. The Conococheague Audubon people have done a lot of work at the Pulpit, a very well known hawk watching site in the Tuscaroras just north of Chambersburg. A few of our members have visited the Pulpit and now all of us can get a first hand look at the site through Tuesday's program. Charley Brightbill is a naturalist who is living now near Cowans Gap. He visited Alaska last summer and his wide and varied experiences make him a very interesting person to talk to. Chambersburg lies only 86 some miles south of Altoona but it seems so far away because of the large mountain chain between us. They have a great Christmas Bird Count there every year and anybody who is interested should take a look at the numbers and types of birds seen at such a short distance from our census area - they get more species and different types than we do!

Bring a guest or two to this November meeting. Refreshments will be served.

DATE: November 28th      TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: 8th Street Church  
of the Brethren,  
Union Avenue & 28th St.,  
Altoona, Pa.

DAY: Tuesday

Seed Sale Bill Rosevear will soon send out a sheet offering bird seed at nice prices for our members. At the meeting this month he will explain the deal and tell all of us how to order. This sale should appeal to a lot of members. Perhaps you will want to get some seed for friends, too.

Alaska Lands Issue (call long distance for \$.39 - 1-202-547-5550 - for latest hotline update and instructions on what you, as an individual can do on this issue). At this time: write to President Carter urging him to save all of the lands by imposing the Antiquities Act and National Monuments Act in this case so as to save time until Congress can again get to the issue.

Bird Count Workshop / Executive Committee Meeting Meet at John Orr's - 3001 4th Avenue, Altoona at 2:00p.m. December 3, for a Christmas Bird Count meeting. Arrangements can be made for area coverage and participation at the Nov. 28th meeting, the Dec. 3rd meeting or anytime by phoning John at 943-5629. A limited number of important business items will also be considered at this December date.

PAC Meeting John Orr and Bill Rosevear attended the November 11th Pennsylvania Audubon Council meeting in Harrisburg. There were 31 people present at this quarterly gathering. The Council now includes 15 branches or locals and a 16th - Lebanon, Pa. - is now forming. Again, it was



a profitable day for all. The detailed minutes of the meeting will be available for all to read at the November 28th meeting. Bill took part in an afternoon education committee workshop. A new emphasis is being placed on outdoor education and the role played by the individual branches in furthering it. Ms. Marty Sykes, director of the Audubon Center at Greenwich is now responsible for coordinating our efforts in this area and will communicate with us by means of a new environmental education newsletter. Guidelines are being developed for Audubon teaching courses. Specific aids will include films, filmstrips, the newsletter, chapter education workshops and on site workshops.

The first chapter workshop for us is scheduled for April 27 - 29, 1979 at Greenwich, Connecticut. We hope to send two interested members to it. See or call Bill Rosevear about this.

The Pa. Cancer Plan is being supported by a number of our state Audubon branches. It would provide for improved identification, control and understanding of this deadly disease through an eight-step program involving items such as registration, detection, epidemiology and rehabilitation. The plan is before the state legislature as H.B. 1120 and is a bonafide environmental concern since so much cancer is caused by environmental conditions created by man. H.B. 2403, The Pa. Cigarette Tax Act, is also up for vote and will fund the Cancer Plan by a 1¢ per pack increase in the cigarette tax that is estimated will yield 13 - 14 million dollars annually. Information sheets on this legislation may be had at the Nov. meeting or by calling John Orr (943-5629) who will mail you copies.

October Meeting Peggy Goodman gave us a very informative talk about her summer experience at Greenwich Conn. She ran through all the many exciting and valuable activities encountered there in a very creative "letter" composed by her for us back home. Her talk and slides showed beyond a doubt the great value of sponsoring workshop participants from our area. We thank her for a nice program. Mike and Margaret Chonko were up from Cumberland, Md. for the evening. Mike was lucky then, as was John Orr, to win the door prize Audubon key chain!

The Christmas Bird Count DATE: December 17th - Sunday / all day! Get ready now for this "wild and crazy day" All members and friends are urged to get out for this census in order to break last year's record. It is most important to contact John Orr (943-5629), count compiler, for details and assignment. The "how to" is not too complicated - one must adhere to a few simple rules so as to not violate objective reportage. All details will be set forth in the Dec. issue of The Gnatcatcher and in an Altoona Mirror article to be published soon. This annual event is a challenge - it's fun, it's interesting, it's valuable for the information obtained. And - a nice occasion for getting together presents itself at dusk with the covered dish dinner at the Skelp Grange Hall in Sinking Valley!

Miscellaneous Notes: Regional meetings - Could Auduboners get together for a few meetings per year in outlying towns from Altoona? People in Huntingdon, Bedford, Saxton, etc. might feel a need for this. If you have any thoughts on this item call vice-president, Truth Close at 942-7886.

Tree stamps - get them now before the P.O. runs out.

Sightings at Glendale - Bill Rosevear reports that no verification can be had for the bald eagle said to be seen near Prince Gallitzin. He does say that a fantastic number and variety of waterfowl are moving south via the park and park lake. Nov. 15th saw approx. 1,000 whistling swans. At Lake Duman nearby 1,500 were seen. Also at the park lake: loons, canvasbacks, common and hooded mergansers..

Patch - Get designs in now for contest. A JVAS patch will be made soon. Several entries are already in. Bring designs to meeting.

The Gnatcatcher  
3001 4th Avenue  
Altoona, Pa. 16602  
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