

THE

# Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 11 No 2

March 1979



## The Birdcatcher

When flighting time is on, I go  
With clap-net and decoy,  
A-fowling after goldfinches  
And other birds of joy;

I lurk among the thickets of  
The Heart where they are bred,  
And catch the twittering beauties as  
They fly into my Head.

-- Ralph Hodgson  
(1871-1962)

## The March Meeting

TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
DATE: Tuesday, March 27th  
PLACE: 28th Street Church of the Brethren  
Union Avenue & 28th Street / Altoona, Pa.

The March meeting has been set up for group ecology activities. Various action-oriented sessions will be set up for a first hand involvement of members. Some of these will deal with our own currently running projects - bluebird trail; for example, while others will be concerned with areas we perhaps should be more into - areas of importance such as endangered species legislation.

At this point in time spring will be six days old. The year of the ice is no doubt over and the 27th should be a good day to get out to the social hall of the church for renewal of old acquaintances, some good refreshments and a chance to brush up on some of the conservation issues and activities. 27 members enjoyed an excellent film - More Than Trees - at the February meeting. More good films are in store if we get the summer series off the ground. It is tentatively planned for Fort Roberdeau at the Nature Center in June, July and August - one film per month.

## Spring Banquet

TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
DATE: Tuesday, April 24th

The annual banquet is now set up for the social hall of the church. Make your reservations now by phone or mail - \$3.75 per person payable to the Juniata Valley Audubon Society. Mark this date on your calendars and plan to attend what has become a very nice meeting/dinner, now in its eighth year. Our banquet is one of the best attended, most popular affairs of the year. Again, the church will serve family style a most promising menu:

tomato juice	peas	relishes
braised steak	jello salads	coffee & tea
scalloped potatoes	bread & butter	choice of pies!

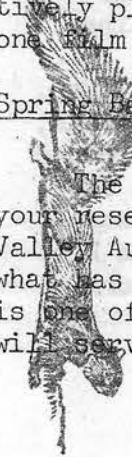
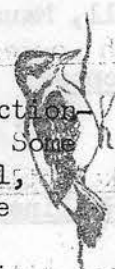
The deadline for reservations is April 17th. Call in by then (Colette Heller - 742-7481 or Truth Close - 942-7886) or mail checks in to Colette (425 Bellview Ave., Bellwood, Pa. 16617)

## Summer Audubon Workshop

Please submit your name if interested in being considered for the one week Connecticut workshop (your choice of summer week). Give Bill Rosevear the name of anyone who might be interested. A selection will be made soon on this scholarship. JVAS pays for the tuition and travel expenses. See Bill at the meetings or call him collect: 674-5021.

## Regional Waterfowl Census

This annual informal counting of water birds is scheduled for April 1st - a Sunday. The idea behind this count is just to get out along rivers, lakes and reservoirs to see how many different species of ducks, geese, sandpipers (shorebirds) etc. can be located. Perhaps a body of water near you will look good for coverage anytime that day. Jot down the species and their numbers so John Orr (943-5629) can get them all within a week or two and tally a report for the Gnatcatcher. Very good spots are reservoirs, Canoe Creek Lake, Prince Gallitzin (Lake Glendale), and Juniata River.



Winter Birds Rosevears had a red-breasted nuthatch 3 weeks in February. Stephen Bonta reports a redpoll at their place on Jan. 7th. John Orr had a sparrow hawk go off with a junco in February from his back yard in Altoona.

Early Spring Outings A few field trips will be planned for April & May. Details available as they become definite. The first will be set up at the March meeting and is tentatively schedule for Canoe Creek Lake with John Orr as the leader.

Bird Seed A few bags of seed are left from our sale. Anyone wishing to feed now may pick up these bags at cost from John Orr. Call him at 943-5629.

PAC Meeting Bill Rosevear and Al Burd attended the Pennsylvania Audubon Council meeting March 3rd in Harrisburg. They were able to get valuable information on tax exemption status for our group. The forms are now being filled out. Much of the legal or technical side of a group's existence and operation has been neglected in the past and only now is Bill tying up all strings on such matters as tax exemptions for fund raisers and purchases, our own constitution and incorporation status for the group. Thanks must go to Bill for his dogged pursuit of these items. Past years saw little consciousness of the needs in this area but this is now moving along fine and will certainly have to be one of Bill's major accomplishments as president of JVAS.

Thanks to Mary & Kenneth Slippey. Mary furnished a truck last December for transporting our left-over seed. Her son, Kenneth - a member - volunteered to drive the seed from the pick-up point. Many thanks, too, go out to all those half dozen or so helpers at the pick-up site that day: Bill, Maurice, Al, John, and Fran.

Patch Contest Entries are rolling in. Bill will announce a deadline at the March meeting. Once a design has been chosen it won't be long before a patch will be manufactured for members of JVAS.

Alaska Hotline Number Call 1-202-547-5550 after 11:00 p.m. for the most recent update on the Alaska lands issue. About 39¢ for a call.

Needed: Filing Cabinet Anyone who has a good cabinet and wishes to donate it to the group should contact Bill. We need one pretty bad.

April Executive Meeting Scheduled for Peggy Goodman's on April 9th at 7:00 in the evening. Peggy lives at the corner of 4th Ave. & 30th St. in Columbia Park. Anyone should feel free to attend the monthly executive meetings. They are open and interesting.

More Winter Birds Lee McCartney from Bellwood reports 6 cedar waxwings for Feb. 10th. They were roosting in pines. Also there were 40 evening grosbeaks, 6 male and 2 female purple finches - all in February. John Orr had 17 mourning doves at one time in his back yard in Altoona (Columbia Park), plus a cowbird on Jan. 18th. Bill Rosevear reports 6 robins on the road from the park to Patton. This was on Feb. 11th. The robins were eating sumac berries on a slope. Bill has had 5 to 6 bluebirds all in one box near the marina. 2 males and the others females or immatures.

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