

Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 11 No 3

April 1979

The Old Man and Death

An old laborer, bent double with age and toil, was gathering sticks in a forest. At last he grew so tired and hopeless that he threw down the bundle of sticks, and cried out: "I cannot bear this life any longer. Ah, I wish Death would only come and take me!"

As he spoke, Death, a grisly skeleton, appeared and said to him: "What wouldst thou, Mortal? I heard thee call me."

"Please, sire," replied the woodcutter, "would you kindly help me to lift this faggot of sticks on to my shoulder."

WE WOULD OFTEN BE SORRY IF OUR WISHES WERE GRATIFIED.

Aesop, retold by Joseph Jacobs

The Annual Banquet / Meeting

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

PLACE: Social Hall - 28th Street
Church of the Brethren / 28th
St. & Union Ave. / Altoona,

RESERVATIONS: Must be made by April 17th. Tuesday the 17th is the deadline. Call in to Colette Heller (742-7481) or Truth Close (942-7886). Checks may be mailed to Colette (425 Bellview Ave., Bellwood, Pa. 16617) or members and friends may pay her the night of the banquet.

PROGRAM: BIRDS OF PREY

A Slide Lecture by Penn State Wildlife Specialist Mike Ondik --

In the
spirit of spring
and the rebirth of our
spirits, as in the old
fable above, let's get out

to this April meeting for a fine banquet, an outstanding speaker, and a congenial gathering of friends old and new. This evening should be a memorable one with a number of nice little things planned for you. A new constitution will be given to everyone there. Please call in your reservations now. Bring your friends and relatives.

Mike Ondik, deer herdsman at Penn State, will give us his new program on wildlife. He is with the Wildlife Research Unit - a cooperative agency stationed at the university. It is an agency funded by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Mike has been working there for 16 years and is one of the nation's leading authorities on the Virginia white-tailed deer. As a researcher he is not cooped up on campus but is close to the ground in his work. Mike comes from a small town - Lloydell - located near Blue Knob in Cambria County. His college degrees are in Forestry and wildlife Management. Those who know Mike will tell you that his programs are top notch - fantastic!

MENU: Tomato Juice / Braised Steak / Scalloped Potatoes / Peas / Jello Salads
Bread & Butter / Relishes / Coffee & Tea / Choice of Homemade Pies!!

TICKETS: \$3.75 per person. Make checks payable to Juniata Valley Audubon Society.

Spring Waterfowl Reports April 1st / 1979 - John Orr whistling swans (10), 2 mallards (Horseshoe Curve Res.) 1 pied-billed grebe (Lakement); Steve Bonta: mallards (2), buffleheads (7), coot (1), pied-bill grebes (2), wood ducks (4), old squaw (5), kingfishers (3), hooded merganser (1), killdeer (1) - all seen at Tyrone Reservoirs; Bill Rosevear: ring-billed gulls (56), ring-necked ducks (20), great blue heron (1), pied-bill grebe (1), common mergansers (23). (ANNUAL REGIONAL WATERFOWL CENSUS)

April 8th Field Trip John Orr & George Mahon (Canoe Creek State Park): buffleheads (40), scaups (40), American widgeons (8), Canada goose (1), whistling swans (8), horned grebes (4), red-tailed hawk (1).

April 9th & 10th Tragedy As reported in local papers and on local T.V. stations, 1,000s and possible 10s of thousands of waterfowl came down along a 50 mile stretch from Centre County past Blair. Severe cold and rain forced them to land and weather over on rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Unfortunately, many came down where they could - often in fields and on roads. Reminiscent of the grebe crashdown of a few months ago, these birds were in need of help. Game Commission officials and Humane Society personnel worked to get stunned and injured birds into safe waters.

Larry Harshaw's report: Larry, a game protector, reports a few 100 dead birds. He directed rescue efforts mainly along Rt 220 from Greenwood down to Bald Eagle. Species seen dead or alive included: old squaw, grebes (pied-billed and horned), great blue herons (15 in one bunch), white winged scoters, lesser & greater scaups, ruddy ducks and canvasbacks. The birds seemed confused. They were not iced up. A number were killed along Rt 220 by traffic but there were not many cars and trucks out so it could have been worse. The birds seemed to pile up most near bridges over rivers. The Logan Bell pond was full.

Don Martin's report: Don is a game protector from Hollidaysburg. He did not get the calls and workout that Larry did to the north. One female ruddy duck was collected alive from Broad Ave. On April 9th and 10th he saw thousands of waterfowl at the lake in Canoe Creek State Park. There were loons, blue-winged teal, baldpates (Amer. widgeons), swans, buffleheads, scaups and pied-billed grebes.

The Humane Society reported a number of calls regarding birds downed. The basic advice given was to get all birds not badly injured to rivers or lakes. The Society handled 1 loon, 1 grebe and 1 white winged scoter.

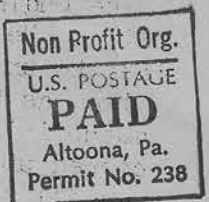
John Orr's report: John saw numerous species on April 10th. Upper Mill Run reservoir: old squaw (3), bufflehead (7) loon (1); Lower Mill Run reservoir: Amer. widgeon (15), horned grebes (7), shovelers (2), loon (1); First Horseshoe Curve reservoir: mallards (2), white winged scoters (3), loons (2), buffleheads (10), + 300 or so unidentified; Lakemont Park: horned grebes (52), blue-winged teal (1), scaups (5), buffleheads (2), Amer. widgeons (2), canvasbacks (5).

Mike Ondik's Report: April 10th - Sayers Dam (between Lock Haven & Milesburg.) 28 species of water type birds. gadwalls, great blue herons, 3 species of sea gull - ring bills, herring & Bonaparte's. Mike said that there were 10,000 or more birds on the lake.

John Orr & Norman Klobetanz report: April 11th - swans (8), mallards (2), Amer. widgeon (20+), blue-winged teal (15+), ring-necked ducks (40+), canvasbacks (2), scaup (too many to count), common goldeneye (2), bufflehead (30+), red-breasted merganser (1), ruddy duck (1), Amer. coot (2), common loons (2). (CANOE CREEK STATE PARK LAKE)

Audubon Workshop Please submit names of people who might benefit from the 1 week summer workshop scholarship. Persons may apply themselves for this grant. Contact Bill Rosevear, president JVAS. (1-674-5021)

The Gnatcatcher Tele:
3001 4th Avenue 943-5629
Altoona, Pa. 16602



Alaska Alert:

Cong. recess now in effect (12th to 22nd) Call congressman, ask for support of Udall/Seiberling H.R.#39 of 1979! Speak directly by phone. Vote in House to come up soon! Act now.

TO:

Nature Center
Prince Gallitzin State Park
RD #1
Fatton, Pa. 16668