

THE

# Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 11 No 5

September 1979



## The Humble-Bee

Wiser far than human seer,  
 Yellow-breeched philosopher!  
 Seeing only what is fair,  
 Sipping only what is sweet,  
 Thou dost mock at fate and care,  
 Leave the chaff, and take the wheat.  
 When the fierce northwestern blast  
 Cools sea and land so far and fast,  
 Thou already slumberest deep;  
 Woe and want thou canst outsleep;  
 Want and woe, which torture us,  
 Thy sleep makes ridiculous.

- Last stanza from Ralph Waldo Emerson poem

### First Meeting of the New Season

PLACE: Fort Roberdeau Nature Center - site of old Kiwanis Farm adjacent to the fort - in Sinking Valley

TIME: 6:00 p.m. for walks / 6:30 p.m. for program

DATE: Tuesday, September 25th (Last Tuesday of each month is regular date of all meetings.)

PROGRAM: Bird Banding and Netting.

Bill Rosevear will coordinate a practical demonstration of banding and netting. For the uninitiated this should prove to be quite fascinating. This meeting follows last September's in that it is out of doors - a move that has met with near unanimous approval. Even if the weather turns bad the meeting room with its large stone fireplace makes a most comfortable spot to get together in. Car pool if you can. If anyone needs a ride, call John Orr (943-5629). Those who have never visited the Nature Center are in for a treat. The meeting / outing is, as always, very informal. Please attend - even if it's your very first Audubon meeting.

### Early October Field Trip

DESTINATION: The Pulpit - a well known hawk watching site just off Rt. #30 on mountains between Chambersburg and Breezewood.

DATE: October 13th (Saturday)

MEETING TIME: 6:00 a.m.

MEETING PLACE: Parking lot at Family Host Restaurant (Pleasant Valley Shopping Center).

RAIN DATE: October 20th

We plan to meet early and leave early so as to get some morning time watching. It is hoped that people will car pool down, leaving their cars at the Family Host. Bring rain gear, binoculars and a lunch. It can get pretty windy on the high rock outcrop of the Pulpit so dress accordingly. The ride south is approximately 1½ hours. Observers from the Chambersburg area man the site continually so it should be interesting to hear them call out their identifications of passing hawks. Call John Orr or Al Burd if you intend to go their directly on your own and don't know the route.

### Wild Bird Seed Sale

Get Thursday night's Altoona Mirror or this week's Blair Shopper's Guide for the coupon ad on the seed sale.

In short, each member will soon receive by mail an order form - like last year's - for your convenience in placing this season's orders. Please support our fund raising effort with a strong hand for the monies coming in as profit will go toward important local environmental projects and activities. Pass on forms to your neighbors and others - especially the new ones. Let's all chip in to help support our effort for this



The Feathered Friend, Bird Snack, Sunflower and Niger (thistle) seed 25 & 50 lb. bags will be available - plus an assortment of feeders: suet, peanut butter and Droll Yankee regular and thistle feeders. Also - a few traditional wooden and glass feeding stations will be offered. This year we are working with Imler's-Agway in Eldorado near Canon Station on 6th Avenue Road (past Eldorado). Imlers will be the pick-up point on the 27th of October. All orders should be mailed in to John H. Orr, 3001 4th Ave., Altoona, Pa. 16602 with checks or money orders.

Keystone Festival Juniata Valley Audubon had a booth two days at the festival. We talked to a lot of people about our organization - about such things, for example, as the Fort Roberdeau Nature Center trails. It was no doubt worth the effort and Fran Burgoon, Al Burd, Bill Rosevear, Ann Borland, Colette Heller, and John Orr worked the exhibits, sold enough feeders, books and stationary to break even, and went home Sunday very tired.

Big Trees Let us know of any huge specimens that might make the record list. Some large trees no doubt are well hidden.

The JVAS Patch Contest Janet Demuth is the winner. Her design portrays a gnatcatcher and the name of our group. Janet will receive her prize at the September meeting. It is hoped that a finished patch will soon be available to all our members. Other Audubon branches in Pennsylvania are having them made. Could be some swapping will develop.

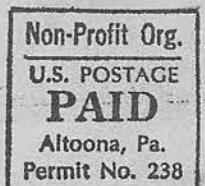
Summer Activities -- Sinking Valley Outings Ending up the regular meeting calendar was a well attended June outing at Ft. Roberdeau. Some fine films were shown. The planned for July Sunday trail hike did not succeed. A very rainy day wiped out any chance for visitors in any appreciable numbers. Al Burd did take four visitors over the trails. It was hoped that several Sundays - one per month - during the summer might be a nice service to the public who would want a guided experience through the trail system. Perhaps next summer the plan can be tried again.

County Stream / Sewer Project Hearings were held on the quality of water in area streams. Please contact John Orr or Bill Rosevear (Conservation Committee chairman) with any ideas or input relating to this subject. If the streams are being polluted enough a gigantic sewer project might be written up and funded - possibly \$8 million in sum to remedy the problem. If you feel that you have information on polluting elements in the Altoona area - offer it to us.

Horned Owl Study Anyone interested and able to observe and provide data on prepared ditto forms relevant to this owl should contact Bill (1-674-5021)

Alaska Lands Report Senator Jackson's committee plans action on this issue. Attempts to delay its movement toward a vote by the senate seem sure. Please write our Pa. senators and ask them to vote for S-222 - the Durkin Bill. Address: U.S. Senate / Washington D.C. 20510. Senator Robert Byrd, the majority leader could be contacted for his support and action in getting the bill moved along for a vote. Audubon would like the bill - S-222 - to be passed intact (or nearly so) as a mirror image of the House bill already passed. It will be helpful if some of us take a few minutes to write a short letter soon.

The Gnatcatcher  
3001 4th Avenue  
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IMPORTANT NOTE: Last Minute  
Change  
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We'll meet at  
the Kiwanis  
Farm but  
can not use  
the building  
for our Sep  
program. Be  
sure to wear  
a coat or a  
sweater in  
case it is  
cold. Most of  
the program  
was planned  
for outside,  
as the meet-

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