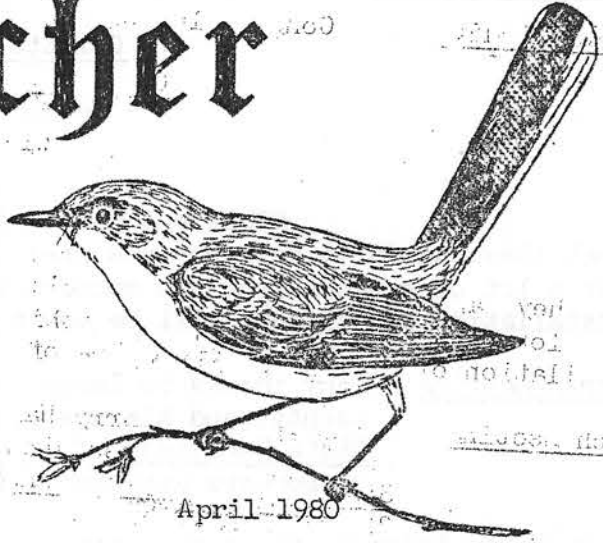


THE Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY

AUDUBON SOCIETY



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A Pinch of Salt

When a dream is born in you
With a sudden clamorous pain,
When you know the dream is true
And lovely, with no flaw nor stain,
O then, be careful, or with sudden clutch
You'll hurt the delicate thing you prize so much.

Dreams are like a bird that mocks,
Flirting the feathers of his tail.
When you seize at the salt box,
Over the hedge you'll see him sail.
Old birds are neither caught with salt nor chaff:
They watch you from the apple bough and laugh.

Poet, never chase the dream.
Laugh yourself, and turn away.
Mask your hunger; let it seem
Small matter if he come or stay;
But when he nestles in your hand at last,
Close up your fingers tight and hold him fast.

Robert Graves

The Annual Banquet - APRIL 29TH - TUESDAY

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Social Hall of 28th St. Church of the Brethren
Union Avenue & 28th St. / Altoona, Pa.

PROGRAM:

Marcia Bonta will present a slide talk on her family's experiences on their mountain top farm just out and up from Tyrone. Marcia, her husband Bruce and their three sons are long time Audubon members who live close to the out of doors in their mountain retreat. Altoona area readers have been enjoying her column, "Brush Mountain Notes", every Thursday evening in the Altoona Mirror.

Plan now for a wonderful evening out - a fine home-cooked meal, a great program, and some informal getting together with your friends. The church serves a fine banquet - complete with an astonishing assortment of home-baked pies! The meal is family style:

ham loaf	homemade bread
scalloped potatoes	jello salads
baked corn	homemade pie
tomato juice	coffee or tea

PRICE \$4.25 per person

Order tickets - that is - make reservations now with Colette Heller. Call her or, preferably, just send in your checks. The deadline for making reservations is: April 24th, a Thursday. Call her at 742-7481 or write to her at 425 Bellevue St. Bellwood, Pa. 16617. It is possible to pay her the night of the banquet, but your reservations must be in by the 24th.

Parking is available in the lot at the rear of the church and on the side streets. Also: call John Orr (943-5629) if you need a ride.

Colette Heller

and newly reelected secretary:

Ann Borland.

Elections were held March 25th. All Audubon members should ask what they can do to help our new president pick up where Bill left off. She should get a lot of support from the membership. Volunteer your services to our cause. The installation of officers will be one of the highlights of the April 29th banquet.

March Meeting Many thanks to Larry Harry Harshaw, District Game Protector for Blair County, and his assistant Helmut Hornung, for their great film - State Gamelands of Pennsylvania. It was a beautiful wildlife film. 32 members attended.

Membership Drive Continuing Sign up new members. We have April, May and June to get to our goal of 15 new members. Remember: have those who join write in our chapter name: Juniata Valley Audubon Society - so that we may be credited with it. Brochures are available from Fran Burgoon, membership chairman, or use the cards in Audubon magazine. Sign up one new member and receive a 14" x 17" Audubon print. Get an Audubon key chain for a 2nd member. And - an Audubon Field Guide of your choice for the most members recruited.

Raptor Conference Dates: June 14th - Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. Cost: \$3.50 registration / Lunch: \$3.45. An all day affair. See Bill Rosevear if interested. Pre-registration by June 1, 1980.

Audubon Ecology Workshop Peggy Goodman is heading up the committee in charge of taking and screening prospective scholarship applications. Write her a letter asking to be considered and telling about yourself, with some emphasis on how you might use the knowledge gained from this outdoor education workshop.

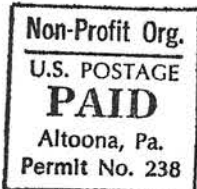
Bluebirds and Tree Swallows In John Belin reports that he has bluebirds and tree swallows again. For the first time last year, John got these two species to nest in his own boxes at his home up the Kettle near the old McMullin Farm. The bluebird - a male - came in on Monday, March 30th, and the tree swallows arrived the first week of April. He has a purple martin house up - has had it set up for four years now - but no luck thus far. If anyone has been getting martins or knows of colonies nearby, let us know. Maybe give John Belin a call, too, at 944-2396. He has found occupied houses at East Freedom.

June Wildfoods Dinner June 22nd. 1:00/2:00 p.m. Ft. Roberdeau. Prepare now. Study up and collect now. Can or freeze - or dry - your foods.

APRIL 26th = Audubon's Birthday! He was born in the year 1785.

"Big Day in May" / Birds Count If you are interested in getting out for a one day count of species only (most different in a day) call John Orr at 943-5629. Proposed and likely date: Sunday, May 11th. This should hit the peak of the spring warbler migration. The magic number for a 24 hr. period for us is: 100! Keep your records and submit them to John.

The Gnatcatcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602



John Hunter Orr
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602