

THE Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY

AUDUBON SOCIETY



Volume 13, No. 6, October 1981

In Search of Weeds

Discontented, the wildflower hunter now turns more toward weedy places, seeking oxalis, orange hawkweed and the scarlet pimpernel.

He knows no bias toward the weeds and sees them where they are, not out of place but wild and free, uncultivated, full of beauty.

He holds no fear of milk that's yarrow-spoiled, and stays immune from ivy's poison touch.

His breathing's never ragweed-pollenized, and where he lives is home enough for dandelions.

The pepperweeds and smartweeds,

the knotweeds

and pigweeds -- all hold

the weed hunter's fascination as he searches out the dwellers of the weedy places,

drawn on by eco-dreams of a wild and natural Earth-garden where

good and bad are fairly understood.

And in the balancing of view, he asks not how obnoxious might the yellow mustard be or what crop is being choked by Queen Anne's lace or chicory.

He knows how tiny seeds are feed for birds and meadow mice

and little roots are wedges set in crevices to rip and tear apart

the city streets and walks.

The searcher of weeds reflects now more on what he finds and sees himself as one in kind with those by any name of weed

that freely dwell in any habitat.

In company with honeybees, the hunter sweeps his eye along on track of ever greater revelation, pausing now, then moving on within his dream in search of weeds.

- John Hunter Orr

The October Meeting: Endangered Species Program

DATE: October 27th
Tuesday
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

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

PROGRAM: Slide lecture on the endangered species program as administered by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

Clark Shiffer, Herpetology & Endangered Species Coordinator for the Commission is the guest lecturer and will outline how since 1977 he has been responsible for initiating and coordinating programs and actions that will benefit (1) all amphibian and reptile species in Pennsylvania and (2) all endangered and threatened fishes, amphibians, reptiles and aquatic organisms in the state, for the ultimate benefit of people. Mr. Shiffer has a special research interest in the taxonomy, distribution and ecology of dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata).

The second program in the season series promises to be most interesting. Park at the rear of the church and enter there into the social hall. Anyone who likes to learn about this world we live in and who enjoys informal company and the partaking of fine refreshments should not miss this meeting!

Last month Carrell and Betty Abbott presented a great film on the osprey. Seventy people were there. The Abbotts are very active and enthusiastic environmentalists. We hope to see more of them and the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Upcoming Dates Into November

November 7-8th: Hk. Mt. Trip

November 7th: Citizens' Mobilization Workshop sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Region in Harrisburg. "Join the Battle to Save Our Environment!" Citizen action, "how to do it" workshops or training sessions. Russell Peterson, president of NAS has proclaimed November to be Citizens' Mobilization Month, a time take action against the negative policies of the present administration in Washington, D.C. Call 943-5629 (John Orr) if interested in attending the all day affair.

November 14th: The third annual seed sale. Pick up seed orders between 9:00 and 3:00 at Imler's Agway on the 6th Ave. Rd near Canan Station. Workers are needed to take shifts that day in unloading and transporting seed. Sign up with Wilson Kreitz (695-0126) A little extra seed and a good collection of bird feeders will be available then. If anyone in Altoona has a secure garage where a few bags of seed could be stored, let Wilson know.

November 22nd: Warm-up for Christmas Bird Count. Field work in the count circle. Call John Orr if interested: 943-5629.

Important Events of Months Ahead: December 20th - Christmas Bird Count and Covered Dish Supper.

JANUARY 26TH MEMBERS NIGHT. ANYTHING GOES PROGRAM. NATURAL THEME: NEEDLEWORK, ARTWORK, PHOTOGRAPHY, LITERATURE, WOODWORK AND MORE. PREPARE FOR NOW. YOU'LL NEED TIME. CALL WILSON KREITZ TO SCHEDULE YOUR PRESENTATION.

June 25-27th - Mid-Atlantic (6 states) Regional Conference at Shenandoah College and Conservatory in Winchester, Virginia.

City Authority / City Council Involvement Needed JVAS needs right away a few volunteers who have time during the day to attend the few government meetings of each month. The City Water Authority, e.g. always meets the last Friday of the month in Greenwood. Call president, Colette Heller if able to monitor environmental matters at either one or the other of these two meetings. (742-7481).

Wanted: Hospitality Committee Workers: New members are needed to work in preparing and serving the monthly refreshments at the church. Others are needed simply to bake cookies for the meetings. Call Bernetta Hill, chairperson of the Hospitality Committee to offer your help. (695-3910)

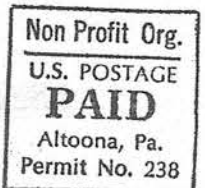
Incorporation Proceedings Colette Heller and Paula-Ford Cameron have the papers back to Attorney T. Dean Lower, a member, and it is now a matter of a few weeks till we are finally there!

Welcome New Life Member! Let us congratulate and welcome one of those few who occupy the rare stratosphere of member for life - Margaret M. Heinzman of Altoona who just recently joined the Juniata Valley Audubon Society. May this be the first of many for our group!

Education Committee Window Display George Mahon and his committee have been working on the November Altoona Area Public Library window display. Be sure to see it all through the month.

Miscellaneous Notes: Extra 1981-82 programs as well as copies of the JVAS Constitution will be available at the October meeting.

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



Seed Sale Pick-up: November 14th
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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