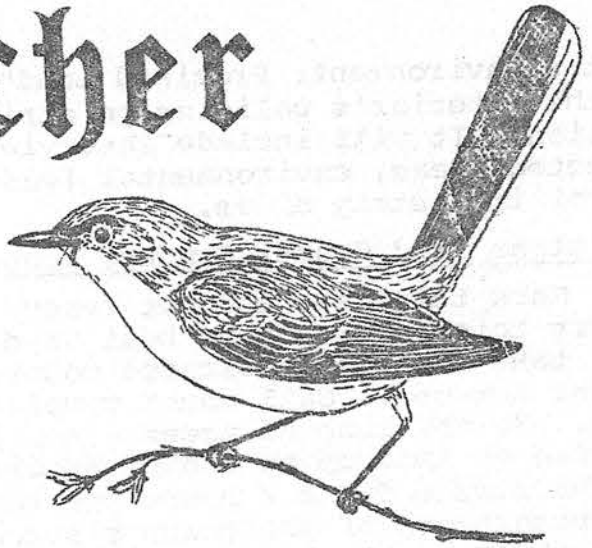


THE Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY

AUDUBON SOCIETY



Volume 13 No 7 November 1981

To sit on rocks, to muse o'er flood
and fell,
To slowly trace the forest's shady
scene,
Where things that own not man's
dominion dwell
And mortal foot hath ne'er or
rarely been;
To climb the trackless mountain all
unseen
With the wild flock that never needs
a fold;
Alone o'er steeps and foaming falls
to lean;
This is not solitude, 'tis but
to hold
Converse with Nature's charms, and
view her stores unrolled.

- Byron Childe Harold
Canto II Verse XXV

The November Meeting

TIME: 7:30 p.m. DATE: Tuesday, November 24th

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

PROGRAM: CITIZEN MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN

One half of the November meeting will be devoted to a "citizen mobilization campaign" in response to the all-out attack, by prominent members of the Reagan Administration, on federal laws and agencies that protect our country's air, land, water and wildlife.

In the misguided belief that regulations to protect air land, water and wildlife are stifling the economy, the Reagan Administration, exemplified by Interior Secretary James Watt, is trying to wipe out the environmental gains and safeguards won by a generation of caring citizens. Attend this meeting and be counted! JOIN THE BATTLE TO SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT! Sign-up sheets will be available to each member on Tuesday. Those who sign up to join the Audubon Campaign will be kept informed of what's happening in Washington and what they can do to defend - and strengthen - the environmental laws of the land. They will receive free the Audubon Action Alert newsletter and fact sheets on water, energy, clean air, wildlife and more.

WINTER BIRDS - A SLIDE PROGRAM

The second half of the evening's program will have John Orr presenting a 143 slide rundown on Pennsylvania's winter birds. This should be of great interest to backyard feeders or bird count workers.

For those who get hungry: some fine refreshments. Our informal gatherings have been ranging from 50 to 70 people - so, join the crowd. Bring your friends to an evening of entertainment and education.

Warm-up For Christmas Bird Count TIME: Meet at 1:30p.m.

DATE: November 22nd

MEETING PLACE: Pleasant Valley Shopping Center (near Family Host)

Field work in the count circle and pointers on winter bird i.d. Join with some experts for a few hours at selected sights. Led by John Orr. Call for more information: 943-5629.

TV Special: December 9th at 9:00 p.m.

An hour-long TV special not to be missed will be aired by the

Public Broadcasting Service Wednesday, December 9th. The title is "James

Watt's Environment: Promised Land". The show will examine the Secretary of the Interior's policies on strip mining, logging, and wilderness protection. It will include interviews with industrialists, residents of the affected areas, environmental leaders, and Watt himself, and scenes of unreclaimed strip mines.

Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, December 20th

Mark this date and get ready. A fine challenge faces the 1981 census takers this year: how to beat 61 different species reported last year? It will take a lot of dedicated counters both afield and in neighborhood feeder set-ups. Call count compiler, John Orr (943-5629) to get onto a team. Be thinking of areas - now is the time to scout habitats. Also, it is wise to bone up on winter species - especially troublesome types such as the purple finch / house sparrow or the kinglets. The all day count has become one of the group's strongest and most exciting traditions. It is a challenge to be sure! Feeder counters are most important. Each year great birds turn up from this type of count. Note: Batchelers' baltimore oriole, Smith's pine siskins, White's rufous-sided towhees, Sternagle's rusty blackbirds, Stout's chipping sparrow, and the two bobwhite in a yard in Tyrone. The covered dish supper will again be at the Skelp Grange Hall beginning at dusk. See the December Gnatcatcher for all details.

Nomination Committee Positions to be filled in 1982 March elections: President & Secretary. Contact John Orr, Bill Rosevear, Ann Borland or Madge Quick, nominating committee members, with and suggestions.

Trip of Hawk Mountain On November 7th, Janet Martin, John and Marian McCall, George Mahon, Angeline Stout, Wilson Kreitz, Bill Rosevear and 3 Bontas (Bruce, Marcia & Steve) journeyed to the famed Hawk Mountain (1 hr. east of Harrisburg via Rt.#22) for two days of great sightings: Saturday: 298 red-tailed hawks, 1 red-shouldered, 3 golden eagles, 1 rough-legged, 2 sharp-shinned, 6 goshawk, 1 Cooper's 14 harriers (marsh hawks), 2 unidentified for a total of 328; Sunday: 300 red-tailed - INCLUDING 1 ALBINO! - 12 red-shouldered, 4 golden eagles, 3 rough-legged (2 light phase, 1 dark phase), 10 sharp-shinned, 9 goshawk, 5 Cooper's, 3 harriers, 4 unidentified for a total of 350. It was one of those great . . . One golden eagle was very cooperative - it flew right over the lookout. Both this trip and the one to the Pulpit will be scheduled again on next year's program.

Membership Drive From October 1st to March 31st, JVAS will be part of a national drive for new members. Incentives offered by our group are: key chains for 2 new members; bird calls for two; bird prints for three and an Audubon Field Guide for the most over-all. Remember - you must tell Fran Burgoon, membership chairman, names and numbers so he can give out the items.

The Pulpit Trip A small group ventured south again to the Pulpit in search of hawks. The day was not too cold and the total of birds seen was approximately 60, including turkey vultures, ravens, 4 loons, red-tailed hawks, 1 goshawk, 2 marsh hawks, 1 sharp-shinned hawk. 15 people were on this trip. The view from the pulpit was worth the 1 and a half hour drive down, according to Al Burd.

Audible (Audubon Offer) See Bill Rosevear at the Nov. 24th meeting if you would like to place an order for an Audible Audubon set and save about \$10 over the regular price. He'll have a sign-up sheet there.

The Gnatcatcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602

Novembers Audubon Display in
window of Public Library

Bird Count: December 20th

William E. Rosevear
RD Box 63A
Patton, Pa. 16668

