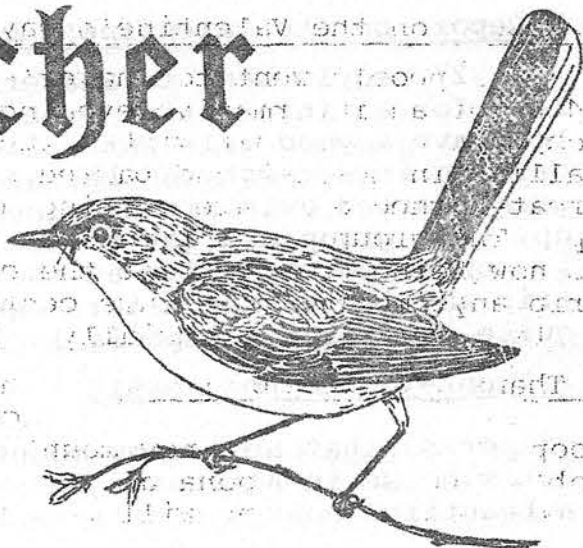


THE Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY
AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 14 No 2 February 1982



I Sing The Body Electric
I sing the body electric,
celebrate the me yet to come.
I toast to my own reunion
when I shall become one with the sun.

And I'll look back on Venus,
look back on Mars -
And I'll burn with the fire
of ten million stars.
And in time we will all be stars.

I sing the body electric,
glory in the glow of rebirth.
Creating my own tomorrow
when I shall embody the earth.

And I'll serenade Venus,
serenade Mars -
And I'll burn with the fire
of ten million stars.

And in time we will all be stars.

We are the emperors now
And we are the czars,
And in time we will all be stars.

Dean Pitchford
(Song from the movie Fame)

The February Meeting

DATE: February 23rd

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: 28th Street
Church of
the Brethren

Union Avenue & 28th
Street, Altoona, Pa.

PROGRAM:

"ALTERNATE
ENERGY
SOURCES"

Presented by :

Judith Johnsrud,
Co-director of the
Coalition on Nuclear
Power.

Our guest speaker for the February meeting
comes from her home in State College to present a
talk on alternate energy sources.

She has a PhD in the field of geography specializing in
the field of energy. Currently Judy is active in the National
Solar Lobby and has been chair or vice-chair of that group since
its inception in 1978. She is a member of the Governor's Energy Council
Advisory Committee and is on the board of directors of the newly
formed League of Conservation Voters, a statewide coalition dealing with
energy and environmental issues. Very active in spirit and deed, she is
a most engaging speaker - a person who communicates well a most needed
message regarding the philosophy of politics and energy.

Please welcome our State College neighbor and fellow Audubon
member this Tuesday evening. The lot is cleared of snow and another
fine meeting is set to go with winter close to its end. A number of
people have volunteered to pick up members who need a ride. Call
943-5629 for information.

Spring Trip to Ricketts Glen

Marcia Bonta has this outing fairly well set up. The date will be
May 22nd. The group will be made up of our members and friends of JVAS.
A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the February meeting and any-
one can call or write in reservations to Marcia at 684-3113 / Box #68
Tyrone, Pa. 16686. Marcia and Bruce will be leading this field trip to
the beautiful northeastern state park. Leaving early on Saturday morn-
ing the group will spend the day hiking and touring the area. Serious
hikers will be able to get in a 7.5 to 8 mile walk over the trails. The
park has picnic areas for visitors and the group will eat a picnic
lunch at 1:00 at Lake Jean. Those not into a long hike will have a
nice time walking shorter trails along the waterfalls. Returning toward
evening, the group will have dinner at Hotel Magee in Bloomsburg, Pa.
A smorgasbord is planned. Cost of the package (meal and bus trip) will
be announced this Tuesday and in the March Gnatcatcher. It is important
to get signed up early and to have your money in by April 1st.

A Report on the Valentine's Day Owl Prowl

27 people went to Shaver's Creek Nature Center Sunday, February 14th for an informative evening program on owls. Barb and David Middleton gave a good talk with slides on these birds of prey. David tried calling in screech and barred owls on a night walk but had no luck. The great-horned owls are nesting now so no attempts were made to stir them up. The group did get to see one of these owls that was injured and is now being cared for at the center. As all would no doubt agree, a trip anytime to the nature center and its exhibits and bookstore is quite rewarding - especially for the youngsters.

A Thank-you to Bob Swalt

Thanks to Bob, Bill Rosevear now has an accipiter hawk (he thinks it's an immature Cooper's) that he is now mounting for display. This bird flew into Bob's house in Altoona a few weeks ago and was passed on to us. It is a beautiful hawk and will be brought in at a later meeting.

Osprey Fund Drive

Wilson Kreitz asks members to donate small change or bills to our fundraising efforts on behalf of osprey reintroduction in Pennsylvania. We are matching funds and, of course, donations are tax deductible. Give contributions to Wilson at the meeting or mail in to him at RD-2, Box 567, Ducansville, Pa. 16635.

Nominations for President and Secretary

Give names in nomination for these two positions to Fran Burgoon (695-5857). A slate of officers must be ready for presentation at the February meeting. Elections are in March and installation is in April at the annual banquet.

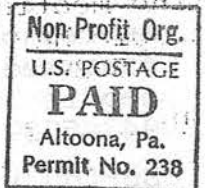
Bald Eagles at Raystown

Jack Troy of Huntingdon reports a pair of bald eagles near the cliffs one mile south of the dam at Raystown State Park. They appear to be an immature in transition and a mature. Going east on Rt #22, go past Huntingdon signs and turn right just before large bridge. Go straight two miles or so then right. The birds are at the "point" as it's called - the access area where the Frankstown and Raystown branches meet. They fly above the cliffs near the open water. The cliffs are located across from the Corbin Farm, a good-sized farm near the point.

Northern Visitors Sighted

Steve Bonta has just about seen them all this winter. On January 25th and other days after he sighted white-winged crossbills feeding in hemlocks in the hollow below his home. The redpolls moved in, too, in late January when the Bontas saw as many as 100 at one time atop their mountain. Steve saw a snowy owl January 29th near State College and earlier he recorded the rare black-backed three-toed woodpecker! Pine siskins are everywhere this winter. 100s have been reported in State College and Altoona has its share. Three gyrfalcons were reported near Lancaster and one near Chambersburg. The bitter winter weather north and northeast of our area may largely account for such an influx of northern species. The pine grosbeaks have not yet been reported. Observers should contact Steve (684-3113) with any reports of unusual birds in our area.

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



FEBRUARY MEETING:
Tuesday, the 23rd.

MAY FIELD TRIP:
Sign up now!

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