

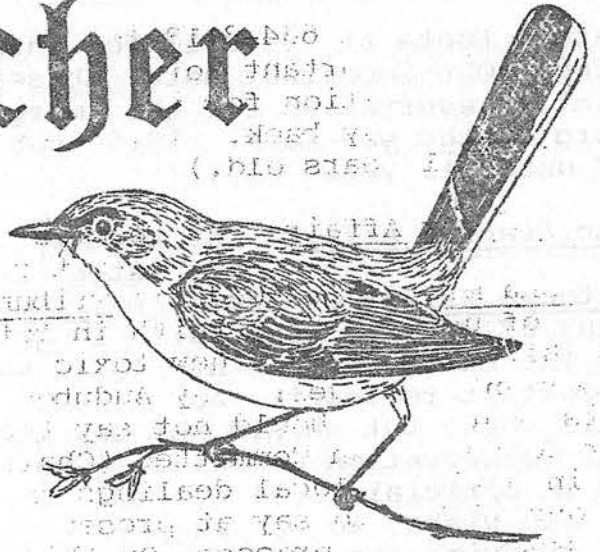
THE

Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY

AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 14 No 3 March 1982



Do You Know...

Do you know, I would quietly
slip from the loud circle,
when first I know the pale
stars above the oaks
are blooming.

Ways will I elect
that seldom any tread
in pale evening meadows --
and no dream but this:
You come too.

- Rainer Maria Rilke

- Translated by M.D. Herter Norton

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) is usually considered the greatest modern German poet. "Do you know..." is typical of his writing -- and typical of the work of the 19th-century Romantic poets who influenced him. These poets sought to free themselves, and all people, from the "loud circle" of society that threatened to imprison them. The "ways" they chose were ones "that seldom any tread."

- Literary Cavalcade
(February 1982)

The March Meeting

PROGRAM: "AUDUBON
CAUSE"

Walt Pomeroy,

newly appointed Vice President

of the Mid-Atlantic Region, will present a slide show dealing with our environmental priorities. Walt works out of Camp Hill, Pa. -- the headquarters of our six state region (Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia). He has been involved with environmental concerns in an active, gainful way for nearly 15 years -- up in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin for the most part. We have been given a lot of help by him -- especially in our recent work on the proposed coal stripping operations. Bring yourself and a friend or two to meet Walt and learn more about our organization's role.

DATE: March 30th 1982

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

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

Refreshments will be served. The meeting is open to one and all and is of an informal nature.

Annual Banquet: April 27th Our spring banquet will be at Gullifty's 6:30 p.m.

Paul Wiegman of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will be our guest speaker with a program on threatened and endangered plants of our state. He is an excellent speaker and a most remarkable photographer. This is one of our big programs of the year -- and members and friends are urged to get their reservations soon. The cost of the banquet is \$6.75 per person payable by check to Dora Brown at 5208 4th Avenue, Altoona, Pa. 16602. Call Dora to make your reservation. To avoid confusion the night of the dinner, we would appreciate it if you would send your money in with the reservation. The deadline for us on this is APRIL 20TH, a Tuesday. The dinner will be a buffet and the menu will feature: hot roast beef, hot turkey with gravies, scalloped potatoes, tossed salad, kaiser rolls, relish tray, coffee or tea, and cheese cake or carrot cake. Gullifty's is located in the Quality Inn near the Veterans Hospital on Pleasant Valley Blvd. in Altoona. Make checks payable to JVAS.

Trout Unlimited's Canoe Creek Clean-up

Some of our members who belong to T.U. ask for a helping hand in their 12th annual Canoe Creek clean-up. The date is Sunday, April 4th, rain or shine, at 2:00 p.m. Meet at the State Park parking lot on the Rt.#22 side of the lake. Fish Commission personnel or T.U. members will be there to give out plastic bags and area assignments. Call Bob Richers at 942-0680 for more information. Rubber boots are recommended. Gloves, too. This is a good project and might afford the opportunity of sighting an early spring kingfisher. (See cover of this month's Audubon.)

Latest on May Trip to Ricketts Glen All set for May 22nd. There may be a few seats left on the bus. Call Marcia Bonta at 684-3113 for information. (Address: Box #68 / Tyrone, Pa. 16686) One important note: those taking cars should tell Marcia if you want a reservation for the smorgasbord dinner at the Hotel Magee in Bloomsburg on the way back. \$9.00 for meal only; \$23.00 for bus/meal (or \$16.50 if under 11 years old.)

The Stablex Affair The best way over-all to follow or keep up with this, our latest controversial environmental issue, is via Altoona Mirror or Sunday's Tribune Democrat. The new technologies are what many of us have some faith in but we are remaining open minded and neutral as the study of this new toxic waste treatment process goes on. One very important reminder: any Audubon member should feel free to speak upon this topic but should not say that he or she is representing Audubon. Our Conservation Committee (Chair is Paula Ford Cameron) will represent us in official local dealings on this issue. Of course, it is no problem if one wishes to say at present that our group is neutral and is objectively studying the process. On this subject and others like it (the gypsy moth furor) it would be good to work for the facts and to remain unemotional.

Important Miscellaneous Bits and Pieces A "Save Mill Run Bake Sale" might be held soon to help defray costs of financing the efforts to declare parts of the Mill Run Watershed UFM (Unsuitable for mining). More later on this.

Blue bird Houses: clean out now! Get set for they are here now!
Bird notes: Laura and Dorothy Irwin of Bellwood had white-winged crossbills the week of March 15th. Males, females and immatures. John Orr and Colette Heller saw them. Crossbills and siskins were everywhere this winter. On 3/9/82 John saw 1 redpoll at his feeder in Altoona. Red-breasted nuthatches are common now. Irwins had one last week. And, of course, the bald eagles were big news: Bontas, Jack Troy, Frank & Angeline out all saw them at Raystown.

New bird stamps: Roger Tory Peterson's birds - all fifty of them representing each of the fifty states -- available as one sheet at P.O. April 15th.

The February meeting saw 47 members and a very informative talk by Judy Johnsrud of State College.

The new and beautiful topo maps of Blair County (large size) may be had by sending \$2.00 per sheet to Distribution Section, U.S. Geological Survey, 1200 South Eads St., Arlington, Va. 22202. It is some map!

Elections: at March 30th meeting. Officers will be installed in April at the banquet. Also: the JVAS Conservation Award to be given then.

Arts Festival: our group will have an outside table May 8th & 9th.

Big Day in May will be May 15th. This is an all day census within a 25 miles radius of Culp (center of Christmas Count). John Orr in charge.

Fort Roberdeau Trails Call Al Burd to offer your help in taking school groups through the outdoor ed center. He needs help and will tell people exactly what to do. The spring season is coming up fast so call Al at 943-0586 if you can give a little of your time.

Save The Mill Run Watershed! Our petition has been filed with the Bureau of Mining and Reclamation at DER (3/20/82).

The Conservation Committee feels it has a good argument for having a sizable section of the watershed declared "Unsuitable For Mining." Watch the Mirror for updates on this effort.

The Gnatcatcher
3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602



April Banquet: Call in reservations to Dora Brown at 942-2349 by April 20th.

April 3rd: Woodcock Walk: An evening trip to Prince Gallitzin State Park to observe the woodcock. Led by Bill Rosevear. Leaves Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 5:00 p.m.

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

March 31st: League of Women Voters
Workshop on Hazardous
Wastes / 7:30 p.m. YWCA.
Public Invited.