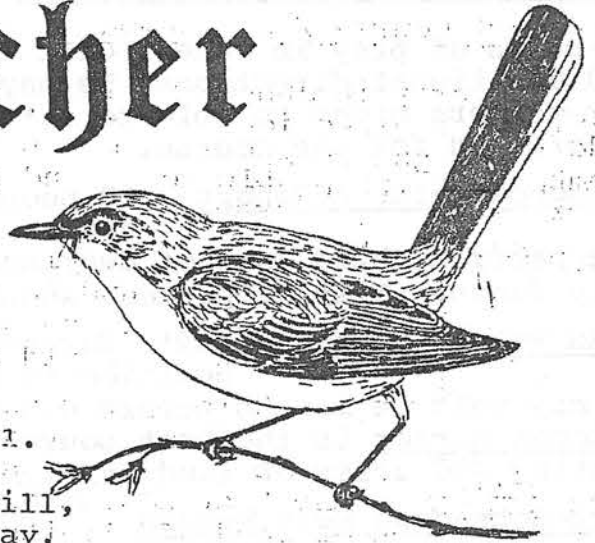


THE Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY

AUDUBON SOCIETY



Volume 14 No 4 April 1982

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,
A wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March.

A bluebird comes tenderly up to alight
And fronts the wind to unruffle a plume,
His song so pitched as not to excite
A single flower as yet to bloom.
It is snowing a flake: and he half knew
Winter was only playing possum.
Except in color he isn't blue,
But he wouldn't advise a thing to blossom.

The water for which we may have to look
In summertime with a witching-wand,
In every wheelrut's now a brook,
In every print of a hoof a pond.
Be glad of water, but don't forget
The lurking frost in the earth beneath
That will steal forth after the sun is set
And show on the water its crystal teeth.

From "Two Tramps In Mud Time"
by Robert Frost

The Annual Banquet

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

DATE: April 27th

DAY: Tuesday

PLACE: Gullifty's
at the Quality
Inn (2915 Pleasant
Valley Blvd., Altoona.)

Note: the banquet room
has its own separate
entrance located a bit
past the restaurant.

PROGRAM: Paul Wiegman,
Director of the
Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy
Natural Areas Program,
will be our guest speaker.

Paul will present a film lecture entitled:

"Threatened and Endangered Plants of Pennsylvania."

He is a remarkable photographer and in his present work is an active, on the go person, tracking down rare and endangered plant species across our state. The Pittsburgh-based Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has more than 8,000 members and is the largest private land conservation organization in the state. Reservations should be called in right away to meet the April 22nd deadline. Call Dora Brown at 942-2349 or Madge Quick at 742-8719. Mail in checks at \$6.75 per person to Dora (5208 4th Ave., Altoona, Pa. 16602). Those needing rides to Gullifty's should call Wilson Kreitz at 695-0126. The program will be worth \$6.75 itself -- so call in now! Officers will be installed at the annual dinner. Also, the JVAS Conservation Award will be presented.

Big Day In May: May 15th / Saturday John Orr is coordinating this event which is again an informal day's counting of any and all species to be found within a 25 mile radius circle centered on the Culp intersection of Sinking Valley. Participants should keep tallies of just different birds sighted. These listings can be mailed in to 3001 4th Ave., Altoona, Pa. 16602. Call 943-5629 for details.

May 22nd Bus Trip To Ricketts Glen State Park Eight seats remain for this trip east. Call

Marcia Bonta at 684-3113 to make your reservations. May 7th is the new deadline on this. Marcia will give the particulars. Members are advised to wear or bring along adequate clothing. It might be chilly or wet. Firm shoes are recommended. And -- a bag lunch should be packed.

June 27th Annual Picnic and Wild Foods Sampler Sunday, 2:00 p.m. at the Fort Roberdeau Nature Center in Sinking Valley. Plan now on items. The wild foods this year will be set out for sampling so bring a regular lunch. Call Al Burd at 943-0586 for help or suggestions. He is in charge.

Raptor Short Course / UPJ Campus

Mike Onick and the National Wildlife Federation are giving a one day course on birds of prey in June. Call Colette Heller (742-7481) for exact date and additional directions. We may be underwriting it and if so, a few of our members might be able to attend free. College and in-service credit is offered for the course.

Woodcock Walk: A Report

13 people went on this windy walk! Tramping around in Prince Gallitzin State Gamelands #108, the party sighted lots of deer and one woodcock which performed its courtship dance. This trip, too, should be an annual affair.

JVAS Permit Status

DER's Bureau of Mining and Reclamation has told us the petition is a valid one and is now to be worked on. It may well be months before DER has completed the studies. Again, the Altoona Mirror is the best source of information on this process aimed at setting 400 acres of land off limits to surface mining at Mill Run.

Fort Robeadeau Help Needed

Al Burd asks again for some help in maintaining the nature center and especially in guiding young school children through the preserve. He can quickly set up volunteers so they can be guides along the trails. Call Al at 943-5021.

Recent Sightings

The yellow-bellied sapsuckers are moving north and many people are seeing them. Bill Heller and John Orr 4/9/82 and Paula DeWitt 4/16/82. Angeline Stout saw 5 male and 3 female purple finches at her home 4/17/82. Bob Richers reported an osprey 4/4/82 at Canoe Creek Lake.

March Meeting - 86 Members and Guests!

Walt Pomeroy, our regional representative, gave a fine slide talk March 30th. His slides depicted the "Audubon Cause" for the large group. It was Walt's first visit to our chapter. He plans to be working closely with JVAS on future projects.

New State Bird Stamps

Buy them now at the Post Office. 50 different state birds all done by Roger Tory Peterson.

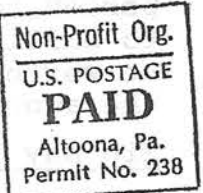
Cooney Bros. Coal Co. Permit Application Hearing

March 23rd, 18 Audubon members attended the DER permit hearing held at City Hall in Altoona. Testimony was given by our group -- a four page report asking for denial. As of now, we are waiting a decision to be announced. A large group was in attendance at the hearing. No one from Cooney Bros., the City Authority, or Gwin Dobson and Foreman was present. It should be noted that this group of 18 was not the same band that went out with Bill Rosevear looking for woodcocks. It is certainly in order to say thanks to these people, though, for it really did have an impact on the hearing examiner!

Audubon Summer Workshop

George Mahon, Education Committee chairman, has set in operation the process for choosing someone to attend an outdoor education camp this summer. The \$350 scholarship will be given to a person seeking an opportunity to develop his or her interest in ecology, conservation and wildlife. Applicants must be over 18 years old and must give a detailed report to our group upon returning. To obtain application blanks write or phone George: 1427 Pitt Rd. Altoona, Pa. 16602 / 943-4177. Detailed brochures are available on each of the four camps run by Audubon. Our bird seed sale finances this scholarship.

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



May Trip: May 22nd
April Banquet: April 27th
CALL IN RESERVATIONS NOW

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