

THE Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY

AUDUBON SOCIETY



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Winter

When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When blood is nipp'd and ways be fou,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-whit;
Tu-who, a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marion's nose looks red and raw,
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-whit;
Tu-who, a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

--William Shakespeare

Christmas Bird Count: Saturday, Dec. 18, all day and all night. John Orr is coordinating the annual event. Once again the count circle will radiate from the Culp intersection for a distance of fifteen miles. John will let you know which areas still need counters; call him at 943-5629. He will tally the results after the count.

Covered dish dinner: Following the Christmas bird count, a covered dish dinner will be held at the Skelp Grange beginning at dusk.

Mill Run: DER will hold a public hearing on our petition to designate the Mill Run watershed Unsuitable for Mining. It will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Jan. 12, 1983 at the Slep Building at the Altoona Campus. Please plan to attend, even if you don't want to testify. A few people have done a lot of work on the petition; it would be a shame to see it denied because of a lack of community support. You can bet that the coal operators will testify, but you need not be a lawyer or an engineer to get involved. (John Orr and I attended the Philipsburg UFM hearing last week, and some of the most convincing testimonies came from nonexperts.) If you plan to attend and testify, call either John Orr (943-5629) or Paula Cameron (696-3868) for details. If you can't testify, come anyway and clap for us!

Christmas Gift ideas: We have two boxes of Puffin puzzles to sell for \$3 each. They are just gorgeous. Call John Orr. Profits will go to the osprey fund. We also have binders for back issues of Audubon for \$. Don't forget--a membership makes a great gift.

Bird seed: Please pick up your bird seed at Imler's as soon as possible.

Members Night: A repeat of last year's very successful program giving our members and friends the opportunity to share their talents is planned for Jan. 25 at 7:30 at the 28th St. Church of the Brethern. Do you have art work, photography, poetry, needlework, carving, or a collection to share? Call Wilson Kreitz (695-0126) to schedule your presentation.

Winter Birds Field Trip: Meet at the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 1:30 p.m. We'll carpool to snow-covered fields to look for winter species such as snow buntings, horned larks, snowy owls. Call John Orr for more details.

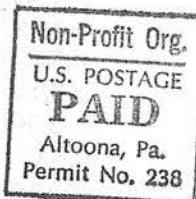
Auction by Mail: The society's library has a space problem and is forced to sell part of its collection, including some hard-to-find natural history volumes. Members get first crack at them. To bid, send a self-addressed stamped (20¢) envelope to Library, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022. You'll receive a list of the books and the minimum bid acceptable for each. Your bid must be received before January 14, 1983.

Watt: In the same column in the Wall Street Journal on Nov. 27, 1982:
(1) Watt steams ahead with decisions that were delayed till after election. The interior secretary will probably approve development of hundreds of acres in the West. The land, under study for possible wilderness designation, now is off limits to oil and mineral exploration. Watt will seek legislation easing restrictions on coal mining on federal acreage. He prepares to tell Congress the amount and location of the land he plans to sell. Some environmentalists look for a repeat of Watt's efforts to silence critics. Earlier this year, the secretary urged big energy companies and foundations to cut off financial support for environmental groups such as the National Audubon Society. He says, "It's ridiculous for the business community to fund the forces of the left that seek to hurt it." In response to Watt's urgings, the Atlantic Richfield Foundation withheld a \$10,000 grant to the society. But it later came through with a \$50,000 gift.
(2) Environmental concern mounts among Americans. A Roper Organization survey finds that 46% put environmental protection ahead of adequate energy supplies--a percentage up 10 points in two years, to a new high. Possible reasons: ample oil supplies; worry over nuclear plants and government moves to ease antipollution rules.

Clean Water: The Clean Water Act faces a regulatory assault by the Reagan administration. In late October, the EPA proposed changes in the rules governing state water quality standards, which are used to require additional cleanup by polluting industries if the minimum uniform control requirements alone are inadequate to achieve clean water. EPA's proposals would allow states to weaken water quality standards for waters that are not yet clean, degrade high-quality waters, and grant exemptions to requirements that industries additionally treat water when necessary. Write to both EPA ---Mr. David Sabock, Rm M2818, Office of Water Regulations and Standards, USEPA, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20460--- and to Cong. Shuster and Sen. Heinz and Sen. Specter opposing such a weakening of the regulations. Remind them that the administration has no mandate to weaken environmental regulations.

Have a Happy Holiday Season and A Great New Year

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