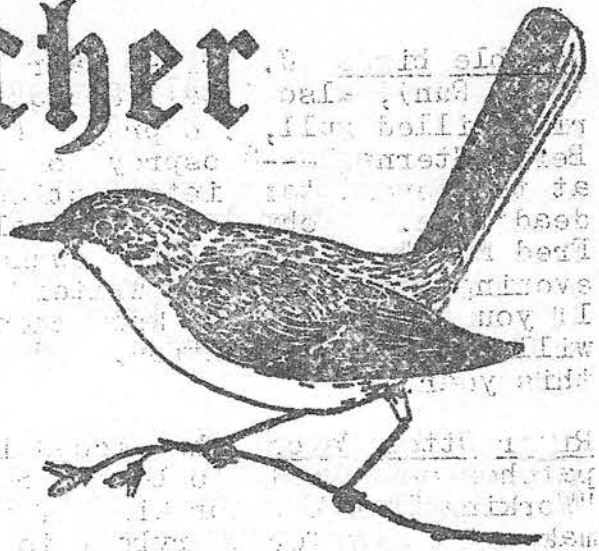


THE **Gnatcatcher**

JUNIATA VALLEY

AUDUBON SOCIETY



Vol. 15 No. 4 April 1983

Loveliest of Trees

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

--Alfred Edward Housman

Annual Banquet The annual banquet will be held at Marietta's Restaurant in Foot-of-Ten on April 26 at 6:30. To get to Marietta's drive from Altoona to Duncansville via Sixth Avenue Road. Turn right at the Pizza Hut at the Duncansville intersection. Go toward Cresson on Route 22 for 0.2 miles until you come to a "Y" in the road. Note the Texaco station. Drive left of the Texaco station and continue on Old Route 22 for 1.6 miles. Marietta's is on the left. Watch for a sign. If you get lost, stand by the side of the road and act like a bird. A JVAS member is sure to notice!

Mill Grove Don't forget the bus trip to Mill Grove on Saturday, May 21. Reservations should be sent to Dora Brown, 5208 4th Ave., Altoona, PA 16602 (942-2349) by May 16. You can pay either the full \$20 with your reservation or you can pay half with your reservation and the balance on the day of the trip. Please note: cancelled reservations will be refunded only if someone is found to take your seat. Bring a bag lunch. Dinner will be at Zinn's Country Diner. The cost of dinner is not included in the price of the trip. For more information call John Orr (943-5629).

PAC Meeting Several members of the Executive Board are planning to attend the Pennsylvania Audubon Council meeting in Harrisburg on May 21. Details later.

Mini Field Trip On May 8, Marcia and Bruce Bonta will lead a field trip to Bear Meadows Natural Area and Alan Seeger Natural Area. The walk will not be strenuous, but Bear Meadows may be wet. Dress accordingly. The carpool will leave the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 1:30 p.m.

Glossary The Pennsylvania Environmental Research Foundation, research and environmental arm of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, is offering a glossary of 300 words and acronyms used in discussing hazardous wastes. The glossary is available from the Hazardous Waste Management Project, PERF, 225 S. 15th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. The group's toll-free telephone number is (800) 322-9214.

Big Day Birding Contact John Orr for details 943-5629.

Notable birds J. Orr--2 pair lesser scaup ducks at Allegheny Reservoir (Mill Run), also 1 male oldsquaw, 42 red br. mergansers, a one-legged ring billed gull, 5 osprey. A Sternagle--osprey at Canoe Creek. Beryl Sternagle--8 ospreys on 4/15 at Canoe Creek. P. Cameron--1 osprey at the Seven Stars intersection on three successive mornings in the same dead tree. John Lennox--10 oldsquaw ducks at Altoona Campus 4/9 Fred McCabe--12 whistling swans at Cresson Lake 4/14. Did anybody have evening grosbeaks this winter? Charlie Loskot is interested in them. If you let P. Cameron know when where and how many you saw, Charlie will get the information. He reports a dearth of grosbeaks in Waterside this year.

River Otter Patch The second item in the annual series of embroidered patches and decals to be offered by the Game Commission as part of its "Working Together for Wildlife" program is now available. This program makes it easy for everybody to get involved, hunters and non-hunters alike. The 1983 patch and decal, second in this collectable series, features the otter aside a river bank. This is a beautiful multi-colored item. Monies obtained from purchases of these decals and patches will be used to conduct wildlife research and management programs designed specifically for non-game species. Cost for the patch is \$2.00 and for the decal, \$1.00. Orders should be sent to: Pa. Game Commission; Division of Information and Education; P.O. Box 1567, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120. Make check payable to Pa. Game Commission.

JVAS/TU Plant Trees On April 6, John Orr, Dick Weicht, and Fran Burgoon helped Trout Unlimited and Canoe Creek Superintendent, Terry Wentz plant twenty-one red maple trees along New Creek.

Recycle If you have old issues of Audubon that you no longer need, please give them to Fran Burgoon (695-5857), membership chairman. He will see that interested, prospective members get them. Thanks.

By John Orr Early Saturday morning, April 9, I happened upon a one legged ring-billed gull in the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center parking lot. Very plump and healthy looking, it hopped most capably about on just its right leg. From the car window I watched it moving around searching for food which when found was eaten up quickly. The parking lot seemed loaded with crumbs, bits of food. The gull at times stood still and straight on one leg and at other times it lowered itself to peck up some more food, performing the equivalent on one leg of a human one armed push up. The ease of maneuverability was an impressive and moving sight.

PUBLIC HEARING The long-awaited public hearing on the E.P. Bender mining permit (Mill Run) will be held on May 2 at the Slep Center of the Altoona Campus. PLEASE plan to attend. The battle for clean water is nowhere near over.

The Gnatcatcher
518 W. 2d St.
Williamsburg, PA 16693

Apr. 26th Parquet
Topic:
"Many a Mile"