

THE Gnatcatcher

JUNIATA VALLEY
AUDUBON SOCIETY



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"All those who love Nature she loves in return, and will richly reward, not perhaps with the good things; as they are commonly called, but with the best things of this world--not with money and titles, horses and carriages, but with bright and happy thoughts, contentment and peace of mind."---John Lubbock

OCTOBER MEETING Dr. David Pearson, professor of biology at Penn State's main campus, will present a slide talk on "The Natural History of India and Sri Lanka." Those of you who attended the program he presented on Latin America a couple years ago will remember what an able, informed, and entertaining speaker he is.

RESIGNATIONS The Executive Board has regretfully accepted the resignations of John Orr as president of J.V.A.S. and Lynn Langer as Conservation Committee chairperson. Lynn has taken a job with the DER in Knox, Clarion County, as a Mining Specialist Trainee. We wish her well in her new job and hope she will visit us whenever she returns to Altoona. Thank you for your help, Lynn, and keep in touch!

John Orr has resigned from the presidency for personal reasons. For the time being, he plans to be inactive but concerned about our progress. We have not only lost a president. John has donated more time and energy to making J.V.A.S. work than any other member. He has been, as vice president Colette Heller put it, "the heart of J.V.A.S." There is no way we can replace him.

NEW POSITIONS As a temporary measure until a new election can be held, Colette Heller, as vice president, has taken over the tasks of the president. We all know Colette's capacity for hard work, but she cannot do it alone. She needs the help of every member. When she asks you for assistance, please give her as much time and energy as you can spare.

THE GNATCATCHER Marcia Bonta will be writing our newsletter for the time being. The format will remain essentially the same but she would like to encourage participation from members. If you have a news item you believe is appropriate for The Gnatcatcher, please write it up and submit it to her at Box 68, Tyrone, Pa. 16686. Your article will be signed and edited, if at all, as lightly as possible. And, if there are any closet writers out there who would like to try their hand at writing The Gnatcatcher, step forward with your ideas!

SUPPORT The Executive Board is not a closed organization. We need new blood, help, ideas, people to make our group work. Do not be shy. Please see or call Colette (742-7481) or Marcia (684-3113) if you would like to join us and keep J.V.A.S. a live, functioning, vital organization.

BIRD SEED SALE Once again Bill Rosevear has taken on his shoulders the monumental task of organizing the Bird Seed Sale. This is the only money-making activity we engage in so the success of the sale is vital to J.V.A.S. Bill needs workers on Nov. 12 from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. unloading seed at Imler's Agway. Anyone with a strong back should call Bill (674-5021) or talk to him at our October 25 meeting.

When you pick up your seed at Imler's, please look inside the store if you are interested in purchasing such items as bird feeders, pet food, and other kinds of bird seed that we are not selling. They will give you a 10% discount if you show them your Audubon membership card.

Remember, when you buy our seed you are supporting our activities!

HOSPITALITY Those people who volunteered to bring refreshments for the October or November meetings should call Anne Borland (695-9718) immediately.

FIELD TRIP Colette Heller will be leading a fossil collecting trip on Nov. 20 at 1:30 p.m. Wear sturdy shoes, bring along a snack, and prepare to spend three to four hours clambering over rocks in search of good specimens. Don't forget a collecting bag and a rock hammer if you have one. This trip is for anyone who would like to learn more about fossils. If the weather is rainy or very cold, the trip will be postponed until spring.

NATURE ARTISTS OR HOBBYISTS If you are a nature artist or photographer or if you have a hobby or collection related to nature, please consider volunteering as our Nature Hobbyist of the Month. We would like to have a Member's Night before every meeting so that you will be able to talk to and learn about the talented people we have in our group. To start the ball rolling (and to encourage participation in our November field trip) Colette will have her fossil collection on display before the October meeting. We would like the Nature Hobbyist of the Month to be at the church by 7:00 p.m. to set up his or her display and to also be willing to stay after the meeting for a short time to talk to folks. Please call Marcia (684-3113) or speak to her at the October meeting if you would like to participate in this new program.

THANK YOU We would like to thank our fellow member, Dr. Robert Fisher, for leading a fascinating field trip to the Raystown Field Station in September. Thanks also to Craig and Paula Cameron (and Jessica) for giving us a hiker's eye view of the beautiful Little Juniata Water Gap via the Mid State Trail.

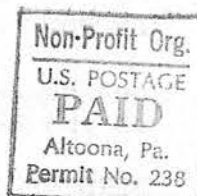
BLUEBIRD TRAIL Often our members participate in activities that are of interest to other Auduboners. Fran Burgoon and Gene Root have been active in helping to maintain the Bluebird Trail nesting boxes at Canoe Creek State Park. From the middle of April until the middle of July, they checked the nesting boxes once a week. For their efforts the Bureau of State Parks presented them with special hats and arm patches. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer program, contact Fran or Gene about it.

HAWK WATCH WEEK Governor Richard Thornburgh proclaimed October 2-8 Pennsylvania's annual Hawk Watching Week. He also announced that the "Pennsylvania Game Commission has also designated nearly 150 miles of the Kittatinny Ridge mountaintop as the Kittatinny Birds of Prey Natural Area." But you don't have to go there to see the migration of birds of prey. Keep your eyes skyward on any brisk autumn day and you're bound to see at least a turkey vulture drifting slowly south.

OSPREY FUND Don't forget to bring any spare change you might have to add to the Osprey Fund which our chapter has been supporting. All signs seem to be pointing to the eventual success of the program.

GOLDEN DAYS Spend as much time as you can outdoors, enjoying the golden days of autumn. Watch for the return of the juncos and tree sparrows from the Arctic. In the woods search for migrating hermit thrushes, white-throated sparrows and yellow-rumped warblers. Enjoy the golden blossoms of the witch hazel trees. Feast on wild grapes and fallen apples. Meander along trails strewn with the color of fallen leaves. Have a joyous autumn!

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