

THE **Gnatcatcher**

JUNIATA VALLEY
AUDUBON SOCIETY



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"Verily, then, the earth is divine, because man did not make it. We are here, part in the creation. We cannot escape. We are under obligation to take part and to do our best, living with each other and with all creatures. We may not know the full plan, but that does not alter the relation. When once we set ourselves to the pleasure of our dominion, reverently and hopefully, and assume all its responsibilities, we shall have a new hold on life."--The Holy Earth
Liberty Hyde Bailey

NOVEMBER MEETING Wayne Harpster, Port Matilda naturalist and photographer, will be presenting his slide show talk called "The Way of the Wild." It will feature Mr. Harpster's superb pictures of such Pennsylvania creatures as the ruffed grouse, wild turkey, black bear, elk and white-tailed deer. Come and learn more about the wildlife of our state from a man who has spent many years watching it.

NATURE HOBBYISTS November's Nature Hobbyists of the Month will be Mr. Mark Bonta and Mrs. Daniel Brumbaugh. Mr. Bonta will be displaying his extensive shell collection while Mrs. Brumbaugh will have a butterfly collection to show. If you are a nature artist or hobbyist please consider volunteering to share your interest with other members at one of our monthly meetings. Call Colette Heller (742-7481).

SPECIAL ELECTION At November's meeting we will be voting on an acting president and vice president. A majority of members present will decide this issue. Those elected will hold office until April 1984 when a new president and vice president will be installed.

FIELD TRIP Our fossil field trip leader, Colette Heller, has been fighting a pernicious flu bug and has been losing. Teddy Kreitz has graciously agreed to take Colette's place and will be leading the group on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 1:30 p.m. from the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center. Thank you, Teddy, for helping us out when we need you. (In case of bad weather, this trip will be postponed until spring.)

CONSERVATION CHAIR Linda Szczerba has volunteered to be our new conservation chairperson. Please call her at 943-6583 if you wish to serve on this important committee.

PUBLICITY CHAIR Dora Brown, our corresponding secretary, has also been handling publicity. However, she is spending the winter in the southwest. Angeline Stout, our recording secretary has been substituting for Dora but we would like to have a publicity chairperson to take over this position. If anyone is interested, please call Colette.

BANQUET Betsy Halmo and Sally Replogle will be in charge of organizing our annual banquet in April. They would welcome help and/or suggestions of appropriate places to hold the dinner. Call Betsy at 944-3977.

BIRD SEED SALE Despite the cold, snowy weather many people turned out to help Bill Rosevear at Imler's Agway on November 12. We would like to thank Beth Leslie, Jesse Perry, Bob Kepler, Darla Rogouski, Gene Root, Glen Mock, Al Burd, Fran Burgoon, Sean Burgoon, Brian Burkett, Alice Goodlin, Doris Thurheimer, Bill Anslinger, George Mahon, Ben Leiden and Lynn Langer for their welcome assistance. We sold 9 tons of seed and should have a profit of between \$600 and \$700 from their efforts. A few mistakes were made in distribution so if you have any questions about your order call Bill Rosevear (674-5021).
A SPECIAL THANKS TO BILL WHO COORDINATED THIS HUGE EFFORT!

WELCOME At our first meeting we had 48 people and at our second, 62. Many of these men and women were newcomers. Since there is nothing worse than walking into a roomful of strangers we have decided to have two official greeters at the door, Alice Goodlin and Linda Szczerba. They will also be distributing name tags. Oldtimers as well as newcomers are asked to wear them so we will be able to greet people by name.

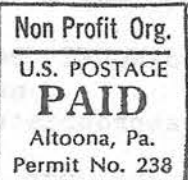
PENN'S CAVE So far, 30 people have indicated an interest in attending our field trip to Penn's Cave on Jan. 21 at 1:00 p.m. Our special group rates are \$4.75 for adults, \$2.50 for teens 13-18, and \$1.00 for children 5-12. Those under 5 are free. We would like to know definitely by Jan. 10 how many are going because the people at Penn's Cave have one guide and boat for every 20 persons. This trip will also include a short walk around the grounds of Penn's Cave and dinner in State College. Alternate bad weather date is Jan. 28. Please call Marcia Bonta (684-3113) by Jan. 10 if you plan to go.

PAC Beth Leslie and Linda Szczerba were our representatives at the Pennsylvania Audubon Council meeting the weekend of Nov. 4-6. Jeff Schmidt, lobbyist of the Sierra Club, Nicholas deBenedictis, head of DER, and Edward Fingerhut, coordinator of our statewide nesting bird census, were three of the speakers. But the highlight for our representatives came near the end of the weekend when awards were given to the five Pennsylvania Audubon chapters who had contributed the most money per member to the Osprey Fund during its third year. First place went to Pocono Mountain with \$5.15 per member, second to Seven Mountains at \$3.10 and third to JUNIATA VALLEY! We donated \$ 1.74 a piece. For our efforts, we were awarded The Audubon Society's Encyclopedia of Birds. Let's try to do even better this year so that when ospreys are once again a common sight, we can be proud to say that we had a part in bringing back this magnificent bird.

BIRD COUNT On December 17 we will be joining the nationwide Christmas Bird Count. This is an event many of us look forward to every year. During the busy and often hectic Christmas season, it is a relief to spend one day outdoors with no pressures but that of counting birds within our count circle or sitting at the window and noting the birds visiting our feeders. Then, at 5:30 p.m., we all meet at the Skelp Grange Hall for a covered dish supper followed by a bird roll call for numbers and species of birds seen that day. For information on how to get in on the joy and excitement of that special day, call our bird count coordinator, Bill Rosevear, at 674-5021. His wife, Paulette, will be organizing the supper. Bring a casserole, bread, salad or dessert and come even if you can't participate in the count. A good time is always had by all.

BIRDWATCHER'S CORNER As editor of The Gnatcatcher I would like to start a new column called "Birdwatcher's Corner." If you have any unusual and/or interesting bird sightings please call them in to Marcia (684-3113).

INDIAN SUMMER The last warm days of the year make November a good time to be out. Stray migrants can still be seen like red-tailed hawks, fox sparrows, yellow-rumped warblers, and bluebirds. Start examining thickets for the occasional catbird, towhee, or hermit thrush that may be wintering there. Find out where the birds are hanging out in your area so you can help boost our Christmas Bird Count in December or contribute to "Birdwatcher's Corner." And now that the leaves are down, look closely for American bittersweet twining up through the bare trees. Before the ground and fallen logs are covered with snow, admire the beauty of fungi, lichens and mosses. Enjoy some of the finest days of the year.



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