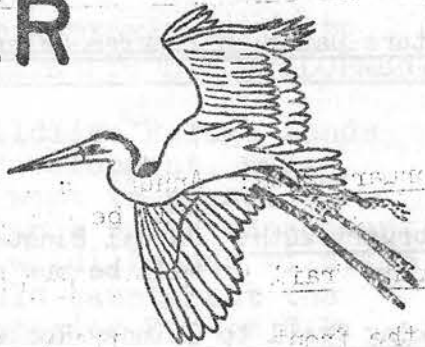
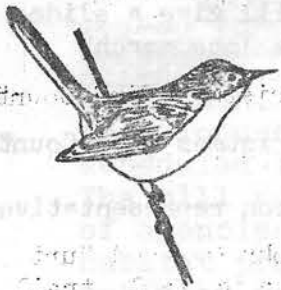


THE

GNATCATCHER

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA



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Nevermore, however weary,
should one faint by the way
who gains the blessing of one
mountain day;
whatever his fate, long life,
short life, stormy or calm,
he is rich forever.

- John Muir

The November Meeting

TIME: 7:30 P.M.
DATE: November 25th

PLACE: 28th St. Church of the Brethren
Union Ave. & 28th St. / Altoona, Pa.

"The American Alps" - Kurt Gansauer will give a slide-talk on his experiences with mountains.

Kurt is a senior at the main campus of Penn State where he is majoring in forestry. He has been a ranger at Prince Gallitzyn State Park for the past two summers. Hiking, camping and mountain climbing are some of his main interests. Kurt is our Conservation Committee chairman and at the moment is leading the action in a number of worthwhile and exciting areas. His committee is an important one and it is only now - under his direction - that it has begun to operate as it should.

"Winter Bird Count Orientation" - John Hunter Orr will offer a few tips on how to identify difficult birds.

Do you know what a Mexican eagle is? A long-tailed wood whipper? Find out in a short workshop on winter birds that John Orr will present as a second part of the evening's program. Some real tough ones will be covered! It is hoped that bit by bit we can chip away at the identification obstacles present in field work. This presentation will be a little bit on little birds.

Excellent refreshments will be served as usual. Bring in anything that needs a bit of study - plants, artifacts, or what have you. Al Burd is ever ready to help on the flora. (No one has yet produced a local sourwood tree. We need one!)

Financial Report

Martha Sullivan, our treasurer, reports that in the past two years we have done remarkably well in paying off our entire film debt, while also buying the film "It Began with Birds" for \$100.00, investing \$200.00 in Columbia Savings and Loan, and holding a current balance in the black of over \$200. We made \$79.00 at the recent Fall Festival at the Hollidaysburg Sr. High School. It is hoped that this fund raising in particular will underwrite a scholarship to the Audubon workshop in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Page Two: News from the "Audubon Leader"

A second page is being added to give members news of very recent significance. The newsletter on fast-breaking environmental news comes to us every two weeks. It is hoped that the new page will allow readers to keep more up to date and to write at times to representatives or others on critical issues.

Field Trip to Hollidaysburg Planetarium

December 30th our group will have a special outing to the planetarium for a sky show. This will be a Christmas show and should be quite educational and entertaining. Make a note on your calendars that this is the last Tuesday of the month - and takes the place of our regular meeting. Bring yourselves and your friends!

Future Dates: A Program Calendar

January 27th - Bill Anslinger will give a slide-talk on his march reenacting the long march Benedict Arnold made to Quebec.

December 21st: Sixth Annual Christmas Bird Count

February 24th: Annual Banquet. Dick Martvr, Mid-Atlantic States Audubon representative, will be our guest and speaker.

Hiking Trail to Chimney Rocks Mike Chonko and others (Don Wharton, John Orr and Kurt Gansauer) have been working to size up a walkable trail up the front slope (cliff) of the ridge. A crazy straight-up trail exists but it is not too easy. Mike hopes that we can start off down river and then switch back in a longer, more roundabout fashion to arrive intact at the peak. Such a trail needs builders. It will be a job, so let Mike know if you can lend a hand. The Boy Scouts will be helping. Layout and beginning work are scheduled in two weeks or so. Call Mike on this.

Membership Contest If Juniata Valley Audubon did not gain a cash prize in the recent nationwide contest for increased membership, it did get a bunch of new members and that is just what we need. Now, for those want to work on it, a new contest has been set up by National for individual efforts. A \$25 book - Audubon Handbook of North American Birds by Pettingill - will be the prize for each three (3) new members you can get in the near future. Requirements: Get memberships yourself and give forms and money to Mary Slippey. Give her also the name and address of the person who is to get the book. Gift memberships are included in the contest, but no charged applications are allowed. They must be in groups of three. Call Mary for more information on this. (695-5200)

Christmas Bird Count Our sixth outing for winter birds will be December 21st.

The census will probably be the biggest and best effort yet by our group. Each year gives us more and more experience and better results. The two week count period begins December 20th (Sat.) and ends January 4th (Sun). Try to help on the count. Get into the field all day or a part of the day. Get out during the two week period to scout the area and turn up birds that might not be seen on the 21st. We can report species seen in the count period but not on the count day. Anyone can take part. The more experienced head the teams and the day ends with an informal covered dish dinner at the Skelp Grange Hall in Sinking Valley. This is when we tally results and share the days' highlights.

Many thanks go to Irene and Paul Luckner who hosted our count dinner at their home in Sinking Valley the last three years. Their home is now not large enough to handle the members and friends (and family) who come out for the evening get-together. They are to a good extent responsible for the success of the effort and we will miss the large room and nice roaring fire of those times there. The Grange Hall seems to be the best alternative and should hold us.

More details will be published in the December Gnatcatcher. A field trip/meeting devoted just to the bird count will be held December 7th (Sunday) at John Orr's house: 3001 4th Ave. Altoona, beginning at 1:00 P.M. All are welcome and after planning the count a trip out to Greenwood, Bellemead, and Bellwood will be taken for in the field experience. All questions on any aspect of the bird count should be aimed at John at 943-5629 any time. He is the compiler of the count.

Spring Counts It is hoped by Don Wharton that JVAS can not only conduct its second annual May day count of migrating birds, but can also begin a new census taking of breeding birds. This can be done on a selected, limited acreage for numbers of singing males and observable nests. Results of these counts are important in understanding what is happening to our wildlife.

Ecology Council Recycling The Council has begun, or rather - carried on, a project aimed at recycling solid waste products. Youthpower had set up a system this past summer and it is now in new hands. Bring glass (no blue), newspapers (no magazines) and aluminum (trays, cans, etc.) to 9th Ave. & 12th St. near The Altoona Pipe and Steel Co. at the 9th Ave. end of the bridge.

Drop-off time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dates: November 29th (Sat.)

December 13th (Sat.)

December 27th (Sat.)

FROM AUDUBON LEADER

HOUSE ACTION EXPECTED ON BILL TO PROTECT NATIONAL WILDLIFE SYSTEM FROM PRESENT AND FUTURE LAND-GRABBING ATTEMPTS BY DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS.

H.R. 5512, a bill to protect National Wildlife Refuge lands from incursions by grazing, mining and other development, was scheduled for action on the House floor as we went to press. The bill would keep National Wildlife Refuge lands under management of agencies best suited to supervise them for wildlife and wildlife habitat protection purposes. In effect it would counteract the decision made last year by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton, who under pressures from developers and ranchers, agreed to withdraw three major game ranges from joint administration by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management and place them under jurisdiction of the development-oriented BLM. It would also prevent any such land grabs in the future.

The bill would prohibit most sale, transfer, or disposal of National Wildlife Refuge System lands without explicit congressional approval. It would further require that National Wildlife Refuge lands be administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service except where they are under joint administration by the Fish & Wildlife Service and another agency. In that case, the Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to either keep the lands under joint administration or transfer them to sole administration by the FWS. The bill is endorsed by the National Audubon Society.

Rep. Sam Steiger (Ariz.) plans to introduce an amendment on the floor which would take the three game ranges out of Fish & Wildlife Service jurisdiction and place them under BLM. The ranges are the Kofa Game Range, the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range, and the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range; the Kofa is in Steiger's district. The Senate has completed hearings on its version of the bill and is awaiting outcome of the House action.

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS RULING THWARTS STATE OF WYOMING'S ATTEMPT TO USE THE POISON 1080 FOR PREDATORS: BAITES ALREADY SET OUT: EPA HAS ASKED THEIR REMOVAL.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit late last month reversed a lower court ruling in a suit filed by the state of Wyoming, the National Wool Growers and other ranching interests, to reinstate use of the toxicant 1080, cyanide, and strychnine for predator control. This past June, the Wyoming U.S. District Court had granted an injunction to stop the EPA from enforcing its 1972 order to suspend the toxicant from sale.

Following the lower court's ruling, the state set out 1080 baits on state and private lands. Russell E. Train, EPA Administrator, has sent a telegram to the governor of Wyoming asking him to locate and retrieve any baits that have been set out. (Other issues in the state's suit, which also contended that the Executive Order ban on use of poisons on public lands was illegal and that the Dept. of Interior was in violation of the 1931 predator control law in not controlling predators, were remanded back to the lower court.)

COMMENTS NEEDED IN SUPPORT OF ARMY WETLANDS PROGRAM.

The deadline for comments in support of the Army Corps of Engineers' proposed wetlands protection program has been extended to Dec. 5. The regulations are strongly supported by environmentalists but are being attacked by agriculture and development interests as being too restrictive. Your support is needed. For background information, see 5/23/75 and 10/10/75 LEADER; we'll send you copies on request...The House Public Works Committee Water Resources Subcommittee has postponed until early next year its consideration of bills which would weaken the Corps of Engineers program...H.R. 3981, the legislative package amendments to the Coastal Zone Management Act, now includes a dangerous amendment opposed by environmentalists. It would allow the administrator or secretary of any agency concerned with implementing the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Clean Air Act to delegate authority for permits, sewage treatment grants or the Army Corps wetlands program and other programs to states having coastal zone programs.

U.N. GETS EARTHCARE PETITION WITH SOME 200,000 SIGNATURES.

At a special ceremony at the U.N. Oct. 23, the EARTHCARE petition calling for world environmental protection as a basic human right was submitted to Maurice F. Strong, Executive Director of the U.N. Environment Programme. Some 200,000 persons in the U.S. and abroad signed the petition, which was first released at the National Audubon Society/Sierra Club EARTHCARE Conference held in New York last June, and signatures are still pouring in. Audubon chapters and EARTHCARE sponsoring organizations were instrumental in the signature-gathering effort.

The petition requests that the U.N. Human Rights Commission and the Economic and Social Council investigate specific charges. A legal brief is being filed with the UN which documents three instances where governmental neglect of the environment has harmed human rights: mercury poisoning; threats to indigenous peoples in rain forests, and worldwide health endangerment from reduction of the ozone layer.

CONSERVATIONISTS WORKING TO HAVE LEGISLATION PASSED THIS SESSION TO STOP MINING IN NATIONAL PARKS.

Hearings have been completed in both the House and Senate on legislation to bar mining in six national park units. Mining is now permitted under various laws in Death Valley National Monument, Mount McKinley Park, Glacier Bay National Monument, Organ Pipe Acatus National Monument, Coronada National Memorial, and Crater Lake National Park. Strip mining for two borate compounds and for talc is currently going on in Death Valley National Monument, with industry eager to expand the operations, and for antimony in Mt. McKinley. A mineral survey for possible big deposits of copper and nickel is being undertaken in Glacier Bay and exploration for copper in Organ Pipe is anticipated. Prospecting, mining location and mineral leasing are legal in a number of National Recreation Areas and such operations are now going on in Glen Canyon and Lake Mead National Recreation Areas, among others.

In a statement submitted for the House and Senate hearings record, Charles H. Callison, Executive Vice President of the Society, opposed any mining in National Parks and urged phase-out of existing mines. The minerals currently being mined are either replaceable by other substances in industry or are found in substantial quantity and economically recoverable deposits elsewhere.

The National Audubon Society endorsed the Senate bill, S.2371, which calls for a halt to all future mining and a three-year moratorium on presenting mining in the park units. While the Society also supports passage of the House bill, H.R. 9799, it feels that bill does not go far enough, as it would not halt existing mining. Conversationists are working to have both House and Senate Interior Committees complete action on the bills and get each bill passed, and then work out a final measure incorporating good sections of both bills in conference.

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