

THE

# GNATCATCHER

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY



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## On The Grasshopper And The Cricket

The poetry of earth is never dead:  
 When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,  
 And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run  
 From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead;  
 That is the Grasshopper's - he takes the lead  
 In summer luxury, - he has never done  
 With his delights; for when tired out with fun  
 He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.  
 The poetry of earth is ceasing never:  
 On a lone winter evening, when the frost  
 Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills  
 The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,  
 And seems to one in drowsiness half lost,  
 The Grasshopper's among some grassy hills.

- John Keats (1795-1821)

### The October Meeting

TIME: 7:30 P.M. - Last Tuesday of the month  
DATE: October 26th

PLACE: 28th St. Church of  
the Brethren - Union  
Ave. & 28th St. Altoona

PROGRAM: "Natural Areas of Pennsylvania"

We are most fortunate in having Paul Wiegman come east from Pittsburgh with a very beautiful color slide show on the many and varied natural areas within our state. Paul is president of the Audubon Society of Western Pa. and works for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The latter group has done much to show the way toward land use for natural areas. It has purchased and in other ways preserved valuable lands. Paul's program does not only tell the Conservancy story but runs down the many ways we can work to get land set aside in a protected state. He has taken all his own slides and gives an excellent talk. Don Wharton, Kurt Gansauer and John Orr have heard his presentation and were all much impressed. It is a program that sets you thinking and shows that something can be done!

About 40 people attended our first meeting of the new year and it would be nice to have a good crowd for our out of town speaker. Such a good program should be cause for anyone to get out next Tuesday evening. Come to the meeting hall in the basement of the 28th St. Church of the Brethren and enjoy a fine program, some good talk and great refreshments! Bring some friends!

### November Field Trip: Hawk Mountain

(695-6959) if planning to go. Details will be given out at the October meeting. The red-tails and possibly a few eagles will be coming down mountain then. Plans are now tentative on overnight arrangements. Several reasonable motels are in the area of Kempton, Pa. plus there is a campground. Hopefully rides will be available for those not wanting to drive themselves.

TIME & DATE: November 6 & 7th. This will be a trip by cars. Contact Don Wharton

### Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, December 19th

We have reserved the Skelp Grange Hall for our annual December covered dish outing. We meet there late (dusk) on Sunday to tally results, eat and exchange the day's highlights. Plan now. Mark the date on your calendar. We need counters - both team members and team leaders. If your schedule is tight - just plan to come out for the evening dinner. It is a lot of fun and at the same time a serious affair. Everyone can be a part of this heady happening.

If you know anyone living in the circle, get them to feed the birds, count for us, or whatever. We need all the help we can get! These are the areas: Bellwood, Greenwood, Pinecroft, Tyrone, Tipton, Spruce Creek, Greer School, Water Street, Sink-in Valley, East End (east of Kettle Street), and the Beaver Dams.

Powerline Spraying

Do you know anything about herbicide application on power lines? We need to know more. Many people go out picking blueberries on mountain sides without knowing what chemicals they might be ingesting with their wild edibles. Patrick and Carol Kennedy, presidents of Tiadaghton Audubon Society (Pa.) report in their October 1976 newsletter that much land in Tioga and Potter counties has been treated with aerial spraying of controversial 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T herbicides. The result is brown landscaped areas. They have had reports of spraying near springs, (!), wildlife feeders, spraying near besting sites and even over cornfields. Economics has it that spraying is much cheaper than human cutting. The Kennedys think that the landscape, people's property, etc. could be protected by subsidizing jobs for people - workers who would keep the lines cut down. They write: "Brownout or brown landscape? We'll cut down and conserve electricity to insure against brownout! Brown landscape - not acceptable - there must be a better way!" Please give this some thought and if anyone can get some information on how our area handles this problem let us know at the meeting or call Don.

Nominations for January Elections

Get your nominations in to Don by November 15th. We will elect a treasurer and a president-elect at the January 1977 meeting. Consider those whom you know would be able to give us continued good leadership.

Miscellaneous Notes:

1. Bill Rosevear saw water pipits (!) & Canada geese in September at Prince Gallitzin.
2. Would a different sky show in December be a good program? Let Don know.
3. Keep your records of birds sighted for Don Wharton's compilation.
4. Wanted! - an Alaska Chairperson. Someone to keep track of all the happenings in Alaskan conservation. This person would be in touch with National.
5. The Audubon film seen at September's meeting was so good that a number of people asked if our group might not consider purchasing more in that series as gifts to the Altoona Area Public Library Media Center. We should get their cost.
6. In Walt Whitman's poem "Song of Myself" (Sep. Gnatcatcher) the word pismire meant 'ant'. No small matter.
7. The newsletter needs contributions: sightings, poetry, etc. Please give us leads if you have them. We'll send Gnatcatchers to interested people.
8. The Membership Committee has great ideas but needs a few more people to help move off dead center. Call Fran Burgoon (Hollidaysburg).

The Pennsylvania Audubon Council Meeting

DATE: November 20th (Saturday)

Anyone can be a delegate representing our branch. Eleven Audubon groups in Pa. meet quarterly at Harrisburg. A carload of our people would be a good representation at this up-coming meeting.

PAC's Nongame Species Proposal

Pennsylvania Audubon has worked out a tentative proposal for managing more efficiently our state's nongame species. This proposal is being run off and will be available in its entirety at the October meet'ng or may be had by request from John Orr (943-5629). The vast majority of wildlife in Pa. has received little or no attention. Active research and management efforts have gone mostly to game species. PAC hopes to get a novel plan in action by having its members start a nongame program in Pa. Many hunters support nongame programs in the U.S. and this would be an effort to involve nonhunters and hunters. The goals, programs, methods of implication and funding are all spelled out in detail in the 4 page typewritten proposal now available. Please study this and let Don know your thoughts.

The Gnatcatcher - 943-5629  
3001 4th Avenue  
Altoona, Pa. 16602



Bill Rosevear  
405 Beech Ave.  
2nd Floor  
Patton, Pa. 16668