

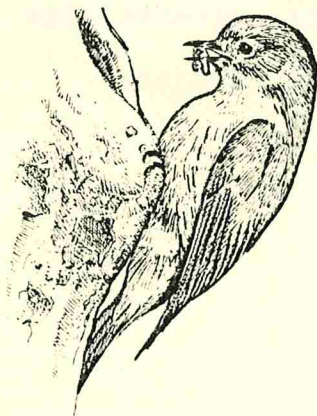
Volume I Number 1

March 1984

The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society is off and running. The first meeting in October '83 showed a spark of genuine interest. By the next meeting in November, the spark had ignited enough enthusiasm to make us a full-fledged chapter. We chose our name, formed our committees and elected our officers. The officers include Dr. Tom Dick as president, Dr. Doris Brown as vice-president, Noreen Sankovich as corresponding secretary, and Linda Sell as recording secretary.

In December, we took part in our first Christmas Bird Count. By January, the mere spark had become a full blaze with many outings being planned and topical programs on the agenda.

The general meetings will be held the third Thursday of the months of January, February, March, April, September, October, and November. Unless otherwise indicated in the newspaper, the meetings will be held at the Engineering and Science Building of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.



Programs for General Meetings

Thursday March 15, 1984

A History of the Audubon Society
and a Presentation on Bluebirds

Two excellent speakers will be on the agenda for our March meeting. Alan Ruppert, Regional Representative of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Audubon Society will present the historical background of the society. Joe Emerick, Cambria County Conservation District Educational Director, will be our second speaker, sharing his knowledge of bluebirds. Mr. Emerick has developed a bluebird trail across northern Cambria County (Ebensburg area) which includes more than 200 bluebird boxes.

Thursday April 19, 1984

Bird Banding

Bird banding will be the subject of Bob Mulvehill's talk at our April meeting. Mr. Mulvehill is employed by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, working at the Powdermill Nature Reserve. His work entails the gathering of basic data on birds during migration through the Ligonier Valley.

Outings

Sunday March 11, 1984

Spring Waterfowl at Shawnee Lake

Leader - Charles Voytko

1-623-2747 (business)

1-623-2262 (home)

Meet at 1:00 PM at Lakeview Lounge
Rt. 30 Schellsburg, PA.

Saturday March 17, 1984

Maple Sugaring and Natural
History. Meet at 1:00 PM at the
Group Camping Area of Prince
Gallitzin State Park.

Saturday March 24, 1984

Quemahoning Dam- Spring Waterfowl

Leader - Doris Brown 255-1223

Meet at 8:00 AM at the entrance
to the Abex Plant.

Saturday March 31, 1984

Night Sounds (Woodcock, owls)

Leaders - Glenn and Ruth Sager

1-798-3242

COMING UP IN MAY

May 4-5-6

Pymatuning Weekend

Leader - Doris Brown 255-1223

Leave the Johnstown area late
afternoon on Friday the 4th, stay
at the Pitt. Lab dormitory nights
of the 4th and 5th, return the
afternoon of the 6th. Saturday
meals and Sunday breakfast.

Approximate cost: \$30.00 per
person for room and meals. We
must have a definite number
of those who will attend by
April 1. Please make your
reservations now!

Outings are open to all who
share our interests, members and
non-members alike. Reserve well in
advance with the leaders, who will
inform you of all the necessary
details. All phone numbers are
area code 814 unless otherwise
indicated.

The Allegheny Plateau Audubon
Society is not intended to be an
elite group of experienced birders.
We welcome all who share a love of
nature. Come along and learn with
us or share your unique knowledge.
Whether you can spot a yellow-
bellied sapsucker at 100 yards or
(like yours truly) are thrilled at
the sight of a cardinal at your
feeder, we need you.

Above all, don't get the idea
that the Audubon Society is just
"for the birds". The society is
dedicated to the conservation of
all wildlife and other natural
resources for the sound protection
of the total environment.

Officers

President:

Dr. Tom Dick 814-266-6412

1003 Eisenhower Blvd.

Johnstown, PA 15904

Vice President:

Dr. Doris Brown 814-255-1223

426 Girard St.

Johnstown, PA 15905

Corresponding Secretary:

Noreen Sankovich 814-288-2304

15 White Dr. RD 4

Johnstown, PA 15905

Recording Secretary:

Linda Sell 814-266-2734

RD 2 Box 457

Johnstown, PA 15904

Christmas Bird Count 1983

Saturday, December 17, 1983 was a success for the first activity of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Chapter. Forty-three observers conducted the first Christmas Bird Count from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, seeing 57 species and 14,913 individual birds. The bird count's epicenter was Hollsopple, and fanned out with a 15-mile diameter.

From the experienced birders, who included Stanwyn Shetler, curator of botany at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., to the new Audubon members experiencing their first birding trip, the day was described as most enjoyable and enlightening. Many were tired and cold as they gathered at the home of Drs. Thomas and Sally Dick for an evening meal and tabulation of the counts, but were already planning for next year's Christmas Bird Count.

The statistics will serve as a basis for many future studies of birdlife in the region. They will be reported to American Birds, a publication of the National Audubon Society, Inc., along with approximately 1,500 other counts in Canada, the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, Middle America, and the West Indies. Ruth Sager served as official compiler for the count and was assisted by her husband, Glenn, and Michael Sankovich.

Species Seen on Count Day December 17, 1983

Am. Crow	10,650
Eur. Starling	982
Mallard	538
House Sparrow	410
Black-capped Chickadee	392
House Finch *	270
Dark-eyed Junco	246
Rock Dove	228
Horned Lark	200
N. Cardinal	115
Am. Goldfinch	103
Purple Finch	97
Am. Tree Sparrow	86
Tufted Titmouse	69
Evening Grosbeak	68
White-breasted Nuthatch	67
Mourning Dove	56
Downy Woodpecker	51
Blue Jay	38
Cedar Waxwing	32
Song Sparrow	31
White-throated Sp.	25
Com. Redpoll	14
Bufflehead	13
Mute Swan	9
Canada Goose	9
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9
Am. Black Duck	8
Hairy Woodpecker	8
E. Bluebird	8
Am. Kestrel	7
Pine Siskin	7
Com. Goldeneye	6
Golden-Crowned Kinglet	6
Com. Loon	5
Horned Grebe	5
Canvasback	5
Cooper's Hawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	4
Field Sparrow	4
N. Pintail	3
Red-winged Blackbird	3
Ring-necked Pheasant	2
Ruffed Grouse	2
Barred Owl	2
N. (Yel-sh.) Flicker	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2
Brown Creeper	2
Swamp Sparrow	2
Green-winged Teal	1
Hooded Merganser	1

(cont.)

(bird count cont.)

Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
N. Goshawk	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
E. Phoebe	1
Winter Wren	1
Fox Sparrow	1
	<hr/>
	14,913

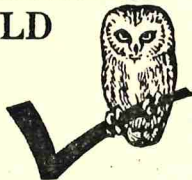
Species Seen in Count Week
December 14-20, but Not
on Count Day

Pied-Billed Grebe (R. Sager)
Great Blue Heron (R. Murphy)
Tundra Swan (R. Sager)
Wood Duck (S. & T. Dick)
Am. Coot (R. Sager)
E. Screech-Owl (M. Sankovich)
Great Horned Owl (R. Mock)
Red-bellied Woodpecker
(S. & T. Dick)
Com. Raven (R. Sager)
Carolina Wren (A. Long)
Thrush, sp. (M. Haines)
Am. Robin (G. & R. Sager)

Many thanks to Ruth Sager who compiled a detailed report on the 1983 Christmas Bird Count, which was summerized above.

Wild Resource Conservation Fund

**Do Something
WILD**



Pennsylvanians contributed more than \$225,000 last year to this nonprofit fund used to protect the Commonwealth's native non-game wildlife and wild

plants. Over 48,000 individuals contributed in the fund's first year. Please follow the instructions in your Pennsylvania Income Tax booklet if you wish to contribute to the fund.

Committees

In order for the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society to become a viable organization, a number of committees had to be formed, and individuals were needed to chair the various committees.

Breeding Bird Survey:

Dr. Neil Woffinden 814-467-5738
1775 Regal Dr. Johnstown PA 15904

Conservation:

Michael Sankovich 814-288-2304
15 White Dr. RD4 Jtwn, PA 15905

Education:

Richard Mock 814-479-4232
PO Box 74 Davidsville, PA 15928

Energy:

Kevin Carney 814-539-4249
144 Vaughn St Johnstown PA 15906

Field Trip:

David Lester 814-749-7151
RD 6 Box 305 Johnstown PA 15909

Membership:

Rick Sell 814-266-2734
RD 2 Box 457 Johnstown, PA 15904

Photography:

Bill Stephens 814-266-1908
116 Leventry Rd Jtwn, PA 15904

Programs:

Mike Wolfe 814-255-5098
1618 Christopher Jtwn PA 15905

Publicity:

Pam Boderocco 814-255-5462
RD 5 Box 83 Johnstown, PA 15905

Refuge Acquisition:

J. E. Mayer 814-535-5629
208 Gardner Johnstown, PA 15905

Special Projects:

Joan & Harold Lohr 814-266-5104
255 Collegiate Dr Jtwn PA 15904

Stream Assessment:

Tim Fox 814-536-5081
145 Blough St Johnstown PA 15902

Technical Advisor:

Dr Dennis McNair 814-539-8293
517 Cypress Ave. Jtwn PA 15902

Christmas Bird Count:

Glenn & Ruth Sager 814-798-3242
RD1Box176B Hooversville PA 15936

Publication:

Marilyn & Bob Lohr 814-288-4883
115 Hillson St Jtwn, PA 15905

Chesapeake Bay Ecology Camp

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society invites you to attend the Chesapeake Bay Ecology Camp. With the cooperation of St. Mary's College of Maryland, a two-week camp on the natural history and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay is being offered. The dates for the camp are from July 8, 1984 through July 21, 1984. The program stresses field work and "hands on" experience using the Chesapeake Bay as a classroom. Highlights include a 3 day research cruise, canoe exploration, fossil collecting, and much more. You need not be an Audubon member in order to participate. For a detailed brochure, write to:

Mr. Steven Cardano
Chesapeake Bay Ecology Camp
Southern Maryland Audubon Society
Post Office Box 181
Bryans Road, Maryland 20616

National Audubon Patches

Do you have some clothing, a field guide carrier or binocular case that would look better with an Audubon cloth patch affixed to it? Two sizes of the blue patch with the white Common Egret and the words "National Audubon Society" are available: 4" for \$2.00 and 2½" for \$1.50. To order, send a check payable to "National Audubon Society" along with a small self-addressed, envelope to: Patch Order, National Audubon Society, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 1104 Fernwood Ave., #300, Camp Hill, PA 17011



Looking For A Different Vacation?

*Let Your Senses Run Wild . . .
. . . with National Audubon Opportunities*



- Join other Audubon members at adult summer ecology camps in Maine, Wyoming, Wisconsin or Connecticut.
- Youth camps in Maine and Minnesota.

- Horse pack trips in the Rocky Mountains.
- Canoeing or rafting in West Virginia, Minnesota, Alaska or the Yukon.
- Observe birds, wildlife and scenic sights.
- Birding, backpacking or skiing field seminars led by experienced naturalists.
- Costs lower than 1983.
- Special sessions for families, amateur ornithologists and artists/photographers.
- Dozens of opportunities not listed here.
- University credit if desired.
- Excellent courses for teachers.
- Opportunities all seasons of the year.



FREE COLOR BROCHURE and registration information
Send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to:

Audubon Camps
National Audubon Society
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
1104 Fernwood Avenue, #300
Camp Hill, PA 17011



"HELP US NAME OUR NEWSLETTER"

We need an appropriate name for our newsletter and are asking for your suggestions. Also, for those with artistic talents, we would like a logo for our masthead. Please use your ingenuity and make a lasting contribution to our chapter. Bring your suggestions to the next meeting or mail them to the Editor.

Just to get your imagination working, here are some suggestions we have had so far:

"The A.P. Flyer" (for Allegheny Plateau)

"The Avian Dispatch"

and last but not least,

"The Fowl Mouth"

As you can see, we are in need of suggestions.

Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904

"COMING ATTRACTIONS"

for Up-Coming Meetings

Dr. Dennis McNair will speak on insects.

Movie- "Flight of the Snow Geese"

Movie- "The Garden of Eden", a film from the Western Pa. Conservancy about endangered species and diminishing habitats.

Anyone having information that would be of interest to our local chapter, please mail it to the editors for possible inclusion in a future newsletter.

Moving? Send your change of address to the Membership Chairman.

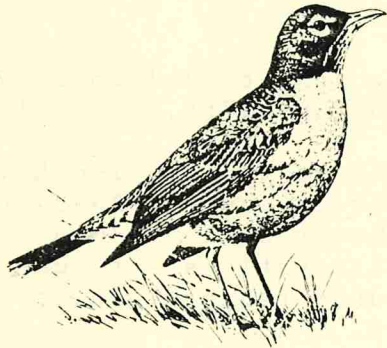
Harold W. & Mary Joan Lohr
255 Collegiate Drive
Johnstown, PA 15904

Volume I Number 2

April 1984

WE ARE THE FIRST

It's official - we're the real thing! At our March meeting, Alan Ruppert of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office presented us with our charter. We became the 493rd Chapter of the National Audubon Society - the 44th chapter in the Mid-Atlantic Region - the 24th Chapter in Pennsylvania - and the very first to be called a "Plateau".



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Don't let the snow and freezing rain fool you. According to the calendar, it really is spring. Speaking of the calendar, Dave Lester is doing an excellent job filling the weekends with a variety of exciting outings. Check the outings on page 2, and mark those that interest you on your calendar.

CONGRATULATIONS and thank you to Rosalind Gordon for accepting the office of Treasurer. We hope our fund-raising projects net enough "green" to keep us out of the "red".

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Bird Banding & Spring Bird Migration

8:00 PM Thursday April 19, 1984
Engineering and Science Building
University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown

Bob Mulvehill will be the speaker for our April meeting. Mr. Mulvehill is from the Powdermill Nature Reserve, which is part of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. He will present a slide program on their extensive bird banding program in the Ligonier Valley, and will concentrate on the spring bird migration. Mr. Mulvehill's work at Powdermill is under the direction of Dr. Robert C. Leberman, a nationally recognized bander.

The editors have had the pleasure to attend a presentation by Mr. Mulvehill, and found it both informative and entertaining. With Powdermill nearby, this will be an excellent time to become familiar with the work being done there. So plan on attending!

UP-COMING PROGRAMS

Movie - "Flight of the Snow Geese"

Dr. Dennis McNair will speak on insects.

Movie - "The Garden of Eden", a film from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy about endangered species and diminishing habitats.

OUTINGS

Sunday April 8, 1984

Enjoy a Spring Waterfowl tour of area lakes lead by Chris Dick. Meet at 8:00 AM at the entrance to the Abex Plant.

Saturday April 21, 1984

Michael and Noreen Sankovich will head a trip to the Tuscarora Summit for a spring Hawk migration count. The Tuscarora Summit is located east of U.S. 522 on U.S. Route 30. The site of the count will be across from the restaurant at the top of the mountain on Route 30. Bring a lawnchair and a lunch, or food can be purchased at nearby restaurants. The caravan will leave from the rear of Dunkin Donuts in Richland at 8:00 AM. Phone 288-2304.

Sunday April 29, 1984

A study of local flora around the UPJ campus will be lead by Doris Brown. Meet at 1:00 PM at the Engineering and Science Bldg. Phone 255-1223.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
May 4-5-6

Pymatuning will be Doris Brown's destination this weekend. See nesting Bald Eagles, learn marsh ecology and fish management. \$30.00 is the approximate cost per person for room and meals. Leave the Johnstown area late afternoon on Friday the 4th, stay at the Pitt Lab dormitory the nights of the 4th and 5th, return the afternoon of the 6th. Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast. Reservations are a must. This promises to be an exciting weekend along the 16 mile long Pymatuning Reservoir. The upper part of the reservoir is a state wild waterfowl sanctuary. Phone 255-1223.

Saturday May 12, 1984

If you would like to try to see 100 species of birds in a single day, then why not join Charles Voytko in a Century Bird Count. Charles has chosen an area around Bedford that is diverse enough to accomplish this feat. Phone 1-623-2747.

Saturday May 19, 1984

An interesting evening outing will be held on this Saturday. Tim Fox will enlighten us on the hatching of the Mayfly and the ecology of the Clearshade Creek. We will meet at 5:00 PM at the parking lot across Route 56 from the Babcock picnic area.

Coming in June

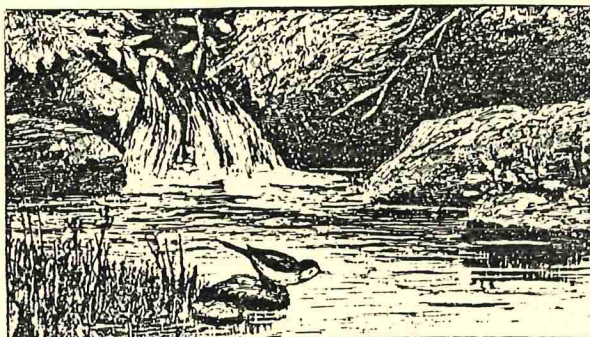
A children's hike on June 8th, with Joan Lohr.

Birdbanding at Powdermill Nature Reserve on June 17th, with Mike Wolfe.

Canoeing on the Clarion River with Dave Lester on June 22-23-24th. Please contact Dave by June 1st for camping reservations for June 22nd and for canoe rentals. Phone 1-749-7151.

Bog botany and wetland tour with Tom Dick on June 30th.

We are always looking for new, exciting places for our outings. If you know of a great place you would like to share with the group, or are willing to lead an outing - please contact Dave Lester at 1-749-7151-RD 6 Box 305 Johnstown, PA 15909.



Outing Reports

See What You Missed !

Delmarva Winter Waterfowl Tour

Twelve Plateau Auduboners visited Chesapeake Bay's Eastern shore for a winter wildlife tour. Two short but exciting trips resulted in a hefty bird list of over 120 species. Highlights included; Golden and Bald Eagles at Blackwater NWR, endangered fox squirrels at Chincoteague NWR, Surf Scoters riding breakers, Red-necked Grebes in breeding plumage, jetties covered with Sanderlings, Purple Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones and people, Northern Gannets plunge-diving off shore, rafts of bobbing bay ducks, Brown-headed Nuthatches in Loblolly trees, ponies, muskrats and raccoons. The most unusual bird was a California Gull standing nonchalantly on a pier piling (only 3000-4000 miles off course) at Sandy Point State Park. The most unusual incident was an athletic raccoon swimming across Swan Cove with four curious Black Ducks following its tail. The most unusual birder we encountered was former Secretary of Defense or Energy (depending on the administration) James Schlesinger. He popped out of the woods at Assateague and asked if we had seen any Hooded Mergansers. Since then, we've found that he is a tireless birder and frequent contributor to D.C. "bird hotlines". The trips were busy and tiring at times, but we arrived home invigorated with exciting memories of blue skies, salty breezes, splashing surf and abundant wildlife.

Tom Dick

Spring Waterfowl at Shawnee Lake

The Shawnee Lake outing on March 11th, was held under wintry conditions. A large flock of

Whistling Swans and Canadian geese were huddled around the apparently only open water on the lake. The lake being so iced over is unusual for this time of the year. Also, interspersed were a few Hooded Mergansers and Ring-billed gulls. A pair of Red-Tailed hawks were seen in the area below the dam's breast.

Many thanks to Greg Schrum of the Park for joining nine of us. We all enjoyed his comments on the lake's diverse bird population, history and ecology. For those wanting to see migratory waterfowl, this area should still be good until early April.

Charles Voytko

Quemahoning Waterfowl Tour

Approximately 20 participants joined up with trip leader Dr. Doris Brown in successfully finding 17 species of water related birds with total numbers around 600. Unexpected cold weather ice locked many of the areas visited, but not sufficiently to have rich little pockets of open water. These pockets were frequently filled with ducks and as many as 6 different species (Somerset Lake). The ages of our group varied from 2 years on up, which necessitated much adjustment (up and down) of the spotting scope tripod - in fact our two year old saw ducks while staring through the binoculars from the back seat of the car. Quemahoning dam had Red-breasted Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, Buffleheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Redheads and Common Loons. Our second stop was Lasky's pond with Black Ducks. The third stop was the Rt. 219 swamp with Pintails and the last and most productive stop was Somerset Lake with its Wood Ducks, Ruddy Ducks, Whistling Swans, Pied-billed Grebes, Green-winged Teals and 3 Oldsquaw. Our local waters are an important feeding and loafing area for migratory waterfowl in the fall through and including spring.

Doris Brown

Ornithology Class for Auduboners

A short course in Ornithology "The Life of Birds" will be offered at UPJ. Dr. Neil D. Woffinden will be the instructor. Starting April 25th, the course will run for 6 consecutive Wednesdays, from 7:00-9:00 PM with one or two Saturday mornings to include birding excursions. The cost will be approximately \$30 and the topics will include:

- Birds as flying machines
- Kinds of birds
- Skin, scales, feathers & color
- Avian behavior
- Courtship and mating habits
- Ecology and geography of birds
- Migration and orientation
- Birds and man

Bluebird Box Sale

At the last meeting, we started planning a bluebird trail to run parallel with Route 219 and to intersect with the trail developed by Joe Emerick around the Ebensburg area.

We have bluebird boxes for sale at \$5 each. If you don't have the appropriate habitat to place a box, you may donate one to be included in the trail. The boxes will be on sale at the Greater Johnstown Vo-Tech School parking lot (Richland) on April 14th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM during the Cambria Conservation District tree seedling sale. You can also purchase the boxes at the next meeting. Remember, profits help support our local chapter.

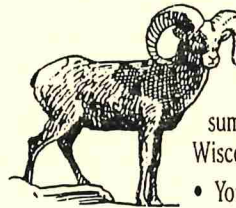
Watch for Purple Martins

According to the Nature Society at Purple Martin Junction in Griggsville, IL, watch for purple martins returning to the Mid-Atlantic states. In April, they will be north of the Appalachian Front.



Looking For A Different Vacation?

*Let Your Senses Run Wild . . .
...with National Audubon Opportunities*



- Join other Audubon members at adult summer ecology camps in Maine, Wyoming, Wisconsin or Connecticut.

- Youth camps in Maine and Minnesota.

- Horse pack trips in the Rocky Mountains.
- Canoeing or rafting in West Virginia, Minnesota, Alaska or the Yukon.
- Observe birds, wildlife and scenic sights.
- Birding, backpacking or skiing field seminars led by experienced naturalists.
- Costs lower than 1983.
- Special sessions for families, amateur ornithologists and artists/photographers.
- Dozens of opportunities not listed here.
- University credit if desired.
- Excellent courses for teachers.
- Opportunities all seasons of the year.



FREE COLOR BROCHURE and registration information
Send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to:

Audubon Camps
National Audubon Society
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
1104 Fernwood Avenue, #300
Camp Hill, PA 17011



Voice Your Opinion

This year being an election year, is an excellent time to let your legislators know your views on pertinent environmental and conservation issues. When writing or calling, be specific. Identify the bill or issue by its number or proper title. Call or write now, before it is too late. Your Congressmen can be influenced by the volume of mail he or she receives.

Addresses

The Honorable _____
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Switchboard 202-224-3121

The Honorable _____
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Switchboard 202-225-3121

The National Audubon Society has a 24 hour taped message "Action Alert" 202-547-9017. For further information contact the regional office at 717-463-4985 or the Washington lobbying office at 202-547-9009.

At the present time, the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts are before Congress, including HR3400, the Waxman Acid Rain Bill. Voice your opinion before the Congressional recess on April 16th.

If you plan to be near Philadelphia, stop and see John James Audubon's first home in America. It is a part of a wildlife sanctuary operated in his honor. There is no fee. For a color brochure and nature trail guide, write:

Ed Graham, Director
Mill Grove Sanctuary
P.O. Box 25
Audubon, PA 19407

A diversity of original Audubon prints are displayed.

What advantage do many birds gain by flying in V-formation?

As a bird flaps its wings, it disturbs the air and leaves whirling eddies behind. Some species take advantage of the upward sections of these whirls and each bird in the V-formation stations itself at the correct place so the inner wing obtains support from the wake of the bird immediately ahead. Thus, every bird in the flock, except the leader, saves energy by using the V-formation type of flight.

The Houghton Mifflin Company has produced an excellent home video tape "Watching Birds With Roger Tory Peterson". The discount price for Audubon members is \$42.00 from Houghton Mifflin Co., Special Sales Dept., 2 Park Street, Boston, MA 02108. Be sure to mention you are a National Audubon member.

The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society is in the process of establishing an Audubon Hotline - a recorded telephone message with information on outings and bird sightings. More information will be available in the next issue.

Meanwhile, the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania has a hotline number for their area which is updated every Wednesday 412-963-6104.



Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society

President- Dr. Thomas Dick
266-6412

Vice-President- Dr. Doris Brown
255-1223

Corres. Sec.- Noreen Sankovich
288-2304

Record. Sec.- Linda Sell
266-2734

Treasurer- Rosalind Gordon
288-1248

Articles and letters for
publication should be sent to:

Robert & Marilyn Lohr
115 Hillson Street
Johnstown, PA 15905

For change of address, contact:

Rick Sell
RD 2 Box 457
Johnstown, PA 15904
266-2734

Remember, April 19th will be the last general meeting before Summer. Outings and other activities will continue throughout the Summer. The next meeting won't be until September. There will be a newsletter published in early June. Please submit articles and letters by May 24th. Before the September meeting, there will be another newsletter published. The deadline for this issue will be August 23rd.

A Bird Seed Sale will be conducted by our organization in August or September. Orders will be taken prior to the sale - so wait to hear from us before buying your seed. Details will be published once plans for the sale are finalized.

Just a reminder to occasionally scrub down your bird feeders. Help keep the birds happy and healthy.

Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Volume I Number 3

June 1984

EXCITING NEWS FOR THE ALLEGHENY PLATEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

With the co-operation of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society is in the process of developing a Hawk Watching Station. Through the work of Mike Sankovich and Dr. Tom Dick, a scenic area of the Tussey Mountain has been chosen for the station. It is located near Everett, and there is an access road which we will be able to use with permission from the Department of Environmental Resources. We hope to get the help and cooperation of other Audubon chapters. This could prove to be a major migration site.



Raptor Identification Seminar

Now that we are developing our own Hawk Migration Station at Tussey Mountain, we are in need of volunteers to man the site and log the activity. In order to meet this need, a Raptor identification and information seminar will be conducted. It will be held at UPJ in early August, and we

plan to have guest speakers on the agenda. For further details, please call or write Mike Sankovich at 288-2304, 15 White Dr. RD 4, Johnstown, PA 15905, or Dr. Tom Dick at 266-7912.

TRAVELING TO D.C. ??

Dr. Stan Shetler would like our members to know that the Roger Tory Peterson Exhibit will last until September, and he urges members to visit the Smithsonian's Rotunda Room in the Museum of Natural History (second floor to see Peterson's original paintings). The show will include large oils and watercolors and a large selection of small paintings which Peterson created for reproduction on wildlife stamps issued by the National Wildlife Federation. Peterson is the originator of an innovative method for identifying birds that has since become the standard for all field guides.

WOOD STORK ENDANGERED

The wood stork, an object of protective management and devoted study by Audubon scientists since 1957, is the 247th species found in the United States to be added to the endangered species list. The Federal Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that the breeding populations have declined 75 percent since the 1930's. Most of the 4,500 remaining breeding pairs nest in peninsular Florida. The wood stork, also known as the wood ibis, is the only stork native to this country. It reaches a height of 3 feet or more with 30-inch wings.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday June 17th

Birding with Bob Mulvehill at Linn Run State Park.
Leader: Mike Wolfe 255-5098
Meet at the main parking lot of Linn Run State Park, near Rector, PA at 8:00 AM. Bring your boots for this one!

Friday, Saturday, Sunday,
June 22-23-24th

Canoeing on the Clarion River.
Leader: Dave Lester 1-749-7151
Please call as soon as possible for camping reservation for the 22nd, and rental canoes. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, the 20th, to work out all the details.

Saturday June 30th

Bog Botany and Wetland Tour.
Leader: Tom Dick 266-7912
Meet at the Richland Veterinary Hospital parking lot at 2:00 PM. Please bring your boots.

Saturday July 7th

Hike on the Lost Turkey Trail.
Leader: Greg Gdula 487-4498
This will be a day hike. Bring a lunch and some water. Meet at the intersection of Rt. 160 and 869 in Sidman, PA, at the parking lot to the right at 9:00 AM.

Saturday July 14th

Outing to Black Moshannon State Park. Leaders: Karen and Al O'Donnell 487-7151
There will be canoeing, swimming, fishing, hiking, nature trails, picnicking. The park is 90 miles away (slightly less than 2 hours). Please call to reserve a canoe. Meet at the Sidman exit of 219 (from Johnstown, turn left at the stop sign toward South Fork, parking area on left) between 8:00-8:30 AM.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday,
July 20-21-22nd

Allegheny Forest Outing. This is a 2 day outing on the Allegheny Forest hiking trails. Leave Friday night at 6:00 PM for Tidioute, PA. Overnight campout. On Saturday, there will be a 5.3 mile hike on the Minister Trail. Enjoy the flora and fauna and fishing. Campout Saturday night. On Sunday, there will be a day hike to see Hearts Content virgin timber. Return mid-afternoon.
Leaders: Pam and John Boderocco
255-5264

Keep July 28th and 29th open.

Plans are being made for a summer barbecue. Bring a covered dish. Bring a few of your prized slides. Check the Johnstown paper under Club Notes for further details about this barbecue and August field trips.

We are still looking for new, exciting places for our outings. If you know of a great place you would like to share with us, or are willing to lead an outing - please contact Dave Lester at 1-749-7151. Address: RD 6 Box 305 Johnstown, PA 15909.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Audubon Conference will be held from June 27th through July 1st at Eastern College, St. Davids, PA (adjacent to Valley Forge). The theme is Wildlife: Progress and Promise. There will be field trips, museum visits, films, workshops, and presentations.

Join with other Auduboners to expand your knowledge of birds and wildlife. Registration deadline is June 15th. Contact the editors for a detailed listing of activities if you are interested. 288-4883

OUTING REPORTS

See what you missed!

Sager outing.

A winter lion lurking in the area did not keep 22 hardy Audubon members and friends from enjoying the outing at the Sager farm near Hooversville on Saturday, March 31st.

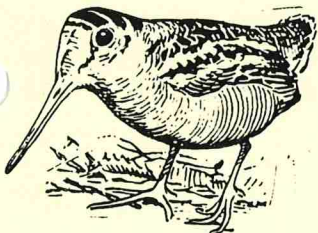
The crowd drifted in throughout the afternoon, many having taken a spin around nearby Quemahoning Dam in quest of waterfowl before arriving. During a short afternoon hike, Glenn and Ruth Sager pointed out nesting boxes, wildlife management hints, and shrubs and trees that they have found to be valuable for food, nesting and cover for birds and animals.

Most of the 23 bird species observed were wintering birds or residents at the feeders, which included large numbers of juncos, tree sparrows, several white-throated sparrows and 4 fox sparrows. Some of the folks enjoyed feeding black-capped chickadees by hand. Eastern bluebirds were a welcome sign of spring for those who saw them at nesting boxes along the lane into the Sager farm. Birds of prey were represented by a red-tailed hawk, a Cooper's hawk and a turkey vulture.

The publicized evening attraction failed to come off, as woodcocks apparently did not find the low evening temperatures conducive to nuptial flights. A few weak "peents" and barely-audible whistling of wings were signs picked up by only a few listeners as evidence that woodcocks were actually present on the hillside. Richard Mock's imitation did not fool any woodcocks, but it did give the disappointed birders some idea of the sound to listen for in future woodcock searchings.

Submitted by:

Ruth Sager



Tuscarora Summit (Spring Hawk Watch)

On April 21st, approximately 15 chapter members made the journey to the Tuscarora Summit. The summit, at 2123 ft. is located on U.S. Route 30 east of McConnellsburg, PA. Spring and autumn hawk migration surveys have been conducted there since 1966 by members of the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

While making the trip, 2 osprey were seen in the Breezewood area, indicating that we might have a good day. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by 2 members of HMANA. Winds from the west delivered a total of 7 species of raptors. Observed were: 90 broadwings, 21 red-tails, 1 red-shoulder, 10 sharpshins, 2 coopers, 1 American kestrel, 7 osprey, and 2 unidentified raptors, giving us a total of 134. There was hardly a dull moment with hourly totals never falling below 14 birds per hour, and 2 hours with totals of 31 each. Some members were treated to watching hang-gliders launched from the summit. Aside from a few sunburned faces, a good time was had by all, and we look forward to our return in the fall.

Submitted by:

Mike Sankovich

Century Day May 12th

Shawnee Park was the focus of the attempt to see 100 different species in one day. Birds seen from Johnstown and Bedford to and from the park were also counted. The observers were Cindy Alt, Ron Rovanseck and myself.

It was an exciting day from the start and began on the Lakeside trail counting lingering migratory waterfowl. Common Loons, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Red breasted Mergansers were seen. Then the woodlands and thickets surrounding the lake came to life with small birds. Eighteen species of warblers and vireos were counted, some in textbook breeding plumage. Observed close-up were Golden-winged, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Palm, Myrtle, Pine warblers and many more. (cont.)

Along the beaches, some unexpected species such as Caspian terns and Black terns were among a large flock of Ring-billed gulls. All of the swallow-like birds were there except Chimney swifts and Martins, which were seen on the way there. Three nesting Bluebird pairs were included.

Our total at Shawnee Park reached 76 without covering the entire area. Fifteen more were added between the park and Johnstown. Cindy took a different route and added a large flock of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Solitary Sandpiper, and common birds that we missed at the park. Ron and I added ours and the total came to 91.

Although we did not reach the magic "100", we had a fun day, and with more observers could have covered open fields and deep woods, possibly including Kestrels, Veeries, Owls, Grouse, etc. that were missed. Enough excuses, I'm beginning to sound like the golfer who would have a better score if he did not have so many 3 putt greens. It's part of the game. "Wait till next year."

Submitted by:
Charles Voytko

A Note from the Sagers

Since a number of Allegheny Plateau members are getting hooked on hawks, especially since the good outing at the Pulpit, may we share the information that hawks do not always appear at the well-known hawk watches?

At 9:00 AM on April 27, 1984, Glenn and our daughter, Becky Moore, looked skyward in the yard of our son-in-law and daughter's home and discovered a kettle of 38 broadwings and 1 Cooper's hawk. This was our first visit to their new home at RD1, Chester Springs, PA (near the Downingtown exit of the Turnpike) and we have no idea whether they are on a good flyway where we can expect to conduct future hawk watches.

Nevertheless, we made hay while the sun shone that day and counted 121 hawks by 3:00 PM (108 broadwings, 1 sharpshinned, 1 Cooper's, 2 red-tails, 3 osprey and 6 Am. kestrels), while our little grand-daughters picked wildflowers, had a spring-time picnic, and frolicked on the lawn. A perfectly delightful surprise for our first visit at Chester Springs.

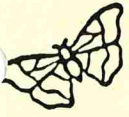
We are always on the lookout (no pun intended) for new hawk-watching areas and would appreciate it if you would let us know of any that you find, especially in the Allegheny Plateau area. Data on hawk migration is needed by Hawk Migration Ass'n. of North America and we will be glad to assist you in reporting to them.

Keep looking up,
Glenn and Ruth Sager

Late-breaking Report from Joan Lohr

The June 8th Children's Hike on the UPJ nature trails came off quite well. There were 8 children ranging from ages 5 to 16 years. Before their hike, the children were read stories from the I Want to Know... books on animal homes and plants. They then set off along the Idzkowsky and Rocky Run Trails, where they encountered worms, caterpillars, butterflies, salamanders, crayfish, robins, doves, and too many bugs! The children identified plants (buttercups, violets, Jack-in-the-Pulpits) and trees (Black Maples, Beech, and Wild Cherry). They also discovered "foot-steps", "rock-prints" and a sock. One little guy acted as trail guide by checking the location of "Mr. Politan Life" on his map of the United States. The day ended at the Lohr's with hot dogs, cookies, and chips - topped off by a game of kick ball.

Alan Rupert of the Mid-Atlantic office, will be leaving in July. He presented our chapter with it's chair.



THE NATURALIST'S CORNER

I like birds and flowers as much as the next person, but I get really excited by things like a woodroach nymph in a rotting stump or a beetle I haven't seen before. So when Tom Dick asked me to write something for the first Naturalist's Corner, I decided to try to impart what spring means to an insect lover.

Signs of spring for me are the first butterflies. Cabbage butterflies are among the very first, followed shortly by mourning cloaks. Cabbage butterflies are medium sized, white insects with variable gray or black markings on the wings. Their larvae feed on members of the cabbage family. The mourning cloaks are somewhat larger and have purplish brown wings with a yellow border. You may rely on robins, but they can control their own body temperature, and that can make for gross errors. They were busy around here when we were two snowfalls away from spring. My butterflies, if they come out too early, perish before they can give anyone the wrong signal about when to remove their snow tires.

While many of you were noticing spring beauties this spring, I was watching what visited them. Conventional wisdom is that flowers are pollinated by honeybees, but many flowers, especially those with unique ecological niches, have their own special pollinators. Spring beauties bloom very early, when there is little else available, and they are pollinated by small, blackish bees in the family Halictidae. I watched them working over four patches of these flowers in three counties this spring.

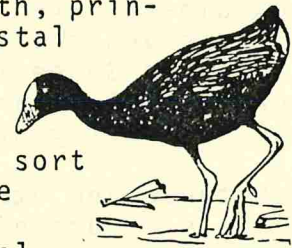
As summer arrives, the diversity and numbers in the insect community will increase and the isolated nudgings of the spring species will be replaced by a flurry of activity. Still, it's those first insects for me, just as it may be warblers or trout lilies for you, that mean I'm going to have to start thinking of

excuses to get outside on nice days and start jogging my memory for names, habitats and habits of less common critters. So, although I'm outside the mainstream, I'll bet my behavior pattern is similar to yours. We may have different ways of enjoying it, but when you have to wait as long for spring as we do in these parts, enjoy it; we do.

Submitted by:
Dennis M. McNair

AN UNUSUAL SIGHTING AND STORY

In May, a Purple Gallinule was found walking along Eisenhower Blvd. The bird, an inhabitant of the deep south, principally the gulf coastal states, was picked up by a passing motorist who thought it was some sort of cage bird. The motorist took the Gallinule to a local pet store and found that it was not a cage bird. The pet store owner recommended submitting it to the Richland Veterinary Hospital for identification. Tim Fox, an animal technician, almost had to be hospitalized with shock upon recognizing the bird as a Purple Gallinule. Why was the bird on Eisenhower Blvd.? According to one report, it was injured and was making its way to a veterinary hospital. This conflicted with another report which suggested it was working its way to the airport to ticket a flight south. At any rate, it is a rare bird indeed, with only 2 other reported historical sightings in Western Pennsylvania. The occurrence of the Purple Gallinule coincided with severe storm activity in the deep south.



Submitted by:
Dr. Tom Dick

P.S. This story actually loses something in print. For the full effect, you need to hear it from Tom Dick himself. The editors.

The DER has wild plant mini-grants of up to \$1,000.00 for individual projects. The objectives of the mini-grant program are to stimulate interest in wild plant protection, conduct seminars on wild plants, and to promote investigations on rare or unusual native wild plants. If you have an idea for a project, contact Dr. Dick as soon as possible. The application should be submitted by June 15, 1984.

Help enact a PA "Bottle Bill"

Does the wastefulness and unsightliness of throwaway beer and soft drink containers make you angry? Have you ever observed the indignity suffered by a Canada Goose with a plastic 6-pack ring stuck around its neck? Have you ever cut your foot on a pull-tab?

Help remedy these and other environmental ills by dropping a line to any or all of these gentlemen, especially if you live in their district.

Rep. William R. Lloyd, Jr.
645 E. Main St. Apt. 63
Somerset, PA 15501

Sen. William D. Lincoln
PO Bx 313 Hopewood, PA 15445

Sen. Patrick J. Stapleton
710 Coyland Ave.
Indiana, PA 15701

Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Urge them to report H.B. 1341 (Rep. Lloyd) and S.B. 463 (Sen. Lincoln and Se. Stapleton) out of their committees onto the floor for debate, consolidation, and passage.

Outdoor Pennsylvania

Public television will present an hour-long presentation entitled Outdoor Pennsylvania. The program will present Pennsylvanians in four different outdoor experiences.

Air times:

WQED/13 Tuesday, June 12 at 10:00 PM
WPSX/3 Wednesday, June 13 at 9:00 PM

The Raptor Identification Seminar has been set for August 9th. (See article on front page).

Our next newsletter will be published in early September. Please submit articles and letters by August 23rd.

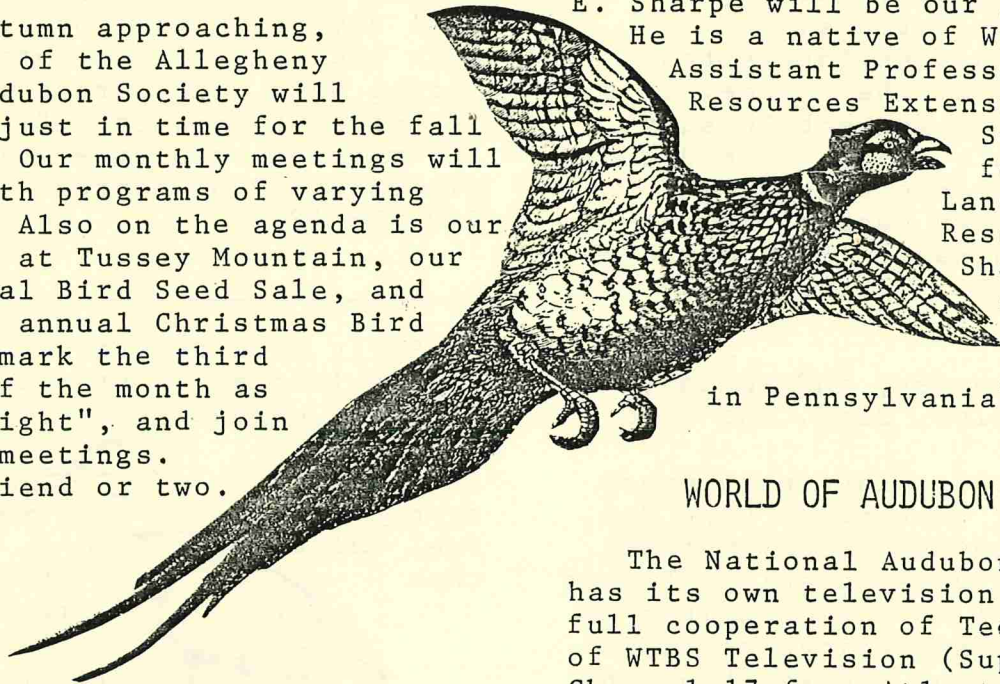
The next general meeting will be held on September 20th.

There is a full-time position available starting July 15, 1984, for an environmental educator in Bucks County, PA. Anyone interested? Call 288-4883 for full details.

Volume I Number 4

WELCOME BACK

With autumn approaching, activities of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society will pick up - just in time for the fall migration. Our monthly meetings will resume, with programs of varying interests. Also on the agenda is our hawk watch at Tussey Mountain, our first annual Bird Seed Sale, and our second annual Christmas Bird Count. So mark the third Thursday of the month as "Audubon Night", and join us at our meetings. Bring a friend or two.



For our October meeting, Dr. William E. Sharpe will be our guest speaker. He is a native of Windber and is the Assistant Professor of Forest Resources Extension with Penn State's Institute for Research on Land and Water Resources. Dr. Sharpe will present a slide program entitled "Acid Precipitation in Pennsylvania".

WORLD OF AUDUBON TV SERIES

The National Audubon Society now has its own television show. With the full cooperation of Ted Turner, owner of WTBS Television (Super Cable Channel 17 from Atlanta), the "World of Audubon" will begin this fall on WTBS. There will be five different shows this first year, each broadcast three times on this national cable channel and network. The premiere showing of the first program was shown at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Audubon Conference earlier this summer.

Mark your calendar now. The first program will be shown: October 22nd at 8:05 PM, October 28th at 5:35 PM, and November 3rd at 4:05 PM.

The television program is about people who are working to protect wildlife and the environment. Cliff Robertson will narrate the program. We will look at sea otters in California, eagles along the Chilkat River in Alaska, and flamingos on an island in the Bahamas. It shows ordinary people making extraordinary efforts to keep wildlife bountiful.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

8:00 PM Thursday September 20th,
Engineering and Science Building,
University of Pittsburgh at
Johnstown

The program for the September meeting will be the movie "The Garden of Eden". This is a film from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy about endangered species and diminishing habitats.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

8:00 PM Thursday October 18th,
Engineering and Science Building,
University of Pittsburgh at
Johnstown

FIELD TRIPS

The Hawk Watch at Tussey Mountain is going on now until November 24th. It is open to all birders - from novice to pro. Contact Mike Sankovich at 288-2304 for details and directions.

In addition to our Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch, the Sagers have graciously extended an invitation to anyone interested - to watch hawks at their home. This will be everyday (except Tuesday) September 15th to 30th, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All are welcome and please bring lawn chairs. That's - Glenn and Ruth Sager, RD 1 Box 176B, Hooversville, PA (798-3242).

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday,
September 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

Dave Lester is planning a great family camping weekend at Cape May, New Jersey. Leaving Friday morning and returning Sunday evening. Please contact Dave as soon as possible to make camping reservations for this weekend of birding and watching the hawk migration. (814-749-7151)

As of this printing, the schedule for outings has not been finalized - so please watch your newspaper under "Club Notes" for details of other fall outings.

If you are really looking to add to your life list - Metropolitan Touring Company has four tours that provide opportunities for daily sightings of hundreds of the 1400 species that have been recorded in Ecuador. The tours include the Cotapaxi National Park, the Colorado Indian Country, the Flotel down the Napo to Limoncocha, and the Galapagos. Costs depend on group size. Contact - Adventure Associates 5925 Maple, Ste. 116, Dallas, TX 75235. 214-357-6187

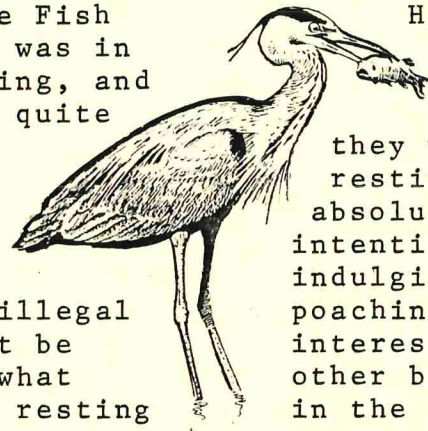
On Saturday, September 29th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania will hold their 5th annual Applejamm (a celebration of country life and crafts) at Beechwood Farms in Fox Chapel. The funds raised will be used for educational programs.

The National Zoological Park's 1984 symposium will be held October 12th and 13th. It is entitled "The Mating Game - Exploring the Mysteries of Animal Reproduction". For more information, call the editors at 814-288-4883 or contact them at 202-673-4866.

Sally Dick reports 23 Great Blue Herons innocently standing astride the fish empoundments at Reynoldsdale State Fish Hatchery.

This was in the evening, and we all feel quite certain that

any illegal might be see what just resting



they were just resting and had absolutely no intention of indulging in poaching. It is interesting to see other birds are in the area.

Special thanks to Attorney Wayne Wolfe for getting our chapter incorporated and refusing to accept a fee; likewise to Attorney Douglas Wolfe for his legal help in the Tussey Mountain Hawk Site.

We also need volunteers to phone members prior to meetings as reminders and several volunteers to prepare meetings (coffee, cookies, handout displays, etc.).

OUTING REPORT

See what you missed!

Bog Outing.

Seven members mucked and ate their way through a series of bogs during a recent Audubon outing. Service berries were ripe and delicious, and the succulent rootstems of cattails proved over-inviting. It was a good exercise in wetland botany and navigational confusion since our leader exposed his orienteering disability by making perfect circles. Our first bog was characterized by aspen, scattered hemlock, white spruce, service berry and red maple. There were vast open areas of sphagnum in undulating hillocks, with the higher areas covered by dewberry and blueberry. Sundew was especially abundant. The second bog, although much smaller, had the more typical bog plants such as cranberry, bog cotton, sundews and pitcher plants. Birds seen at various times in and around these bogs were Juncos, Canada Warblers, Red-Shouldered hawk, Solitary vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Bluebirds, and Common Yellow throats.

Submitted by:

Tom Dick

Canoe Creek State Park Birding Hot Spot

If you like to explore the outdoors as much as I do and observe birds at the same time, then you'll love Canoe Creek State Park. It's located about 10 miles east of Duncansville on Route 22. Although this is a relatively small state park in comparison to others in the area, the concentration and diversity of wildlife is excellent. Each time I visit, I see evidence of more and more birds breeding there.

The best birding areas are around the backside of the dam. Find the signs to "Limestone Trail" (to

the left side of the beach area) and follow the paths in that direction. I have chased a Great Horned Owl up Limestone Trail trying to take his picture. There are many other riding trails to be explored, also.

If you visit the park in late summer, you'll be sure to see lots of Green Herons, Belted Kingfishers, Kingbirds, and Cedar Waxwings. In early summer, the wildflowers blossom along the trails, i.e., Wild Columbine, Leopard Lilies, and Yellow Ladyslippers, to name a few. I have seen and/or taken photographs of Tree Swallows, Northern and Orchard Orioles, Blue Herons, Woodcocks, Hummingbirds, Northern Harriers, Turkey Vultures, Black Vulture, Osprey, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Eastern Phoebe, Lesser Yellowlegs, along with many other ducks and songbirds.

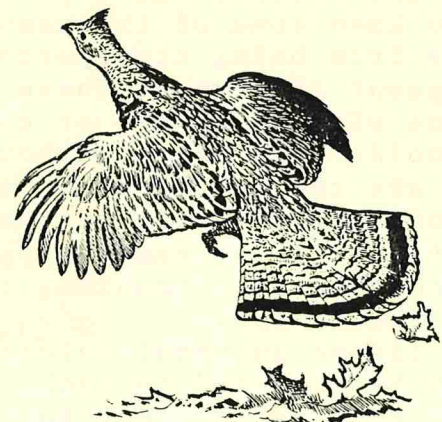
The best time to visit the park is early morning. The park gates do not open until 8:00 a.m., but you can explore the opposite shoreline (along Route 22) at any time.

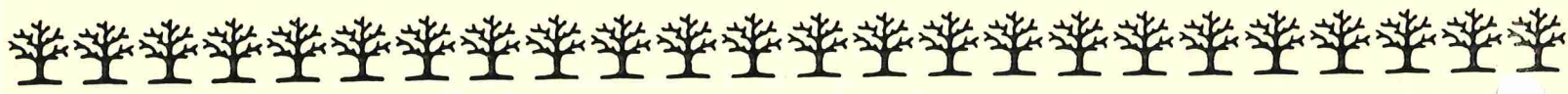
Because the dam is so small, a spotting scope works excellent to observe the spring and fall duck migrations.

So, if you're looking for a different place to bird that isn't too far away, stop at Canoe Creek. You'll probably run into me..I'll be the one with the camera and binoculars running frantically after the illusive Kingfisher. (I have yet to get a good close-up of that darn bird.)

Submitted by:

Cindy Alt





THE NATURALIST'S CORNER

DOES JACK FROST REALLY COLOR THEM ?

Every year that little white bearded elf, Jack Frost, gets the credit for painting the fall leaves with brilliant colors. Cease and desist; he's a villain, not an artist! When he makes his visits too early, the colors are drab. Even worse, the leaves fall without even changing color, because an early frost will kill them.

What then really causes the spectacular fall foliage we all look forward to every year? It is a combination of things, the most important being short sunny days coupled with cool nights. This combination causes a number of things to happen within the plant itself. The leaves cease to function, but the aging does not happen to all parts at the same time. The green pigment chlorophyll no longer is being produced. During the summer it was present in such abundance, it masked the yellow carotenoids and xanthophylls. As the chlorophyll disappears, these yellow pigments are still abundant and account for the brilliant yellows of the tulip poplar and other trees. If some brown tannins are also present, they will become a bright golden-yellow as in the beeches and aspens. Cool nights keep some of the manufactured sugars from being transported throughout the trees. These sugars combine with the ivory or colorless flavonoids to produce anthocyanins which are red in color. This then accounts for the brilliant reds of such trees as the sugar maples, or when coupled with tannins, the deep reds of the oaks.

Brilliant autumnal coloration cannot be credited to Jack Frost or for that matter, not to all

forested regions. It depends on both the climate and the particular kinds of trees, and how long it is before we have a killing frost. Some years and some regions produce much better displays than others.

Submitted by:
Doris Brown

BITS AND PIECES

Two albino house sparrows have been reported from several farms along Somerset Pike. Both the Griffith and Schrock farms have seen the birds with regularity. They report the eyes are not pink.

Pine Siskins have been frequenting the feeders of Mike and Noreen Sankovich through the summer and at the time of this writing are still seen daily.

Members of the Todd Bird Club will be joining us for our September meeting. This nature club is located in Indiana, PA.

The weekend of August 25th brought a number of members of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for a backpacking weekend on the 12 mile John P. Saylor trail in the Clearshade Wild Area. Among their goals was the discovery of rare Orchids in the string of bogs bordering the streams. This unique mountain resource is something that Allegheny Plateau Auduboners are learning to appreciate.

Thanks to Timothy Riggleman, Charles Voytko, and Cindy Alt for their efforts at trying to provide us with a logo.



PENNSYLVANIA BIRD SURVEY

The Wild Resource Conservation Board on May 30, 1984, authorized funding of a nongame wildlife management program designed to provide information on the status and distribution of all birds which breed in the state. The project, known as the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Survey, will be funded with monies from Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Fund. Representative George C. Hasay, Chairman of the Wild Resource Conservation Board, announced that the Pennsylvania Game Commission's request for funds to implement the survey was unanimously approved. The project represents an ornithological milestone with Pennsylvania now joining sixteen other states that have initiated breeding bird surveys.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has secured the services of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, for the coordination of the project by its staff of professional ornithologists. Dr. Frank B. Gill, Curator of Ornithology for the Academy of Natural Sciences, will direct the project with the assistance of Mr. Edward Fingerhood, who will coordinate the field surveys. The Academy will direct a force of 2,000 volunteer professional and amateur birders in the five year project. The survey will draw support from 41 Audubon Society Chapters and from independent bird clubs throughout Pennsylvania.

Wild Resource Conservation Board member, Peter S. Duncan, Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission, stated his agency needs the information to be gained from the survey and that it will serve as a sound foundation for environmental planning at all levels of government. The Game Commission will incorporate the survey data into its Pennsylvania Fish and Wildlife Data Base.

Major goals of the survey will be to discover new nesting locations of rare and endangered birds and to

identify fragile habitats that are vital to their survival. Preliminary survey work has already verified the discovery of a breeding pair of Dickcissels, which are presently classified as extirpated in Pennsylvania, the last record of a nesting pair being in 1936.

The Wild Resource Conservation Fund was signed into law in 1982 by Governor Thornburgh to help finance nongame wildlife and wild plant programs carried out by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the Department of Environmental Resources.

The Board is looking to increase its funding of nongame and wild plant programs, in this the second year. Initial reports indicate that 100,000 individuals have contributed \$360,000, to date, as compared to \$225,000 from 53,000 contributors in 1983. The Board is pleased that there is such broad-base support of the concept of nongame wildlife and wild plant management. The majority of these contributions have come from the special tax checkoff on the Pennsylvania Income Tax forms established for the Wild Resource Conservation Fund.

Those who wish to contribute may send a check to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the Breeding Bird Survey Teams may contact the Board at this address.

NEW BOOK- BIRDS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Birds of Pennsylvania is a book by James F. and Lillian D. Wakeley which replaces Leo Luttringer's Birdlife of Pennsylvania, which was in print from the 1930's until last year. It is a hardbound book published by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, P.O. Box 1567, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1567; 1983. Price \$10.00. This volume has to be the most beautifully illustrated bird book ever from an individual state.

THE REHABILITATION CLINIC

Recent inpatients at the Richland Veterinary Hospital included a horned owl reeking of skunk musk (horned owls frequently feed on skunks), an Immature Sparrow Hawk, one Immature Broad wing, one Screech Owl with a broken wing, a Great Egret, a variety of songbirds and 5 million rabbits. One bird has an interesting story. It was the Great Egret brought in from Will's Creek with a dislocated shoulder. The bird was presented in the late afternoon, at which time it was x-rayed, anesthetized, and the shoulder reduced. During early evening, while still tipsy from anesthesia, the bird was taken to a small lake owned by a friend of technician Tim Fox. The following day Tim noted normal feeding behavior with the bird catching a fish with every strike. In a frenzy of enthusiasm, he brought this to the pond owner's attention and received this nonchalant reply, "little wonder, since I just stocked 300 fingerlings". At any rate, on day 3, the bird was airborne and headed south toward Shawnee State Park. We assured the pond owner that if we ever received a pelican that it wouldn't be released at his pond.

Submitted by:
Tom Dick

Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society

President - Dr. Thomas Dick
266-6412

Vice-President - Dr. Doris Brown
255-1223

Corres. Sec. - Noreen Sankovich
288-2304

Record. Sec. - Linda Sell
266-2734

Treasurer - Rosalind Gordon
288-1248

Articles and letters for publication should be sent to:
Robert & Marilyn Lohr
115 Hillson St.
Johnstown, PA 15905
288-4883

For a change of address, contact:
Rick Sell
RD 2 Box 457
Johnstown, PA 15904
266-2734

If anyone is interested in leading an outing, contact:
Dave Lester
RD 6 Box 305
Johnstown, PA 15909
749-7151

Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904



Thomas M. Dick V.M.D.
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Volume I Number 5

December 1984

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The second Christmas Bird Count will be held by the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society on Saturday, December 22, 1984, within a circle of 15 miles diameter, with the center at Hollsopple, PA.

Ten teams will cover portions of this area throughout the day from dawn to dusk collecting data for the yearly official count to be published in American Birds. Total species of birds, number of individual birds in each species, habitat, and weather conditions will be recorded. Other members may stay at home to make feeder counts or may go out from 12:01 AM to dawn or from dusk to Midnight on December 22nd for owl counts. Participants will report to the home of Tom and Sally Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, at 5:00 PM for tabulation of the count and a social hour.

Ruth Sager will serve as official compiler for the count and volunteers may contact her at RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville, PA 15936, phone 798-3242. Please designate the area in which you would like to be an observer and your team captain will contact you. If you are unable to be out all day, your count will still be appreciated. A \$3.00 participation fee is required for each participant.

Species seen in the count week from December 19th to December 25th, but not on count day, may also be reported to Ruth Sager for inclusion in the report.

During the first Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 17, 1983, 57 species and 14,913 individual birds were recorded. Twelve species

during count week, but not on count day, brought the total species to 69 for the count week. The waters of lakes in the area were still open and the weatherman provided a good day for birding. The most unusual bird was an Eastern Phoebe spotted by Chris Dick and David Mikesic. The highlight in numbers was the 9,440 crow count by Robert Thompson, Pam and John Boderocco, and Charles Voytko in the Westmont section of Johnstown as crows converged on the roost at Stackhouse Park. Starlings in Johnstown accounted for most of the next highest count of 982, mallards at a private pond in Somerset County for 538, house sparrows in Johnstown for 410, and black-capped chickadees in both city and country areas for 392. The sixth highest count of 270 house finches was of special interest because of the fact that this species was first introduced illegally on Long Island, NY in 1940. First reported about 1970 in Johnstown, it is now appearing as a common resident throughout the local area.

Whether or not you were one of last year's 43 participants, you will want to get in on the fun of happy birding on December 22nd. Please contact Ruth Sager as soon as possible.

JANUARY MEETING

8:00 PM Thursday January 17th,
Engineering and Science Building,
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

The movie will be "Silver Wires and Golden Wings".

UP-COMING PROGRAMS

The movie "The Predators" will be shown at the February 21, 1985, meeting. The threats to predators and their habitats are discussed along with the biological importance of preserving predators as part of the balanced diversity of an ecosystem. Robert Redford narrates this film by Marty Stouffer.

The March 21, 1985, meeting will feature Dr. Dennis McNair discussing insects.

AUDUBON OUTINGS

Dec. 22nd - Christmas Bird Count

Premier event of the season - rain, snow, or shine - an all-day carefully structured outing involving the tallying of all species of birds that can be found within 24 hours. This is a day of poking into ravines, brushy hollows, backyard birdfeeders, windblown fields, hedgerows, lakes, ponds, swamps, and all this with an eye glued to the sky. It is also a day of frozen fingers, sore ankles, and unremitting enthusiasm. Food, beverage, and hospitality mean the end of the day, and the calculation of the day's total count. Contact Ruth Sager. Her address and phone are listed in the main story.

Jan. 5th and 12th - Winter Waterfowl Counts

These outings include field glass/spotting scope identification of ducks and geese on the following impoundments; Quemahoning Dam, Lasky's pond, Samii's Swamp, Stoughton Lakes and Somerset Lakes. Meet at the Abex entrance driveway at 7:45 AM for a half day of waterfowl identification. The species numbers and diversity changes with each count - winter counts in open water can be very impressive. These outings are a good opportunity to learn your waterfowl.

Jan. 17th - Program at UPJ

Engineering and Science Bldg., at 8:00 PM. Aside from the movie, we will have a lecture on feeding winter birds, identification, and preferred foods. This will be a combination of slides, demonstration, feeders, and feed. We will also have coffee, tea and cookies.

Jan. 20th - Nature Hike at Babcock State Park

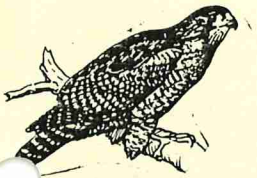
If you are leaving from the direction of Windber, use the parking lot on the left-hand side almost directly across from the park entrance. A casual 3 mile hike with emphasis on winter tree identification, winter tracks, porcupine signs, and a stop on the way home to see beaver workings. Meeting time is 12:30 PM. Leader - Tom Dick. Phone 266-7912.

Jan. 27th - Winter Weeds

This is a field trip to a fallow field to identify birds and weeds of winter. A nice leisurely trip around the campus of UPJ and its varied environments. Meet at 12:30 PM at the Engineering and Science Building parking lot. Leader - Doris Brown. Phone 255-1223.

Feb. 1-3 - Delmarva Nature Weekend

A weekend of ducks, geese, wind, surf, eagles, purple sandpipers, and endangered Delmarva Fox squirrels. This is a 100 species weekend, with insights into management practices at several state and federal wildlife refuges. Among the places we'll stay or stop are Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague NWR, Choptank River, Bombay Hook NWR, Assawoman State Park, Ocean City Inlet, and mudflats. Trip plan will include departure on Jan. 31st, with the first night near Dover, Delaware, and a half day Friday at Bombay Hook, and two nights at Chincoteague Island. Leader - Tom Dick. Phone 266-7912.



HAWK WATCH

It is now December, and the majority of the birds have arrived at their winter destinations. They did so silently and often unnoticed. Some of the birds of prey happened to travel along mountain ridges where they were admired, observed, and counted. After three months of waiting and watching, it is now time for the counters to give you, the membership, an accounting of the first autumn hawk migration census of the Alleghney Plateau Audubon Society.

At most Pennsylvania hawk watches, the count was down. Some locations reported the lowest count in a decade. Much of this can be attributed to an abnormally warm autumn. Warm and balmy breezes, and stagnant air masses usually contribute to the birds migrating over a broad front. Instead of cold fronts to the north, followed by northwest winds pushing birds southward in concentrated waves, the birds spread out and moved south casually.

Even without having previous data from which to make a comparison, we can say that our hawk watch was a success. During the last three months our membership logged forty days on the mountain. We were able to spend 175 hours and count 965 migrating raptors. About seventy percent of the winds striking Tussey Mountain came from the southeast. It was on these days when our counts were the highest. Because of the location of our site, a narrow promontory on southern side of the Juniata River overlooking Mount Dallas to the north, we were able to get a very good view of the birds moving down the ridge. As the hawks crossed the river's gap, they lost some altitude and had to regain it on our side. This gave us the opportunity to observe many of these birds from very short distances. The majority of the eagles and falcons were seen at (literally) a stone's

throw away. Many times one did not have to use binoculars.

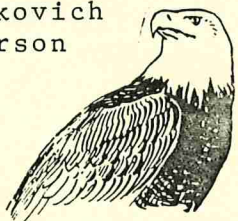
The species and numbers are as follows:

Sharp-shinned	208
Cooper's Hawk	25
Broad-winged	201
Goshawk	1
Red-shouldered	23
Red-tailed	332
Golden Eagle	9
Bald Eagle	4
Osprey	22
Northern Harrier	39
Peregrine	4
Am. Kestrel	11
Turkey Vulture	60
Black Vulture	5
Unidentified	21

These add up to 965 birds, which, when compared to other sites is quite small. On the other hand, when the total number of days covered and hours actually spent on the mountain is considered, this falls just a little lower than the average from other sites. How many birds passed the mountain when no one was present? It is obvious that the birds did not wait to pass only when there was someone there to count them. We hope that more of the membership will become interested and urge more of you to get involved next year. The more thorough coverage, the more likely it is that we can piece together the whole picture. If we had more days, hours, and people involved, we could have multiplied our count by three.

I would like to express a sincere thank you to DGP's David Koppenhaver and Tim Flannigan. The PA Game Commission's Land Management Team, without whom the access to the mountain would not have been possible. Thanks to Tom, Sally and Chris Dick, Robert Thompson, Ruth and Glenn Sager, Ron Rovancek, Kevin Georg, Dave Escherich, James Mayer, and Mike Wolfe as the regulars. Congratulations on a job well done!

Michael A. Sankovich
Conservation Chairperson



THE NATURALIST'S CORNER

WINTER DORMANCY A PHYSIOLOGICAL ADAPTATION

Cold winter temperatures and shorter days trigger many changes among plants and animals. Many birds leave their temperate breeding grounds and travel to warmer climes. The journey is prompted not by the cold, as they have a down coat that serves as efficient insulation, but rather by a reduction in food supply. Mammals rarely migrate, but must also contend with a shortage of food during the colder months.

Both birds and mammals maintain a constant body temperature independent of their environment. Their metabolic furnaces are fueled primarily by carbohydrates and fats. When the environmental temperature drops below that of the body (most warm-blooded animals maintain an internal temperature near 100 degrees Fahrenheit) additional heat must be generated to replace that which is naturally lost to the cooler surroundings. The thermostat can only be turned up if fuel in the form of stored fat or food is available.

Because hair, like feathers, serves as an excellent insulator, many mammals can withstand prolonged periods of cold. However, a good supply of high energy food is a necessity during these times of stress. The mammal may compensate in part behaviorally, but ultimately it must generate additional metabolic heat which requires an energy source (food). Winter is a period of great stress for mammals of all sizes, but particularly for small mammals, as they lose heat more readily than larger relatives. Since seasonal movement to a warmer area is not practical, many small mammals become inactive during winter months.

During this period of inactivity, their metabolic rate slows considerably and their elevated body temperature drops to near the environmental temperature. They

enter a state of torpor or inactivity where metabolic requirements are drastically reduced. The condition is known as hibernation. True hibernation is always attended by a drop in body temperature and metabolic rate. The jumping mouse, Pennsylvania's miniature kangaroo, is one of the first local mammals to retire to its den for a long winter sleep. Some species spend prolonged periods in torpor while others such as the sedentary ground hog exhibit brief periods of activity during the winter months.

Bears are often considered the classical example of hibernating mammals. A yearling Alaskan bear cub was observed while it slept from November to February. During this time it was sensitive to noise and would slowly raise its head when disturbed. Although the cub's respiration rate was low, the body temperature did not drop markedly (rectal, 95-96 degrees Fahrenheit; oral 95 degrees Fahrenheit) during the period. No food was taken during the three months and the loss in body weight amounted to about 25 percent. Bears are usually considered to enter a state of seasonal lethargy and are not true hibernators as are the ground squirrels.

Some small mammals such as bats and shrews may spend periods of even summer days in a state of torpor. During this time their body temperature and metabolic rate is depressed. Such a condition has survival value as it allows the bat to conserve energy during the daylight hours when feeding does not occur. Humming birds display a similar behavior during the evening hours. Animals that allow their temperatures to fluctuate during specific periods are called heterotherms; those that maintain a constant temperature year round are classified as endotherms and ectotherm is the term applied to those forms that simply allow their temperature to fluctuate with the environmental temperature.

Hibernation is an effective energy conservation technique and

is employed by a wide range of mammals and even a few birds, the poor-will, for example. Remember, as you take those invigorating walks through the woods this winter, "quiet please", mammals may be sleeping.

Submitted by:
Neil D. Woffinden

HOOVERSVILLE HAWK WATCH

Low totals will dominate the summary for our 1984 hawk watch at Hoopersville, PA. The total of 139 hawks is the second lowest count in eleven continuous years in which we have organized watches at this location. The summary is: 21 sharpshinned, 4 Cooper's, 17 red-tailed, 1 red shouldered, 82 broad-winged, 1 N. Harrier, 12 American kestrels, and 1 unidentified.

Although the number of hours on watch for the year was down to 92, compared with a high of 170 in 1974, forty-three days in 1984 compared well with the 11 year average, indicating that we spent fewer hours per day on watch this year. Even though we missed some of the most favorable days because of the time spent at the Tussey lookout and for a trip out of town due to illness of a family member during the peak of broad-winged season, the statistics indicate that weather patterns were responsible for much of the low count. Northeast winds are the most favorable for large flights at Hoopersville, and September 12th was the only day with NE winds, which accounted for the season's daily high of 36 hawks (35 broad-winged and 1 sharpshinned). The next daily highs were 13 hawks on September 21st, with NW winds; and 10 hawks on October 2nd, with NNW winds.

The number of days when temperatures were abnormally high and were out of the S and SW indicate the reason for our poor showing. Since flights from year to year are so unpredictable, we will just have to hope that next year's flights will

be more exciting and be content with the opportunity to participate in the unravelling of the continent-wide mystery of hawk migration. A great consolation was the encouraging beginning of the Tussey hawk watch. Since we feel our numbers are so low because of the weather pattern, we believe the much greater numbers at Tussey are an indication that Mike Sankovich has discovered a significant new lookout at Tussey, and we congratulate him on his good fortune.

On to 1985 with eyes to the skies!

Submitted by:
Glenn and Ruth Sager

REHABILITATION CLINIC

With the exception of one Great Horned Owl and a Red-tailed Hawk the clinic has been slow this fall. One noteworthy fact was the presentation of a fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), from the Westmont end of Millcreek Hollow. Fox squirrels are unusual in our area and differ in both size and color from the gray squirrel. The fox squirrel is a mega-version of the gray squirrel, often being a third larger and gray to rusty brown in color. Apparently, according to the presenter, this squirrel has been seen in and around their yard for the past five years. Range extension is not unusual for animals, but several local examples are worth mentioning. Bear are now local due to the capture and relocation program of the PA Game Commission. Most of our local bear are touristy types from the Poconos. Beaver can be found along aspen-lined creek bottoms in spotty locations throughout the county, and may represent descendants of Wisconsin beaver stocked in Pennsylvania around 1917. Upcoming Audubon outings will visit some of these active sites. This will give us an opportunity to see first-hand their tree falling and canal-dam building attributes. Lastly, the most entertaining creature to extend its range locally is the porcupine. As a veterinarian, I've been able to watch this with a certain amount of humor.



Ten years ago, porcupine quill cases (a result of unfortunate altercations between dog and porcupine) were seen only in certain areas of Cambria County. Gradually the cases started creeping

around, first the Ebensburg fair grounds, then Central City, Menoher Highway, Salix, and now Windber and Richland. The quill, a marvel of nature's engineering, has small barbs on the quill tip which help the quill stay imbedded in the victim's flesh. In some cases, as many as 200 quills have been recovered from the hapless victim's mouth extending all the way to the tonsils. Once again, upcoming Audubon outings will give us the opportunity to see tree tops debarked by this woody denison --- we've already seen how they debark dogs!

Submitted by:
Tom Dick

CHAPTER NOTES

Our meetings will now have coffee, tea, and cookies prior to the movie or lecture. It is the president's opinion that this will allow time for both new and regular members to socialize. Remember that our meetings are open to the public; so please bring friends and guests.

We need more members to become active participants in various committees. The January meeting is a good meeting to attend and volunteer your services. Thus far we have a very active core group of around twenty people.

We now have a more adequate telephone reminder system for alerting members about meetings. If you have not been notified by phone, please let Linda Sell 266-2734 know so that she can get you on the list.

SEE WHAT YOU MISSED!

The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society has just finished its first annual hawk watch at Tussey Mountain. Remember, this was a continuous 3 month outing which was open to everyone and will be redone in the fall of 1985. Here are some highlights for those of you who were unable to attend. Besides raptors, the hawk watch instilled an appreciation of cloud and wind patterns, which in turn told us much about the birds we were hoping to see. Imagine, if you will, sitting on a mountain top on a quiet fall day with brisk east winds, colorful leaves, blue skies, and fast moving clouds. Then come the rewards of patience; fall warblers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, migrating Red-headed woodpeckers, Cedar Waxwings, Ruffed Grouse dusting on the summit road, and Wild Turkey working summit fields. All of us saw the panorama of the resident Turkey Vultures lifting off valley thermals and passing surprisingly close overhead looking for ways to land inconspicuously on the adjacent microwave tower. At other times, crows and ravens could be seen mixing it up, crowing and cawing, as they rounded the gap heading toward the farmer's fields in the valley. When nothing seemed to happen, you could look to the impressive Allegheny Front to the west, or the ground covered with the abundance of corydalis and knapweed which characterizes the ice work summit. The birds were great, but so were the moments of quiet reflection in which nothing much seemed to happen. Some of us became friends of that mountain top, learning about its good and bad moods, but the excitement was in the revealing of long held secrets that only patience and time afield bring about. I often wonder what the residents of the sleepy town of Everett would think if they knew Tussey Mountain winds brought gliding eagles over their homes and in order to see them, you only need to look up.

Submitted by:
Tom Dick

REPORT SIGHTINGS OF BANDED GEESE

An effort is under way to determine why Canada Geese have changed their migration patterns along the East Coast. Some ten thousand geese have been marked with three inch long yellow collars bearing identification numbers in bold black script which should be readable through a set of binoculars at 100 yards. The birds are also tagged with aluminum leg bands for further identification by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who are in the second year of a three year study. States along the Eastern Seaboard are cooperating in the effort.

It is estimated that at least five times as many geese spend their winters in the Eastern U.S. While North and South Carolina have been traditional nesting areas for Canada Geese, the change in migration has seen a significant decrease in population in these states, and increase in the populations to the north in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

Bird watchers who should spot one of the Canada Geese with the yellow band should write down the identifying code letter and number along with information on where and when it was seen, and forward the information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853.

BALD EAGLE DOING WELL

The endangered bald eagle populations in the U.S. appear to be stabilized after years of decline, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. A survey earlier this year revealed 11,819 bald eagles, up from 10,903 last year. The eagle is slowly recovering from the drastic decline in the 1960's, primarily from DDT and dwindling habitat. The eagle is endangered in 43 states.

When a man wantonly destroys one of the works of man, we call him a vandal. When he wantonly destroys one of the works of God, we call him a sportsman.

Joseph Wood Krutch

WHOOPEERS KILLED BY VIRUS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that eastern equine encephalitis is responsible for the deaths of seven endangered whooping cranes at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland. The virus was transmitted to the birds by an uncommon variety of mosquito. Biologists hope that the onset of cold weather will kill any remaining mosquitos, who are not known to bite humans. The low point for whooping cranes was in 1941, when only 15 birds remained in the wild. The U.S. and Canada have worked jointly to increase the population. Today, in addition to the 32 whoopers at Patuxent, there are approximately 90 of the birds in wild flocks that migrate from Canada to Texas and back each year. And there are about 35 birds in a second population that migrate between Idaho and New Mexico. This population was established using eggs laid by wild cranes in Canada and the Patuxent flock. The eggs are sneaked into sandhill crane nests. The sandhills hatch the whoopers and raise them. Then the whoopers leave the sandhills and band together.

LANDSCAPING FOR BIRDS

People who feed birds can enjoy them the year around. The National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth St. N.W., Dept. FG, Washington, D.C. 20036, has a well prepared "Backyard Kit" on creating a backyard wildlife habitat. It is worth the \$1 they ask for it, outlining a program that when carried out will make your garden a haven for birds all year.

OFFICERS

President - Dr. Tom Dick
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904
814-266-6412

Vice Pres. - Dr. Doris Brown
426 Girard St.
Johnstown, PA 15905
814-255-1223

Treasurer - Rosalind Gordon
RD 4 Box 81
Johnstown, PA 15905
814-288-1248

Cor. Secy. - Noreen Sankovich
15 White Dr. RD 4
Johnstown, PA 15905
814-288-2304

Rec. Secy. - Linda Sell
RD 2 Box 457
Johnstown, PA 15904
814-266-2734

BIRD SEED STILL AVAILABLE

You can still get bird seed at Eric Stuver's Nursery, but you must call ahead first (288-3603). The prices are:

50 lb. Wild bird Seed \$10.50
50 lb. Gray Stripe Sunflower \$14.00
Niger (thistle) 80¢/lb.

Smaller amounts are also available.

Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown, PA 15904

LOOKING TO 1985

Here are some projects that will need your support:

1. The building of 400 Bluebird boxes.
2. Supporting two schools for the special Audubon ecology series.
3. Getting organized for the spring breeding bird survey.
4. Setting up educational programs on birds of prey for sportsmen groups.
5. Setting up an acid rain monitoring station.
6. Picking an animal to represent our chapter.
7. Preparing a good canned slide presentation for various schools and service organizations.

Dr. John Gourley is recovering from an automobile accident. Despite the fact that he is unable to attend meetings, he is still maintaining an active bird feeding station. Our best regards to Dr. Gourley and his family.

Articles for publication:
Robert & Marilyn Lohr
115 Hillson St.
Johnstown, PA 15905

Our president wants to thank all the members for making our chapter so successful and rewarding in its first year of operation.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Change of Address - Contact Rick Sell 266-2734

