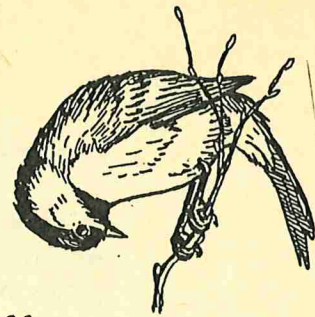


Chickadee Chatter

Newsletter of the
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 5

Number 1

February 1988



Special Bird Count Issue

(Ed. For the uninformed and new the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society conducts three organized bird counting programs. The three programs are as follows: Christmas Bird Count, Hawk and Eagle Count At Tussey Mountain in Bedford County, and the Breeding Bird Survey for Somerset, Cambria, and Bedford Counties. The programs reported in this newsletter are the Christmas and Raptor counts; they represent the effort of 66 people. Ruth Sager, as always, is our dedicated and responsible coordinator. Ruth's experience and wisdom have added great momentum to the quality and character of these special programs.

1987 Christmas Bird Count by Ruth Sager

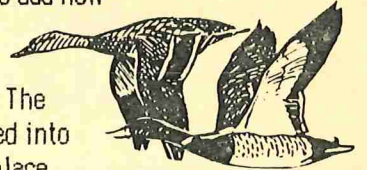
When the Christmas Bird Counters came trooping in on Saturday Evening, December 19, the conversation led me to believe that 1987 was not one of our best years. Imagine my surprise when the final count showed that we actually had the highest number of species on count day, 65, and the second highest total of individual birds, 21,124, for our five years of CBC coverage.

As reports were turned in, many complaints centered on the fact that travel into outlying woods and fields was restricted because of the extended doe hunting season on the 19th. Laments about bird feeders included the observation that birds were not frequenting feeders in large numbers and that many feeders were not filled with bird feed. For the most part, it was a very dreary day, cloudy most of the time and with light snow or rain in some areas during the day. Perhaps it was my tendency to equate success of the count with the blah attitude toward the weather and competition with hunters on count day. You can see from OBSERVER INFORMATION that we spent the most party miles traveling by car and the fewest on foot in five years and that we had fewer party hours at feeders than last year. Could this mean that we are showing the results of being more experienced birders, knowing where and how to find birds, and doing our very best in spite of adverse conditions? Whatever-- it was a good day, and the party at Tom and Sally Dick's home was so enjoyable that it quickly dispelled any unfavorable memories of the day.

The "crow counters" also complained. The crows came in toward the roost in the Stackhouse Park vicinity so high that binoculars had to be used to count them. They bunched up in such large groups that counting was very difficult. Nevertheless, they had the second highest count in five years, 10,260.

Christmas Count (cont.)

"Firsts" recorded in 1987 were Gadwalls and Common Snipe, bringing the number of species seen to date to 96. By next year, we plan to supply participants with a check list of about 130 species that are possibilities for this region. Of course, it will be harder each year to add new species, but the 100 mark is a good goal for 1988.



The Tufted Titmouse has also become a "first" by reaching the COUNTS OVER 200. The Johnstown crow roost keeps Am. Crow in the lead with 12,742. House Sparrow moved into second place, while last year's second-place bird, the House Finch, dropped to sixth place. Mallards took third place, and Eur. Starlings dropped to fourth place. Rock Doves, Black-capped Chickadees, N. Cardinals and Tufted Titmice continued to increase. Mourning doves and Dark-eyed Juncos dropped in numbers. A great count anticipated for Evening Grosbeaks did not materialize, although the total of 226 was the second highest in five years. A much larger population of these visitors from the North was evident on cold, snowy days prior to and following the CBC date. A much higher count of Pine Siskins was also expected, since many flocks were seen in the area since the beginning of November. In the cold days of early January, while I am working on these reports, I have heard from a number of people who now are seeing more Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins at their feeders. That's the way the ball bounces!

We are happy to have several new people as participants and hope they enjoyed the count so much that they will join the regulars again next year. A number of neighbors, friends and relatives of our members have helped us very much as feeder watchers. In whatever way you participated, we thank you very much and look forward to having you join us again next year.

The following information lists birds with counts over 200 plus observer information for the 1987 Christmas Bird Count. Then on the following page is the total number of species and individual birds for not only 1987 count but for the past 4 years as well. These data are not only fun for comparison but are useful for determining trends.

<u>COUNTS OVER 200</u>					<u>OBSERVER INFORMATION</u>						
<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>		<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	
10650	12388	13041	16377	12742	Am. Crow	43	39	58	65	59	Observers
410	930	496	863	1266	House Sparrow	27	51	22	29	13	Party Hours on Foot
538	277	950	613	1082	Mallard	38	39	42	54	58	" " by Car
982	1193	620	1174	978	Eur. Starling	18	18	43	50	37	Party Hours at Feeders
228	246	352	435	932	Rock Dove	31	54	28	21	14	Party Miles on Foot
270	268	456	1666	671	House Finch	387	476	526	522	583	" " by Car
392	393	481	425	581	Black-capped Chickadee	0	0	2	2	2	Party Hours Owling
115	99	185	230	398	N. Cardinal						
45	78	174	533	255	Mourning Dove						
246	249	544	522	283	Dark-eyed Junco						
68	0	1180	74	226	Evening Grosbeak						
69	69	199	135	214	Tufted Titmouse						
200	1*	343	272	0	Horned Lark						

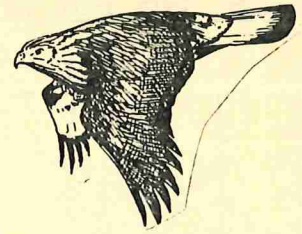
PARTICIPANTS IN 1987 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:

Doris Brown, Jean Bruce, Ruth Bruner, John & Pam Boderocco, Andrew Choby, Billie Custer, Janis Day, Dwight, Sally & Tom Dick, Wanetta Escherich, Brian Freiwald, Kevin Georg, Roz Gordon, Margaret Haines, Neal Harvey, Greg Hay, James Hemphill, Barry Horne, Linda Hunt, George & Helen Nicely, Henry Idzkowsky, Alyce & Allan Ober, Shirley Jensen, Donald Kreutzberger, Alberta Long, Christy Maloy, Emmy Lou Maloy, Iris Marr, David Mikesic, Richard Murphy, Charlotte Rollins, Chris, Jim & John Rocco, Dean Ross, Nancy Rovanssek, Glenn & Ruth Sager, Linda & Rick Sell, Stanwyn Shetler, Eric & Eileen Stuver, Paul Sheesley, Marion Sjoberg, Kenneth & Jeannie Weible, David, Douglas & Neil Woffinden, Betty, George & Michael Wolfe, Ronald Johns and Charles Voytko.

1933	1984	1985	1986	1987		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	
5	1	2	2	2	Com. Loon						
5	0	0	0	3	Horned Grebe	2	1	1	3	3	Pileated Woodpecker
1*	8	9	2	6	Pied-billed Grebe	0	1	0	0	0	E. Wood Pewee
1*	0	1	0	1*	Great Blue Heron	1	0	0	0	0	E. Phoebe
1*	0	0	0	0	Tundra Swan	200	1*	343	272	0	Horned Lark
9	0	2	3	2	Mute Swan	38	44	133	170	179	Blue Jay
9	1	37	65	40	Canada Goose	10650	12388	13041	16377	12742	Am. Crow
1*	0	1	0	0	Wood Duck	1*	0	0	0	2	Com. Raven
1	0	0	0	0	Green-winged Teal	392	393	481	425	581	Black-capped Chickadee
8	8	17	52	32	Am. Black Duck	69	69	199	135	214	Tufted Titmouse
538	277	950	613	1082	Mallard	9	3	14	5	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch
3	7	0	0	1	N. Pintail	67	80	71	137	166	White-breasted Nuthatch
0	0	0	0	2	Gadwall	2	1	2	11	1	Brown Creeper
0	1	0	0	10	Am. Wigeon	1*	0	1*	6	3	Carolina Wren
5	3	15	4	1	Canvasback	1	0	0	0	0	Winter Wren
0	0	4	0	0	Redhead	6	21	33	20	6	Golden-crowned Kinglet
0	1	1*	0	2	Ring-necked Duck	0	0	0	1	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
0	0	15	4	0	Lesser Scaup	8	7	0	5	0	E. Bluebird
6	1*	1*	0	1	Com. Goldeneye	1*	0	0	0	0	Thrush, sp.
13	9	1	0	12	Bufflehead	1*	18	3	1	0	Am. Robin
1	5	7	6	11	Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	1	4	N. Mockingbird
0	1	1	0	0	Com. Merganser	0	1*	0	0	0	Brown Thrasher
0	2	0	0	0	Red-breasted Merganser	32	19	8	64	27	Cedar Waxwing
0	13	2	2	0	Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	1	0	N. Shrike
0	2	0	1	2	N. Harrier	982	1193	620	1174	978	Eur. Starling
1	1*	6	2	0	Sharpshinned Hawk	115	99	185	230	398	N. Cardinal
4	0	2	4	1	Cooper's Hawk	0	1	1	0	1	Rufous-sided Towhee
1	2	0	0	0	N. Goshawk	86	41	163	115	60	Am. Tree Sparrow
4	18	18	12	23	Red-tailed Hawk	4	11	10	0	3	Field Sparrow
0	1	0	0	0	Buteo, sp.	1	0	1	0	0	Fox Sparrow
0	1*	0	0	2	Rough-legged Hawk	31	17	41	43	53	Song Sparrow
7	8	7	5	8	Am. Kestrel	2	0	0	0	0	Swamp Sparrow
0	0	2	0	0	Hawk, sp.	25	104	32	33	28	White-throated Sparrow
2	5	1	5	2	Ring-necked Pheasant	0	0	1*	0	0	White-crowned Sparrow
2	13	5	2	1	Ruffed Grouse	0	6	0	0	0	Sparrow, sp.
0	0	5	1	1	Wild Turkey	246	249	544	522	283	Dark-eyed Junco
0	0	0	5	0	N. Bobwhite	3	0	1*	0	150	Red-winged Blackbird
1*	0	6	0	2	Am. Coot	0	0	0	21	5	E. Meadowlark
0	0	0	2	6	Killdeer	0	1*	1	1	43	Com. Grackle
0	0	0	0	9	Com. Snipe	0	0	12	1*	75	Brown-headed Cowbird
0	0	10	0	0	Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	1	0	Blackbird, sp.
0	0	0	1	0	Gull, sp.	97	84	42	0	25	Purple Finch
228	246	352	435	932	Rock Dove	270	268	456	1666	671	House Finch
56	78	174	533	365	Mourning Dove	14	0	0	0	0	Com. Redpoll
1*	0	2	1*	0	Screech Owl	7	0	4	8	97	Pine Siskin
1*	1	1*	5	1*	Great-Horned Owl	103	31	95	120	169	Am. Goldfinch
2	1*	1	0	0	Barred Owl	68	0	1180	74	226	Evening Grosbeak
0	0	0	1	0	Short-eared Owl	410	930	496	863	1266	House Sparrow
0	0	1	0	1	Owl, sp.						
0	0	0	1	1	Belted Kingfisher	14913	16861	19948	24370	21124	Individual Birds
0	1	3	0	1	Red-headed Woodpecker	57	52	62	61	65	Species on Count Day
1*	0	3	4	3	Red-bellied Woodpecker	69	59	68	63	66	Species in Count Week
1	0	1	1	0	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker						
51	58	56	74	71	Downy Woodpecker						
8	10	17	12	20	Hairy Woodpecker						
2	2	0	6	0	N. (Yel.-sh) Flicker						

Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch: Counting Results for 1987

By Ruth Sager



The Allegheny Plateau hawk watchers have proven in the last four years that Mike Sankovich had a good idea when he suggested Tussey Mt. as a good place for the study and enjoyment of hawk migrations. We have seen a steady movement of raptors during September, October, and November in each year of that period. In 1987 the excellent coverage brought new things to light.

YEARLY COVERAGE 1984 TO 1987 tells the tale of increased coverage from 40 days in 1984 to 75 in 1987 and the increase of totals from 900 in 1984 to 3657 in 1987. The 1987 CALENDAR SUMMARIES give a complete picture of the past year's day-by-day studies. Our hats are off to all those who made many trips to Everett to help with the Tussey watch. The leaders are listed on the 1987 reports, but we do not have a full list of the many others who were actively engaged in the counts or who just came by to observe the hawks or the hawkwatchers.

Very few days with suitable weather were not covered at all. In fact, some hardy watchers braved fog, rain, cold and snow, which in all truth could be called unsuitable, and proved that raptors are not all fair weather travelers either. Twelve Broadwings winged through on September 22 and a Bald Eagle on November 17 in rain. On a number of occasions, N. Harriers and Sharp-shins arose out of fog to become statistics on our summaries. Several Golden Eagles and N. Goshawks gave new life to cold watchers as they passed the lookout in the midst of snow storms. Sticktoitiveness was definitely a trait of the hawk watchers that made this such a successful year.

The increase of days and hours of coverage and a corresponding increase in totals each year from 1984-1987 in the YEARLY COVERAGE chart shows the value of continuous manning of the lookout throughout the migration period. Several examples are pointed out for your information. Consider the difference in the prime days for Broadwings from Sept. 10-25. In 1984, we covered 8 of the 16 days of this period and had a total of 192 Broadwings for the month. In 1987 we covered all of the 16 days and had a total of 1654. The fact that 454 passed through on 9/22 and 412 on 9/23 of 1987 makes us uneasy about the peak days we missed completely in previous years. Dedicated watchers would rather be on watch and know that nothing went through than to miss the day completely and wonder what they missed. So we wonder about the days we missed!

Compare totals for October 1984, when 12 days of coverage produced 140 Sharp-shins, no Goshawks, 270 Red-tails and no Merlins, with October 1987, when 27 days produced 307 Sharp-shins, 6 Goshawks, 360 Red-tails and 12 Merlins.

By 1987 Golden Eagle fever had become very contagious. A deliberate attempt was made to man the lookout every day, come what may of November's cold and unpredictable weather. Twenty-three days of coverage were chalked up before deer hunting season ended our watch on the 27th. The result was a whopping total of 49 Golden Eagles, compared with 1984's total of 9 in 9 days. The increased November coverage also added 506 Red-tails, 10 Goshawks, and our first 2 Rough-legged hawks. This was a great increase over the November 1984 totals of 55 Red-tails and 1 Goshawk.

The job of watching the hawk flights is obviously what draws the corps of dedicated birders to Tussey Mountain. There is, however, the added satisfaction of knowing that the reports forwarded to the Hawk Migration Ass'n. of N. America and the Pa. Game Commission are used in many ways for scientific studies about migration.

We look forward to more of you joining us on Tussey Mountain. The more people who become experienced in hawk identification and who contribute to the continuous coverage, the better each year's reports will be. You don't even need to wait until next fall. This year we hope to learn more about Tussey's spring hawk flights. Watch for details about that in the "Chickadee Chatter".

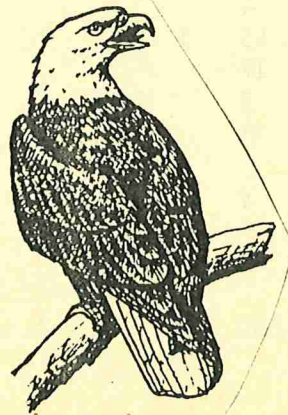
TUSSEY MOUNTAIN STATION LEADERS: Bruce Courter, Sally Dick, Tom Dick, David Escherich, Tim Fox, Kevin Georg, David Kyler, David Mikesic, Theresa and Ron Rohall, Ruth Sager and Lynn Sanderson.

YEARLY COVERAGE 1984-1987

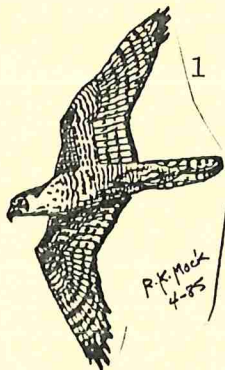
YR	DYS	HRS	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	TOT
84	40	175.8	1	208	25	332	23	201		9	4	39	22	4		11	21	900
85	45	231.8	6	433	84	546	28	443		16	3	50	33	7	3	28	35	1720
86	66	365.3	9	579	91	894	65	262		31	2	44	64	12	8	27	56	2144
87	75	423.8	16	617	67	911	30	1675	3	54	8	73	53	7	13	51	79	3657

1987 CALENDAR SUMMARIES

MO	DATE	HRS	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	TOT
AU	31	2						12					1					13
SE	1	5.8																0
	3	3.5				2												2
	4	3.25						2				1	2					5
	5	6.5		2	1	3		2				1	2					11
	6	1.5						1				1	2					4
	8	2										1						1
	10	2.9		2	1	2		22			1							28
	11	6			2	1		5				1	2				3	14
	13	7		15				109					6			8	3	141
	14	7		8				98					5			1	1	113
	15	8		7	2		1	142			1	6	2			7		168
	16	3.2		1		1	1					1						4
	17	1.3																0
	18	1.9			1	2												3
	21	7.25		19		1		141	1		1	2	4				5	174
	22	8.7		32	5		1	454				2	5			3	4	506
	23	8.3		41	1	4		412					7			3	2	470
	24	5.75		8	6	8		101				1	2		1	3	1	131
	25	8.25		18				130					4			8	3	163
	26	7.4		24	1	1		6					1			2	1	36
	27	7.5		27	1	10							1			2		41
	28	6.25		22	4	1		22									3	52
	29	8.25		40	1	1		6								2	2	52
	30	7		30	4	8		1					1	1		2	5	52
TOTALS		134.5		296	30	45	3	1654	1		3	17	46	1	1	41	33	2171



MO	DATE	HRS	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	TOT
OC	1	7	2	33	5	9		3					3		1	3	12	71
	2	8.3		46	2	1		5				2	3	1	2	1	1	64
	6	7		10														10
	7	5		24	1						1						3	29
	9	4.9		28	4						1	1		2	5	1	1	43
	10	7.5	2	53	6	20									1		4	86
	11	5.5		3	2	4						1						10
	12	5.25		5		14		1									1	21
	13	6		2		9										1		12
	14	7.2		12	3	36	1					2				1	3	58
	15	3.5		2		1				1								4
	16	6.75		12		20	3				1	4			2			42
	17	7.25		20	3	25											2	50
	18	6		8	3	8	4			1		1		1			2	28
	19	7		4		11				2		1				2	2	22
	20	2.5																0
	21	7	1	7		5	1								1			15
	22	3.25		2		5	1											8
	23	6		3		3				1							1	8
	24	7		16	1	15						1					3	36
	25	7		6		32					1					1	3	43
	26	3.5		2		30	1					1						34
	27	6				3												3
	28	8		7	1	61	1					5						75
	29	7.5	1	1		2	1											5
	30	3				13	1											14
	31	7.25		1		33						6						40
TOTALS	162.2		6	307	31	360	14	9		5	4	25	6	4	12	10	38	891



NO	1	7	1	3		74	6			2		14						100
	2	6.5	2	2		117	4					2		1				128
	3	6.75			1	2				2		1						6
	4	4.5		1		21				1		1						24
	5	6		2		11	1			1							3	18
	6	6.75			2	10												12
	7	5.5		2		26	1			1		1						31
	8	6.5				4						1						5
	10	2																0
	12	4.25	1	2		8				2		3		1			1	18
	13	4			2	9												11
	14	6	1			19				4		1						25
	15	6.1		1		43				1		3						48
	16	7				77				5		2						84
	17	4.75				4				2	1							7
	18	8.5	2	1	1	45	1			10								60
	19	6.25				17				5								22
	20	2.75				5				2							1	8
	21	6.5	1			8			2	2							2	15
	23	4.5										1						1
	24	6	2			4				4		1					1	12
	25	4								5								5
	27	3				2												2
TOTALS	125.1		10	14	6	506	13		2	49	1	31		2			8	642

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

MO - Month (first two letters)
 DYS - Days
 HRS - Hours
 GO - Northern Goshawk
 SS - Sharp-shinned Hawk
 CH - Cooper's Hawk

RT - Red-tailed Hawk
 RS - Red-shouldered Hawk
 BW - Broad-winged Hawk
 RL - Rough-legged Hawk
 GE - Golden Eagle
 BE - Bald Eagle
 NH - Northern Harrier

OS - Osprey
 P - Peregrine Falcon
 M - Merlin
 AK - American Kestrel
 U - Unidentified Raptor
 TOT - Totals

HIGHEST DAILY COUNTS OF VULTURES - 1984-1987

TURKEY VULTURES	1984 - 60	BLACK VULTURES	1984 - 5
	1985 - 153		1985 - 3
	1986 - 80		1986 - 5
	1987 - 67		1987 - 5

(The statistics for vultures are not included in the Tussey Mountain station summaries because of uncertainty about the birds being migrants. A local population of both species is recorded throughout the summer and early fall. In October the Turkey Vulture numbers increase as birds gather in a staging area near Tussey Lookout. There is a daily southward and northward movement of these birds in the vicinity. It is impossible to be sure which are migrating, although it is obvious that some are migrants. The numbers drop off very quickly in late October, indicating that this is the peak of the migration period.)

 Society Update

Linda and Rick Sell have pulled off another successful booth and exhibit at the "Outdoor Show." This event was held at the Cambria County War Memorial Jan. 29 to 31 and included a slide presentation by Audubon members on wetlands.

Dr. Andrew Choby is busy preparing for the upcoming cavity nesting season. This year our chapter is placing Wood Duck boxes along suitable streams in addition to Bluebird boxes. Dr. Choby will need help, please volunteer for his committee.



Eric Stuver says we have lots of bird seed left at original prices (bird seed has gone up in price at most retail outlets). Call Eric at 288-3603.

Recently Tom Dick and Tim Fox attended an organizational meeting for setting up a Wildlife rehabilitation program in the state of Virginia. The meeting was held at the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Dick will continue to work with this program till it is finalized.

Many thanks to Dave Mikesic for cultivating members to bring in nature slides for meetings. Dave's recent photography outing produced many unique nature slides.

Again our chapter can appreciate the hard work of Ruth Sager in compiling and organizing the various bird counts. This takes a great deal of time and commitment and our chapter is most appreciative. We also express our deep gratitude to Glenn Sager for his dedication to rehabilitating injured birds of prey. Glenn has a number of holding cages and one large exercise flight cage on his property. You remember the Osprey reported in the last "Chickadee Chatter". If not let me give you this update. The bird was injured after collision with high tension powerlines resulting in several bad fractures. Through careful rehabilitation (Sager's care) this bird has recovered nicely and presently is at an overwintering facility in the Allentown area. In the spring this bird should be fully able to return to nature.

Congratulations to Joe Emerick, our Education Chairperson, who was able to enlist 10 schools in the Audubon Adventure Series. I believe this is the highest number of schools our chapter has supported thus far.

Programs and outings from February 1 to May 1988

Notice: A change in meeting place for this spring season: unless stated otherwise all meetings are held at 8 pm, Engineering and Science Building at the Johnstown Campus of the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to the regular program we have a nature show and tell, member slides, outing information, and committee reports. Join us!

February 18th--**Churchill: The Natural History of an Arctic Seaport**--a slide/lecture presentation by Tom Dick. An evening musing over ice foes, arctic birds and plants.

February 20-- **Winter Wildlife: buds, tracks, birds, and mammals.** This outings will be run by Dave Mikesic (266-7620) and David Escherich. (893-5092) Call for details and arrangements.

March 5--**Return of the Swans and Eagles to the Susquehanna** --a one day trip to see migrating swans by the thousands. Leader: Mike Sankovitch; Coordinator: Tom Dick. Call 266-7912 for details; we must have all signups by March 1st.

March 17--**Bird identification: Songs and Slides**--program by Dr. Neil Woffinden. With the coming influx of spring migrants this topic is particularly timely. A fun evening with audience participation (voluntary, of course).

March 26--**Spring Waterfowl**-- join Tim Fox et. al. for a tour of local water impoundments to see waterfowl in their exquisite spring plumage. Call Tim at 266-7912 for details.

April 2--**Spring Waterfowl** --join Tom Dick et. al. for a whirlwind tour of water impoundments from Somerset to Bedford. Call Tom at 266-6412 for details.

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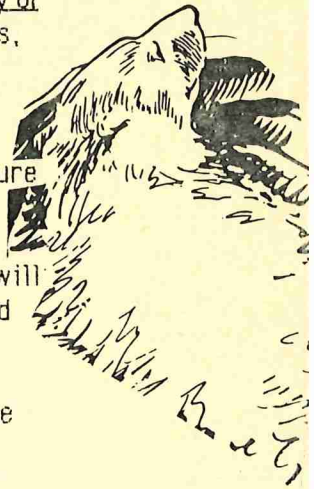
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May 8-- **Birding for Begininers:** this much requested trip is for interested members anxious to learn simple identification skills. The only prerequisite is knowing a hornet from a crow. Call Tom Dick for details at 266-7912.



Continuing Outings and Programs

May 14--**Century Bird Count** --This is the spring equivalent of the Christmas Bird Count. One hundred species is the goal and we travel by group within a specific area which includes Shawnee Park and the Allegheny Front. Last year we encountered such notables as Ruddy Turnstones and an albino Common Loon. For details call Tom Dick (266-7912) or Charles Voytko (623-2262). Charles is the official leader of this outing.



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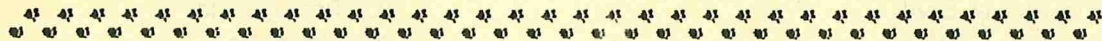
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May --Once again the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society in conjunction with the conservation district will host a continuing education program for teachers. Members are invited to this 1 1/2 day event. For details call Joe Emerick at 472-7540.

June 10th--**Childrens Nature Hike** --for youngsters 13 and younger. A walking, talking and minimal collecting experience over UPJ's nature trail. A 2 1/2 hour hike. For further details call David Lohr at 266-5104

June and July--The final stages of the breeding bird survey. Join in this great effort and learn much in the process. If you want to participate call Bruce Courter at 266-7912 for Cambria County, Ruth Sager at 798-3242 for Somerset and Bedford Counties.



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Introductory Membership (\$20.00) Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society (U20)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. (area code) _____ Make Checks payable to "National Audubon Society" and Mail to Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, Pa., 15904. My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

The Folks running the show

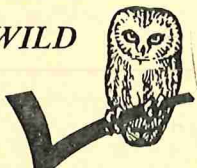
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Vice President: Mike Wolfe (255-5098) RD5, Box 170, Johnstown, 15907
Recording Secretary: The David Escherichs (893-5092) Box 34 RD2, Stoystown 15563
Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sell (266-2734) RD 2 Box 457, Johnstown, 15904
Treasurer: Joan Lohr (266-5104) 255 Collegiate Dr., Johnstown, 15904
Conservation: Richard Mock (479-4232) Box 74, Davidsville 15928
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Hospitality: Dr. Sally Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15902
Publicity: Pam Boderocco (255-5264) RD 5, Box 83, Johnstown, 15905
Bird Box Committee: Dr. Andrew Choby (255-3866) 1905 Bates Dr., Johnstown 15905
Rare Bird Alert: Kevin Georg (288-1763) 219 Columbia St., Johnstown 15905
Newsletter/Outings: Dr. Thomas Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, 15904
Membership: Rick Sell (266-2734) RD2 Box 457, Johnstown 15904
Academic Consultant: Dr. Neil Woffinden (467-5738) 1775 Regal Dr., Johnstown 15904
Bird Seed Sales and Fund Raising: Eric and Eileen Stuver (288-3603) RD7, Box 458, Johnstown
Education: Joe Emerick (472-7540) Box 235 Ebensburg, 15931
Bird Counts: Ruth and Glenn Sager (798-3242) RD1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936
Stream Committee: Tim Fox (536-5081) 145 Blough St., Johnstown, 15902
Photography Committee: Dave Mikesic (266-7620) 126 Carwyn Dr., Johnstown, 15904

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1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
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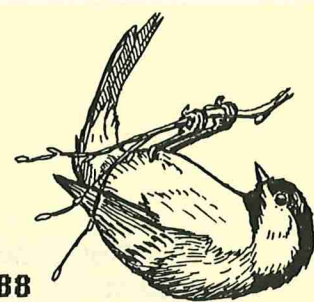
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Chickadee Chatter
Newsletter of the
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 5

Number 2

April 1988



(Ed. note; This issue is the work of Tim Fox who preferred to deal with a number of timely national issues. The first brief deals with the clean air proposal; the second is the rape of the Tongass National Forest, and the third an update on the Chesapeake Bay agreement.)

**Clean Air Update:
Bill Goes to Senate Floor**

The Senate and Public Works Committee scored a hit in late October when it produced a good clean air bill that contains provisions on acid rain, air toxics, and urban smog--the three key pieces that environmentalists are fighting for. As the legislation goes to the senate floor, all chapters and activists can join the ballgame by asking their senators to cosponsor the bill. The bill is generally referred to as the Environment and Public Works Clean Air Bill; it has not been assigned a number yet.

Your senators should also be encouraged to speak to Majority Leader Robert Byrd about speedy consideration of this important legislation. Byrd, a senator from West Virginia, which produces polluting high-sulfur coal, is likely to try and stop the bill short. Strong pressure from his colleagues is needed to persuade him to take the broader view and bring up the bill for a vote.

Meanwhile, in the house, the Energy and Commerce Committee is looking for middle ground on its acid rain and urban smog proposals. The stalemate that has been blocking action in that committee continues, but the moderates are looking for a way to make both Chairman John Dingell and Subcommittee Chairman Henry Waxman happy. It is not easy, but some progress has been made.

America's Rain Forest Goes To Pulp

North America's last temperate rain forest blankets the rugged coastline of Alaska's southeastern panhandle, and encompasses the Tongass National Forest. Eight hundred year old spruce and hemlock lie within this 17-million acre national treasure and provide abundant shelter for wildlife and unparalleled scenery.

Despite these rare qualities, current federal law and Forest Service contracts with two southeast Alaska pulp mills mean the continuing destruction of hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin timber. Ironically, american taxpayers fund the chainsawing. Because of the terms of their 50-year contracts, stumpage rates paid by the mills are only a fraction of the timber's value. In addition, the federal government annually spends around 50 million to build logging roads and prepare sales for the two mills, one of which is totally Japanese owned.

In May hearings, Audubon Vice-President Brock Evans called upon congress to support legislation, the Tongass Timber Reform Act, that would eliminate the subsidy and 4.5 billion board feet per decade cutting goal established under the Lands Act in 1980. The timber program resulting from these unusual provisions, according to Evans, destroys crucial habitat for a range of wildlife including Grizzly Bear, Sitka Deer, and five species of salmon. In addition, the thousands of acres of clearcuts and hundreds of miles of logging roads adversely affect the region's healthier resource industries--commercial fishing and tourism.

Despite these devastating environmental consequences, Evans noted that the government has spent over \$287 million on the Tongass timber program since 1982. In return, the Forest Service has collected only \$32 million in timber receipts. Because of the combined fiscal and environmental loss, Evans asked Congress to cancel the forest Service's unprecedented 50-year contracts with the two mills and to consider adding several prime scenic and wildlife areas to existing wilderness.

"Southeast Alaska is probably the least known part of that magnificent state, and yet, in the opinion of many--certainly myself--it is probably the most beautiful," Evans said. "It is clear that the economic future of southeast Alaska lies not in heavily subsidized timber operations which continue to lose money and jobs. The future rather is in tourism and the fishing industry, and a timber industry geared to a local, not a world, economy."

About half of the largest, oldest trees still stand on the Tongass. **Virtually none of them are protected in the wilderness.** your help is needed to ensure that some are protected for future generations. Please write your Representative and Senators and urge them to:

- (1) Cosponsor the Tongass Timber Reform Act (H.R. 1516 in the House, S. 708 in the senate).
- (2) Support amendments that would terminate the 50-year contracts and incorporate critical areas of old growth into existing Tongass wilderness.

Write to: Representative John Murtha
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator John Heinz
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

For more information contact:

Chris Finch, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
801 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 547-0141

A Bird For the Books

When a Cox's Sandpiper was identified in Dusbury, Massachusetts, on September 15, 1987, it caused a sensation among birders that has not yet subsided, according to Susan Roney Drennan, editor of *American Birds*, Audubon's ornithological field journal. "This was the first New World occurrence of this bird, and it was seen in juvenal plumage, which is not yet even described in the literature." The magazine carried the first--and exclusive--details of this historic sighting in its Winter issue, along with all-new color photographs and a painting of the bird.

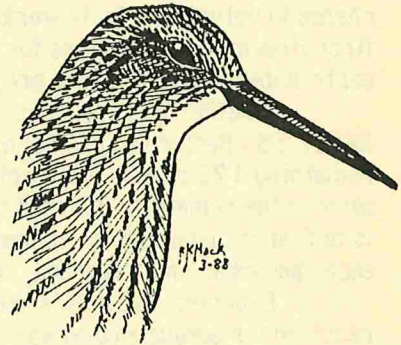
The little-known gray and brown bird, similar in appearance to several more common shorebirds among which it was found, was first described in 1982, from only two specimens of adult birds found in Australia. "That the Cox's sandpiper showed up in America so recently after having been discovered is amazing," says Drennan.

Rarities (even if not once-in-a-lifetime like the Cox's Sandpiper) add spice to a birder's endeavors. Rarities are the reason a birder carefully looks over every bird in a flock, meticulously contemplating every detail..until one day, he or she spots the one with the slightly longer bill, some extra shading here, a telltale mark there.

Consider the Cox's: It took people who have looked at hundreds of thousands of shorebirds to be able to pick out the bonus bird, according to Drennan. But such abilities are not beyond the amateur who is willing to dedicate time to working on identification skills.

Reporting rarities is an important function of *American Birds*, the only journal that lists contributors' sightings each season along with their names. The magazine's regional reports provide a continent-wide picture of trends in bird populations, and give birders an excellent idea of what to look for, when, and where.

A sample issue and subscription blank can be obtained by writing: *American Birds*,
National Audubon Society,
950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022



Chesapeake Bay Protection

On December 15, 1987 Governor Casey signed the Chesapeake Bay Agreement that, for the first time, sets some measurable goals and timetables for cleaning up the bay. The Governor pledged "steady progress to restore the Chesapeake Bay environment and assure future generations a clean and healthy place to live, work and play."

The 1987 agreement represents a recommitment by Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and the federal government to restore the bay. The 1983 agreement contained few specifics, beyond a promise to work together.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, most of the nutrients entering the bay from Pennsylvania are from agricultural sources in the Susquehanna River Basin. High soil erosion rates, excessive use of commercial fertilizer and improper manure management can lead to high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in cropland runoff.

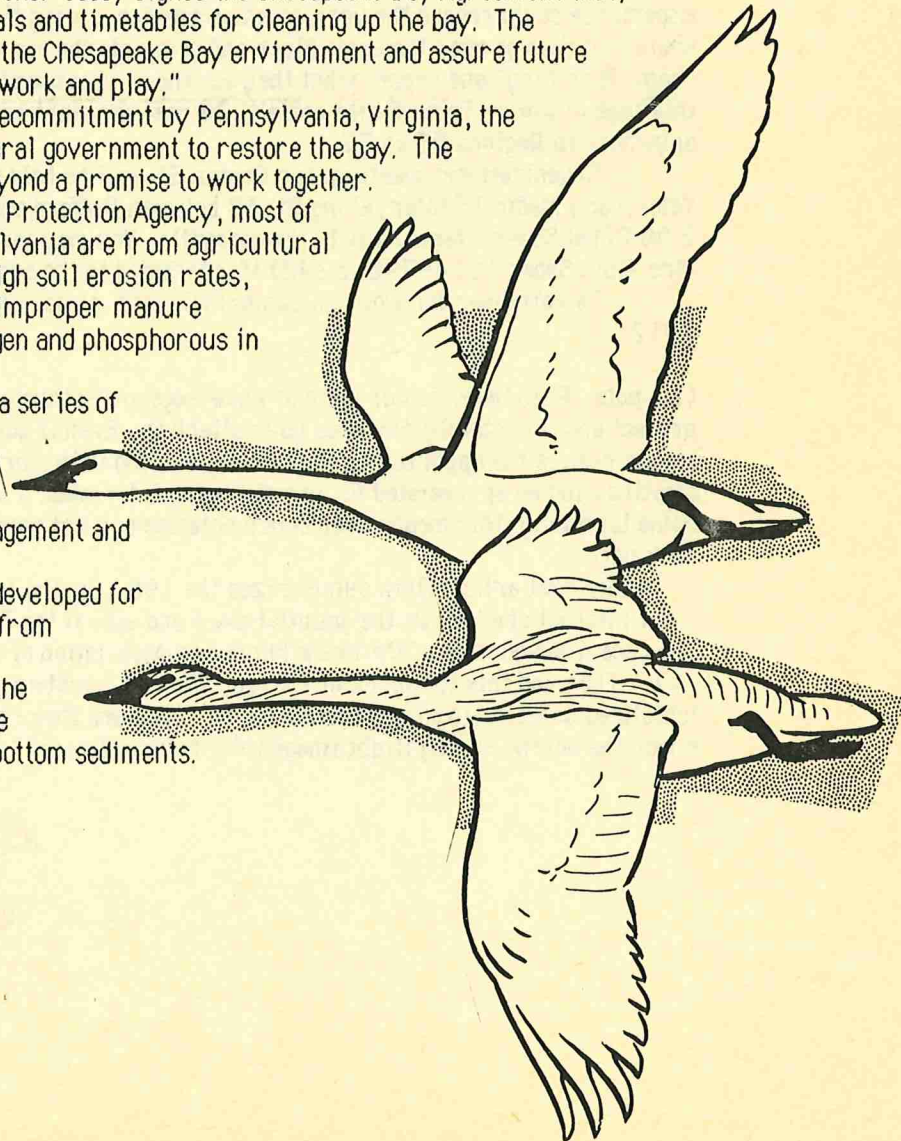
After the final agreement is signed, a series of implementation plans to address specific bay issues will be developed.

By July 1988, a basinwide implementation plan is scheduled to be in place for the management and control of pollutants.

By December 1988, a similar plan will be developed for the reduction and control of toxic materials from point sources and from bottom sediments.

However, it will take at least until the year 2000 to see some improvement because so much nutrient buildup already exists in bottom sediments.

A re-evaluation of the 40 percent target is scheduled for 1991.



Do you want to make birding history?

By Ruth Sager

How would you feel if you had an opportunity to make birding history in Pennsylvania in the summer of 1988 and you had missed it completely? That is exactly what could happen to you if you do not become an atlaser for the Pa. Breeding Bird Atlas Project because this is the last chance to volunteer. Field work for the 5-year effort will conclude this summer and by 1991 the first atlas of breeding birds for Pennsylvania should be published. Wouldn't you like to be a contributor to this historic project?

Whether you are an experienced or novice birder, there will be a way that you can help. Region 35 (Bedford and Eastern Somerset Co.) has 38 new blocks to be covered and some of the remaining 122 need to be completed. Region 37 (Cambria Co.) has 37 new blocks to be covered and some of the remaining 33 need to be completed. Each block contains 10 square miles. The object is to find as many species as possible in each block and to record evidence of breeding. Numbers of each species are not recorded, such as in Christmas bird counts.

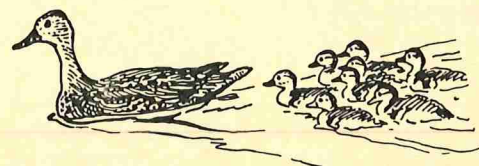
Experienced birders are needed for atlasing priority blocks, in which 70 species are required for adequate coverage. Those with a good knowledge of warblers, sparrows and the more uncommon species could make a good contribution traveling through regions and concentrating on special species. Less experienced birders could serve very well in blocks that are not designated as priority and which need only about 50 species for adequate coverage. Those with limited experience could record the very common species, saving time for a more experienced atlaser, who could then go over the same block and complete the survey. Surely everyone could watch their "home territory" and report what they see there. **Incidental Report Forms** are available for this type of work. These forms can also be used for sightings made while you are traveling anywhere in Regions 35 and 37.

Organizational meetings for Region 35 will be held on Thursday, April 14, 7:30 PM at Veterinary Medical Center, along Rt. 30 between Bedford and Everett, and on Saturday, April 16, 2:00 PM at Sager's farm, R.D.1, Hooversville. You may come to one of these meetings or contact Mrs. Ruth Sager (814-798-3242) if interested in the survey in Somerset or Bedford Co.

To volunteer for work in Cambria County, please contact Bruce Courter at 814-266-7912.

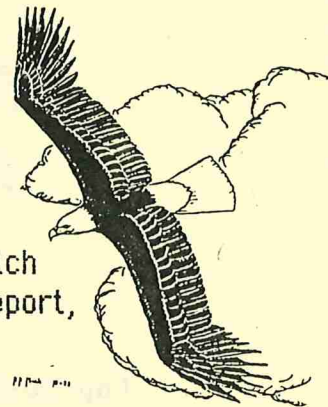
(Ed. note: Ruth Sager is our guru of knowledge and enthusiasm. Take her word, this is a great project and it certainly deserves your attention. Even if you know little about identification you should realize the opportunity to learn by birding with more experienced people. Attend the meetings and be appreciated for simply being interested. I would also like to emphasize the term home territory; this means even couch potatoes can list species, especially when its in your own back yard.

In this next article Ruth summarizes the 1987 Spring Tussey Mountain Hawk Count and to boost interest she throws the gauntlet down and asks if the Tuscarora Spring Count can be beaten. The recent Newsletter of the Hawk Migration Association of North America deals with the Spring of '87. They had this to say about Tussey, "Tussey mountain, farther west in Pennsylvania, again tantalized us with big counts on few hours, when are they really going to get serious and help knock the boring spring flight image into the next decade?")



Spring Hawk Watch by Ruth Sager

As we get into spring, the eyes of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society will turn to the skies at the Tussey Mountain hawkwatch near Everett. Three days of coverage in 1987 produced the following report, which has sparked the fire for a more organized effort this spring.



1987 SPRING HAWKWATCH AT TUSSEY MT.

<u>Species</u>	<u>April 16</u>	<u>April 22</u>	<u>April 27</u>
Broad-winged Hawk	69	398	84
Red-tailed Hawk	17	12	6
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	28	14	2
Cooper's Hawk	6	6	1
Am. Kestrel	1	—	—
Osprey	3	17	19
Golden Eagle	1	—	
Totals	129	449	114

The suprising total of 449 birds on April 12 is close to the highest daily records of 506 and 470 for fall hawk watches, so it appears that spring watches at Tussey could become very exciting for interested birders.

We also show below the 5-year records for our neighboring watch to the east on Tuscarora Mt., which confirms our belief that good raptor flights are to be expected at Tussey also.

YEARLY COVERAGE AT TUSCARORA 1982-1986

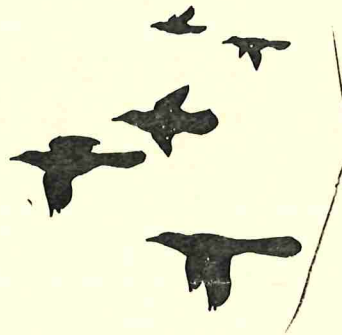
<u>YR</u>	<u>HRS</u>	<u>OS</u>	<u>BE</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>RS</u>	<u>BW</u>	<u>RT</u>	<u>RL</u>	<u>GE</u>	<u>AK</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>PF</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>TOT</u>
82	168	80		14	85	10	4	8	240	270	1	5	11		3	37	768
83	165	96	1	48	119	16	6	19	498	319		1	26	3		18	1170
84	140	92	1	35	171	23	2	11	813	303		1	10		1	19	1482
85	115	64		22	127	11	1	7	423	148		4	12	1	2	19	841
86	113	108	1	37	216	5	3	13	739	172	1	5	15	1		9	1325

Compare these records with the yearly fall coverage at Tussey Mt. in the February 1988 issue of "Chickadee Chatter" and you will surely want to join the Tussey watchers this spring. Please contact Kevin Georg, Tom Dick or Ruth Sager if interested.

Flock To Allegheny Plateau Audubon's Spring Bird Seed Sale

Top Quality Seed at Truckload Prices

50 lb. Graystripe Sunflower Seed	\$10.50
50 lb. Sunflower Blend (75% Graystripe with 25% Black Oil Sunflower Seed)	\$10.50
50 lb. Premium Sunflower Seed	\$9.50
50 lb. Songfest (mixed and improved)	\$10.50
Thistle for Goldfinches et. al	\$. 90/ lb.



Proceeds Support:

Bluebird trails
Mountain Hawk Counting Station
Programs and Outings
Lectures and Education Programs
Supporting 10 schools with "Audubon Adventure Series"
Christmas Bird Counts
Breeding Bird Surveys
Newsletters
Environmental Action

Call **Stuver's Riverside Nursery at 288-1759** or stop in Monday to Saturday between 9 and 4. We have lots of left over seed, this is due in part to the lack of hungry Evening Grosbeaks this winter. Remember many people feed throughout the year and often they see adult birds bring young birds to the feeders. Call and get your seed now at old prices, the new prices may be considerably higher several months from now.

Our Birdseed sale represents an important part of our Chapter's income and your support is not only appreciated but vital to our maintaining the many programs of environmental action.

Outings and programs for both Powdermill Nature Preserve and the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society.

With all outings participants should notify the trip leader at least 3 days prior to the outing. Occasionally trips must be cancelled due to lack of interest, weather, or conflicting dates. Usually we run enough outings to compensate for any cancellations. For information on rare or unusual birds call Kevin Georg at 288-1763 and for information on Spring wild flowers in bloom call Doris Brown at 255-1223.

Powdermill Outings from April 10 to May 29

These outings are free to the public at the Florence Lockhart Nimick Nature Center, located along Rt. 381 about seven miles south of Rt. 30 or about the same distance north of Rt. 31 (south of Ligonier, Pa.). To confirm and learn more of the programs: call (412) 593-6105.

April 23--Tour of Guffey Hollow--This tour is known for its rare spring wildflowers such as Snow Trillium, Blue-eyed Mary, Dwarf Larkspur, White Trout Lily and Fire Pink.

April 23--Owling--Join up with Bob Mulvihill on an owl prowl around the nature center.

April 24--Forest Ecology--Learn about soils, nutrient cycles and other aspects of plants ecology.

May 1--Wild Flower Walk--A good time to search for wild flowers.

May 14--Bird Watching in Linn Run State Park--Birding with our own Kevin Georg. Look with Kevin for warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks.

May 14 - Frog Walk--Join Bob Mulvihill in a walk around powdermill looking for frogs, peepers and toads.

May 21--Wild Flower Walk--This final wild flower walk will be led by Sue Thompson, of Carnegie.

May 21--Bird Banding--See a great variety of colorful birds (actually, in hand!) This is close to the peak of the migration and therefore banding season.

May 28--Bird Watching--Join Bob Mulvehill in this birding expedition to the mountain glades atop Laurel Mountain. Birds found here are characteristic of the Northern climes.

May 29--Herb Gardening--Learn about simple uses for common herbs. Tour an herb garden.

Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society Outings from April 14 to July

April 14--Bedford County Breeding Bird Survey Meeting: Meet at the Veterinary Hospital of Dr. William Tarplay on Rt. 30 between Bedford and Everett at 7:30. Call Ruth Sager for further details at 798-3242.

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April 30--Spring Wild Flowers--Join Tim Fox at 3 pm for several hours at a choice location observing the ephemeral flowers of spring. Call Tim at 266-7912.

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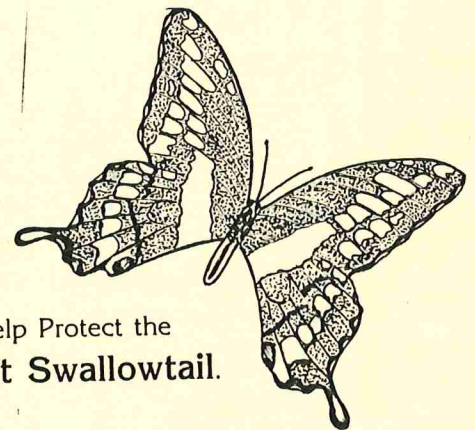
"SUPPORT SOMETHING WILD"

Help Protect the Coastal Plain

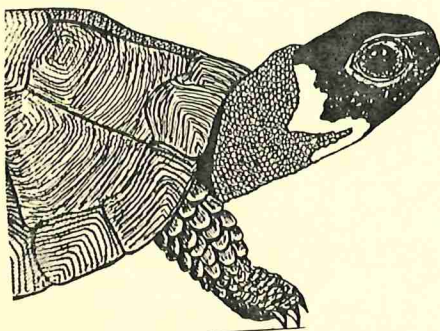
Leopard Frog.

Donate on Line 10C or 19C
of the State income tax form
to the

Wild Resource Conservation Fund,
Pa's Tax Checkoff.



Help Protect the
Giant Swallowtail.



Help Protect the **Bog Turtle.**

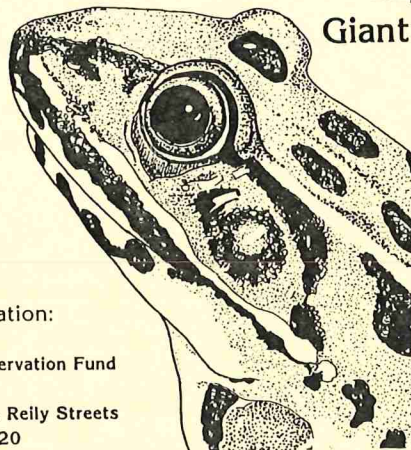
DO SOMETHING

WILD



Write for information:

Wild Resource Conservation Fund
P.O. Box 1467
Room A1-85, 3rd & Rely Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17120



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Address _____

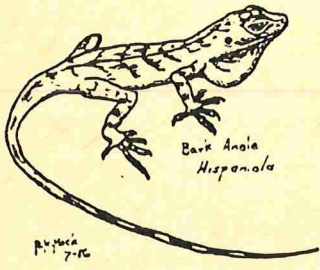
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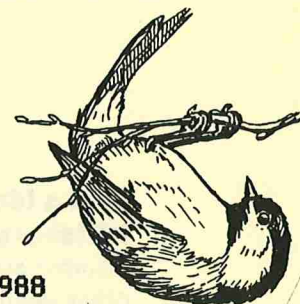
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Chickadee Chatter

Newsletter of the
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 5

Number 3

June 1988



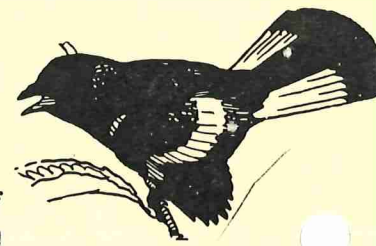
Contents: Local Birding hot spots
Naturalist Corner
Conservation Notes
Members in News

(The September newsletter will list programs and outings. Remember the monthly meetings are the **third Thursday** of each month starting in **September** at 7 pm. We will meet in room 240 Krebs at the Johnstown College of the University of Pittsburgh. Please note we are meeting in 240 Krebs not the auditorium at Engineering and Science and we are meeting one hour earlier.

I would also like to remind all members of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society that the Spring Hawk and Eagle Count will begin September 1st and all members are invited to attend. Please heed the following: if you are debilitated, old, ragged, worn out, irritated, frustrated dehydrated---whatever, we will arrange transportation on certain days to take you to the summit. There, on sunny days, you can recline on a lawn chair, watch clouds traverse the sky, and hope for the winds that make raptors soar. The early days of fall are comfortable when contrasted to November's fronts and squalls. A member of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society will be perched on the summit every day from September to December. Join us!

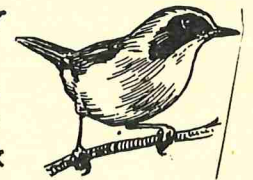
Spring's euphoria has now been replaced by a particularly arid summer. The mayfly emergence has waned and songbirds are finished nesting; Leaves are full length and many flowers are in seed. With many members working on breeding bird survey projects other members, especially the new ones, might be interested in good local areas (hot spots) for nesting birds. Most know that lakes are for migrating waterfowl and mountains for raptors, but many don't realize the great variety of nesting bird habitat we have locally. For those of you interested in good birding locations during the nesting season these next five pages are dedicated to you.

Johnstown's Stackhouse Park: 255 acres of city park extending fingers of land into Lower Yoder Township, Brownstown and Westmont Boro. Stackhouse is mostly deciduous forest acreage sliced into edges by residential property, streams, utility right-of-way, and a golf course. Stackhouse has been an important birding area for a number of allegheny plateau birders such as Kevin Georg, Mike Wolfe, and Charles Youtko to name a few. Over 160 species including 65 nesting birds have been seen within the boundaries of the park. The park has a well developed trail system offering easy access to birders with very appealing hillside views into the canopy nesting areas where a variety of warblers and vireos nest. Some common nesters are as follows: Pileated, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers; Black-throated Green Warbler, Redstarts, Ovenbird and Black-throated Blue Warblers; Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos; thrushes like the Wood and Hermit; Least, Great Crested and Acadian Flycatchers. During migration the numbers increase dramatically especially with our winter crow roost now number some 10,000 birds. Along with the roosting crows are some dubious friends hoping to share some of the same space, the Great Horned Owls.



Henry Idzkowsky Nature Trail and cross country trail at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown: The nature trail, named after a revered Allegheny Plateau Member and Professor emeritus at UPJ, is probably best located by asking a student or two. The cross country trail, used briefly in season adjoins the nature trail, and gives it greater diversity with fields and shrubs. This whole area is extremely birdy with nesting Hooded Warblers, Redstarts, Black-throated Green, Louisiana Waterthrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Yellow Warblers; along the fields are Bluebirds, Great Crested flycatchers, House Wrens, Field Sparrows, Common yellowthroats, Rufous-sided Towhees, Catbirds, and Brown Thrashers. The vegetation is interesting with a variety of dogwoods, viburnums, maples, basswood, oaks, poplars, apple trees and locust. Both trails are open for public use.

North Fork Dam: The dam itself is surprisingly barren but the surrounding hemlock and mixed deciduous forest are full of surprises. The road along the dam is one of the best areas to find nesting Northern Parula Warblers. The Parulas are found along the section from Menoher Highway to the breast of the dam. Along the breast is another good location for easy viewing of birds. The most abundant warbler along the hemlock lined road is the Magnolia Warbler. The road leaving the dam is paralleled by a fast flowing high quality brook trout stream. Along this stream are nesting Louisiana Waterthrushes and many Kentucky Warblers. The dense hemlock is a good place to look and listen for the Red-breasted Nuthatch. Above the dam, toward Somerset Pike, is a combination of shrubby fields and planted evergreens; this is a good area for Purple Finches, Golden-winged Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats and Northern Orioles. Within the same general area are stripmines where Song Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Meadowlarks can be found.



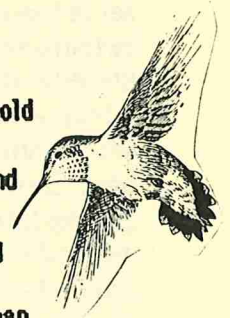
Allegheny Front: There are a number of roads connecting Bedford Co. with Somerset Co. that traverse the steep mountain we call the Allegheny Front. One in particular can be reached by taking Rt. 160 south to Central City. At the first stop sign continue straight leaving 160 and continuing past the YFW. At the Second stop sign make a left turn and continue for 3/4 mile to the first paved road on the right, continue 3 miles on this road to an intersection of 3 roads, take the middle one and you are in excellent warbler territory. I generally walk the road as it descends some 1500 feet giving remarkably good views into the canopy of the forest. Near the mountain top Hooded Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Black-throated Blue Warblers nest. Worm-eating Warblers nest on the hillsides; Kentucky Warblers nest along the moist ravines. Ceruleans are common in the high canopy, while the lower trunk serves as a feeding area for Black-and-White Warblers. This is also a good place to see Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Black-billed Cuckoos, Scarlet Tanagers and Indigo Buntings. For something different take the New Baltimore Road off Route 30 as it descends the front. A stream parallels the road and this may be one of the best locations to find singing Canada Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrushes.



Some of my favorite birding locations

by Ruth Sager

My favorite birding area is right around home in the vicinity of Quemahoning Dam. After traveling throughout Eastern Somerset County and Bedford County for the Pa. Breeding Bird Atlas Project, I still contend that this is a top-notch breeding bird spot. A total of 96 species recorded during the breeding season to date adds the proof that my claim is not based on the thought that "home is where the heart is." I like to scan the waters and probe the marshy edges of the "Que" for Mallards, Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teal and Green-backed Herons. Common Loons have been present on the dam in every month of the summer, but I have never had a continuous summer record or any evidence of nesting. Many songbirds, including Kentucky, Black and white, Hooded, Ovenbird, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, and Blue-winged Warblers nest on the wooded hillsides along the southern and eastern edges of the dam. Many old trees provide nesting spots for the woodpeckers and other woodland cavity nesters. Brushy fields around the dam are home to many species, my favorites being Yellow-breasted Chats and Golden-winged Warblers. Sparrows and other grassland species abound in old fields and cultivated farmland around the dam. The open areas also provide good viewing for the soaring hawks that live there.

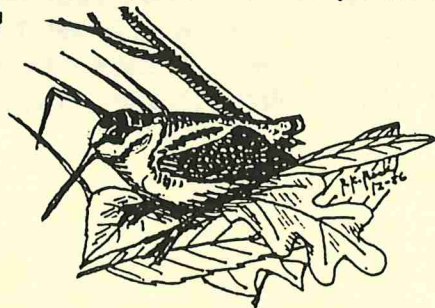


A trip south on Rt. 220 to Lake Koon and Lake Gordon in the Cumberland Valley of the Hyndman Quadrangle in Bedford County will provide a similar birding experience. The road and trail system around these dams gives excellent access to the good birding spots. Lake Somerset, at Somerset, is good for waterfowl but has more open fields and farmland surrounding it and lacks some of the interesting forest-birding possibilities.

My second choice for breeding birds would be to drive along a mountain stream, preferably with a rapid drop in elevation. Here in deep woods I would expect to find many warblers, thrushes and other song birds. I would be disappointed if I did not see Louisiana Waterthrushes flitting or bobbing across the road or hear their agitated "twit" nearby. Nests are usually on the steep banks along the road and in nesting season the birds are easy to locate in the vicinity of their nests. There are many of these streams in Somerset and Bedford County but my favorites are the Breastwork Run from Rt. 30 south to New Baltimore, Sweet Root Run in Buchanan State Forest of Bean's Cove Quadrangle, and Bob's Creek in state Gamelands 26 near Blue Knob State Park.

My third choice for breeding birds would be a restored stripmine, where I would look for many grassland species. My highest expectation would be to hear the "sslick" note of the scarce Henslow's Sparrow. Because of the Atlas project many have been found in stripmined areas. Grasshopper, Savannah and Vesper Sparrows, Horned Larks, Bobolinks and American Kestrels are among the species I expect to find. If clumps of old trees are left standing or brush and small trees are beginning to flourish, the variety of species increases rapidly. Windber, Central City and Stoystown are good places to start, but there are numerous opportunities for this type of birding in Somerset and Bedford County.

(Ed. Ruth is an indefatigable atlaser and one of the best birders in the state. If any of you have questions regarding good locations for certain species I'm sure Ruth will be more than willing to accommodate. In this next article on Prince Gallitizin, Richard Mock expounds on one of his favorite natural areas.)



Prince Gallitzin State Park

by Richard Mock

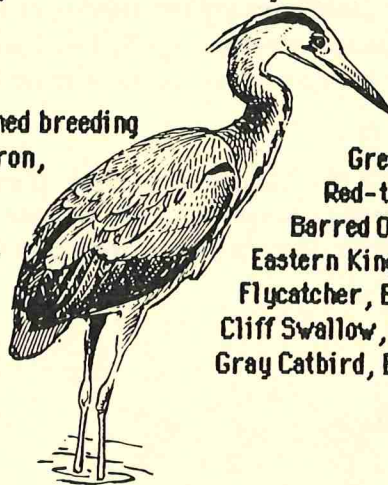
Prince Gallitzin State Park is located in northern Cambria County between Coalport and Patton, just west of Pennsylvania State Route 53. The approximate 6000 acre (9 1/2 square mile) state park is two-fifths water (including its associated marshes), two-fifths third-growth deciduous forest, and one-fifth successional farmland. The Commonwealth's second largest state park campsite, Crooked Run Campground is available on a first come, first serve basis; and 10 cabins have been added, on a reservation basis only, near the marina and swimming area of "The Point." The Point is a projecting triangle of land into the middle of Lake Glendale, shaping the lake into a northward pointing "Y".

Lake Glendale (the lake within Prince Gallitzin State Park) is a wide source of recreational opportunity for the fisherman, swimmer, boater, and naturalist. Birding opportunities are unsurpassed in this region of the Allegheny Plateau, Susquehanna drained, beech, maple, hemlock guarded lake. An active beaver dam is located near the Crooked Run Campground and provides outstanding habitat in which to study mammals, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. During the humid portion of summer, Slate Lick Run Marsh expands to engulf one half of the eastern side of the lake. This shallow marsh was once the home of a logging splash dam operation, and therefore is interspersed with deep channels and holes. Three sides of the impoundment are touched by State Game Lands in Pennsylvania, and along with Prince Gallitzin State Park it better than doubles the available public land resource. Old timber, wildlife food plots, additional beaver marshes, and agricultural wildlife management practices can be observed on "the 108." The region supports viable deer, bear, small game, and trout populations.

As the lake is usually frozen, or partially frozen, through early Spring, and boating is limited, migratory waterfowl concentrations are largest through March and early April. This lake holds waterfowl and shorebird surprises during Spring, Summer and Fall.

In 1984 and 1985, some unusual surprises included 500 Tundra Swans, 500 Common Moorhens, 100 Horned Grebes scattered over the surface of the lake between the Sail Boat Mooring Area and the Marina during a single afternoon. Snow Geese, nesting Canada Geese, immature Orchard Oriole, and Caspian Terns were seen in mid-summer, a Black-bellied Plover in April, Lesser Yellowlegs in the parking lots at the Visitor Center during the Spring migration, a pair of Common Terns through the Summer, a pair of Tundra Swans through the month of June, Osprey and immature Bald Eagle in Mid-Summer, and nesting Woodcock in early March.

Probable and confirmed breeding included Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Wood Duck, American Woodcock, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Phoebe, Least Barn Swallow, Creeper, House Wren,

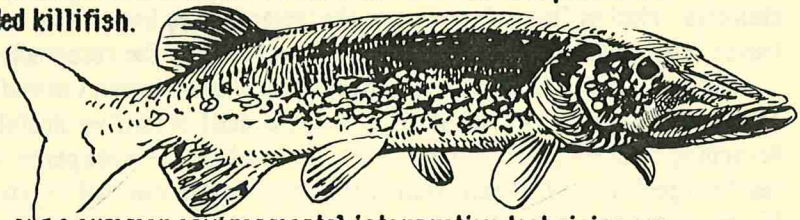


birds during these same two summers Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Barred Owl, Ruby-throated hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Peewee, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Starling,

American Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird (Prince Gallitzin State Park maintains a Bluebird Trail), Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow (both summers), Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and song Sparrow. This is only a list of Breeding Birds, It does not include possible species or unusual sightings.

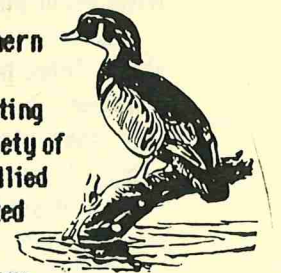
Add woodchuck, cottontail, red squirrel, gray squirrel (black morph gray squirrels included), flying squirrels, beaver, muskrat, eastern chipmunk, weasels, shrews, moles, bats, meadow jumping mouse, voles, white-footed and deer mice, skunk, opossum, porcupine, raccoon, red fox, coyote, bobcat, white-tailed deer, and black bear, and you can see that the park is very active with or without people! **Please drive with care!**

Lake Glendale boasts bowfin, northern pike, walleye, tiger muskellunge, and the United States record catch Amur River pike (Russian subspecies). Rock bass, largemouth, yellow perch, and bluegill are also available for the pan fisherman. A number of minnow and catfish species are found in the lake, including the banded killifish.



Fulltime park staff, park rangers, and a summer environmental interpretive technician are employed through the Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of State Parks, at Prince Gallitzin. Questions and inquiries can be answered by dialing the Park Administrative Office at 814-674-3691, or by writing Park Administrative Office, Prince Gallitzin State Park, R.D. #1, Box 79, Patton, Pa. 16668. A Visitor Center is maintained through the Summer camping season. Handouts, including park maps and birdlist, are available at park user offices.

Shawnee Lake State Park: Shawnee is a mixture of many different habitats; fields, shrubby thickets, marshes, swamps, pine forests, oak-hickory forests, open water, mudflats, and well groomed picnic areas characterize the area. During the nesting season this park is crawling with people but many good birding areas exist. At Shellsburg where Shawnee Creek crosses the Rt. 96 is a little marsh with some very interesting nesters. Along the creek Wood Ducks, Bluewing Teal (Marsh side), Mallards and Mute Swans nest. The marshes along the southern border of the dam includes isolated ponds and some swamps where Canada Geese and Green-backed Herons nest and rails such as Virginia and Sora nest. The most common nesting sparrow is the Swamp Sparrow. Along the elm and syncamore lined Shawnee Creek a variety of Vireos nest; especially common are Red-eyed Vireos, White-eyed Vireos, and Yellow-bellied Vireos. It is also a good location for both Northern Orioles and Orchard Orioles. The Spotted Sandpiper is also a nester in this area.



Along the fields are shrubby areas of dogwood and alder where Golden-winged Warblers are very common. Also note the many Bluebird boxes, if you want to see Bluebirds there is no better location in the state since they're found everywhere. Also using the nests are Tree Swallows and House Wrens. Bank Swallows nest in pipes under bridges sharing the general location with nesting Cliff Swallows. Barn Swallows are abundant. Other nesters commonly seen are Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Wood thrush, Ruffed grouse, Wild Turkey, and Ring-necked pheasant.

NATURALIST'S CORNER

The Hepaticas

By Richard Mock

The hepaticas belong to a group of flowers known as the Ranunculaceae (commonly referred to as the buttercup family). This is a very large group of plants mainly found in the North American temperate zone. The number of species of Ranunculaceae vary, depending upon whom you are talking with, and at best are only estimates. One of my field guides states that there are "approximately" 35 genera and 1500 species of Ranunculaceae. Another book which I own states most emphatically that there are 300 genera and 1200 species in the North American temperate zone. It will simply suffice to say the Ranunculaceae is a large family.

Ranunculaceae is composed of some rather well known flowers, including buttercups, crowfoots, the marsh marigold, hepaticas, anemones, columbines, larkspurs, meadowrues, and clematis. Most of these flowers are characterized by herbaceous texture, divided or compound leaves, and separate flower parts that are attached to the receptacle in spiral arrangement.

According to the Besseyan System of Plant Classification (named for Charles Edwin Bessey, 1845-1915), Ranunculaceae are among the most primitive dicotyledonous angiosperms. According to Bessey, since flowers are the most short-lived parts of the plant, the flower is the least subject to natural selection. Other botanists argue that reproductive success of the plant is the most important function, and even though the flower is short-lived, the most successful pollen attractants are those that would fall into favor in the process of natural selection. Either way, the Besseyan System of Plant Classification is widely followed in North America. In Bessey's tree of plant classification, flowers with fused parts are more advanced than flowers with separate parts; therefore, the buttercup group are primitive flowers.

Ranunculaceae are composed of flowers with separate carpels and many separate stamens. Carpels are the seed (egg) producing portion of the flower, and stamens are the pollen (sperm) producing portion of the flower. The hypogynous (the petal-like, or perianth, segments and stamens are attached to the receptacle below the points of attachment of the carpels) bisexual flowers have regular floral symmetry.

Since the buttercup group are considered regular simple primitive flowers, they are the most often referred to for demonstration of plant structure in botany textbooks. Now we know a little bit of plant taxonomy into which two North American species, the hepaticas, fall.

The two North American plants are the round-lobed hepaticas, Hepatica americana, and the sharp-lobed hepatica, Hepatica acutiloba. Since these plants do hybridize, some botanists consider them one species, the three-lobed hepatica, Hepatica triloba. However, if this is the case, then what do we do with the closely related three-lobed European hepatica, Hepatica nobilis? If we lump them, they should probably all be H. nobilis.

I will speak of these plants combined characteristics before I conclude with their individual characteristics.

The flowers vary in color from white, through the pinks and violets, to blue. Some botanists postulate that the amount of color may be due to the amount of acid in the soil. With current acid rain problems affecting soil pH in unbuffered soils (soils lacking acid neutralizing properties), the study of Hepatica coloration could prove very interesting!!

Individual plants flower biennially (once every two years). The flowers appear before the onslaught of additional new evergreen leaves in the spring. Hepaticas flower March through May, peaking in April. There are several regular solitary flowers, each on a three to nine inch hairy flower stalk (or scape). The flowers are one-half to one inch wide, with perianth composed of six to twelve sepals (not petals), and each sepal is approximately one centimeter long.

The seed-bearing carpels fruit into an aggregate of pubescent achenes.

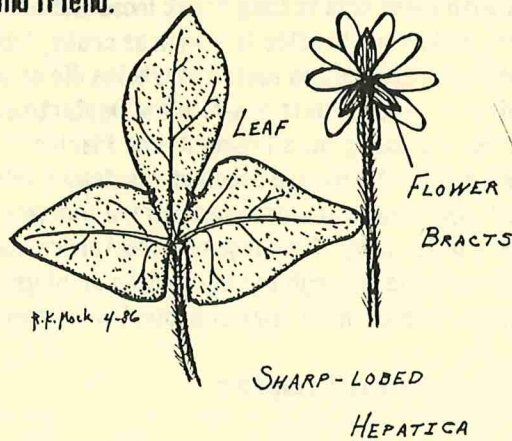
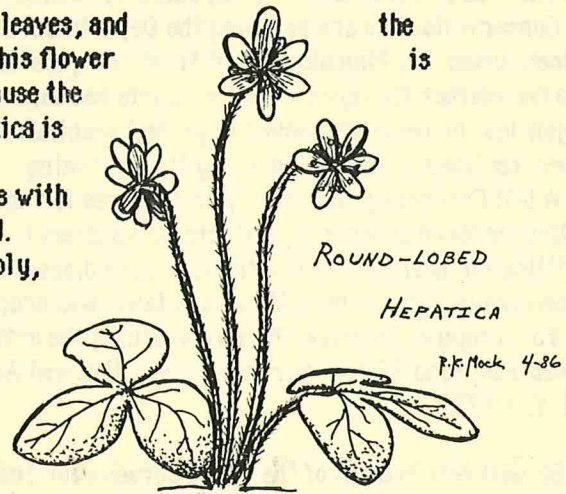
The three-lobed leaves are basal, thickish, and evergreen, sometimes casting a rubber-leather appearance.

The round-lobed hepatica has rounded three-lobed leaves, and flower is subtended by three rounded flower bracts. This flower found in leafy woods from southern Canada south. Because the rounded lobes also look like a liver, round-lobed hepatica is also known as liverleaf.

Sharp-lobed hepatica, on the other hand, has leaves with pointed lobes. Occasional leaves are five to seven lobed. These flowers are subtended by bracts which are sharply, or bluntly, pointed. This hepatica is found in upland woods in the Appalachians from Maine south, and westward to Minnesota and Missouri.

Although the herbaceous plants have a rugged delicacy of their own, it is not advisable to pick the flower, because it quickly wilts, and the new budding evergreen leaves on the remaining plant may be harmed.

Both of these plants are found in the area, and it is my hope that by reading this article you will have found a new woodland friend.



Conservation briefs

Commercial Fishing nets Drown Thousands of Seabirds

When the public learned in the late 1960s that thousands of porpoises were being drowned in tuna seines, the reaction was strong enough to force passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. According to an article in the Winter 1987 issue of *American Birds*, there should be a similar outpouring of concern for seabirds.

In western Greenland, salmon gill-nets may have taken 200,000 Thick-billed Murres a year in the 1970s. Off the Aleutian Islands, driftnets up to 20 miles long drown an estimated 75,000 to 250,000 seabirds annually. Observers aboard fishing vessels counted 21 species commonly found dead in the nets, including auklets, puffins, shearwaters, and ruddy ducks.

Conservationists are pressing the Department of Commerce to regulate U.S. and foreign fishing fleets under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, marine Mammal Protection Act, or other laws, but so far neither the agency nor the courts has done much to alleviate the problem. California agencies, by contrast, moved to protect seabirds in the Gulf of the Farallons, where murres have declined drastically due to gill-net fishing.

A bill Congress passed last year requires foreign fishing vessels operating in U.S. waters to allow onboard observers, and sets up a system to track abandoned driftnets, which can go on killing for years. Conservationists were disappointed that a provision to set a seabird protection zone around the western Aleutian Islands was dropped from the final legislation.

For a copy of *American Birds* containing the article on the effects of gill-net fishing on seabirds, send \$5 to *American Birds*, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022.

(Ed. Gill nets are one of the worst curses ever bestowed upon the sea. In most cases they are made of resistant monofilament and never seem to deteriorate. The nets are large and peel off a large spool, they have openings large enough to catch fish that swim in; they then become entrapped and die. The problem with these nets is they break loose and continue to kill for years. They roll along the bottom picking up benthic life such as crabs, lobster, and fluke. It's no secret that each year's marine mammals such as seals and whales die as well as an estimated million or more sea birds. It might be worth while to write the Department of Commerce to regulate fishing fleets by using the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Marine Mammal Protection act to level citations. I saw one small gill net lying on a beach at Assateague Island, I estimated the 20 foot of net may have held over 200 pounds of entrapped marine biomass representing over 17 species. Some of these nets are miles long. The large manufacturers such as DuPont lack financial incentive to make nets breakable through biodegradation or physical weak points. It will take public protest and, unfortunately, more laws to protect this aspect of nature.)

ARCO Alaska Oil Company

How many of you see those clean environment images projected by oil companies, especially those that sponsor nature programs? Recently, the NRDC (National Resources Defense Council) sent their people to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska where ARCO is pumping out the oil only to find the following:

1. More than 1500 violations of the Clean Water Act.
2. ARCO never even obtained permits for direct discharge of polluted water into the arctic environment.
3. ARCO build toxic waste sites that leak toxic heavy metals into the surrounding delicate arctic landscape.
4. ARCO is accused of 400 to 600 oil spills per year at this location.
5. The present administration rewarded ARCO for its 11000 acres of environmental destruction by inviting them to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Come on gang, get those poison pens out and send some leaded paper to Washington.

Members in the News

Sally Dick with the help of other Auduboners finished the first part of a plant inventory for Stackhouse Park. The project entails listing all of the trees, shrubs, flowers, and ferns within the park.

Tim Fox turned a fly fishing trip into a wildlife bonanza. Tim arrived at Pine Creek in Lycoming County on May 14 ; no sooner was he out of the car when he spotted a pair of Pine Grosbeaks. The following day (May 15) while fishing Pine Creek he noticed a Common Merganser with 11 young --a really great find for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Survey. That evening while driving near Pine Creek he came across a Bobcat jumping up and down in the car lights, it seemed to be playing. Tim left the car to check out the fuss only to find a young muskrat as the object of the Bobcats play. On May 16 Tim was fishing the same stretch of water as a Bald Eagle; the only difference was the eagle was doing better. Tim also noticed a Blackburnian Warbler land near the water, so near that its feet were under water. The warbler was catching Mayflies as they drifted down stream. How entrepreneurial? That evening was the grand finale when Tim was wakened in the middle of the night with a collapsed tent and a bear on his chest. Tim's yelling drove the bear and probably all the other campers away. You need to come home and rest up after a trip like that.

Another bear story, only this one was in Upper Yoder behind the Westmont Shopping Center. It was at the home of member Dwight Dick. For approximately 45 minutes a Black Bear hammered his feeders, bird bath, and just about everything else of possible nutritional value. In the mean time traffic was backed up on Willett Drive while everyone gathered in Dwight's front yard watching the bear show. This bear is now becoming common to the streets and yards with regular sightings in the evening. The significant part of this story is the bear's appearance in broad daylight.

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The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society is very active and dedicated to serving the conservation needs of our area. Our interests and focus include wetlands, species inventories, breeding bird census, interpreting trails, maintaining a hawk counting station and a rehabilitation clinic, supporting school ecology programs, seminars, continuing education programs for teachers, outings and programs. Membership in the society opens many facets of natural history from plants and insects to birds and mammals. Membership also allows you to receive the award winning Audubon Magazine and the local "Chickadee Chatter." Fill out the membership form below and become an Allegheny Plateau Auduboner.

Introductory Membership (\$20.00) Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society (U20)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. (area code) \_\_\_\_\_ Make Checks payable to "National Audubon Society" and Mail to Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, Pa., 15904. My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

**The Folks running the show**

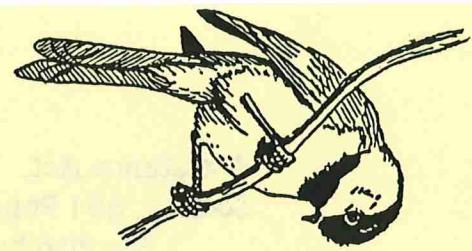
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Vice President: Mike Wolfe (255-5098) RD5, Box 170, Johnstown, 15907  
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1003 Eisenhower Blvd.  
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**Chickadee Chatter**  
Newsletter of the  
Allegheny Plateau Audubon society



Volume 5

Number 4

October 1988



A reminder: Don't miss the upcoming meeting on **November 17th**. In addition to having a great speaker this is also our election meeting. Another important date is the Christmas Bird Count on **December 17**. Our November meeting will have strategy for this extremely popular breezy winter outing. We meet at U.P.J., 240 Krebs at 7:30.

**Opportunities ahead in '89**  
by Peter Berle, President  
National Audubon Society

The best part of my job is meeting Audubon people and visiting places that Audubon is trying to protect. I combined these two pleasures in late August by meeting with some chapter leaders in Fairbanks, Alaska, and then traveling to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Audubon Alaska Regional Vice-president Dave Cline, my two sons, Macgill Adams--a wilderness guide and member of the Anchorage chapter--and I walked the length of the refuge. We began in the Saderochit Mountains and hiked 75 miles along Marsh Fork Creek through the coastal plain to the Beaufort Sea. We saw lots of wildlife and reaffirmed our conviction that this refuge is worth fighting for. This year, in a victory for conservationists, Congress gave up trying to pass legislation that would open the refuge to oil drilling. The industry will be back next year and we will have our hands full in trying to win permanent protection for this world-class resource.

After four years of hard work by conservationists, a strengthened Endangered Species Act finally made it through Congress. Most recently--and also after years of effort--congress reauthorized and improved the nation's badly outdated pesticide law, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In order to get the act through, legislators let out some important but controversial provisions, including groundwater protection. however, it is a positive step forward.

Audubon is recruiting volunteers interested in this country's foreign aid policies because Congress will soon begin rewriting the Foreign

Assistance Act. Write: Foreign Assistance Action Project, National Audubon Society, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003.

We also have a terrific hands-on action opportunity for people concerned about the rapid loss of ancient forests---especially in the Pacific Northwest. Our new Adopt-a-Forest program teaches you how to defend your favorite places in national forests. Volunteers are out there right now mapping, investigating, consulting with Forest Service officials, and saving trees. For more information write to Brock Evans at the above address.

Thanks to chapters, board members, and staff, Audubon finished the fiscal year in the black. Our Development Department reached 101 percent of its goal. As of July 31st, more than 9,000 Auduboners were carrying the new **Audubon Visa card**. This piece of pocket credit has excellent rates and returns a small percentage of each purchase to Audubon. So far, the Society has netted about \$30,000 from the Visa program. If you do not yet have your Audubon Visa, write to Marketing, National Audubon Society, 850 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

### The Christmas Bird Count

While most people are still making plans for Thanksgiving dinner, Auduboners have already begun counting the days to the 89th annual National Audubon Christmas Bird Count, enduring and popular or for that matter activities in America. 40,000 people and the CBC is for have vast birding



Christmas Bird Count. The or CBC, is one of the most among Audubon activities-- among all outdoor volunteer Last year, more than participated in the count. everyone--whether you experience or none.

What accounts for the CBC's success? Well, for starters, it's just plain fun--an event of unparalleled camaraderie, a time to see old friends and swap stories. For many, it's a first chance to learn the jobs and skills of birdwatching. For others, it's high-power, competitive birding at its best.

Moreover, taking part in the Christmas Bird Count means contributing to a vital scientific endeavor. Each year, National Audubon Society collects the results from the more than 1500 counts--from Alaska to South America, Bermuda to the Pacific--- and publishes them in its esteemed ornithological journal, American Birds. The resulting data base is one that is tapped over and over again by scientists and researchers worldwide to uncover



important avian population trends. There is simply no better source for this information.

To participate in this years CBC, contact Ruth Sager at or better yet attend the November 17th meeting at UPJ.

### Our busy Members

**Super Dave Mikesic**, as he is fondly known, our former Photography Guru, is in graduate school at Southern Illinois. His last good deed for Audubon was a canned slide presentation, slides with script, that members can use for various civic organizations. Keep this in mind if you're asked to give a presentation.

Another member, **Ron Rovanseck**, known variously as Yukon Ronnie, Grizzly Rovanseck, Fish Fever Ron, is a second year student at the University of Alaska. His most recent Audubon accomplishment was printed in the summer issue of American Birds. He discovered a lone male Rosy Finch on the campus of the Univ. of Alaska during winter, an unprecedented winter record.

**Sally Dick, Velva Idzkowsky, and Iris Marr** are the nominating committee people whose job it is to ferret out new leadership within the chapter.

**Kevin Georg** made birding headlines again this year with his discovery of Mississippi Kites at the Spring Tussey Mountain hawk watch. He discovered one adult and two sub-adults. The April-June 1988 issue of Pennsylvania Birds has his contribution plus an interesting article on sightings of this kite in other areas of the state at the same time.

Recently I received a call from someone seeking membership. Being busy at the time we put the phone on hold for several minutes, on returning we discovered the call was originating from California. Talk about distant memberships!

**Tim Fox** is the new Cambria County editor for Pennsylvania Birds. Reporting for this journal is done quarterly: Jan.-Mar., Apr.-Jun., Jul.-Sept., Oct.-Dec. He would appreciate input from feeder watchers, field birders, and anyone with an unusual sighting. Please send to: Tim Fox, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, Pa. 15904.

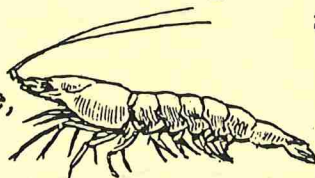
Once again **Eric and Elaine Stuver** have put together our annual Christmas Bird Seed Sale. The bird seed sale is no small effort; it requires both time and attentiveness to the demands of members. The drought this year forced bird seed prices higher, but we are trying to keep prices affordable. Our profit per bag of seed is only a few dollars which immediately is plowed back into conservation activities. In particular, this

money supports conservation in schools. Ten local schools are supported with this money.

### Naturalists Corner by Tom Dick

Lest you forget, I would like to remind you of the this past summer's drought. The ramifications of this drought will continue to plague as for some time to come. The story goes on.....

Sally and I, hoping to finish some bird atlasing, headed over to Bedford County on July 16. As we cruised past Pleasantville I noticed the temperature display at a local bank plugging out a toasty 102 degrees. We were in our sector for atlasing and looked everywhere for something with feathers; no birds were to be seen. After roasting in the car for a few miles we decided to walk down the middle of little Dunnings Creek. There we found signs of life, at first subtle; overturning some rocks we found rock building caddis flies, crayfish, water snake, a limp wood moving up the taxonomic scale, was swimming around in a off. Than we saw birds, first Louisiana Waterthrushes bathing and splashing; scanning the stream further we found the following birds immersed up to their little downy necks: Song Sparrows, Great Crested Flycatchers, Catbirds, Redstarts, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-shafted Flickers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Eastern Phoebes and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. I found a deep hole, sat down in it with only my shoulders exposed and did my first aquatic birding. It was than that I decided to write a future article on this unusual summer for the Chickadee Chatter.



an irritated northern turtle, and finally a rabbit. The rabbit small pool just cooling four persistent

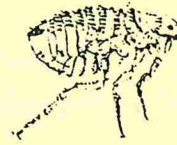
Before the summer ended, a drought warning was declared in 42 counties. Translated this means a drought emergency was imminent. An inquiry to the National Weather Service for our area produced the following information. Subnormal rainfall actually started as early as March with an accumulated shortage of almost 9 inches by the end of September. The temperatures were 2 degrees above normal for May, 2 1/2 for June, 5 for July and 4 1/2 for August. We had only two good rains during that time which only gave us 2 inches and that occurred on July 17th and 21st. We had 100 degree days in June, July, and August.

What effect did the drought produce? I'll answer this by first discussing the state wide effect and then the local effect. The most significant event is the failure of rainfall to recharge groundwater levels. We may have problems if we fail to get adequate precipitation this fall and winter. Stagnant air according to DER had a disastrous effect on keeping ozone levels within clean air standards. Gypsy moth defoliation resulted in extreme damage; usually trees can take several years of moth damage before dying, but this year one defoliation was enough to kill trees in certain areas. Moth damage to trees was particularly lethal on the thin soiled ridges of Bedford County. Have you seen the ridges in Bedford and Fulton when traveling Rt. 70 East? A wide swath of dead trees runs parallel and through the center of these ridges. Forest fires were another problem, according to fire officials we lost 3000 acres to fire compared to only 90 last year. In several cases streams, productive trout streams, dried up.

Locally, I noticed a number of maples dying, particularly silver and red, the trees most often associated with moist soils. Many dogwoods and viburnums failed to flower which could mean bad news for wildlife this winter. Will this affect our Christmas Bird Count? Of course, determining this cause and effect is one of the reasons for the CBC. According to Dr. Choby, young bluebirds were found dead in their boxes--could this have been due to high summer temperatures? One weather related phenomenon was an invasion of a midwestern bird, the Dickcissel. This bird visited and nested in several stripmines locally. Ruth Sager was on the frontline for identifying the first evidence of male Dickcissels singing on territory. The story made birding news within the state and will be published in several popular bird journals.



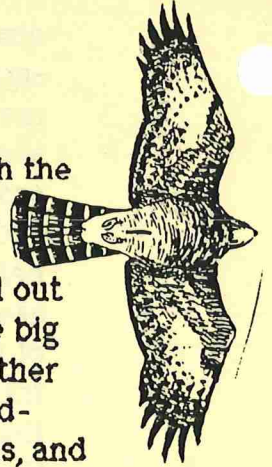
Did something good come out of the drought? Well, as a veterinarian, I can testify on something positive for pet owners. The ubiquitous flea needs at least 72% humidity for critical stages of its summer development and it just didn't get it this year. The resulting flea populations were held back one month, in fact, many animals totally escaped fleas this summer. Pet owners smiled and quipped at what a good investment their electronic flea collars were, I sneered at hearing this, secretly I wished for a batch of fleas to throw on Fido, knowing they would find sanctuary under the collar. Just kidding!





## Hawk Watch Update

Our nemesis, the summer weather patterns, followed us through the month of September at our Hawk Counting Station at Tussey Mountain. Normally winds are fairly well split between the east (a good wind for Tussey) and the west (a poor wind); this September the winds were all out of the west dropping our count to less than half of last year's total. The big loss was Broad-winged hawks who seemed to prefer the valley thermals or other ridges rather than Tussey. Other species with a poor showing were Red-shouldered hawks, Bald Eagles, Sharp-shins (down appreciably), Cooper's Hawks, and Am. Kestrels. Although coverage was down by 3 days an increase in Ospreys continued for the fourth straight year. Other slight increases were Northern Harriers (earliest Harrier was an immature at Dunning's Creek on 8/27), Merlins (always modest), Peregrines, and N. Goshawks. The most surprising September entry was an early Golden Eagle on 9/26. Another entry worth noting was an Osprey working a farm pond near Everett with a yellow or white band approximately one inch by six inches attached to its right wing. This Osprey was on a farm pond owned by Michael and Laura Jackson. Finally a high of 50 Turkey vultures occurred on 8/28. Throughout September 2 to 6 Black Vultures could be seen at anyone time.



An interesting anecdote to our hawk watch. Recently I received a call from Cincinnati, Ohio, the caller was a Mr. Parsley who had read about our hawk watch and wanted to visit Tussey with his son. Arrangements were made for the Parsleys to meet with Kevin Georg who was "on hawk duty" that Saturday. Surprisingly, all connections worked and they spent a sunny day on Tussey's summit. Several days later, I recently received a letter from his son who went on to say, "The day at Tussey Mountain was a definite success, since we saw two of the species we were most hoping to. The Golden Eagle, one seen at close range and another "probable" at a distance, was a "lifer" for me. The other was the Raven. Of course, they are not raptors and not rarities to you, but in Cincinnati you are almost as likely to see a great Auk!" We're glad the Allegheny Plateau Auduboners were able to "make their day."

## Rainforest Tibits

The Penan people of Sarawak are traditionally a nomadic people who feel a profound affinity with the forest which plays a central role in their

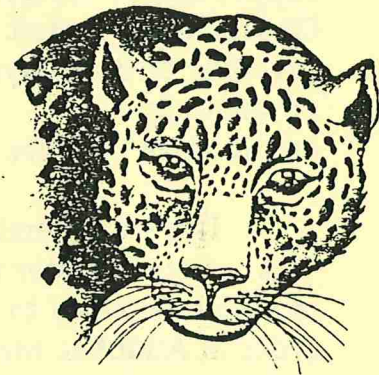
lives. The forest provides their staple foods: the starch pith of the sago palm (*Engeissona utilis*), "uvud" (young sago plants), "lekak" (an edible palm leaf budy), a variety of fruits, and the meat of the bearded pig (*sus barbatus*). For centuries, the forest has also provided them with trade items such as camphor, jelutong (a wild rubber), dammar ( a resin), "gaharu " (incense wood), and rattan ( used for making baskets and mats). "just from this land we get all we need for our life" says one Penan community leader of Long Jaik.

The Penan consider themselves guardians of the forest and their strategy in harvesting forest products is based on principles of sustainable use. For example, sago palms grow in clumps of several trunks that rise from a mass of aerial roots. Penan always harvest sago by cutting only one or two of the trunks, leaving the palm to resprout; they never cut down the entire plant at the root clump, which would kill it. "We don't like to kill it all off, in case one day there is nothing for us to eat. This is really our way of life"

(Reprinted from the new book entitled, "People of the Tropical Rain Forest" University of California Press, 1988.)

An epilogue: The Penan tribe of Borneo in their struggle to prevent logging have constructed blockades on lumbering roads. Their efforts resulted in arrest. I suggest that all Allegheny Plateau members write a nice letter requesting that logging in the Penans forest be halted. Write to the following:

Yab Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Taib  
Mahmud  
Chief Minister of Sarawak, and Minister  
of Resource Planning  
Chief Minister's Office  
Petra Jaya  
Kuching SARAWAK



For those interested in rainforests here is a short list of organizations and books to consider for Christmas.

**Life Above the Forest Floor** by Donald Perry, 170 pages, Simon and Schuster Inc. Very informative and readable.

**Tropical Nature** by Dr. Adrian forsyth and Ken Miyata, 248 pages, Charles Scribner's sons. Clear, concise and full of exciting science.

**Rainforest Action Network, 300 Broadway #28. San Francisco, Ca. 94133**  
An environmental group specializing in tropical information or networking.  
They are among the first to warn of potential problems. Join by sending  
\$15.00 to the above address. They publish a good informative tabloid.

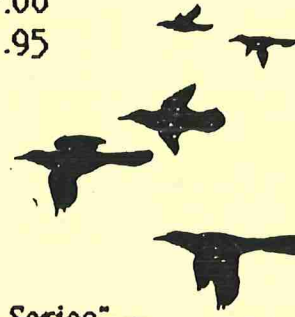
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### **Top Quality Seed at Truckload Prices**

|                                            |         |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| 50 lb. Gray Stripe Sunflower               | \$17.00 |
| 50 lb. Gray Stripe and Black Oil Sunflower | \$17.00 |
| 50 lb. Songfest Mix                        | \$17.00 |
| 1 lb. Thistle for finches                  | \$ .95  |

### **Proceeds Support:**

bluebird trails  
mountain hawk counting station  
program and outings  
lectures and education programs  
supporting 10 schools with "Audubon adventure Series"  
Christmas bird count  
breeding bird surveys  
newsletters  
environmental action



If your a member and order by November 19, 1988 you will receive a 10% discount. Order now by calling Stuver's Riverside Nursery at 288-1759 or stop in Monday to Saturday between 9 and 4. You may also place your order at Audubon Meetings. The next meeting is November 17, at UPJ, room 240 Krebs. The meeting dates for 1989 are Jan. 19, Feb. 10, March 15, April 20, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, and November 15.

**Our birdseed sale represents an important part of our income and your support is not only appreciated but vital to our maintaining the many programs of environmental action.**

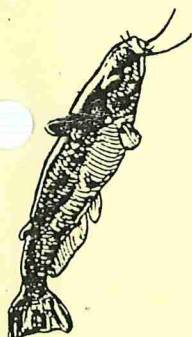
## Programs and Outings

**November 17**--Joseph Winfield with the National Park Service will present an interesting and informative program on "Landscaping with endemic plants." This program should be of interest to all.

**December 17--Christmas Bird Count**--Plans will be formulated at the November meeting. Those unable to attend can contact Ruth directly by calling 798-3242.

*The following outings will have their dates listed in our December newsletter: Winter plants and tracks, Tour of local lakes for winterfowl, Winter Wildlife tour of the Delmarva Peninsula, Possible trip to Amherst Island for Northern owls.*

**January 19--Yellowstone Park**--Joe Emerich, Cambria County Conservation Education Director and Audubon Education Chair-person, will present a slide illustrated presentation on Yellowstone. He was recently sponsored by our chapter for the Audubon Workshop at Yellowstone and this presentation chronicles this trip. Joe's programs are top rate!!!!



**February 10**--Mr. Larson of the Pa. Fish Commission will present a program entitled "Problems and Solutions in fisheries Managment." This will be an exciting indepth look at Pennsylvania waters, how they're managed and how they're doing.

*Please fill out the form belong if your not a member and wish to be included in our programs, outings and newsletters.*

Introductory Membership \$20.00 Allegheny Plateau Audubon (U20)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

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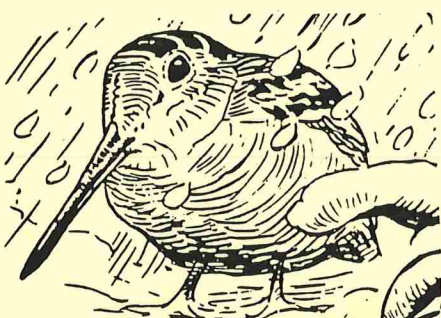
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William F Lord  
Horseshoe Curve  
100 million  
Mutter*