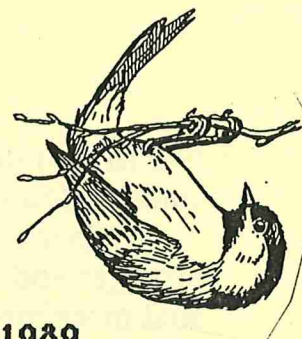


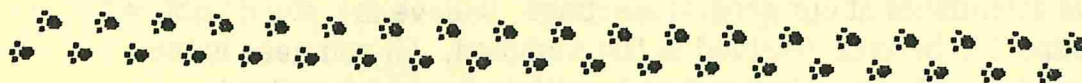
Chickadee Chatter
Newsletter of the
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 6

Number 1

January 1989



Election Results

November 19 was the election and installation of new officers. Our new president is Linda Sell. Linda expresses her commitments to Audubon in the article to follow. Our new Vice President is Joe Emerick who will also continue as our education chair-person. Recording Secretary is Joan Lohr who retired from the Treasurer position, where incidently, she did a very fine job. She was replaced as treasurer by the hard working Eric and Eileen Stuver. The Stuvers will continue to be in charge of bird seed sales and fund raising. Our corresponding secretary, Margaret Haines, is a new face to the board. Iris Marr, another newcomer, will now be in charge of publicity. Many thanks to our former publicity Chair-person Pam Boderocco who worked hard from the beginning to get our chapter moving. We would also like to thank all those who have contributed time, ideas, and labor to make the Allegheny Plateau Audubon not just a reality but a stable conservation institution. Also a hearty welcome back from New England for Bob and Marlyn Lohr, remember they started this newsletter.

Presidents Corner

by Linda Sell

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new President of our chapter, and to thank all of you who attended the November 19th meeting for your unanimous support of my nomination. A special thanks goes to Dr. Tom Dick and Dr. Doris Brown for the fine foundation they have laid down during our chapter's formative years. I feel very honored to be chosen to follow these fine people.

Our chapter may not be the largest, but our accomplishments during these years are many. We have established Audubon Adventure Series in many area classrooms. Once again this year we will be sponsoring a teacher's workshop at UPJ this spring to assist area teachers in bringing environmental studies into the classroom. Perhaps, this is our most important work - educating our children to become environmentally aware adults. Three years ago we initiated a fall hawk watch at Tussey Mountain.

The first in this area. Our data has become important in determining composition and numbers of species in Western Pennsylvania.

So much for the past. A lot remains to be done to make our chapter stronger and more involved in the environmental community. My hope is that more members will become actively involved in our projects. I would like to see our membership increased by 25% over the next two years and an increase in attendance at our general meetings. Believe me, you do not have to be an expert to become involved in the Audubon. All you need is the desire. Just remember, the first outing I went on I asked for a bird identification of a sound I heard and was told it was a cow mooing in the distance.



Feeder Talk

As of January 10 here is a list of birds appearing at local bird feeders: Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Brown Creeper, House Sparrow, House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Cardinal, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Pine Siskin, and Rusty Blackbird. To get Red-breasted Nuthatches its preferable to live in a Hemlock forest, such is the case with Lynn Sanderson who gets them daily. Only one pair of Pine Siskin have been reported and only at one feeder. The prolific feeder of Ruth and Glenn Sager is now feeding 3 to 4 Purple Finches daily; locally, this appears to be the highest number. The Sagers also had Rusty Blackbirds at their feeder the day of the Christmas Bird Count. Carolina Wrens, always expanding their range, can now be seen with some frequency in established feeding stations using suet. Brown Creepers, although never actually seen feeding may be attracted to the station by the presence of the other birds. It should be pointed out that three redpoles were seen in brush and field thickets near the UPJ preserve, but they have not come to feeders yet.

Correspondence with bird feeder residents of Bedford County also indicate a lack of winter finches. They do report Red-bellied Woodpeckers as commonly being seen around their feeders and some even have big Pileated Woodpeckers coming in. They all report Carolina Wren and surprisingly the ratio of Purple Finch to House Finch is far in favor of Purple Finch especially in the remote Buffalo Mills section. No one in Bedford that I've corresponded with yet has seen Pine Siskin, Common Redpole, or Evening Grosbeak. One resident of Buffalo Mills wrote, "I always look forward to seeing the grosbeaks arrive but when 32 of them showed up every day at my feeder I was sort of relieved when they left in May."

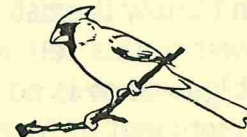
Other species of animals and birds use feeding stations. Occasionally, Sharp-shinned Hawks pick off the surplus birds. At night our feeder is busy

feeding flying squirrels which, incidentally, can easily reach inside those squirrel proof feeders (you know the kind with wire around them). Who cares when it comes to these cute little animals? Also, in my family, all scrap food is put outside to attract skunk, opossums and raccoon. The feeder also lures stray cats which pick off a few birds but surprisingly they concentrate on small mammals like mice, voles, and Red Squirrels. Our feeders are strategically positioned outside the kitchen window, more specifically directly over the sink window encouraging observers to clean up those few dishes while watching wildlife.

We still have bird seed left. Please order from the Stivers by calling 288-1759. You may also place your order at Audubon Meetings. The next meeting is January 19, 1989, at UPJ, room 240 Krebs. Although bird seed prices are up due to the 88' drought we are still competitive. Our profit is marginal but does support a potpourri of environmental activities.

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

Conservation Crossing



The importance of bird counts and plant surveys

One of the reasons our chapter was formed was to develop an organized approach to determining what species we had locally. Industry, especially coal and steel, left us with acid streams, spoil banks, unreclaimed stripmines and other waste areas. Not all was lost unless you travel the same roads each day.. Much that was pristine is still there and it needs studied more than ever. Twice in the past two years our chapter has been approached by people with questions to which an answer to might have prevented destruction of fragile environments. The first question was from a representative from Fish and Wildlife. He was concerned about an illegal fill operation on wetlands along Rt. 56., and wanted to know what plants were in the area. Our red-faced reply was "we didn't get that far yet." Hey, give us time! Had we known the answer we could have prevented further destruction but for this parcel it was already too late.

The second question came from a hydrologist attempting to prevent a landfill from being installed on 700 acres along Rt. 160. She needed to know if our Audubon Chapter knew of plants or animals of special concern that might delay or stop this leviathan of a project from taking place. (The

SOMETHING
WILD

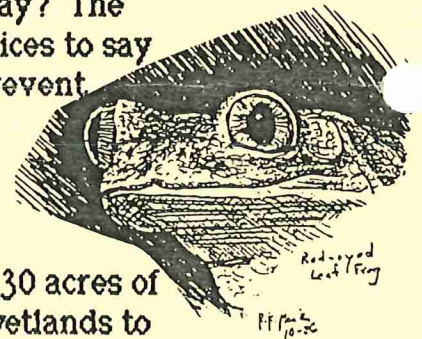


project initiated by RCC, a subsidiary of Berwin Coal Company hoped to bring 300 trucks a day of Philadelphia Garbage for 16 years and dump into this location.) Were we prepared? You bet! we did a breeding bird survey for the atlas project and knew of a thriving colony of threatened (in Pa. only) Henslow Sparrows as well as 6 other species of special concern. We didn't stop there but got involved. We reviewed the mitigation plan and found glaring problems which forced us to participate in a hearing planned for January 12. I really don't feel the idea is to block anything but to provide every available piece of information from which objective judgments can be derived. As it stood, prior to our involvement, absolutely no biologic testimony had been offered. If the project is blocked than it should never have been considered at all. All information gleaned from birding outings i.e.. Christmas Counts, century Counts, general forays and other outings is published in magazines such as Pennsylvania Birds and American Birds while plant locals go secretly into nature logs to possibly emerge later.

So you can see, information is important, knowing what we have so we can protect is part of the reason our chapter exists. How can you save the last rare orchid from being bulldozed over if you never knew it was there. Some would argue ---then what difference would it make, that is, if you didn't know it existed you would never have appreciated it anyway? The answer to this self-imposed question cannot be answered. It suffices to say that ignorance is no longer bliss when it comes to answers that prevent development of fragile habitats.

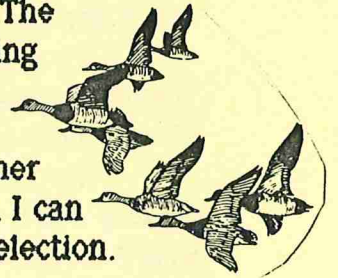
The Wetland Quagmire

If the The RCC project is approved they will destroy some 30 acres of wetlands. According to DER the RCC have to create 30 acres of wetlands to replace the 30 destroyed. Do you know the irony of this statement? To date I can truthfully say that no organization or governmental agency knows how to recreate or create wetlands. Certainly not Fish and Wildlife, and especially not the Army Corp. of Engineers. But a new resolve on protecting wetlands was distributed by DER. This document exuded definitions, early detection, education, enforcement and mitigation. Two categories were recognized, one called Exceptional Value and another called Limited Value. The limited value would not receive much protection. In reading the document I wondered who would save wetlands from DER. Although entire tracts of wetlands are secure, smaller parcels could be nicked and dined with a net loss in wetlands. Its hard to talk about wetland protection and mitigation in the same breath. The term protection is clear but mitigation means lessening the effect of damage thereby implying destruction.



Nature Brief

Although the Christmas Bird Count results will be in the next issue some early thoughts are worth musing about. Three counts I'm familiar with are the Cape Charles, Virginia, Chincoteague Virginia and our own Allegheny Plateau Count. All have indicated a dramatic decline in total numbers. If you remember, in the last Chickadee Chatter it was mentioned the drought of 1988 would have repercussions yet to be experienced. The drought may have effected different species in different ways, for instance, its obvious that prairie pothole ducks have declined, large winter flocks of crows have broken into smaller groups since corn and other crops are scarce in these counties, songbirds seem more widely scattered as well although concentrated where food is abundant, particularly feeding stations. The winter food crop in our area can only be described as meager. Feeding stations make sense this year.



One of our members, Mrs. Norman Mendenhall, is a poet and her poems will now grace the pages of the Chickadee Chatter. As editor, I can choose those I find most enjoyable and fitting and here is the first selection.

Winter Song

The quiet sun arcs low and cool and wan,
Now are the snow-still days of grey and white.
Once there were cadenced wings in ardent flight
Spilling bright accidentals on the dawn,
Unsteady moths above the dew damp lawn
Shaping eccentric circles in dusk-light,
Bloom-scented winds that winnowed summer-night
Its misty stars. all, all of these are gone.

Yet moments of amaranth endure. They mete
Renaissance that would warm the frozen year,
Slip slyly into winter dreams, make sweet
The somber ebb until the crest appear,
Lend orioles to threnody of sleet,
Loose marigolds upon the season's bier.

1980

A Time for Change

by Peter Berle

Pres. of National Audubon

A new era may have begun for those of us concerned about wildlife and the environment. On November 30th, the executive directors of four

other conservation groups and I met with President-elect George Bush. Since the door to the White House was firmly closed to environmentalists during the Reagan Era, this meeting was seen as a turnabout rich in potential for positive change.

During his campaign, George Bush promised to give his attention to a number of environmental problems that face the nation and the world. At our meeting, the new President reconfirmed his commitment to environmental protection. Most important, he promised to take seriously the many recommendations the conservation community made in "Project Blueprint." These suggestions on a wide variety of environmental challenges were compiled for the new administration by an unprecedented coalition of 18 major conservation groups.

We are cautiously optimistic that George Bush will distance himself from the failed environmental policies of the Reagan Administration and chart a new course.

The Audubon Activist Network, led by our Capitol Hill office, includes Society staff, chapter leaders, and dedicated grassroots conservationists in every corner of the country. During the last congressional session, you and your nationwide team helped rewrite the Clean Water Act, reauthorize the Endangered Species Act, pass new pesticide legislation, stall oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, save wildernesses and wetlands, and perform countless other miracles large and small. Our expert lobbyists emphasize they can not get far without your support, and your support so far has been terrific.

The Audubon Activist and the Chickadee Chatter will keep you abreast of important wildlife issues as the 101st Congress gets rolling.

Clean Air Key Issue in '89

Activists are suiting up for one of the big battles of the coming year: getting a new and better Clean Air Act passed by the 101st Congress. In a seemingly endless effort, environmentalists have been working to amend the bill with provisions for controlling acid rain, airborne emissions of toxic chemicals, and urban smog.

The "tough birds"----Audubon activists ---fought hard in 1988 and made significant gains, particularly in the House. More than 218 representatives---the magic majority of House members----signed the Vento-Green letter urging the House to move ahead on clean air legislation. Although House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell, from the auto-producing state of Michigan, had refused to let a strong bill out of committee, it looked as if a compromise was still possible in late 1988. But the final agreement was too weak to protect the environment and public health, and environmentalists were unable to support it.

AUDUBON ACTIVIST

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The work of Audubon activists in pushing forward this critical legislation cannot be underestimated, according to Audubon's grassroots coordinator Connie Mahan, and it will be even more so in the new term. She says, "We're very close to getting a clean air bill. If our clean air "tough birds" can stick with it and not lose heart, I believe we can win this issue in 1989."

Name _____

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My check for \$9 is enclosed. (Make check payable to National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.)

"There is simply no substitute for the Audubon Activist when it comes to good, hard reporting on wildlife issues.

The Activist Network is speaking out and winning environmental battles. I urge all Audubon members to subscribe!"

-Peter A.A. Berle, President

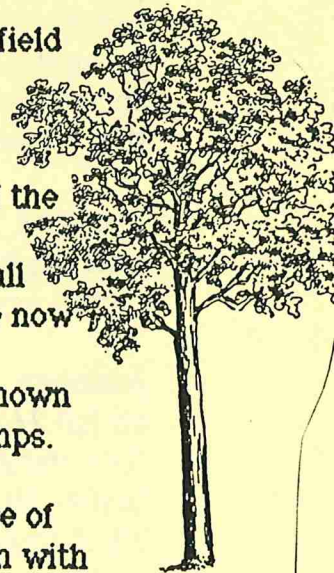
The Chatter Book Shelf

"The Birder's Handbook" by Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye published by Simon and Schuster Inc.

This highly readable guide to birds north of Mexico is organized by symbols and abbreviations; this tends to concentrate information without appearing too weighty. The birds and descriptions are on the left hand page with short essays on the right hand page. The essays are scientific subjects converted into lay literature in a delightfully interesting way. The subjects range from behavior to decline of songbirds associated with tropical overwintering. The non-toteable size makes for better armchair than field reading. It is a mini-encyclopedia worth owning.

"Eastern Forests" by John C. Kricher and Gordon Morrison--newest of the Peterson Field Guides published by Houghton Mifflin

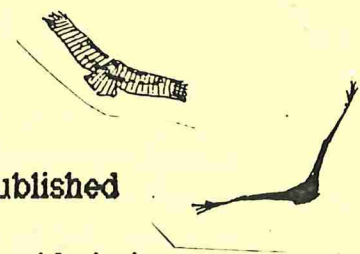
The Peterson Field Guide Series is running out of subjects, after all these guides cover everything from beetles to air. The new guides are now combining the information of previous guides and forming them ecologically. Eastern Forests is a well written book filled with "little known facts" There is something for everyone from old fields to cypress swamps. It covers temperate habitats well and can serve as a good guide to any location in Eastern United States. Again it is a home reader, not because of size but content. I wouldn't hesitate to complete my Peterson collection with this gem.



Red oak. Leslie's

"Hawks in Flight" by Pete Dunne, David Sibley and Clay Sutton published by Houghton Mifflin company.

A must for the accomplished hawk watcher. This book is no guide but rather "state of the art" identification which go well beyond the drawings and photos of traditional field guides. This book not only instructs but requires attentiveness to the gushing details; definitely for readers not leafers. Pete Dunne's neo-semantic phrases like flying into the ozone or the generic buteo guarantee the success of this book.



Outings and Programs

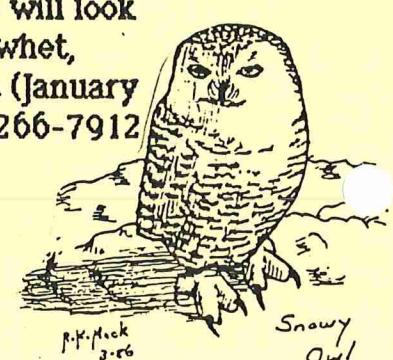
(Read carefully--included are some of the Jan.-Feb. Powdermill Nature Reserve Winter Programs. Allegheny Plateau programs all start at 7:30 at 240 Krebs at UPJ.)

January 15--Powdermill program--"Nature and Mud--an Oldster Recalls" 2:00 pm at the Florence Lockhart Nimick Nature Center
Why was winter the best season for early Pennsylvania naturalists to explore the state? Dr. M. Graham Netting, Director Emeritus of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, will talk about what has hindered and promoted the study of Pennsylvania's plants and animals from before the turn of the century to the present day. In particular, he'll explain why the study of Pennsylvania's natural history is no longer a stick-in-the-mud affair.

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!!!!

January 22--Powdermill Program--2 pm at Nimick--Winter Shadows and Light--Photography with emphasis on black and white--bring camera with b and w film.

January 28--Owling at Amherst Island--A quick trip leaving at 5 am on Jan.28 for this remote island in the St. Lawrence River. Here we will look for a variety of owls including: Snowy, Long-eared, Short-eared, Sawhet, Boreal, Hawk Owl and possibly others. Will return on Sunday night (January 29) Cost estimate \$ 90.00. For further details contact Tom Dick at 266-7912



February 5--Powdermill Program--2pm at Nimick--Winter Ramble--Join naturalist bob Mulvihill on Powdermill's trails searching for old bird's nests, animal tracks, interesting patterns of snow and ice, and winter-active insects and other animals.

¹⁶
February 10--Mr. Larson of the Pa. Fish Commission will present a program entitled "Problems and Solutions in Fisheries Management." This will be an exciting indepth look at Pennsylvania waters, how they're managed and how they're doing.

February 12--Winter Hike through a typical Northern hardwood forest. Join us at Babcock park identifying winter trees, animal tracks, looking for signs of porcupine, deer, squirrel and Wild Turkey. Leave from Richland Veterinary Hospital Parking Lot at 11am for a 2 to 3 hour hike. Contact trip leader Tom Dick at 266-7912 if you plan to attend. As with all outings please notify trip leaders at least 4 days in advance.

I.U.S.
April 28th
29th

February 26--Powdermill Program--2pm--Just Around The Corner--What unseen changes occur before the early signs of spring become apparent? bob Mulvihill will discuss the interplay of light, temperature, moisture and chemicals in plants and animals that accompanies the change from winter to spring.. A walk along Black Birch Trail will follow- a Powdermill prescription for those suffering from winter-long cabin fever!

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

Introductory Membership \$20.00 Allegheny Plateau Audubon (U20)

Name: _____

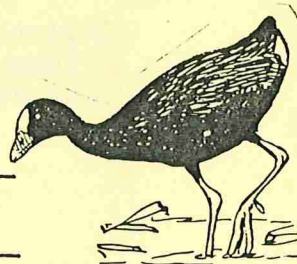
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City/ State / Zip: _____

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Make Checks payable to "National Audubon Society"
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Johnstown, Pa. 15904

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.



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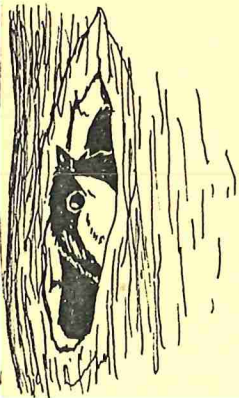
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Photography Committee: Dr. Doris Brown (255-1223) 426 Girard St., Johnstown, 15905

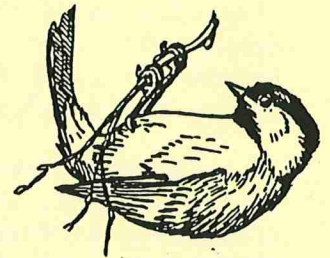
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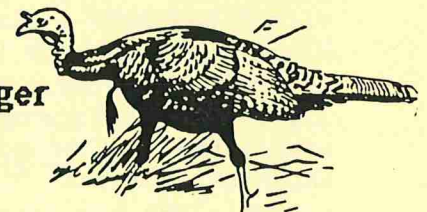
Bird Count Issue

Contents: 1988 Christmas Bird Count Data
1988 Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch Data
Programs and Outings till September of '89

I could easily call this newsletter the Ruth Sager issue. Ruth tirelessly put together all this information. These pages also reflect the work of some 60 volunteers reporting their findings. Eventually part or all of this information is fed into the following publications: Journal of the North American Hawk Migration Association, American Birds, and Pennsylvania Birds. This data when combined with observer reports from around the country tell us about the quality of our environment, whether we've been good and responsible caretakers, and those species we think might be in trouble. The data also tells of changing ranges, invasions, but most of all represents a good sampling of our local avifauna. Not surprisingly the data was the result of a "love of labor" attitude; hours on hawk duty experiencing the abuses of fall weather and 8 hours afield in the freezing temperatures of December. Our fledgling Audubon chapter has produced 6 years of data illuminating the natural history of Somerset, Cambria, and Bedford Counties.

The 1988 Christmas Bird Count

By Ruth Sager



How much did the 1988 summer's drought affect the Christmas Bird Count by the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society on December 17, 1988? Because Somerset County is reported to be the Pennsylvania county with the most applications for drought aid and because most of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) area is in Somerset County, the answer is "probably a lot". The meager leavings of corn and other grains had already been stripped from fields by mid-December, so the bird counters did not find the usual flocks of crows and other birds feeding in the cultivated fields in Somerset County. These fields normally supply food for the crows that roost in the Stackhouse Park area of Johnstown. The crow counts have ranged from 9,189 to 14,091 from 1983-87. Imagine the crow-counting team's reaction to a plummeting count of only 798 this year! On that low count rested the fate of the entire CBC. The total of 7,488 individual birds was only 35% of last year's total of 21,124 and 31% of the highest year's count of 24,370 in 1986. It was clearly our worst year for the count of individual birds.

Another spin-off of the drought was an increase in bird seed prices. Many observers noted that fewer feeders were stocked this year, especially in the city of Johnstown. Where feeders were maintained, there was a fair amount of bird activity except for finch species. The finches would also be affected by the poor supply of seeds in natural feeding areas, again a result of the drought.

If in one sense we had the worst year of our CBC efforts and place the blame on the drought, we can also say we had the best year and can credit a crew of 64 charged-up birders. They reached a new high of 70 species in Count Week by combining efforts on Count Day in the field and at home feeder watches with additional scouting for unusual species in the three days prior to and the three days after Count Day. One team literally had it in the bag when they brought in a most unusual species, an injured and emaciated Wood Thrush that they found in the North Fork Dam area. Other new CBC records included a Merlin on Coon Ridge, a Hermit Thrush near Quemahoning ("Que") Dam, a Yellow-rumped Warbler picking off flies around the window of the Sager home near Hooversville, and 5 Rusty Blackbirds found by "Que" Dam and North Fork teams. An E. Phoebe in Geistown and a Common Redpoll in Richland Twp. were second records for their species.

The hardy birders were rewarded with some unusual species by persisting in field work when temperatures were only 10-30 degrees and there were light to heavy snow flurries. The price of the good waterfowl count on the "Que" was the braving of cold, brisk winds blowing in from the dam and interference from duck hunters. With other dams and lakes already frozen, the "Que" still had a good variety of waterfowl and helped place the Mallard count of 1160 at the top of this year's listing, leaving the Crow count of 1,154 in second place for the first time in the six years of our chapter CBC.

In another sense, all were winners who enjoyed the delightful post-count party at the home of Tom and Sally Dick in the evening. The low counts could have been reason for a pity party, but that was surely not the case. As experiences were shared, new birders welcomed, and new birding techniques discussed, it seemed evident that Christmas Bird Counts were a lot of fun and should be held more often than once a year. The word to pass along to next year's crew seems to be, "Hang in there regardless of the circumstances, count what comes along, and the result will be a great Christmas Bird Count."

You may think of many angles for viewing results of the CBC as they are presented in the summary reports. A few of my observations follow. Hawks were normal, with 9 Kestrels a six-year high. Rock Dove and Mourning Dove counts were down. Mourning Doves were found in small groups at feeders rather than in large flocks in fields. There were several larger flocks of Rock Doves in downtown Johnstown and one near Camp Harmony but the remainder were in scattered small groups. Owl counts were normal. Woodpecker reports were normal excepting Red-bellied and Downies, which hit six-year highs. Horned Larks were in normal range. Blue Jays continued upward climb and finally arrived in the "Over 200" category. Birds of the forest, the Chickadees, Titmice and Nuthatches were down generally but were well-represented in feeder counts. Golden-crowned Kinglets hit a six-year low. The E. Bluebird count was the best in 6 years. Starlings were much fewer in Johnstown and in much smaller flocks than usual, most teams found small groups scattered here and there, and the largest flocks were found around barns in Jennerstown, Thomas Mills and "Que" areas. N. Cardinals dropped considerably from last year's six-year high. Am. Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos again made increases after peaking in 1985-86 and then dropping in 1987. Most of them were counted at feeders. The rest of the sparrows were entirely absent or dropped in numbers. The Blackbird species were confined to counts of 0-5. Finches, who fluctuate greatly from year to year, all decreased. Just 2 Purple Finches and 3 Pine Siskins were counted. There were no Evening Grosbeaks. The 603 House Finches marked a modest decline from 1987 and a dramatic decline from their peak of 1666 in 1986. Most were counted in Geistown, Richland and Jennerstown areas. They were noticeable by their absence in Johnstown. House Sparrows hit their peak of 1266 last year and dropped to 521 this year. There was a definite decline in downtown Johnstown. A team working in farmland in Somerset Co. and a feeder watcher in Hooversville recorded the largest flocks.

1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988

1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988

1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	
5	1	2	2	2	1*	0	1	0	0	0	0	E. Wood Pewee
5	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	E. Phoebe
1*	8	9	2	6	1	200	1*	343	272	0	215	Horned Lark
1*	0	1	0	1*	0	38	44	133	170	179	202	Blue Jay
1*	0	0	0	0	1*	10650	12388	13041	16377	12742	1154	Am. Crow
9	0	2	3	2	0	1*	0	0	0	2	2	Com. Raven
9	1	37	65	40	50	392	393	481	425	581	424	Black-capped Chickadee
1*	0	1	0	0	0	69	69	199	135	214	193	Tufted Titmouse
1	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	14	5	4	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch
8	8	17	52	32	21	67	80	71	137	166	94	White-breasted Nuthatch
538	277	950	613	1082	1160	2	1	2	11	1	3	Brown Creeper
3	7	0	0	1	0	1*	0	1*	6	3	5	Carolina Wren
0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Winter Wren
0	1	0	0	10	0	6	21	33	20	6	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet
5	3	15	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
0	0	4	0	0	0	8	7	0	5	0	11	E. Bluebird
0	1	1*	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Hermit Thrush
0	0	15	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	Wood Thrush
6	1*	1*	0	1	2	1*	0	0	0	0	0	Thrush, sp.
13	9	1	0	12	5	1*	18	3	1	0	13	Am. Robin
1	5	7	6	11	8	0	0	0	1	4	0	N. Mockingbird
0	1	1	0	0	1*	0	1*	0	0	0	0	Brown Thrasher
0	2	0	0	0	0	32	19	8	64	27	9	Cedar Waxwing
0	13	2	2	0	1*	0	0	0	1	0	0	N. Shrike
0	2	0	1	2	1	982	1193	620	1174	978	938	Eur. Starling
1	1*	6	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1*	Yellow-rumped Warbler
4	0	2	4	1	3	115	99	185	230	398	214	N. Cardinal
1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	Rufous-sided Towhee
4	18	18	12	23	18	86	41	163	115	60	92	Am. Tree Sparrow
0	1	0	0	0	2	4	11	10	0	3	0	Field Sparrow
0	1*	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	Fox Sparrow
7	8	7	5	8	9	31	17	41	43	53	45	Song Sparrow
0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	Swamp Sparrow
0	0	2	0	1	0	25	104	32	33	28	15	White-throated Sparrow
2	5	1	5	2	3	0	0	1*	0	0	0	White-crowned Sparrow
2	13	5	2	1	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	Sparrow, sp.
0	0	5	1	1	1	246	249	544	522	283	381	Dark-eyed Junco
0	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	1*	0	150	0	Red-winged Blackbird
1*	0	6	0	2	1	0	0	0	21	5	0	E. Meadowlark
0	0	0	2	6	0	0	1*	1	1	43	3	Com. Grackle
0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	Rusty Blackbird
0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	12	1*	75	1*	Brown-headed Cowbird
0	0	0	1	0	1*	0	0	0	1	0	0	Blackbird, sp.
228	246	352	435	932	581	97	84	42	0	25	2	Purple Finch
56	78	174	533	365	278	270	268	456	1666	671	603	House Finch
1*	0	2	1*	0	2	14	0	0	0	0	1*	Com. Redpoll
1*	1	1*	5	1*	3	7	0	4	8	97	3	Pine Siskin
2	1*	1	0	0	0	103	31	95	120	169	62	Am. Goldfinch
0	0	0	1	0	0	68	0	1180	74	226	0	Evening Grosbeak
0	0	1	0	1	1	410	930	496	863	1266	521	House Sparrow
0	0	0	1	1	1*							
0	1	3	0	1	0	14913	16861	19948	24370	21124	7488	Individual Birds
1*	0	3	4	3	10							
1	0	1	1	0	2							
51	58	56	74	71	76	57	52	62	61	65	61	Species on Count Day
8	10	17	12	20	17	69	59	68	63	66	70	Species in Count Week
2	2	0	6	0	2							
2	1	1	3	3	3							

* Seen in Count Week but not on Count Day

COUNTS OVER 200

OBSERVER INFORMATION

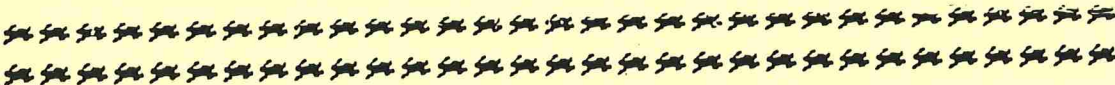
1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	
538	277	950	613	1082	1160	Mallard	43	39	58	65	59	64	Observers
10650	12383	13041	16377	12742	1154	Am. Crow	27	51	22	29	13	20	Party Hours on Foot
982	1193	620	1174	978	938	Eur. Starling	38	39	42	54	58	46	" " by Car
270	268	456	1666	671	603	House Finch	18	18	43	50	37	40	" " at Feeders
228	246	352	435	932	581	Rock Dove	31	54	28	21	14	23	Party Miles on Foot
410	930	496	863	1266	521	House Sparrow	387	476	526	522	583	424	" " by Car
392	393	481	425	581	424	Bl.-capped Chickadee	0	0	2	2	2	1	Party Hours Owling
246	249	544	522	283	381	Dark-eyed Junco							
45	78	174	533	255	278	Mourning Dove							
200	1*	343	272	0	215	Horned Lark							
115	99	185	230	398	214	N. Cardinal							
38	44	133	170	179	202	Blue Jay							
69	69	199	135	214	193	Tufted Titmouse							
68	0	1180	74	226	0	Evening Grosbeak							



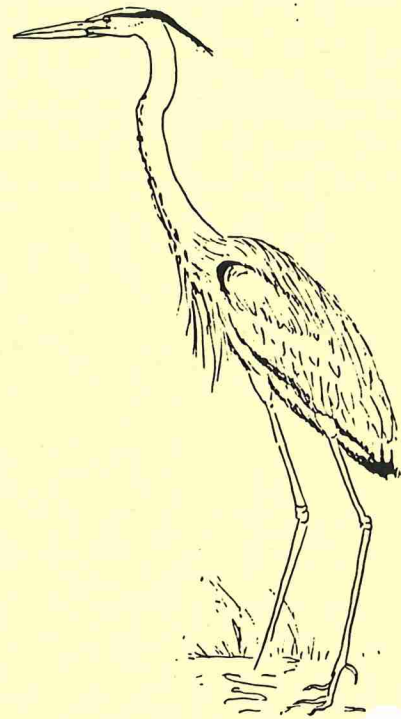
MANY THANKS to the following who participated in the 1988 Christmas Bird Count:

Richard Akers, Doris Brown, Ruth Bruner, Jane Campton, Andrew Choby, Billie Custer, Dwight Dick, Sally and Tom Dick, Wanetta Escherich, Eugene & Juanita Foor, Brian Freiwald, Margaret Haines, James Hemphill, Karen Harvey, Barry, Linda & Jodi Horne, Henry and Velva Idzkowsky, Laura & Mike Jackson, Shirley Jensen, Janidlo Family, Donald Kreutzberger, Timothy Lentz, Joan Lohr, Christy & Emmy Lou Maloy, Iris Marr, Ken Mikesic, Mary Mock, Richard Mock, Richard Murphy, Helen Nicely, Alyce Ober, Jeff & Retta Payne, Chris & Jim Rocco, Dean Ross, Nancy Rovanssek, Bob Rudegeur, Glenn & Ruth Sager, Linda & Rick Sell, Paul Sheesley, Eileen & Eric Stuver, Bill & Mike Tarpley, Jeannie & Kenneth Weible, Charles Voytko, Dorothy Williamson, Betty & Michael Wolfe.

Just a subtle reminder, yes, We have birdseed still available--- and Cheap! Call Eric Stuver at 288-3603 and arrange to pick up at reduced prices. Remember the birdseed sale profits are targeted for the Audubon Adventure Series in our local schools.



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.

1988 Tussey Mountain Hawk Report

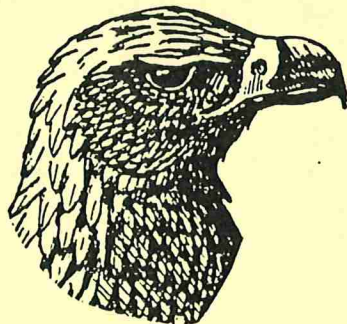
By Ruth Sager

When you look at the statistics in the accompanying summaries for the 1988 fall Tussey Hawk Watch, at first glance you may deduct that we did not have as good a year as last year. However, when you compare hours spent on watch and figure out the hawks per hour, you find that we actually dropped to only 6.18 hawks per hour in 1988, after hitting 6.27 in 1987, and exceeded the 5.87 total for 1986. In presenting these statistics, I would, therefore, like to remind you that it's all a matter of the way you look at it and would like to point out a few things that made 1988 a very good year.

The Gyrfalcon on 11/16 was definitely top bird of our five-year coverage. Having added this coveted falcon, we can only wonder, "What's next?" The seven Rough-legs were also a good record, considering that the three last year were our first. The highest Am. Kestrel count for five years was an encouraging report for this species, about which there has been a lot of concern in recent years.

Although not included on official report forms, you might be interested in some non-raptor sightings that made the days on Tussey more exciting. The Common Ravens in groups of 32 and 16 on 9/6, and 11 on 9/8 were very unusual sights for our region. The flight of 50 Double-crested Cormorants on 9/6 was topped on 9/24 by the passage of 17 Glossy Ibis. About six local Black Vultures were studied thoroughly by a number of spotters who do not find them in their home territories. Did you know that they often fly with their legs dangling? The ever-present Turkey Vultures came in for much scrutiny as they soared up and down the valleys daily, building up into large flocks in October as they gathered in the area before migration. E. Bluebirds seemed to enjoy the company of hawk-watchers and entertained us well as they hunted insects around the tower, sat on the powerlines and tower fence, and gleaned poke berries from plants a few feet from us. On very warm days flocks of Chimney Swifts milled about overhead, picking off the gnats that plagued us. On 11/8 and 11/9 a Snow Bunting was a portent of winter to come as it darted in and out among the rocks on Tussey's summit. And who could forget the occasional wild burst of joy in the Carolina Wren's fall song!

Each person who jotted down the names of birds other than hawks probably has the memory of a beautiful song, a color pattern, a special action, a migratory pattern, a new setting, or something else that has taught him something new, perhaps about a very familiar bird. The following list, itself, tells us that there is a great diversity of birdlife to be found on a fall trip to Tussey: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Tundra Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Gull (sp), Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Owl (sp), Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Pileated, Red-bellied, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, N. Raven, Am. Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Gray Catbird, Am. Robin, Wood Thrush, E. Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, E. Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, N. Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, House Finch, Am. Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, N. Junco, Chipping, Field, White-throated and Song Sparrow, and Snow Bunting.

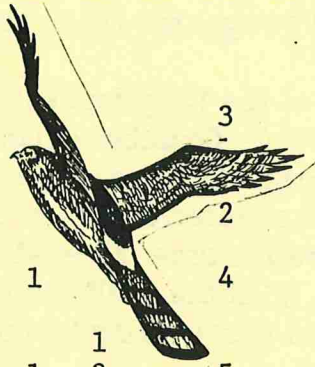


1988 TUSSEY MT. HAWK WATCH SUMMARIES

MO	DATE	HRS	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	TOT
AU	27	5						2								2		4
	29	6						3										3
TOTALS		11						5								2		7
SE	2	4.8				1							1			3		5
	3	6		2				4				1						7
	6	6		2				16				1	2			1		22
	8	2.75		4	1	1		19				1	1			1		28
	9	3.5						22				1	1					24
	10	8		11	1			30				4				12	1	59
	13	4.75						5					1	1				7
	14	6.25		4		5		200				3	7			5		224
	15	8.5		4				113				1	2			7	10	137
	18	6		9				39				2	4			1	2	57
	20	5.5		1				1					4					6
	21	4.75	1	12	1			20				1	2			3		40
	22	6.5		4	7	2	1	41					3					58
	23	6		4		2		16				3	2			2	3	32
	24	4.75		13				8					8	1		1	1	32
	26	6.3		4	1	3		6	1				2					17
	27	6.3	1	16	11	3	1	1		1	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	44
	28	6		46	6	5		7				2	4	1			3	74
	29	3		10	1	2							2	1				16
	30	7		28				1					2		2	1	1	35
TOTALS		112.65	2	174	29	24	2	549		1	1	24	49	4	3	39	23	924
OC	1	5.25		27	4	9		3	3				1		2	1	5	55
	2	2.5		7								1						8
	3	5.8		10				1			1		2		2	5		21
	4	5.6		5	3	7		1				4	1			1	1	23
	5	3.5				1							1					2
	6	5.5		6	2	3							1					12
	7	1		2														2
	8	6		18		4										1		23
	9	6		6		1						1						8
	10	5.25		9	1	2										1	2	15
	11	4.75		5	1	1											1	8
	12	5		9		7							1			1		18
	16	6.5		59	7	39	2			1		2				1	1	112
	20	7	1	15	1	42						5		1			5	70
	23	5.5		3		6	1			1	1							12
	24	5				9												9
	25	5.75		2	1	10												13
	26	6		6	1	40												47
	27	3.75		2		9						2					1	14
	29	7	1	8	1	41	1			1				1	1			55
	30	4.5		3		30							1					34
	31	5.5		3	1	34							4		1			43
TOTALS		112.65	2	205	23	295	4	5	3	3	2	20	7	3	5	11	16	604



MO	DATE	HRS	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	OT	TOT
NO	2	4		1		7								1					9
	3	3.75				3											1		4
	4	6		6		98						3					1		108
	6	4.5		2		15													18
	8	6																	0
	9	6.4				15						2					10		27
	10	7.25				5													5
	12	7		2		40			1			4					1		48
	13	4				4													4
	14	5.3				3				1									4
	15	6.1		2		82	3		1	3		5					2		98
	16	5.7	2			70	6			2		4						1*	85
	17	2					6		2										8
	18	7.4				15													15
	19	7		26	2	16				2		2				3	2		53
	22	6.5		1		36				3							1		41
	25	6														1			1
	26	3.75				3				5									8
TOTALS		98.65	2	40	2	412	15		4	16		21		1		4	18	1	536



* Gyr Falcon

YEARLY SUMMARIES 1984-1988

YR	DYS	HRS	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	OT	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	38	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
88	62	334.9	6	419	54	731	21	559	7	20	3	65	56	8	8	56	57	1	2071

1988 STATION LEADERS

Sally Dick, Tom Dick, Wanetta Escherich, Kevin Georg, William King, David Kyler
Robert Leberman, Ruth Sager, William Tarpley, Charles Voytko

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

MO - Month (first two letters)	RS - Red-shouldered Hawk	P - Peregrine Falcon
DYS - Days	BW - Broad-winged Hawk	M - Merlin
HRS - Hours	RL - Rough-legged Hawk	AK - American Kestrel
GO - Northern Goshawk	GE - Golden Eagle	U - Unidentified
SS - Sharp-shinned Hawk	BE - Bald Eagle	OT - Other
CH - Cooper's Hawk	NH - Northern Harrier	TOT - Total
RT - Red-tailed Hawk	OS - Osprey	

Outings and Programs from March to August

March 16--"Extensions of the Youghiogheny Gorge Nature Trails" by Hank Parks, President, Somerset Co. Chamber of Commerce. A good introduction to the hiking trails in the beautiful gorge region of Somerset.

March 18--Shawnee Lake Waterfowl--Join Charles Voytko during peak Shawnee waterfowl migration time. Meet at Shawnee Lake Parking lot at 8 am. Directions: leave Rt. 30 at the Shellsburg Traffic light and travel toward Shawnee Lake, stop at the first parking lot on the left just prior to the bridge. A half day event.

March 18--Hear and/or witness the nuptial flight of the woodcock. Meet Ruth Sager at the old Abex facility on Route 601 near the Quemahoning Dam at 6 pm. This is always a fun outing as we search around for these elusive sandpipers.

March 25--Spend a day in Bedford county checking out local impoundments for waterfowl. The trip leader will be Tom Dick. Meet in the parking lot of the Richland Veterinary Hospital at 7:30 am.

April 1--Waterfowl of Somerset County, join with Ruth Sager in visiting a number of marshes and lakes searching out waterfowl in their return swing back to summer breeding grounds. Meet Ruth at 8 am at the entrance of the former Abex plant near Quemahoning Dam. Presently the plant is owned by Stoney Creek Steel Company.

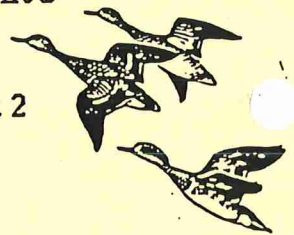
April 8-- A very early search for ephemeral spring flowers with Doris Brown. Doris will take us to some of her favorite locations. Meet Doris at 2 pm at Krebs Parking lot at UPJ. This is the same parking lot you use for monthly meetings.

April 20--Member slide night--fun filled evening , raucous at times, looking at slides of nature. Bring along your favorite slides or just sit back and watch. UPJ 7:30 at Room 240 Krebs.

May 7 --Spring Flowers, another great excursion with Botanist Doris Brown. A different time with different flowers, a great opportunity for experienced naturalists and neophytes to enjoy the delicate beauty of the forest floor. Meet at UPJ, 2 pm, Krebs parking lot at UPJ.

April 28 and 29th--Continuing Education for Teachers-- sponsored by the Soil Conservation District and The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society. The cost to members for attending this teachers conference on Project Wild is 10 dollars.

April 1 to 28--Spring Hawk Watch--This spring we will have special days to take members directly to the summit for a day of birding, talking, botanizing and cloud gazing. Those days will be announced at the regular meeting on March 16.





May 6--Century Bird Count--a day of birding within a defined area to list as many species as possible. Fun filled, hearty recreation with picnics, and nature. Leader Charles Voytko (1-623-2262) Call for specifics.

May 13--Spring Bicycle tour--Bike along a scenic route in the Confluence-Ohiopyle area. See nature in season: birds, wild flowers, deer, and small mammals which may be easily observed along the route. Call Joan Lohr at 266-5104

May 14--Mayflies, spring flowers and warblers--Join with naturalist Tim Fox for a lesson in stream ecology. Kick around for bottom dwelling insects on a pristine stream. See the mayflies leave their shuck to fly free after spending a year on the stream bottom. For details call Tim at 266-7912.

June (dates to be selected) Join with Cambria Co. birders for blockbusting parties in Cambria County. We will spend several days sniffing out birds in blocks missed during the first 5 years of the Breeding Bird Atlas work. This will be fun for both amateur and expert. At any rate the two will travel together depending on sights and sounds to round off the information on birds of this county.

June 3- Childrens Nature Walk along the UPJ trail with Joan Lohr--good first hand experience for children to learn about nature. Call Joan at 266-5104

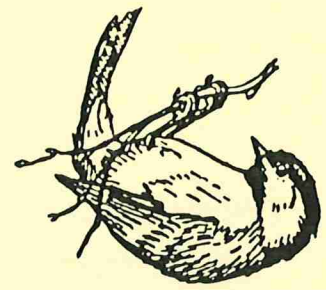
June (date to be announced) - Spend a morning chasing down some 18 species of breeding warblers along and adjacent to the Allegheny Front. This trip is to enlighten non-birders and birders alike on the variety of breeding species we have locally. Three different locations will be visited including Shawnee, Breastwork Run, and Shaffer Mountain. Call Tom Dick at 266-7912.

July (date to be announced) --Picnic at Shawnee--bring your own covered dish. Join us on member guided tours of Shawnee's marshes, uplands, breeding birds, trees and flowers. On this excursion we guarantee Bluebirds but most of all getting to know other Auduboners. Call Linda and Rick Sell at 266-5104. 2734

August 6--Bog trotting with Tom Dick over mountain glades along the Allegheny Front. Insectivorous plants, Solitary Vireos, Blackburnian Warblers, Hermit Thrushes and Veerys are just some of the treats in store for those willing to get their feet wet. Call Tom Dick at 266-7912.

Please remember that all programs, unless announced otherwise, are held in room 240, Krebs Hall at UPJ. Also remember to give trip leaders advanced notice of your participation in an outing.

Chickadee Chatter
Newsletter of the
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 6

Number 3

August 1989



Contents:

Landscaping for Wildlife
Members
Spotted Owl Controversy
New Hawk Watch
Outings
Application

Our first fall meeting is rapidly approaching , Thursday September 21. Dr. Dennis McNair, professor of biology at UPJ, will present a program entitled "The Dark Side of Insects", on those unloved critters that bite and sting. Be sure to attend and find out about activism, special projects, bird seed sales and a variety of other topics as well,----and don't forget our special hands-on biology session.

This issue is mostly about wildlife, but let me tell you how the idea materialized. One muggy day I poured myself a glass of Richland tap water and couldn't see my hand through the glass. The thought crossed my mind to start buying bottled water. But before making this transition I decided to obtain a water quality analysis to get a sense of how healthy I was about to become. The results: the water is well below EPA quality standards of 2,4,D, Methoxychlor, Lindane, Endrin, PCE, etc., etc. Somehow the bottled water lost its appeal as I prepared to swallow the EPA approved chemicals. Where do the chemicals come from? Unfortunately, everywhere! Some are necessary and others superfluous. Agriculture contributes heavily but so does your average home owner. In our undying effort to maintain sterile, seedless lawns we coddle the sweet green shoots with Pendimethalin, Dicamba, Chlorflurenol, Triclopyr and Atrazine and then we hammer the bugs with Chlorpyrifos, Diazinon, Isofenphos, and Trichlorfon. Hey, what about that skinny shrub -- let's just zap it with carbaryl, acephate, methosychlor or dicofol...

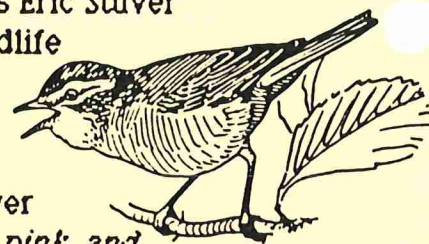
A suggestion: just say NO to lawn treatment and chemicals. Diversify your grounds with flowering shrubs, perennials, and understory trees. Make

your lawn a sanctuary for wildlife by reading the first article as Eric Stuver of Stuver's Riverside Nursery discusses his experience with wildlife landscaping.

Planting an Oasis for Wildlife

By Eric Stuver

"The imaginative gardener sows his borders not only with red, pink, and yellow hollyhocks, but also with red cardinals, rosy purple finches, and yellow grosbeaks." ----Roger Tory Peterson



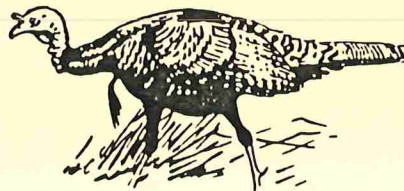
If you want to create an oasis for wildlife in your yard, we would like to offer you our hearty congratulations. You are about to enter into a new and wonderful relationship with nature, a relationship that can be absorbing and enriching for the rest of your life.

Yes, you too can plant an oasis for wildlife--and you can have great fun along the way. Gardening for wildlife is not a complicated process that requires you to have a biology degree. In fact, if you have been a gardener for some years, chances are you have already been doing some gardening for wildlife without ever knowing it. No matter where you live; no matter the size or age of your yard; no matter the size of your budget; your yard can come alive with wildlife. So, leave any misgivings behind and share your world with wildlife.

All wildlife must have four basic requirements for survival: food, water, shelter (from predators and weather) and safe places in which to reproduce and raise their young. So, the trick for attracting birds, mammals, and other creatures to your yard is simply, to manage your plants, water supply, feeder offerings, and nesting boxes so that you fulfill these needs for the greatest number of creatures.

How you arrange your plantings is just as important for your yard's diversity as the kinds and numbers of plants you select. Wildlife researchers have found that planting around open areas with shrubs and trees creates an "edge effect." In a nutshell, this simple rule of nature says that more life will be found where two different habitats meet than at the heart of either one. In your own yard, for example, you will find the greater concentration of wildlife where shrubbery and lawn come together.

How, you wonder, will you ever squeeze a variety in your small yard? Well, take heart. In fact, even if you have no yard at all, you can still provide food and water for wildlife in a window box planter. With some greenery and color from flowers, a dish of birdseed, and a shallow pan of water, your miniature wildlife habitat is ready to go. Zinnas and marigolds may bring butterflies to your window; fuchsia, red impatiens, or scarlet sage may reward you with a visit from a hummingbird.



The plants in the list below constitute the raw materials for providing natural food and cover for wildlife in your yard. These plants can sometimes be found in your local garden centers.

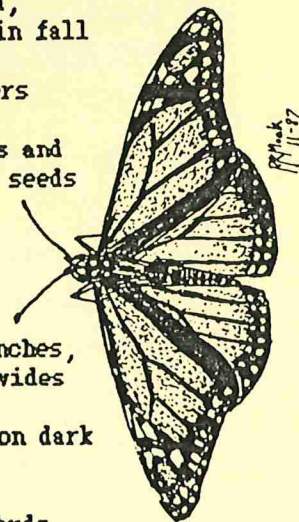


DECIDUOUS SHRUBS:

- Barberry** (*Berberis thunbergii*): bright red fruits offer winter food for mockingbirds, waxwings, and sparrows. Plant provides good nesting sites for sparrows.
- Dogwood, Redosier** (*Cornus serices*): provides dense cover in summer. Catbird, thrasher, Downy Woodpeckers, thrushes, and finches favor small white fruits which ripen from July to October.
- Honeysuckle, Tatarian** (*Lonicera tatarica*) provides summer nesting and protective cover. Birds eat red fruits in early summer. Plant "Arnold Red" to attract hummingbirds.
- Lilac, Common** (*Syringa vulgaris*); clusters of fragrant white, lilac, or purple flowers provide nectar for many butterflies in May.
- Privet** (*Ligustrum* species): Butterflies sip nectar from white flowers in spring. Provides dense cover for birds in summer. Mockingbirds and waxwings eat black fruits in fall.
- Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier* species): Mockingbirds, thrushes, waxwings, cardinals, squirrels, chipmunks, and bears feed on the purple fruit that ripens in summer.
- Viburnum, American Cranberrybush** (*Viburnum trilobum*): Cardinals waxwings thrushes, finches, woodpeckers, chipmunks, and red squirrels eat the bright red fruits in fall and winter.
- Viburnum, Arrowwood** (*Viburnum dentatum*): Provides good protective cover in summer. Robins, bluebirds, other thrushes, catbird and vireo favor the bluish black fruit that ripen in late September and October.
- Buckthorn** (*Rhamnus crocea*): Dense, spiny foliage offers protective and nesting cover. Mockingbird, catbird, and thrushes eat fleshy red fruit that ripens in fall.
- Cottoneaster** (*Cotoneaster* species): Mockingbirds, finches and waxwings eat bright red fruits in fall and winter. Large species provide protective cover.
- Holly** (*Ilex* species): Provides protective cover. Mockingbird, bluebird, hermit thrush, squirrels, and raccoon eat bright red fruits which ripen in fall and persist into winter.
- Juniper, Pfitzer** (*Juniper chinensis* 'Pfitzeriana'): Dense foliage offers nesting sites for some birds and year-round cover.
- Yew, Hicksi** (*Taxus media* 'Hicksi'): Dense foliage offers nesting sites and excellent protection cover. Robin, mockingbird and sparrows eat nutlike seeds contained in red, berrylike fruit.

DECIDUOUS TREES

- Ash, White** (*Fraxinus americana*): Good protective cover in summer. Finches, quail, turkey and rodents eat the winged seeds which ripen in fall. Provides food for butterfly caterpillars.
- Cherry, Wild Black** (*Prunus serotina*): Many birds and chipmunks feed on dark purple fruit that ripens from July to October. Plant provides food for butterfly caterpillars.
- Crabapples** (*Malus* species): Many species of wildlife eat the fruits, buds, and seeds. Plant small-fruited varieties for best wildlife use.
- Dogwood, Flowering** (*Cornus florida*): Over 100 species of birds and mammals favor the glossy red fruits that ripen in fall. Plant offers food for butterfly caterpillars.



Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*): Finches, chickadees, and squirrels eat the seeds, buds and flowers. Provides nest sites for many birds.

Mountain Ash, European (*Sorbus aucuparia*): Waxwings, catbird, and thrushes (including bluebirds) favor orange red fruit that ripens from August to September. Fruit can persist into winter.

Oaks (*Quercus* species): Many animals including wild turkey, bluejay, titmouse, woodpeckers, deer, squirrels, and other rodents eat acorns in fall and winter.

Raccoon, squirrels and woodpeckers use tree cavities as homes.



EVERGREEN TREES

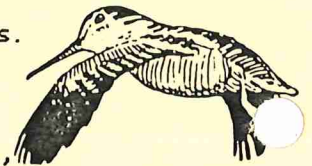
Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*): Provides year-round protective cover. Red squirrel, chickadees, nuthatches, and jays eat small, winged seeds contained in cones. Deer and rabbits browse on twigs.

Hemlock, Eastern (*Tsuga canadensis*): Offers excellent winter cover for deer and nesting sites for veery, junco, and warblers. Red squirrel, siskin, chickadees, nuthatches, and crossbills favor small, winged seeds contained in cones.

Holly American (*Ilex opaca*): Offers year-round protective cover. Thrushes, mockingbird, robin, bluebirds, and pileated woodpecker eat red fruit in fall and winter.

Pines (*Pinus* species): Offers year-round protective cover for many species. Cavity-nesting birds use cavities in older trees, finches, nuthatches, chickadees, and jays eat small winged seeds contained in cones.

Spruce, Blue Colorado (*Picea pungens* 'Glauca'): Provides year-round protective cover. Chickadees, nuthatches, crossbills, and siskin eat small, winged seeds contained in cones. In winter, rabbits and whitetailed deer browse on foliage and twigs.



These are only a sample of some plants available at your local garden center. Talk to your local nursery and garden center personnel. Their working knowledge of horticulture and landscaping in your community is one of your best sources of information. See what plants they feature, looking especially for those that will provide food and shelter for wildlife. If you don't see what you want, ask if they can order it for you.

Members in the News

Linda and Rick Sell ran a very successful first annual Audubon picnic at Shawnee State Park. Our pavilion overlooked the lake and was cool during a very hot day. As only Auduboners can appreciate we were treated to a fruit-laden mulberry tree teeming with Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds, Kingbirds, House Wrens and Northern Orioles. It was a "covered dish" picnic with barbequed food and beverages provided by the chapter.

An outing led by Tom Dick to the mountain glades produced a number of orchids, carnivorous plants, wetland plants and a Northern Goshawk that has been hanging around the area for some months--we think a breeding bird since a pair had been seen earlier.

Ruth Sager has tirelessly finished up the toughest county in Pennsylvania for Breeding Bird Atlas information: Cambria. Traditionally thought of as ravaged, Cambria is full of quiet valleys, trout streams and unspoiled open mountains with abundant breeding bird habitat.

A delegation of local Auduboners including **Linda Sell**, **Ruth Sager**, and **Kevin Georg** attended an informal hearing regarding the possible destruction of the wetland along Stoughton Lake's drainage. Interest in this project was sparked by **Bob Mulvihill**. I've recently heard the project has been dropped.

Our Corresponding Secretary **Margaret Haines** keeps us posted on the stewardship of the Quemahoning Dam.

Doris Brown and **Richard Mock** have contributed time and effort to encourage interest in Stackhouse Park by conducting a number of interpretive flower and bird outings.

Dr. Andrew Choby continues his bluebird box project. The results of such projects become obvious when one looks at the abundant numbers of Bluebirds; for example on the UPJ crosscountry trail, while jogging, I saw 10 Bluebirds all at the same time.

Joan Lohr who runs our Children's Hike each year writes the following,

Seven eager hikers showed up on a sunny June 3rd Saturday to participate in the trek thru the UPJ Nature Trail. Jeremiah (Thompson) and Daniel (Rosenberg) acted as scribes and jotted down our findings - numbering among them were eight chipmunks, two rabbits (one live one not), a monarch butterfly, and groundhog. The wildflowers were abundant violets, daisy, dandelion, goldenrod, fleabane, bluets, and mayapple to mention a few. Jeremiah and April (Walsh) helped capture and identify a salamander which was studied for awhile and then set free.

Everyone took a short break for a picnic. On the way out Toni and Matthew (Belskey) along with the rest of the group bid farewell to the woodpecker who was performing to our delight.

Look for these young auduboners at our fall meetings."

Tom Dick has received word that the application for the landfill near Central City has been turned down. To reapply would require a complete redesign of the facility. Remember this landfill would have been in the middle of the headwaters of some of the best water we have, the streams of the Kiskiminetas drainage. These waters begin near the Allegheny Front and flow westward to the Mississippi River. Ultimately, if the project were approved, we would be seeing hundreds of trucks hauling Philadelphia and possibly New Jersey garbage daily.

Dr.'s Jeff and Retta Payne of Somerset were sponsored by the Allegheny Plateau Audubon in the New Jersey Big Bird Day. Sponsors paid so much per bird and with enough sponsors a great deal of money could be made. The Paynes saw over 150 species of birds contributing to the treasury of our chapter. We also congratulate them on the birth of their first child, a son!



Chris Dick joined the Spotted Owl confrontation by lobbying in Washington from September 5 to 8th. Here is a brief overview on the controversy: There are few areas in this country where virgin forest exists with the exception of the Pacific Northwest. Here great patriarchal stands of cedar, spruce, fir and hemlock stand, some 250 feet tall and 12 feet in diameter. These trees block out light leaving little understory but in the process provide habitat for a number of dependent species such as flying squirrels, pine martin, marbled murrelets and spotted owls to name a few. Can you guess what the problem is? That's right... lumbering. We need lumber, we also need to guard national living treasures. The villain is the Forest Service and its annual selling of 50,000 acres per year of **your** national forest. The national forest belongs to you just as much as corporate America. The unique ecology of these old growth forests would fill many textbooks yet it is poorly understood, at least when it comes to dependent species. The Spotted Owl is an example. It needs continuous old forest to survive. Lumbering and development isolate breeding populations due to their reluctance to fly over anything but continuous ancient forest. This species is already listed as threatened in Oregon and endangered in Washington. Efforts to put the Spotted Owl on the Federal endangered species list have failed thus far. yet the population is declining at the rate of 8% per year. Thus the need for action and the reason for the special action alert letter sent to a number of our Audubon members to write or call Congressman Murtha who sits on the committee.

What good is an old forest?

by Chris Dick

I have always known that a 1000 year old Redwood has more intrinsic value than one thousand redwood chairs, and that although a booming timber industry relies on the clearcutting of America's ancient forests, those of us who recognize the value of rarely-renewable, infinitely complex ecosystems must do what we can to preserve the remaining fragments of "old growth" forest in the United States.

As an Audubon lobbyist in Washington from September 5-8 I had to match my sentiments against those of legislators on the economic costs of conservation. I had to come up with sell-able answers to, **What good is an ancient forest (if not for lumber)?** and, **Why should Pennsylvanians concern themselves with national forests in Washington, Oregon, and Northern California?** The first question is one environmentalists must attend to no matter what plant, animal, or river they're trying to preserve. The second reflects a growing influence of environmental groups in D.C.

and the concurrent view that environmentalists are largely affluent, liberal Easterners with little understanding of the needs of loggers (or of miners, whalers, or developers for that matter).

The ancient forests of the Northwest are composed of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, and Redwoods that have persisted on the rocky slopes of Western North America since the most recent ice age. Individual trees are 500 to 1000 years old, and tower over 200 ft. Although presently the so-called "old growth" forests are fragments of what they once were, they support an ecosystem of such complexity and diversity that on a single conifer one may count up to 1500 invertebrate species adapted to the particular microclimatic and ecological conditions of the base, stem, and crown of the tree. At least 118 vertebrate species have their primary habitat in the old growth; of these 41 can find their nesting, breeding, or foraging grounds nowhere else.

Few people appreciate that these old growth forests are a genuine national treasure. Some of the conifers that stand undisturbed in our wilderness areas today were mature during the middle ages and could have provided timber for Western Europeans who were then exterminating their last virgin forests. Non-Indian Americans do not have cultural treasures like cathedrals, literature, or art from the 13th century. But, amazingly, we have trees that are older, and ecosystems that are more complicated and confusing than our own political system. To sacrifice them for the short term demands of the market is like burning a Rembrandt to heat one's home.

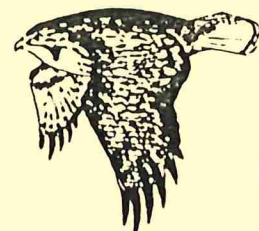
Fortunately there are alternatives to this destruction that will sustain logging communities longer than clearcutting will. Sooner or later there will no more old growth forests to log, and as with buffalo hunters, whalers, and local steel workers, the logging communities will have to face an economic turn. Alternatively the Forest Service can provide impetus and funding for timber management on private and public lands that have already been logged. They can create legislation to curb the quantity of jobs lost when unprocessed logs are exported directly to Japan. Finally, they must realize that there is plenty of money to be generated by tourism, fisheries, and watersheds which are dependent on undisturbed forests.

The most recent legislation affecting old growth forests is an amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill proposed by Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon. It mandates the Forest Service to award no less than 8 billion board feet of old growth timber by the end of the fiscal year. This is a figure not even the Forest Service believes it can approach without seriously endangering fisheries, drinking water, and Northern Spotted Owl habitat. In addition (and of special concern to lawmakers) the amendment states that "there shall be not more than one level of administrative appeal of any decision by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to undertake any activity directed by this section for timber sales to be prepared, advertised, offered, and awarded during fiscal year 1990..." This technical jargon means that environmental groups will not be able to take the Forest Service or BLM to court even when they violate the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Wilderness Act or any other law. It places federal agencies above the law while stripping citizens of essential legal powers. Should a federal agency like the Forest Service be trusted with such a mandate? Of course not. Checks and balances are essential, as the recent H.U.D. scandal has proven.

There is hope, political hope, that is. The Hatfield amendment has not yet been debated in the House. Here is where local activists can make a difference. Our representative, John Murtha, is a senior legislator who will be voting on the Interior bill in mid-September. Our letters, calls, and visits to his office prove that national forests are of national concern. Every letter that arrives to his office represents 10 additional constituents who are concerned but haven't yet become "politicized" to the issue. If we make our politicians aware of our sentiments they will undoubtedly think of us when making future decisions regarding the environment.

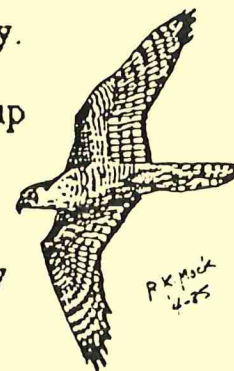


(Rep. Murtha's aid for interior affairs is Judy Grundy; (202) 225-2065)



New Hawk Watch Site

Yes, the rumor is true. We've moved the hawk watch, for at least this year, from Tussey Mountain to the Allegheny Front, for the following reasons: easier access; the front is over 800 feet higher than Tussey and continues to the Northeast corner of the state; need for new information after 5 years of information gathering at Tussey; no permits are required; we can drive to the location. The site will be on Col. George Gage's property. Col. Gage, a long-time friend of UPJ and the community has graciously offered his property as the site for the 89/90 hawk and eagle count. A group of Auduboners have cleaned out a lot of trees to make the view more open and may in the future construct an observation platform. These improvements will give us excellent views of the NE, E, SE with mediocre views of the western approaches. Okay, who are the hawk watchers? They are as follow: Sally Dick, Tom Dick, Kevin Georg, Ruth and Glenn Sager, Tim Fox, Neil Woffinden and others wishing to join the team. Any member wishing to travel to the site should contact one of the above leaders. Thus far we are managing the site 7 days a week. This hawk watch is located south of Central City.



Bird Seed Sale

Order your seed now! Prices will be available at the next meeting.

Fall outings and programs

Allegheny Front Hawk Watch: continuous outing from September to December. Join up with the hawk committee in our new beautiful mountain location.

September 21--"The Dark Side of Insects" a special program on biting and venomous insects by Dr. Dennis McNair. Meet in room 240 Krebs at 7:30 at the Johnstown College of the University of Pittsburgh.



October 19--Program to be announced--Meet in room 240 Krebs at 7:30 at the Johnstown College of the University of Pittsburgh.

November 16--Program to be announced--again meet in room 240 Krebs at 7:30 at the Johnstown College of the University of Pittsburgh

December 16-- Christmas Bird Count--each year we have over 50 people participate in this extremely enjoyable outing. We all meet afterward for

count tally, warmth, food and tall tales. Please call Ruth Sager for details at 798-3242.

Powdermill Nature Reserve's powerpacked fall program--to confirm programs or to get directions just call (412) 593-6105.

September 17--Drying herbs
September 22--Astronomy
September 29--wetlands
October 1--Bird Banding
October 6--Local Archaeology
October 8--Nature Photography
October 13--Wood sculptor

October 20--Autumn Poetry and Prose
October 22--Recycling
October 27--night walk
October 29--waterfowl tour

The Allegheny Plateau Audubon society is very active and dedicated to serving the natural history needs of our area. We have focused on endangered wetlands, initiated species inventories of birds and plants, conducted breeding bird census, helped in the planning of parks, attended many hearings and lobbied in Washington, maintained hawk counting stations, rehabilitation clinics, supported school ecology programs, conducted seminars, continuing education programs for teachers, outings, programs and, frankly, I'm getting tired of listing. If you subscribe to these goals why not buy a friend a membership. Membership in the Audubon Society opens many doors to natural history, for instance, if your interested in birds or plants we have lots of experts to help you progress along. 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 Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society (U20)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

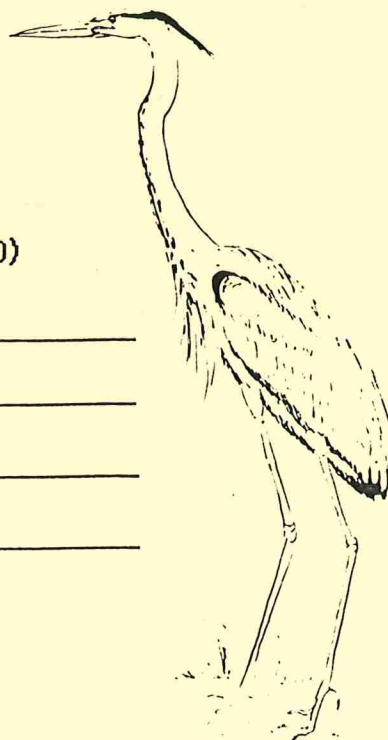
Phone Number (Area Code) _____

Mail Check for \$20.00 payable to "National Audubon Society"

Mail to: Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society

1003 Eisenhower Blvd.

Johnstown, Pa. 15904



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