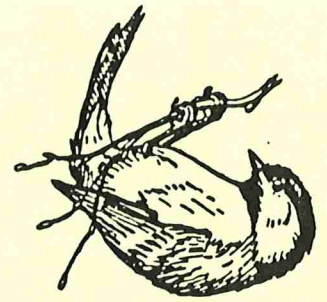


**Chickadee Chatter**  
Newsletter of the  
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 7

Number 1

January 1990

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Special Issue on Stripmining

**The Enigma of Stripmines: my opinion**

Tom Dick

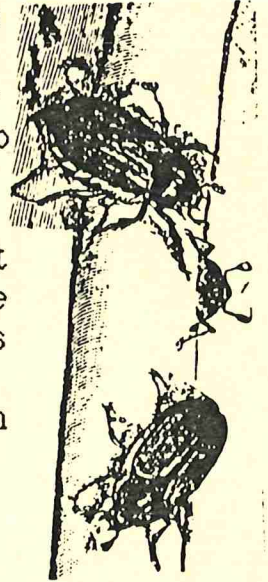
Recently our Audubon Society participated in a panel discussion at UPJ on stripmining as a non-economy. The topic was an emotional spin-off created by a proposed 4000 acre stripmine planned for Dishong Mountain and undetermined acreage in Lower Yoder. The meeting was well attended by township supervisors and worried landowners. The panel, however, managed to raise far more questions than it answered. The following part of the panel presentation, was our chapter's response to stripmining practices.

In order to understand the physical impact of stripmining on nature, just think of what you have now as opposed to what you'll have later. Take a walk into Penn's woods and you'll see hemlock lined mountain streams, mountain glades, wet meadows, natural forest openings, canopies of oaks, poplar, cherry, beech, maple and birch, understories of dogwoods, witch hazel and sassafras, shrubs of laurel and viburnums, and ground cover of lycopods and ferns. Certainly much more complex than the replanted stripmine with its clover, timothy, orchard grass, and birdsfoot trefoil. Truthfully you can't see the forest for the trees since most life is small and obscure. The natural system has evolved and adapted over thousands of years and represents an exceedingly complex community. Take our mountain streams for instance, these streams are productive coldwater fisheries for brooktrout. Brooktrout are genetically adapted to specific streams, they've evolved to the streams chemistry, food, temperature and basin expansion. They live on benthic insects like mayflies, stoneflies, black flies and caddisflies. The insects in turn feed on algae and bacteria films on the rocks. During the month of May the mayfly larva leave the bottom and emerge as the flying adults where they are heavily fed upon by trout, fly eating birds and bats. The trees surrounding the stream house hundreds of different species of insects in the form of moths, bark beetles, ants and leaf borers to name a few. They in



turn provide food for amphibians, birds and mammals. This whole system is integrated, renewable, productive and successful.

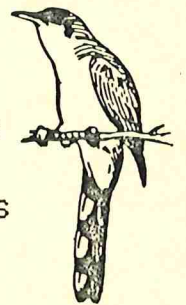
But what I just described can either be called a working ecosystem or an overburden, the term used by stripminers for all that needs removed in order to reach the coal. Can you imagine looking at a beech tree with its numerous root sprouts and call it overburden. So, let's assume we are now having the forest removed; the question is what is the replacement. We no longer have leaf litter, decaying logs, and trees pushing minerals and occasionally nitrates into the soil, we're missing the detritus feeders, decomposers, bird and mammal excrement. We're missing the oak tree that in a good year a single oak tree can drop over 28,000 acorns. We now have grasslands seeded by agricultural technology and subjected to the vagaries of weather. The replaced top soil is nutrient poor since organic material, when exposed to air, oxidizes. Some grasses will have to struggle along with that dilemma.



A surface mine is a multifaceted insult to nature and not only provides low botanical diversity but low animal species diversity. Many mountain streams will undergo heavy sedimentation from lumbering and stripmining and thermal pollution from removal of vegetation. Several streams are already being stressed in the Deshong area, Wildcat stream has suffered severe thermal pollution causing its brook trout population to retreat to less safe headwaters. Laurel Run, when I last visited it, was evidencing much sedimentation from the sloppy lumbering practices prior to the mining. Immediate monetary benefit, which only a few receive, ignores long term renewable benefits such as lumber and agriculture. Its true we will get species that are adapted to grasslands but they are few compared to the original system. Let's explore this area in more detail.

Stripmining removes 100% of the plants that evolved and adapted to the climate and conditions of that specific region. The soil erosion control (replanting) is a token contribution of grasses, legumes, trees and shrubs, of which many are not native to Pennsylvania. Runoff, during heavy deluges, is held back more successfully with trees than grasses. This is important since it allows the basin waterlevel to adjust.

The decline of Eastern Songbirds since the end of World War II has been dramatic especially over the eastern US. The loss is particularly evident from small forest tracts as opposed to large uninterrupted forests. Why the decrease? In all fairness the destruction of tropical rain forests is important for species that migrate. But consider the fact that many of our warblers, flycatchers, tanagers, grosbeaks, cuckoos, sapsuckers and thrushes are only winter visitors to the tropics while our eastern forests are where they breed and raise young. Over the last century about half of the forest breeding habitat of certain species of birds such as the worm eating warbler was destroyed.



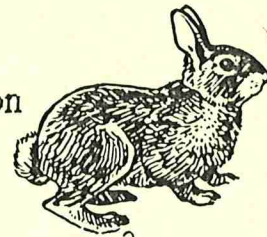
Why do birds decline with mining activity. Its obvious they would dissappear from the site being mined but why would they not just go into adjacent tracts of forest? The reasons are largely biologic--reducing woodland habitat reduces the minimum habitat needed for territory and safety from predation. Ecologists speak of the ecotone or "edge" affect, it is where two environments such as woods and fields converge. The area is particularly species rich since birds can choose nesting sites within shrubs, trees, or grass. Edges can also be detrimental for it allows species such as cowbirds which are parasitic egg layers to extend their range by invading the woods. This does not occur in large tracts of forest. Along the edge we also have greater numbers of Grackles, crows, blue jays, dogs, cats, rats, raccoons that also penetrate the smaller forests emptying the land of songbirds. So we have a significant impact zone.

Stripmining results in a 62% reduction in bird species since 83 forest species are displaced and than replaced by 23 field species. With few exceptions field species are doing well where the forest species especially the warblers are doing poorly.

What of mammals? Of the 63 species of mammals living in Pennsylvania only about 7 would profit from properly reclaimed land. In otherwords this means that the mammal population could be reduced by almost 85% in the conversion from forest to grasslands. The red fox, meadow vole, striped skunk, virginia opossum, coyote, meadow jumping mouse and eastern cottontail would profit from open land but mostly not the fields but the edges while over 50 species could be permanently displaced. Out of the 7 benefactors none are uncommon except the coyote whose status within the commonwealth is presently unknown. Grasslands simply don't have the diversity of forests.

The strip mining application does not require a complete bioassay of species rather it directs its efforts to reclamation. This is contrary to the efforts of protecting plants. The Wild Resources Conservation Act was passed in 1982 by the Pennsylvania Legislature. This empowered DER to conduct investigations on wild plants in order to ascertain information relating to population, distribution, habitat needs, limiting factors, and other biological and ecological data to classify plants to to determine management measures necessary for their continued ability to sustain themselves successfully. Isn't this a little ironic when DER's own Bureau of Mines and Reclamation does not require a formal plant and animal survey in a area to be mined.

The term Reclamation should be replaced by mitgation since reclamation implies restoring to a useful condition while, infact, your just lessening the damage. Reclamation is geared to game species rather than non-game species. Rabbits, pheasant, and turkey are not in danger, but soon

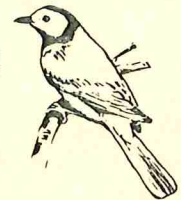


a number of non-game species may fall into various categories of concern and they're not part of the reclamation equation.

I would like to remind you that Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution guarantees the right of the people to "pure water and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment." I would also like to remind you that DER under the Casey Administration has gone on the record in a document submitted by Arthur A. Davis, Secretary of DER as saying they intend to stop the loss and degradation of Pennsylvania's wetlands and to protect and enhance remaining wetlands ecosystems. Deshong Mountain is nothing more than a giant water shed with deep valleys, wooded benches, and relief of over 800 feet. Historically within the United States over 8 million acres of land have been stripped with an estimated 30 million to go. Its time to stop our tunnel vision, our nickle and dime approach to damaged land called reclamation, to reconsider whether one time exploitation is worth a millennia of unrecoverable resources and whether DER should be the licensing agency. The resources of timber, wildlife, agriculture and consumptive and nonconsumptive recreation far exceed the irreversible damage of stripmines. I wonder if a public polling would indicate a significant percentage of the people to be against stripmining, and if so, would our elected representatives respond to the wishes of their constituency by bringing change to our surface mining permit process.

## **SURFACE MINING IN PENNSYLVANIA, CITIZEN RESPONSES**

**William Barbin**

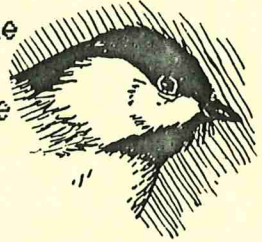


Coal stripping operations in Cambria and Somerset Counties continue to be permitted creating harm to home foundations, walls, animal habitat and clean streams. While citizen groups offer objections, and while many branches of DER are sympathetic, more often than not surface mines are permitted and wreck their havoc on the general environment.

The major problems facing citizen groups in fighting surface mines are a lack of expert technical assistance and an inability to determine the critical times for objections. There are, however, certain actions that citizens can take by themselves to contest surface mining which will get by at least some of the problems.

The DER has adopted a petition procedure whereby certain areas are designated off limits to surface mining. For persons who have access to DER regulations these rules are contained in 25 Pa. Code Sections 86.101 through

86.129. The purpose of this procedure is to identify areas that represent special values to the community, such as historic, animal habitat, trout streams, special hazards, natural features, or renewable resources such as important aquifer. Additionally, the DER can grant the designation solely on the basis of local land use (Zoning) rules. This in effect causes the DER and not the local municipality to enforce any local restrictions on strip mining. This avoids costly litigation for the local municipality. The tremendous value of this procedure is that once a petition is accepted the DER uses its staff to research technical issues. At the conclusion of the study, public hearings are held and the decision is reevaluated by the Environmental Quality Board. If the determination is favorable, a regulation is adopted which prohibits surface mining in the area. Forms for this petition can be obtained from:



Environmental Studies Section  
Bureau of Mining and Reclamation  
Room 205 Executive House  
Department of Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 2357  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The key to this procedure is the initial 30 day evaluation which determines if the petition is frivolous. This requirement seems to be met by: 1) a completed application; 2) identification of some important resource in the area, (trout stream, scenic beauty, or important historic feature); and 3) some evidence that mining in the general area has created harm. While the procedure will not be used to protect a couple of wells, it can be used to protect a good quality stream. The other important factor is that a strip mining application does not need to be filed to allow the petition. In fact, coal operators are prohibited from filing permits while the petition is pending. Groups in the Altoona area have used this procedure successfully several times to stop strip mines on the Allegheny Front.

The local citizens on Dishong Road have prepared such a petition to protect the Laurel Run Watershed. Several of these persons have been very successful at creating publicity and getting support of public officials. The next few months will tell us how successful that will turn out.

Even if a petition is not filed, public hearings on permits must be provided if there is even one citizen's request. However, the request must be made between filing and action on the permit request. Requests for public hearings in Cambria and Somerset Counties should be addressed to:

P.J. Shaw, Director  
Bureau of Mining and Reclamation  
R.D. #3, Wilmore Road  
P.O. Box 625  
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania 15931-0625

### Information update

For those members questioning whether they're still getting the chatter, a quick explanation: the Chickadee chatter has become more quarterly than bimonthly due to its 8 to 10 page length and the expense of publication. We could be more swift in the delivery process if we had some special needs fulfilled such as members willing to organize field trips ideas, help in the layout, write articles or palagerize others.

The next issue will have the results of the Christmas Bird Count held on December 16 and also the complete data for the Alleghney Mountain Hawk Watch. Incidentally, on the hawk watch, we had close to 80 different members show up, and on several days we had close to 30 observers sitting around watching raptors soaring by. At last, the hawk watch has now become a successful 3 month outing.

At the October meeting we decided to do plant and animal inventories of various wetlands and place the information where it is accessible to the public. This endeavor will largely replace the now completed breeding bird atlas work. Ruth Sager is chair-person and would be happy to have lots of people on her committee. Outings will be advertised in the chatter. Don't miss an opportunity to study pristine mountain glades and lowland marshes.

President Linda Sell and Membership Chair-person Rick Sell once again setup and manned the Audubon Booth at the Annual Sportsman Show.

We hope to have Shawnee State Park's first ever bird checklist completed by February. If any of you wish to help don't hesitate to call Tom Dick. The list will be available for all park users and may stimulate more interest in nature appreciation.

Lastly, Eric Stuver still has bird seed available, the mixed seed is gone but we have the following at good prices: 50 lbs. of 75/25 Sunflower Seed (75% graystripe and 25% black oil ) is \$15.50, 50 lbs. of all Graystripe is also \$15.50 while thistle is .90/lb. Order by calling Eric Stuver, the nursery is closed during the winter, so call first. We have a Pine Siskin Invasion year so feed that thistle.

Introductory Membership Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society (U20)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Fee: \$20

Make checks payable to: "Allegheny Plateau Audubon Socoety"

Mail to: Allegheny Plateau Audubon Socoety

1003 Eisenhower Blvd.

Johnstown, Pa. 15904



## Outings and Programs

(Includes both our chapter outings as well as Powdermill nature Reserve. For Powdermill outings call (412) 593-6105 for further details. Also note room change from room 240 to room 221)

January 18--A interesting lecture on **Bird Navigation** by Dr. Neil Woffendon at 7:30 pm in room 221 Krebs.

January 21--Powdermill Nature Reserve--(2:00 pm) **Cooking with Herbs**

January 27--**Winter Wildlife:** Buds, tracks, birds, and mammals. This outing will be run by Ruth Sager (796-3242) Call for details and arrangements.

January 28--Powdermill--(2:00 pm)--**Folk songs** by poet/naturalist Bill Paxton.

February 4--Powdermill--(2:00 pm) Join herpetologists Dr. Graham Netting in learning about **Penn's reptiles and amphibians.**

February 3--Crash all day birding at **Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge** with Tom Dick. Call Tom For details--we will leave on Feb. 3 and return on the 4 th after visiting several other refuges on the way home. Call 266-7912 for detailsP

February 11--Powdermill--Join up with two **tree experts** and learn the silva of Black Birch Trail at Powdermill

February 10 -12 **Amherst Island** for Winter Owling--A whirlwind tour of Amherst and Ottawa looking for owls, northern finches and unusual waterfowl and gulls. Call Tom Dick for details at 266-7912.

February 15--Dr. Greco, biologist with Penelect will discuss **acid rain legislation:** its complexity and economic implications. UPJ at 7:30, room 221 Krebs.

February 18--Powdermill--**winter tracks**

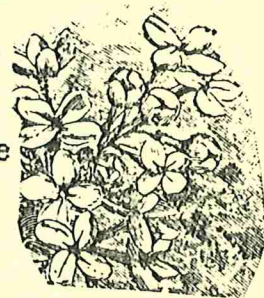
February 24--**Birding Bedford County** with Tom Dick--all day van trip to different locations ferreting out waterfowl, raptors and passerines.

February 25--Powdermill--travel log on the **Sahara Desert** by Martha Lou Schove.

March 17--**Shawnee Lake Waterfowl**--a morning excursion with Charles Voytko--call Charles Voytko for details (Bus: 623-2262, Wk. ends 539-3493)

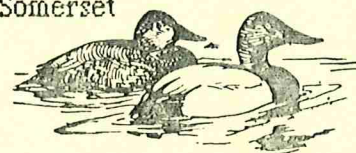
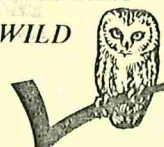
March 15--**Lecture on Pennsylvania Mammals** by Joe Merritt. Joe is a resident scientist at Powdermill and author of "Guide to the Mammals of Pennsylvania." Copies of his book will be on sale and Joe will be glad to autograph. UPJ Krebs 221 at 7:30 pm.

April 1--**Waterfowl excursion** with Tim Fox.--visit Quemahoning Dam, Somerset Lake, Samii's Swamp and Lasky's pond. Call Tim at 495-9011 for details.



DO SOMETHING

WILD



## The Folks running the show

President: Linda Sell (266-2734) RD2 Box 457, Johnstown, 15904  
Vice President: Joe Emerick (472-7540) Box 235, Ebensburg, 15931  
Recording Secretary: Joan Lohr (266-5104) 255 Collegiate Dr., Johnstown, 15904  
Corresponding Secretary: Margaret Haines (255-3988) 1421 Mary Dr., Johnstown, 15905  
Treasurer: Eric and Eileen Stuver (288-3603) RD 7 Box 458, Johnstown, 15905  
Conservation: Richard Mock (479-4232) Box 74, Davidsville, 15928  
Programs: Dr. Dennis McNair (539-8293) 517 Cypress Ave., Johnstown 15902  
Hospitality: Dr. Sally Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, 15904  
Publicity: Iris Marr (255-3558) 171 Arlington St., 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/Fund Raising: The Stovers (288-3603) RD7 Box 458, Johnstown, 15905  
Education: Joe Emerick (472-7504) Box 235, Ebensburg 15931  
Bird Counts: Ruth and Glenn Sager (798-3242) RD1 Box 176-B, Hooversville, 15936  
Stream Committee: Tim Fox (495-9011) 503 Maine St., Box 352, Summerhill, 15958  
Photography Committee: Dr. Doris Brown (255-1223) 426 Girard St., Johnstown, 15905

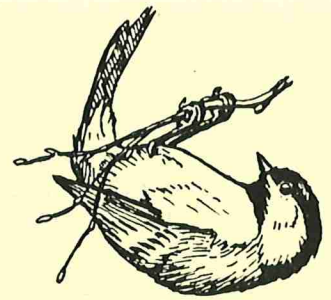
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**Chickadee Chatter**  
Newsletter of the  
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 7

Number 2

March 1990



**Bird Count Issue**

Once again Ruth Sager has plowed through hawk count data and Christmas count data and managed to present another clear and concise report. Information gleaned from our chapter's efforts are published in a variety of journals including the following: American Birds, Pennsylvania Birds, and the Journal of the Hawk Migration Association. Information is power especially when it comes to protecting our environment. Recently our chapter was involved in 3 cases (land fills, flooding wetlands and stripmining) which required our testimony; the information we presented was obtained from outings, organized counts, and breeding bird census. This newsletter is an information issue.

Earth Day is April 23. Our chapter will celebrate this event by planting trees, possibly at UPJ, and an outing led by Tom Dick at Stackhouse Park. April 21 and 22 is the date for a IU8 continuing education course for teachers on wetlands. This is a cooperative program between the conservation district and our chapter. Consult Joe Emerick if your interested in attending. Another possible activity is an Earth Day observance at Central Park with speakers, band and food. If this materializes it will be organized by UPJ's new environmental group.

Be sure to attend a powerpacked environmental conference in Pittsburgh on April 5. **Step One**, the conference title, will deal with Global warming, acid rain, toxic wastes, polluted groundwaer, deforestation, overpopulation and pesticide contamination. **Step One** is not intended to be negative but to be the first step in correcting the problems we are all facing. Among the list of top speakers are Paul Ehrlich, Anne Ehrlich, Peter Raven and George Woodwell not to mention representatives of the Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, EPA, Garden Club etc. If your interested in car pooling contact Tom Dick. Step One is listed on the outings page.

Our chapter wishes to thank the generosity of both Col. George Gage and Dolly Landis for allowing us to use their property for a hawk counting station.

Here I am again writing bird reports and wishing I were out birding, instead. Although I haven't found any real reason to enjoy the task, this year the results have proven to me their worth. My conclusion is that summer, fall and winter projects bear out our claim that Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society's territory is a birder's paradise.

### THE PENNSYLVANIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

Little has been said about the Atlas project since the very pleasant field work was concluded this past summer. The necessary reports are all in now and we are awaiting the great day in 1991 when the Atlas is expected to be published.

Many of our chapter members spent hours, days, weeks and months unraveling the unknown status of breeding birds in Cambria, Bedford and Somerset Counties. Beautiful places were visited, new birding friendships blossomed and an unbelievable goal was reached. Every 10-square mile block in our assigned region was surveyed, meaning that we sampled the birding pleasures of every kind of nesting habitat in this area. In the final coverage maps we will have a comprehensive picture of the status and distribution in Pennsylvania of about 200 species with confirmed or probable nesting evidence. Comparison of our area with the whole state, I am sure, will reveal a local treasury of very rich and varied birdlife. All three of our counties had blocks within which 70-97 species were recorded. Somerset County is listed among THE STATE'S TOP COUNTIES in the following quote from the latest Pa. Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter. Since it is the only southern county mentioned, this underscores our good fortune.

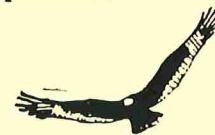
"Centre, Erie, Huntingdon, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Schuylkill, Somerset, Tioga, Warren, and Wayne counties top the list of having the greatest number of species within their county borders—all had 150 species or more. Tioga, Centre, and Crawford counties all had over 130 species confirmed within their borders. These centers of avian diversity all lie in the northern third of the state (except Somerset which falls in the southern extension of the Allegheny Mountains). Here, many northern species reach the southern extent of their range and birds of southern affinities extend northward along river valleys. North meets south in a unique way in northern Pennsylvania. Note also that these counties tend to be large—allowing for greater diversity of habitats."

The Chuck-will's widow reported by Mary Mock near Davidsville, in Somerset Co. was in the list of the 14 RAREST BIRDS reported in Pennsylvania. Somerset Co. lead all Western Pa. counties in the reporting of Dickcissels during the unprecedented invasion of this species during the drought year of 1988. All three counties reported "Special Concern Species" in either Endangered or Threatened species.



Rah! Rah! Rah! for report forms!

THE HAWK WATCH



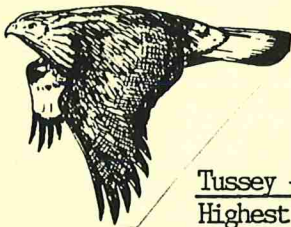
In September 1989 we took a bold step by abandoning our Tussey Mt. watch at Everett and beginning the Louise Wellington Hawk Watch on the Allegheny Front near Central City. Record-keeping came into play again, proving that a better hawk-watching location was available closer to our Audubon chapter headquarters in Johnstown, where most of our birders live.

On September 4 the watch began on private land owned by Col. George W. Gage, where at an altitude of 2700' we were able to view the migration of birds of prey along the Allegheny Front. This was a picturesque spot that provided an excellent view of migrants traveling on the predominant East winds. Later in October and November on days when winds were from the West, we found it to our advantage to watch

from the west side of the Front on nearby property of Mrs. Dolly Landis. We are very grateful to Col. Gage and Mrs. Landis for graciously allowing access to their land so that we were able to fully cover the 1989 Fall migration. There were many who deserve credit for their help on the lookout, some coming from the Pittsburgh and Altoona areas. On days when large numbers of hawks were streaming through, extra pairs of eyes were very helpful in spotting, tracking, identifying and counting the birds. Daily leaders for the watch were: Sally & Tom Dick, Kevin Georg, Bill King, David Kyler, A. C. "Che" & Marion Mincone, Mary Mock, Glenn & Ruth Sager, and Neil Woffinden.

Our greatest interest this year was comparing results at the new site with Tussey Mt.'s 6-year record. The following summaries show that Allegheny Front has proven to be a winner. In 1989 the Front's total of 6115 hawks surpassed Tussey Mt.'s 6-year highest total of 3657 in 1987. The highest yearly totals of half the species seen at Tussey were also surpassed at the Front.

Since this station extends the chain of hawk watches further west into Pennsylvania, it will be of great interest to researchers affiliated with the Hawk Migration Ass'n. of N. America. The following summaries have been submitted to that organization. They prove our assertion that we have discovered a new hawk-watching bonanza.



Rah! Rah! Rah! for report forms!

Comparison of Hawk Watches

	<u>Tussey - 1983-88</u>		<u>Allegheny Front</u> <u>1989 Total</u>		<u>Tussey - 1983-88</u>		<u>Allegheny Front</u> <u>1989 Total</u>
	<u>Highest</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Year</u>			<u>Highest</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Year</u>	
Turkey Vulture			81	Bald Eagle	8	1987	7
N. Goshawk	16	1987	5	N. Harrier	73	1987	132*
Sharpshin	617	1987	1054*	Osprey	64	1986	53
Cooper's	91	1986	125*	Peregrine	12	1986	12
Redtail	911	1987	1385*	Merlin	13	1987	18*
Red Shoulder	65	1986	95*	Am. Kestrel	56	1988	66*
Broadwing	1675	1987	2967*	Gyr Falcon	1	1988	0
Roughleg	7	1988	3	Unidentified	79	1987	75
Golden Eagle	54	1987	37	TOTAL	3657	1987	6115*

\* Higher totals in 1989 at Allegheny Front

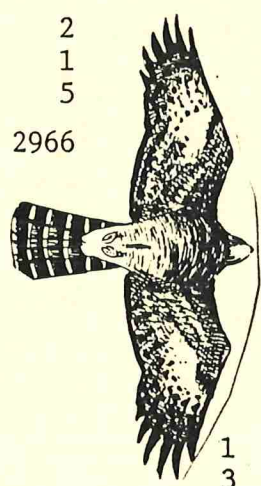
1989 Daily Summaries at Allegheny Front

MO	DATE	HRS	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	TOT
SE	4	7		4		7		18			3	2	10			1		45
	5	8		3		1	1	1					1					7
	6	1																0
	7	5.75																0
	8	Rain																
	9	5		3				5						1	2			11
	10	7		4	2	3		12			1		1	1		2		26
	11	5											1				1	2
	12	4.5				5		83			1		3		1	4	1	98
	13	3.5		1				5							2			8
	14	6.75		1														1

MO	DATE	HRS	TV GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	TOT
SE	15	6		1				1									1	3
	16	Rain																
	17	8		4	2			20						1		1		28
	18	7.25		5		2		38				1						46
	19	6.75		30	6	5	1	2713				3	6			2	5	2771
	20	9.25		40		3		36				2	1			1	2	85
	21	8		3									2			1		6
	22	Rain																
	23	Rain																
	24	5		9	2			15				1					3	30
	25	8.25		3	4		1	11					5	4	2	7		37
	26	5.5		3		6											1	10
	27	6.5		16	3	1						1	3				1	25
	28	3.75		2		4		2					1		1			10
	29	7		6	1			1									2	10
	30	7.5		44	6	4		5					2	1	2	4	5	73
TOT		142.25		182	26	41	3	2966			5	10	36	8	10	23	22	3332

OC		HRS	TV GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	TOT
	1	3.5		2											1			3
	2	5.5		8													1	9
	3	8		36	1	4						1	2			5	2	51
	4	1.5		6		1												7
	5	4.8		13		1								1		1	2	18
	6	7.5		8	1	1						2	2					14
	7	7.5		30	3	1	1					1	1			1	2	40
	8	5.5		5										1				6
	9	7.25		5	3	1	1			1							3	14
	10	6.75		76	11	8	1			3						6	1	106
	11	7		26	5		2	1				3	1		1		1	40
	12	8		35	3							1				1		40
	13	8		57	4	1						3	1			7	4	77
	14	8		25	1	2				1		2	5			5	1	42
	15	7		51	6	4	1					1			1	1	1	66
	16	9		69		3							1				1	74
	17	Rain																
	18	Rain																
	19	Rain																
	20	6.25		21		5										1	2	29
	21	6.25		7		3										1		11
	22	6.5	41	1 48	6	18	1					6	2	1	3	7		134
	23	8.1		133	18	87	10			1		10			1	5	5	270
	24	7.5		1 99	13	137	17				1	10	1				2	281
	25	8	19	36	3	46	3					1				1	3	112
	26	6.25		25	1	128	15			2		6		1		1	4	183
	27	7		10	4	120	10			1		8					4	157
	28	8		10	1	76	13			4								104
	29	8	8	3	2	79	1			2		2						97
	30	5.3		6	2	58	1					3						70
	31	7																0
TOT		188.95	68	2 849	88	784	78	1		15	1	60	16	3	8	43	39	2055

NO		HRS	TV GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	TOT
	1	6.25		2	1	13				2		2					1	21
	2	5.5		1	1	27												29
	3	5.5				1	1					1						3
	4	7	13	2 5	2	141			1	1		9	1					175
	5	7		5	1	54						1						61
	6	7		3		21	1					10					1	36
	7	7.25		1	1	93	4			6		2					3	110
	8	4.5																0



MO	DATE	HRS	TV	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	U	TOT
NO	9	5.5				1	35	1			3		7						47
	10	6					12												12
	11	5					12	1					10						23
	12	6			1	1	21	1			1		4						29
	13	6			2	1	44	2			1	1	6					3	60
	14	6.75			3	1	5						4						13
	15																		
	16	4					11				1								12
	17	6.75					9				1				1				11
	18	6		1			11				1		1						14
	19	4.5					6						2						8
	20	3.75					7						1					6	14
	21																		
	22	6					36	3		1	2								42
	23	1				1													1
	24																		
	25	4.5					1			1	2		2						6
	26																		
	27	.25									1								1
	28	4																	0
	29																		
	30																		
TOT		126	13	3	23	11	560	14		3	22	1	62	1	1			14	728

#### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

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



#### THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

"Hang in there regardless of the circumstances, count what comes along, and the result will be a great Christmas Bird Count", was the word passed along from last year's CBC crew. The results of the 1989 count on December 16 show that the advice was needed and heeded. The circumstances were as bad, if not worse, than any we've experienced in our 7-year CBC history. Temperatures of  $-4^{\circ}$  to  $15^{\circ}$  coupled with 6-8" of drifting snow resulted in cancellations by bird counters who were snowed in or could not endure the bitter cold weather. With the smallest number of field observers on record, 30 determined people, the count went on and new records were established. The additional 24 feeder watchers helped greatly in this effort.

The 68 species seen on count day broke the record of 65 set in 1987, while the 76 species in count week broke the record of 70 set in 1988. Oldsquaw, Red-shouldered Hawk, Vesper Sparrow and Snow Bunting were four new species, bringing the total species recorded in 1983-89 up to 105. This is a remarkable accomplishment considering the fact that 9726 individual birds added up to a second year record low. Most of the count was conducted from the shelter of autos rather than by foot forays into more suitable habitat. Tom Dick, the hard taskmaster, forced his sharp-eyed team to tramp miles into the environs of frigid Quemahoning Dam to increase the waterfowl count. Early scheduling of the CBC proved to be a great plus for them. The "Que" was the last large body of water in the area to freeze, becoming a haven on the 16th for birds downed by the storm. By the next day most of the dam was frozen and only a few species remained.

"Crow Count", a highlight of each CBC, fizzled out for the second year. From 1983-87 crow counts of 9,189 to 14,091 have bolstered our totals. The counts of 1,234 in 1988 and 2516 this year have resulted in our lowest totals of individual birds. The team who usually counted crows entering the roost in Johnstown did not find them heading into usual roosting areas in Johnstown near Stackhouse Park. Several evenings previously, large numbers were spotted in Menoher Heights heading toward a roost. On Count Day only 956 were observed in Menoher Heights. However, another team counted 1560 at the end of the day streaming over Ferndale into Johnstown. Based on previous years' experience, several streams of crows enter the roost over several hours, so the possibility is great that we counted only a small number of the main body that would have been seen at a more advantageous location nearer the roost. Hindsight should be a good incentive to do more advance scouting next year so that we know the best location to count them entering the roost on Count Day.

Since northern finches were reported earlier, there was much anticipation of a high count of northern species. 118 Pine Siskins, 180 Am. Tree Sparrows, 39 Golden-crowned Kinglets, and 679 Dark-eyed Juncos did break previous records, but only 3 Evening Grosbeaks made their appearance. In spite of the bitter cold weather all month, several species of more southern climes also broke records--the 7 Carolina Wrens and 10 E. Bluebirds. Eur. Starlings, most of them sitting on chimneys for warmth, reached a high of 1321. Blue Jays continued their 7-year climb from 38 to 257, but House Finches and House Sparrows dropped noticeably from their peak years of 1986 and 1987, respectively.

The harsh realities of December 16th did not quench the joy of discovering the unexpected. Sally Dick and her team were thrilled at the sight of 3 Wild Turkeys sitting in a tree. Tom Dick's crew saw a groundhog waddling along the road. As a gubernator, was he late or early? When Glenn Sager peered down over the river in downtown Johnstown expecting to see Mallards, he saw two young boys unable to climb up the snowy wall. Securing a rope, he and Ruth hauled the boys up to safety. All those who returned to Tom and Sally Dick's for the count party were treated to a surprising array of delicious food, amazed that Sally and her lovely sister, Mary Jo Cernetich, could come up with a new menu for the seventh year in a row. An amazing conclusion shared by all was the fact that Christmas Bird Counts always turn out to be fun and that we should never consider cancelling because of the weather.

The following Christmas Bird Count statistics sum up our reason for including winter as yet another season in which we can go out to enjoy a wide variety of birding opportunities in our area.



1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989		
5	1	2	2	2	1*	1	Com. Loon	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	E. Wood Pewee	
5	0	0	0	3	1	0	Horned Grebe	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	E. Phoebe	
1*	8	9	2	6	1	3	Pied-billed Grebe	200	1*	343	272	0	310	380	Horned Lark	
1*	0	1	0	1*	0	1	Great Blue Heron	38	44	133	170	179	202	257	Blue Jay	
*	0	0	0	0	1*	1*	Tundra Swan	10650	12388	13041	16377	12742	1154	3231	Am. Crow	
9	0	2	3	2	0	4	Mute Swan	1*	0	0	0	2	2	2	Com. Raven	
9	1	37	65	40	50	150	Canada Goose	392	393	481	425	581	424	310	Black-capped Chickadee	
1*	0	1	0	0	0	5	Wood Duck	69	69	199	135	214	193	178	Tufted Titmouse	
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Green-winged Teal	9	3	14	5	4	3	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	
8	8	17	52	32	21	20	Black Duck	67	80	71	137	166	94	103	White-breasted Nuthatch	
538	277	950	613	1082	1260	444	Mallard	2	1	2	11	1	3	4	Brown Creeper	
3	7	0	0	1	0	0	N. Pintail	1*	0	1*	6	3	5	7	Carolina Wren	
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	Gadwall	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	Winter Wren	
0	1	0	0	10	0	1*	Am. Wigeon	6	21	33	20	6	4	39	Golden-crowned Kinglet	
5	3	15	4	1	0	1	Canvasback	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
0	0	4	0	0	0	0	Redhead	8	7	0	5	0	11	20	E. Bluebird	
0	1	1*	0	2	1	0	Ring-necked Duck	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	Hermit Thrush	
0	0	15	4	0	3	0	Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Wood Thrush	
0	0	0	0	0	0	4	Oldsquaw	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	Thrush, sp.	
6	1*	1*	0	1	2	1*	Com. Goldeneye	1*	18	3	1	0	13	4	Am. Robin	
13	9	1	0	12	5	10	Bufflehead	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	N. Mockingbird	
1	5	7	6	11	8	8	Hooded Merganser	0	1*	0	0	0	0	0	Brown Thrasher	
0	1	1	0	0	1*	0	Com. Merganser	32	19	8	64	27	9	13	Cedar Waxwing	
0	2	0	0	0	0	10	Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	N. Shrike	
0	13	2	2	0	1*	1*	Ruddy Duck	982	1193	620	1174	978	938	1321	Eur. Starling	
0	2	0	1	2	1	1	N. Harrier	0	0	0	0	0	1*	0	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
1	1*	6	2	0	1	5	Sharpshinned Hawk	115	99	185	230	398	214	237	N. Cardinal	
4	0	2	4	1	3	6	Cooper's Hawk	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	Rufous-sided Towhee	
1	2	0	0	0	0	0	N. Goshawk	86	41	163	115	60	92	180	Am. Tree sparrow	
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Red-shouldered Hawk	4	11	10	0	3	0	7	Field Sparrow	
0	18	18	12	23	18	15	Red-tailed Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	Vesper Sparrow	
0	1	0	0	0	2	0	Buteo, sp.	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	Fox Sparrow	
0	1*	0	0	2	0	0	Rough-legged Hawk	31	17	41	43	53	45	57	Song Sparrow	
7	8	7	5	8	9	8	Am. Kestrel	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Swamp Sparrow	
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Merlin	25	104	32	33	28	15	41	White-throated Sparrow	
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Falcon, sp.	0	0	1*	0	0	0	0	White-crowned Sparrow	
0	0	2	0	1	0	1	Hawk, sp.	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	Sparrow, sp.	
2	5	1	5	2	3	0	Ring-necked Pheasant	246	249	544	522	283	381	679	Dark-eyed Junco	
2	13	5	2	1	1	2	Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Snow Bunting	
0	0	5	1	1	1	13	Wild Turkey	3	0	1*	0	150	0	14	Red-winged Blackbird	
0	0	0	5	0	0	0	N. Bobwhite	0	0	0	21	5	0	0	E. Meadowlark	
1*	0	6	0	2	1	1	Am. Coot	0	1*	1	1	43	3	11	Com. Grackle	
0	0	0	2	6	0	0	Killdeer	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	Rusty Blackbird	
0	0	0	0	9	0	0	Com. Snipe	0	0	12	1*	75	1*	1*	Brown-headed Cowbird	
0	0	10	0	0	0	2	Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	Blackbird, sp.	
0	0	0	1	0	1*	0	Gull, sp.	97	84	42	0	25	2	21	Purple Finch	
228	246	352	435	932	581	426	Rock Dove	270	268	456	1666	671	603	515	House Finch	
56	78	174	533	365	278	184	Mourning Dove	14	0	0	0	0	1*	0	Com. Redpoll	
1*	0	2	1*	0	2	1*	Screech Owl	7	0	4	8	97	3	118	Pine Siskin	
1*	1	1*	5	1*	3	1*	Great-horned Owl	103	31	95	120	169	62	88	Am. Goldfinch	
2	1*	1	0	0	0	1*	Barred Owl	68	0	1180	74	226	0	3	Evening Grosbeak	
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	Short-eared Owl	410	930	496	863	1266	521	421	House Sparrow	
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	Owl, sp.	14913	16861	19948	24370	21124	7683	9726	Individual Birds	
0	0	0	1	1	1*	1	Belted Kingfisher									
0	1	3	0	1	0	3	Red-headed Woodpecker	*	Seen in Count Week but not on Count Day							
0	0	3	4	3	10	7	Red-bellied Woodpecker	57	52	62	61	65	61	68	Species on Count Day	
1	0	1	1	0	2	0	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	69	59	68	63	66	70	76	Species in Count Week	
51	58	56	74	71	76	78	Downy Woodpecker							4	New Species in 1989	
8	10	17	12	20	17	28	Hairy Woodpecker									
2	2	0	6	0	2	2	N. Flicker								105	Total Species 1983-89
2	1	1	3	3	3	3	Pileated Woodpecker									

1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	
10650	12388	13041	16377	12742	1154	3231	Am. Crow	43	39	58	65	59	64	54	Observers
982	1193	620	1174	978	938	1321	Eur. Starling	27	51	22	29	13	20	10	Party Hours on Foot
246	249	544	522	283	381	679	Dark-eyed Junco	38	39	42	54	58	46	45	" " by Car
270	268	456	1666	671	603	515	House Finch	18	18	43	50	37	40	42	" " at Feeders
228	246	352	435	932	581	426	Rock Dove	31	54	28	21	14	23	13	Party Miles on Foot
410	930	496	863	1266	521	421	House Sparrow	387	476	526	522	583	424	525	" " by Car
200	1*	343	272	0	310	380	Horned Lark	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	Party Hours Owling
392	393	481	425	581	424	310	Black-capped Chickadee								
38	44	133	170	179	202	257	Blue Jay								
115	99	185	230	398	214	237	N. Cardinal								
56	78	174	533	365	278	184	Mourning Dove								
69	69	199	135	214	193	178	Tufted Titmouse								
68	0	1180	74	226	0	3	Evening Grosbeak								

PARTICIPANTS

William Barbin, Doris Brown, Mark Cantrell, Andrew Choby, Sally & Tom Dick, Wanetta Escherich, Eugene & Juanita Foor, Tim Fox, Roger Gerney, Stanley Gimza, Margaret Haines, Jim Hemphill, Barry & Linda Horne, Henry Idzkowsky, Joseph Jandilo Family, Shirley Jensen, Joan Lohr, Alberta Long, Mary Mock, Bob & Bonnie Mulvihill, Richard Murphy, George & Helen Nicely, Allan & Alyce Ober, Jeff & Retta Payne, Paul Porneluzi, Chris, Jim & John Rocco, Dean Ross, Nancy Rovarusek, Esther & Robert Rudegeair, Glenn & Ruth Sager, Lynn Sanderson, Stanwyn & Stephen Shetler, Charles Voytko, Jeannie & Kenneth Weible, Betty, George & Michael Wolfe, Jim Wsocki, Nancy Zwick.

Rah! Rah! Rah! for report forms!

Ruth Sager

**Bird Seed is still available**

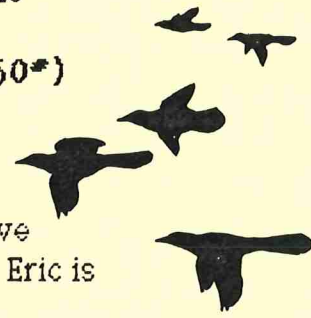
This is the time when every bag of seed that's sold is total profit. The profit is the main income of our chapter and provides money for Audubon in schools and other special projects. The price is lower than many of the advertised feeds from other sources. We still have the following:

**75/25 (75% graystripe and 25% Black oil) Sunflower Seed (50\*) for \$15.50**

**Graystripe Sunflower Seed--50 pounds--\$15.50**

**Thistle is .90 /lb.**

Order by calling Eric Stuver at Stuver's Nursery 288-1759 (leave message on recorder) or at home 288-3603. You must call first since Eric is not always at the nursery during the winter.



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Join our Chapter by filling out the following and mailing with your check of \$20.00 (introductory membership) made out to the "Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society" and mailed to:

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

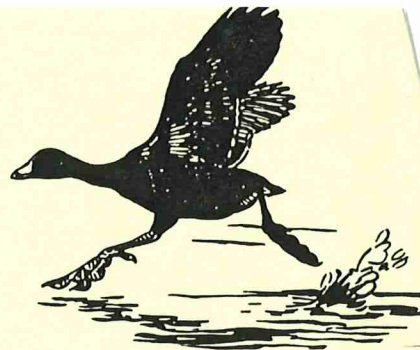
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society

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

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

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





### Outings and Programs

(Please let outing leaders know at least 3 days in advance of your intent to participate in a short trip and one week for a long trip. Failure to do so may find the outing filled or worse: cancelled.)

March 15-- Lecture on Pennsylvania Mammals by Joe Merritt. Joe is a resident scientist at Powdermill and author of "Guide to the Mammals of Pennsylvania." Copies of his book will be on sale and Joe will be glad to autograph. UPJ Krebs 221 at 7:30 pm

March 17--Shawnee Lake Waterfowl--a morning excursion with Charles Voytko--call Charles Voytko for details (Bus: 623-2262, Wk. end 539-3493).

April 1--Waterfowl excursion with Tim Fox---visit Quemahoning Dam, Somerset Lake, Samii's Swamp and Lasky's Pond. Call Tim at 495-9011 for details.

April 5--Car pool to Pittsburgh to attend the Step One Environmental Conference. See page one for details. The cost of car pooling, lunch and conference is \$35.00 per person. This conference is hosting some of the biggest environmental celebrities of this century. Call Tom Dick at 266-7912.

April 6 to 8--Birding and Botany on the Delmarva Peninsula. Visits will include the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague NWR, and Blackwater NWR. Side trips will include a special tour of the artificial islands on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. We will leave on Friday afternoon. The cost of the trip is \$100.00 per person which covers two motel nights, 2 lunches and transportation. Call Tom Dick at 266-7912 for details.

April 19--Member slide night-- an evening of your favorite nature slides. This is always a fun filled evening with our usual nature corner, outing updates, and environmental alerts.

April 1 to 30--Kevin Georg will lead a short Spring Hawk count. The fall results were so exciting we're really hoping for a great spring count. Spring hawking is fun. You'll see many other species as well. Call Kevin if you wish to help or accompanying any watchers on location.

April 21 and 22--IUS course on wetlands open to Audubon members. This course is provided through the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society and the Conservation District. This will be both a class and field short course on wetlands. Those wishing to participate should call Joe Emerich at 472-7540.

May 12--Century Bird Count--as the name implies its when auduboners take to the field and rack up over 100 birds within a 7 to 8 hour period of time. This is a time when warblers are moving, waterfowl are still lingering, raptors and passerines have returned and what can I say--the birding is great. Join up with Charles Voytko by calling (bus: 623-2262 or Wk. Ends 539-3493)

May 5--See the spring flowers with Doris Brown. Doris, as most of you know, is UPJ Botany professor. Botanize with Doris over some of her favorite places. Call Doris at home 255-1223.

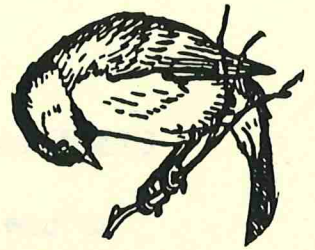
## The Folks running the show

President: Linda Sell (266-2734) RD2 Box 457, Johnstown, 15904  
Vice President: Joe Emerick (472-7540) Box 235, Ebensburg, 15931  
Recording Secretary: Joan Lohr (266-5104) 255 Collegiate Dr., Johnstown, 15904  
Corresponding Secretary: Margaret Haines (255-3988) 1421 Mary Dr., Johnstown, 15905  
Treasurer: Eric and Eileen Stuver (288-3603) RD 7 Box 458, Johnstown, 15905  
Conservation: Richard Mock (479-4232) Box 74, Davidsville, 15928  
Programs: Dr. Dennis McNair (539-8293) 517 Cypress Ave., Johnstown 15902  
Hospitality: Dr. Sally Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, 15904  
Publicity: Iris Marr (255-3558) 171 Arlington St., 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/Fund Raising: The Stovers (288-3603) RD7 Box 458, Johnstown, 15905  
Education: Joe Emerick (472-7504) Box 235, Ebensburg 15931  
Bird Counts: Ruth and Glenn Sager (798-3242) RD1 Box 176-B, Hooversville, 15936  
Stream Committee: Tim Fox (495-9011) 503 Maine St., Box 352, Summerhill, 15958  
Photography Committee: Dr. Doris Brown (255-1223) 426 Girard St., Johnstown, 15905

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

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# **Chickadee Chatter**

**Newsletter of the  
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society**



**Volume 7**

**Number 3**

**March 1990**

## **Special Outings Issue**

### **Contents:**

- Outings description and increasing membership**
- The new environmental coalition**
- Application and bird seed**

Thanks to outings chair-person, Sally Dick, we now have outings planned one year in advance. **Eighty new members** this year is the stimulus for this initiative.

Let me explain how an outing works; in most cases participants rarely know each other, the trip leader is your host and guide helping you develop new friendships while learning about nature. Each trip leader has specific goals and to effectuate these goals a good location is selected plus a plan for that location. After an outing most participants feel enthralled and look forward to future outings. Those who know the least are the ones enjoying outings the most.

Thanks to Joan Lohr we now have hiking and cycling outings, all carefully worked out to take you through absolutely beautiful wild country. She has a goal of walking Auduboners through the entire Laurel Trail in 3 parts, one this fall, one in the spring, and the last in the fall of '91. When finished you will have captured the essence and spirit of wildness in Pennsylvania.

Our programs are held at UPJ on the third Thursday of each month with the exception of December, June, July and August. The program starts at 7:30 pm, usually in room 240 Krebs. Our usual program consists of announcements on outings, updates, member slides, nature corner (hands-on biology), and a speaker. Members can mingle or just sit back and enjoy the program. Meetings are also a good place to find out and sign up for outings.

We only have one rule and that is all trip leaders must be notified 3 days ahead for day trips and one week ahead for overnights.

With the following outings a level of difficulty is included; however, in most cases Audubon outings are physically benign and intellectually energetic. Level of Difficulty (LD): 1. very easy 2. easy 3. a little stamina needed 4. should be in good shape

## CAMBRIA-SOMERSET ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION FORMED

by William Gleason Barbin

On June 25, 1990, representatives from over 21 environmentally concerned organizations met at the Glosser Library in Johnstown and discussed the need for an active effort to preserve and restore waters and land throughout Cambria and Somerset Counties. Two important decisions came out of that meeting; first, a loose coalition should be formed to allow the various local organizations to communicate, provide assistance, and to take corrective action. Second, to utilize the Pennsylvania Environmental Improvement Compact Law to create a new popularly elected regional government covering Cambria and Somerset Counties whose sole responsibility would be protection and restoration of streams, forests, land, and residential neighborhoods.

Since June 25th, over 720 signatures in Somerset County and 1760 signatures in Cambria County were collected to place a binding referendum for the Environmental compact on the November 6th, 1990, ballot in both counties.

Since June 25, 1990, several new events have occurred which can only help the referendum. The biggest is the announcement by Concord Resources Group, a joint venture of Conrail and CHM Corporation of Findley Ohio, that three of its five site selections for a 19 state regional hazardous waste facilities are in Somerset County near Lake Stonycreek and Indian Lake. Only slightly less serious is Cooney Brothers Coal Company's plan to put another strip mine in the Beaverdam watershed reservoir which is the main source of water for Richland, Geistown, and many of the Mainline communities. Another coal company has applied for surface mining permit on Killbuck Run, a previously unmined tributary to Glendale Lake.

The point of activism is to prevent most forms of environmental degradation. People can make a difference and effectively vitiate the activities of the Coal Companies and other large corporations. In 1984, people in the Allegheny Plateau successfully stopped use of Philadelphia sewage sludge despite the concerted efforts of Cooney Brothers Coal Company, the City of Philadelphia, DER, and EPA to solve Philadelphia's sewage problems in the Allegheny mountains. While no one admitted the sludge was wrong, the people of Cambria and Somerset Counties acted together and drove the sewage sludge off the Plateau. By judiciously picking goals and working together we can accomplish much more in the 1990's

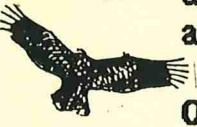
If you are interested in more information or would like to help, please call 814-535-1606. **(Ed. Note--everyone get out and vote for this compact on November 6--this is our big chance to protect and preserve our counties from unwarranted and careless land practices.)**



## **Outings and Program Dates for October 1990 to September of 1991**

**September 20--Audubon program at UPJ at 7:30 room 240 Krebs. Tim Kimmel will speak on Goshawks and falconry.**

**September 22--Alexandria--Mount Vernon Bicycle Trail.** Celebrate the first day of Autumn! This scenic tour will start in Old Alexandria, Virginia. The trail offers a profusion of delights as it ambles along the Potomac thru Boggy meadows, over wooden bridges and railroad tunnels. There are many wildflowers and migrating birds along the way. Ample time will be allowed at Mount Vernon for lunch and a tour of the plantation. A possible stopover at Roosevelt Island will be included. Grades and curves are gentle and suitable for beginners. For a complete itinerary call Joan Lohr at 266-5104



**October Hawk Watch Days: 6 and 7, 13 and 14, 20 and 21, 27 and 28.** A special note, our chapter will be hosting Powdermill Nature Reserve on October 21 at the hawk watch. Hawks days are definite days when the watch is manned and the general membership is encouraged to visit and learn how to identify migrating birds of prey. Call Ruth Sager at 798-3242 or Kevin Georg at 288-1763

**October 13--"The Last Great Wilderness: Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."** A presentation by Glendon Brunk of the University of Alaska. This is a multi-media presentation on the wilderness values, oil industry activities, and native Americans' concerns regarding the use of unspoiled arctic areas. The time will be 7:30 pm in the Engineering and Science auditorium.

**October 18--Audubon program--with Dennis McNair.** His program entitled, "Earthday Revisited" should be interesting and timely. Make sure you attend.

**October 19--Astronomy-- with Kevin Georg.** A fun filled evening watching the fall skies with Kevin Georg. Free Hot chocolate! Call Kevin at 288-1763. LD 1

**October 20th--Hike the Laurel Trail--**This will be the beginning of an ongoing activity. Our projected goal in the fall of '91 will be the complete coverage of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, beginning in Seward and ending 72 miles later in Ohiopyle. Next Spring's hike will take us 25 miles from Menoher to Hidden Valley with an overnight camp near Laughlintown.



In the fall of '91, we will pick up at Hidden Valley and end 34 miles, an overnight camp, and 2 days later in Ohio. Saturday's (October 20th) hike will cover the first 13 miles thru the beautiful Laurel Ridge State Park to Menoher.-----Join us for the first leg of an ambitious journey---Call Joan Lohr at 266-5104 for details.



**October 21--Morning Nature walk at the farm of Tom and Sally Dick.** A short hike with the emphasis on fall field plants, old field succession and the ubiquitous White-tailed Deer. We will finish by visiting the hawk watch where everyone should get an opportunity to see migrating hawks and eagles. Call Tom Dick for details at 266-7912. LD 2



**October 14--Fall Botany--Trees and Shrubs of the nature trails at UPJ--** join up with Dr. Doris Brown at 2 pm for a casual stroll looking at viburnums, alternate leaf dogwoods, witch hazel, green ash etc. etc. Call Doris for details at 255-1223. LD 2

**October 28--Introductory Birding--**for those having difficulty distinguishing a cockroach from a robin. We will concentrate on concepts of finding and identifying birds and in the process visit a number of different environments. Sunday morning. Call Tom Dick at 266-7912 for details. LD

**November Hawk Watch Days--**3 and 4, 10 and 11, 17 and 18, 24 and 25--the days members can simply appear. These are the days of migrating Red-tails and Golden Eagles. Don't miss the excitement of the times. Call Ruth Sager (798-3242) or Kevin Georg (288-1763).

**November 15--Audubon Program--**Dr. Brian McCarthy from Frostburg State Univ. will be speaking on "The Ecology of Old Growth Forests." This should be a great program, try to attend.



**November 24-- Waterfowl excursion--**Travel by van with Tom Dick to a number of impoundments where we expect to see over a dozen species of migrating waterfowl. Spotting scopes will be provided; make sure you bring binoculars. Call 266-7912 for details. LD 1

**December 15--Christmas Bird Count--**premier event of the year. Join up with over 50 people scouring the countryside for birds. All leaders are experienced bird watchers and novices can learn while contributing. A great excuse for being in the field for a day. Afterwards we feed and share tall tales at the home of Tom and Sally Dick. Call Ruth Sager for details 798-3242 or sign up at our meetings. LD 2

**January 10 to 13--Delmarva Peninsula Birding Weekend--**join a van of Auduboners for a field trip to a number of National Wildlife Refuges including Blackwater, Bombay Hook, Chincoteague as well as dozens of other stops along the way. Leave Thursday evening and return Sunday evening. Limit is 8--cost based on 8 people would be \$150.00/person which includes transportation, some lunches, and 3 nights lodging. For details call Tom Dick at 266-7912

**January 19--Winter trees and Wildlife with Neil Woffinden.** Dr. Woffinden will introduce participants to winter wildlife by evidence they leave behind. Call Neil for details at 467-5738. LD 2

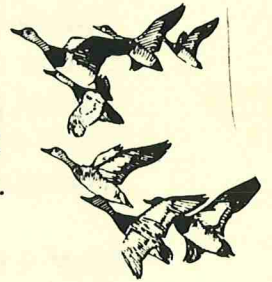
**January 17 Meeting-- UPJ at 7:30--**room and speaker to be announced

**February 3--A one day Chesapeake Bay Crash tour** looking for Wildlife visiting Blackwater NWR, Choptank River, Sandy Point State Park, and a variety of other locations. Call Tom Dick for details at 266-7912. Van limited to 8 participants. LD 2

**February 16--Winter Wildlife--**Enjoy a leisurely afternoon hiking along a mountain trail studying nature under the blanket of winter austerity. In the past we've bumped into Northern Goshawk, Wild Turkey, beaver ponds, porcupine, deer and identified just about everything in our path. For details call Tom Dick at 266-7912. LD2

**February 21 Meeting--UPJ at 7:30--**room and topic to be announced

**March 16 --Waterfowl--**At this time of year waterfowl are gathering in impressive numbers. Join up with Ruth Sager for an early morning look at local impoundments such as Que Dam, Sammi's Swamp, and Somerset Lake. Call Ruth for details at 798-3242 LD 1

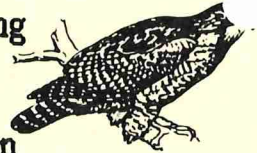


**March 17-- Waterfowl--**Tim Fox will take you to Yellow Creek Dam to see the impressive numbers of waterfowl. Yellow Creek has the additional advantage of a wooden blind. Last year a rare Eared Grebe hung out for some weeks. Call Tim at 266-7912 for details.

**March 21--Meeting--UPJ at 7:30--**room and topic to be announced.

**April 7--Somerset County Waterfowl---**Jeff and Retta Payne will lead a trip around Somerset County lakes in search of ducks, loons and grebes. If weather conditions are good we should see 15+ species. Call Jeff or Retta at 443-1323 for details.

**April 27 and 28--Spring hawk weekend--**Just the opposite of fall, warm breezes carry hawks and eagles North. Enjoy a quiet weekend staring at the skies with Kevin Georg. Call Kevin at 288-1763 for details.



**April 28-- Spring Flowers--**Let Tim Fox take you to his favorite location where hillsides explode in ephemeral blooms. For details call Tim at 266-7912. LD 2

**April 18--Members Slide Night---**Bring your favorite nature slides and share with other members. This is another great fun night but remember slides don't have to be perfect, in most cases they document plants and animals typical of various environments. Doris Brown is coordinator, any questions just call 255-1223. UPJ at 7:30 room 240 Krebs.

**April 23-- Special Earthweek activities--outings and lectures in the field--**events to take place will be announced at the March and April Meetings. Leader to be announced.

**May 4-- Spring Flowers--**Another look at the succession of Spring flowers characteristic of the Allegheny Plateau. Dr. Doris Brown, UPJ Botany Professor will take you to some of her favorite locations. For details call Doris at 255-1223. LD 2



**May 5--Prince Gallitzin State Park with Joe Emerick.** Enjoy the beauty of this northern Cambria County state park and along the way visit a beaver dam along the way that attracts thousands of visitors each year. It's a great place to see many wildlife species including the whitetail deer and many species of cavity nesters and waterfowl. Call Joe at the following daytime numbers 472-5502, 474-5440 ext. 588.

**May 11-- Century Count--** a fun day afield racking up over 100 species of birds. Staging area is Shawnee Park. For the uninformed, this is the best time to be afield since resident birds and migrants are both present. For details call Charles Voytko at Bus (623-2262) wk. ends (539-3493) LD2

**May 19--Mayflies and Trout--**Join up with Tim Fox for a lesson in stream ecology. Kick around for bottom-dwelling insects in a pristine stream. Watch Mayflies emerge from the water to fly free after a year on the bottom. Other spin-off benefits are warblers, flowers, and friendship. Call Tim for details at 266-7912. LD 2



**May 18-- Youghiogheny River Bicycle Trail--**The 9 mile bike path parallels the Yough River, providing breath-taking views of the river gorge. We plan on seeing an abundance of wildlife including Spring warblers. This area is a unique natural habitat for plants usually found further south and contains some of the best examples of the region's woodlands. Time permitting a tour of the "Fallingwater" house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright may be included. This is a fine gravel surface with a gentle grade suitable for beginners. Rentals are available at the site. For more details and reservations call Joan Lohr at 266-5104

**May 25--Nature inventory on a 300 acre farm in Bedford County--** Visit the farm of Eugene and Juanita Foor. This farm is tucked in between river and mountain with varying elevations and environments. We'll spend an educational and fun filled day cataloging plants, birds, and mammals. For details call Eugene or Juanita Foor at 266-2199.

**June 1--Insects with Dennis McNair--**Learn about the secrets and intrigue of the largest phylum on earth. Dennis introduces us to the fascinating realm of insects on this unique half day outing. Call Dennis (269-7000)for further details.

**June 9--Children's Nature Hike--**with Joan Lohr on UPJ nature trail. An always successful outing. A good way to get kids interested in nature.

**July 12--On using field guides--**A variety of field guides will be used while we stand within a 50 square foot area identifying as many species of plants and animals as we can. Each species will be recorded. You'll be surprised as to how much you'll learn! Call Tom Dick for details at 266-7912.

**July 14--Wetland botany--**get prepared to get slightly damp feet as Tom Dick shuffles you around a variety of wetlands from lakes to streams. Look at all the plants and critters (including amphibians) that live in these environs. Call Tom at 266-7912 for further details. LD 2

**July 20--Canoe Creek State Park with Joe Emerick--**Are you brave enough to sit quietly in a cemetery near an old abandoned church as twilight settles in over the Canoe Creek valley. If you are, you will be in "awe" when as many as 10,000 bats leave their daytime roost for a feeding frenzy. Call Joe at the following daytime numbers : 472-5502, 472-5440 ext. 588.



**July 28 --Audubon picnic--**Join up with Audubon members for a covered dish picnic at Shawnee State Park. Among activities will be a series of

nature excursions led by different members and varying from a quarter mile to 3 miles. Call Linda Sell for details at 266-2734.

**August 3--Bog Trotting--**join up with Tom Dick for a casual late afternoon visit of several bogs along the Allegheny Front; here we will see migrating warblers, carnivorous plants and learn about the complicated biology of this fascinating environment. The outing is approximately 1 1/2 to 3 hours long. Call 266-7912 at least 3 days ahead for details. LD 2

**August 16--Field flowers and butterflies --** A late afternoon foray looking at a variety of butterflies and field flowers at UPJ from 3 to 5 pm. Call Tom Dick at 266-7912 for further details. LD 2

The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society is very active and dedicated to serving the natural history needs of our area. We focus on endangered wetlands, initiate species inventories of birds and plants, conduct breeding bird census, help in the planning of parks, attend many hearings and lobby in Washington, maintain raptor counting stations, support school ecology programs, conduct seminars, continuing education programs for teachers, outings, programs, host environmental TV programs, and many other services. 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 you're interested in birds or plants, we have many 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: \_\_\_\_\_

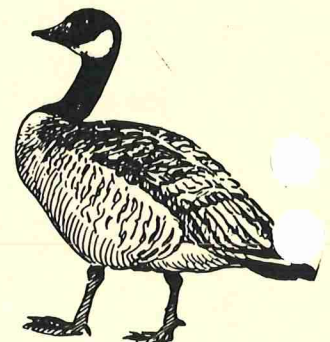
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

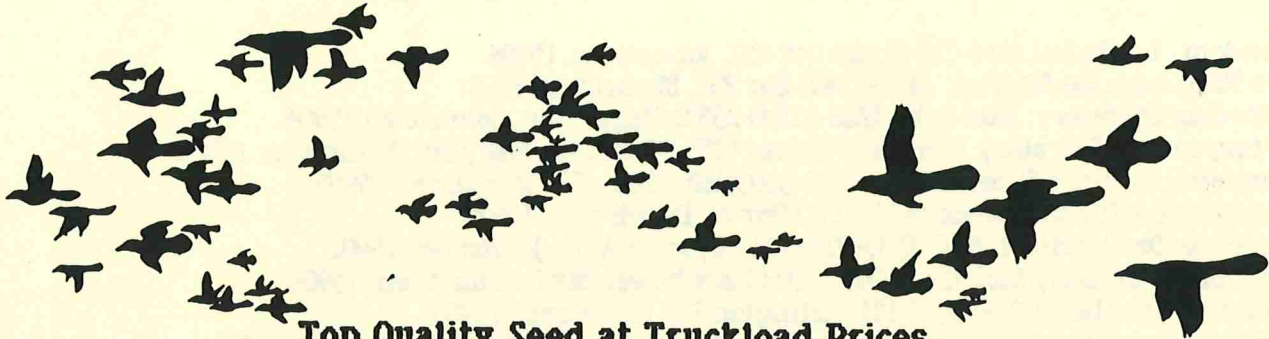
Phone Number (Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to: Allegheny Plateau Audubon society"  
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.  
Johnstown, Pa. 15904



## Flock to Allegheny Plateau Audubon's Bird Seed Sale



**Top Quality Seed at Truckload Prices**

<b>50 lb. Gray Stripe Sunflower</b>	<b>\$14.50</b>
<b>50 lb. Black Oil Sunflower</b>	<b>\$12.50</b>
<b>40 lb Laurel Mix</b>	<b>\$11.75</b>
<b>50 lb. Thistle</b>	<b>\$36.00</b>

### Proceeds Support:

**Bluebird trails**  
**Woodduck boxes**  
**Kestrel Boxes**  
**Mountain Hawk Counting Station**  
**Programs and Outings**  
**Lectures and Education Programs**  
**Supporting many schools with "Audubon Adventure Series"**  
**Christmas Bird Count**  
**Breeding Bird Surveys**  
**Newsletters**  
**Environmental Action**  
**Plant and Bird surveys**  
**Special Publications on bird check lists and wetland plants**

**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. So please buy our seed and know the purchase profits help to protect the natural world around us. Place your order by calling Stuver's Riverside Nursery at 288-1759. Eric and Eileen Stuver, both long time friends and supporters of Audubon, have selflessly helped us to raise money through seed sales.**

## The Folks running the show

President: Linda Sell (266-2734) RD2 Box 457, Johnstown, 15904  
Vice President: Joe Emerick (472-7540) Box 235, Ebensburg, 15931  
Recording Secretary: Joan Lohr (266-5104) 255 Collegiate Dr., Johnstown, 15904  
Corresponding Secretary: Margaret Haines (255-3988) 1421 Mary Dr., Johnstown, 15905  
Treasurer: Eric and Eileen Stuver (288-3603) RD 7 Box 458, Johnstown, 15905  
Conservation: Richard Mock (479-4232) Box 74, Davidsville, 15928  
Programs: Dr. Dennis McNair (539-8293) 517 Cypress Ave., Johnstown 15902  
Hospitality: Dr. Sally Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, 15904  
Publicity: Iris Marr (255-3558) 171 Arlington St., 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/Fund Raising: The Stovers (288-3603) RD7 Box 458, Johnstown, 15905  
Education: Joe Emerick (472-7504) Box 235, Ebensburg 15931  
Bird Counts: Ruth and Glenn Seger (798-3242) RD1 Box 176-B, Hooversville, 15936  
Stream Committee: Tim Fox (495-9011) 503 Maine St., Box 352, Summerhill, 15958  
Photography Committee: Dr. Doris Brown (255-1223) 426 Girard St., Johnstown, 15905

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

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