

Chickadee Chatter
Newsletter of the
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



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Number 1

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Special Bird Count Issue

Our chapter thanks all outgoing officers for a great job and hope many will be back on board in the near future. The new officers are listed on the back page, but please note Joe Emerick is our new chapter president. Joe has been a hard working education chairperson for the chapter since its inception and so we look forward to his leadership. Linda Sell, our outgoing president is to be congratulated for a wonderful job, fortunately for us, she will continue on the board in a different capacity.

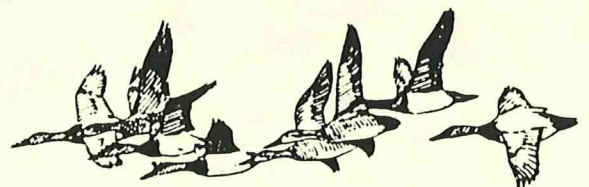
I have the greatest respect for citizen groups such as Audubon since most of their endeavors are altruistic. Of course, there is a love of labor, but the spinoff benefits all of us. A good example is the present Gulf crisis. Audubon has been pushing for a grand national energy policy including funding incentives for alternative energy resources. Research on alternative energy came to a grinding halt in 1981 and so we plodded on for a decade becoming increasingly dependent on fossil fuels. We learned of green house gases through Jim Hansen of Goddard Space Center and its relationship to burning fossil fuels. We were alarmed, but not nearly as alarmed at finding ourselves in an armed conflict in the Middle East over, among other things, our need for oil. I wonder if things would be different if we had enjoyed an enlightened decade of alternative energy discoveries and now energy independency.

Bird Seed is still available from Erick Stuver, but make sure you call first before the pickup.

Outings in 1990 were very successful with the two leading outings being the Christmas Bird Count with over 50 participants and the Hawk watch with around 200 people becoming involved. The Chatter will continue to list the year's outings as they wind down in 1991. Surprisingly, most outing participants are not Audubon members. This is a good way to pick up new members so when running an outing, take along applications which are available at our regular monthly meetings.

Usually at the beginning of each year we have the special bird count issue. Ruth Sager's tireless efforts in compiling the Christmas and hawk counts have enabled us to learn a great deal about the past 8 years on the avifauna of our area. As Ruth points out the information is published in a variety of publications including The Chickadee Chatter, Pennsylvania Birds, American Birds, and Journal of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. I believe the information is more valuable locally since we now know what we have and can act judiciously to protect it. Our chapter has been involved in a number of hearings where information gleaned from bird counts has been important.

To become a new member of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society simply send a check for \$20.00 made payable to the National Audubon Society and mail it to: The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, PA 15904



1990 Christmas Bird Count

Since it appears that the crow roost in Johnstown was definitely abandoned this year, it is possible that the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts may focus on another species in years to come. Why did the crows leave the Brownstown-Westmont section where they roosted for successive years from at least the late 1960's? Did the flocks of crows leave the area completely or were they dispersed into smaller groups such as were found roosting this year in Somerset County near Quemahoning Dam? The CBC on December 15 proved only that there was not a single crow detected at the Johnstown roost. This was the end of a three-year decline begun in 1988, after 5 years of totals ranging from 9,189 to the peak of 14,091 in 1986. If these questions are never answered, they will be among many that CBC'ers have found to be a normal experience when dealing with bird counts. Perhaps the unknown is a major reason that spurs on such a fanatical group.

Ignoring weather watch warnings of freezing rain and ice, with several major roads closed because of accidents, the count began at 7:45 a.m. and went on until 5:00 p.m. as planned. Ten field teams spread out north-to-south from Johnstown to Stoystown and east-to-west from the Roaring Run area to Ashtola. Meanwhile, feeder watchers kept tab on birds at their homes. Feeders contributed much to the effort. The ice melted by noon in most places but heavy to light rain, fog and very overcast skies continued throughout the day. Birds sat tight under cover and few were enticed to reveal their whereabouts by the flushing or plishing strategy. 2396 Starlings took honors for the highest number of an individual species, most by lining up on utility wires to be counted.

Count Day was the extension of deer season, so deep woods forays were of a limited nature in outlying regions. However, Stoughton Lake, North Fork and Quemahoning Dam were well-covered and indicated that except for 580 mallards, few individuals of other species were holding out on local dams that had open water.

The fact that 10,077 individual birds of 60 species were tallied on Count Day attests to the fortitude of the seasoned CBC teams who now have 8 years of experience. By now they have endured about every type of weather condition and come through with creditable results. Few people would believe that each one paid \$5.00 for the "privilege" of doing the winter bird census. This money goes to AMERICAN BIRDS for publication of the results.

Surely the most appreciated persons that day were Sally and Tom Dick, who led teams afield while Sally's sister, Mary Jo Cernetich, prepared a sumptuous buffet for the evening Count Party at the Dick's home. Any disappointment about the wretched day for birding, voiced by the soggy participants as they trekked in at the end of the day, was quickly dispelled by the feast at hand. The totals were not as bad as expected. A challenge was issued to go out on the next three days in an effort to add species for Count Week. The ten extra species gleaned for Count Week prove that they followed through to the very end.

The date for the next count is already set for December 14, 1991. Considering last year's extreme cold and drifting snow and this year's ice, rain and fog, members of the Allegheny Plateau Society are counting on "the third time is a charm" for next year.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS OF ALLEGHENY PLATEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY

1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990

5	1	2	2	2	1*	1	12	Com. Loon
5	0	0	0	3	1	0	1*	Horned Grebe
1*	8	9	2	6	1	3	3	Pied-billed Grebe
1*	0	1	0	1*	0	1	0	Great Blue Heron
1*	0	0	0	0	1*	0	0	Tundra Swan
9	0	2	3	2	0	4	0	Mute Swan
9	1	37	65	40	50	150	33	Canada Goose
1*	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	Wood Duck
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Green-winged Teal
8	8	17	52	32	21	20	12	Am. Black Duck
538	277	950	613	1082	1260	444	580	Mallard
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Mallard Hybrid
3	7	0	0	1	0	0	8	N. Pintail
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Gadwall
0	1	0	0	10	0	1*	0	Am. Wigeon
5	3	15	4	1	0	1	2	Canvasback
0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	Redhead
0	1	1*	0	2	1	0	1*	Ring-necked Duck
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	Blue-winged Teal
0	0	15	4	0	3	0	1	Lesser Scaup
0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1*	Oldsquaw
6	1*	1	0	1	2	1*	2	Com. Goldeneye
13	9	1	0	12	5	10	1*	Bufflehead
1	5	7	6	11	8	8	16	Hooded Merganser
0	1	1	0	0	1*	0	0	Com. Merganser
0	2	0	0	0	0	10	9	Red-breasted Merganser
0	13	2	2	0	1*	0	0	Ruddy Duck
0	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	N. Harrier
1	1*	6	2	0	1	5	3	Sharpshinned Hawk
4	0	2	4	1	3	6	3	Cooper's Hawk
1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	N. Goshawk
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Red-shouldered Hawk
4	18	18	12	23	18	15	18	Red-tailed Hawk
0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	Buteo, sp.
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	Rough-legged Hawk
7	8	7	5	8	9	8	11	Am. Kestrel
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Merlin
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Falcon, sp.
0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	Hawk, sp.
2	5	1	5	2	3	0	1	Ring-necked Pheasant
2	13	5	2	1	2	2	2	Ruffed Grouse



1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990

0	0	5	1	1	1	13	2	Wild Turkey
0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	N. Bobwhite
1*	0	6	0	2	1	1	0	Am. Coot
0	0	0	2	6	0	0	3	Killdeer
0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	Com. Snipe
0	0	10	0	0	0	2	1*	Ring-billed Gull
0	0	0	1	0	1*	0	0	Gull, sp.
228	246	352	435	932	581	426	659	Rock Dove
56	78	174	533	365	278	184	576	Mourning Dove
1*	0	2	1*	0	2	1*	0	Screech Owl
1*	1	1*	5	1*	3	1*	1*	Great-Horned Owl
2	1*	1	0	0	0	1*	1*	Barred Owl
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	Short-eared Owl
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	Owl, sp.
0	0	0	1	1	1*	1	0	Belted Kingfisher
0	1	3	0	1	0	3	0	Red-headed Woodpecker
1*	0	3	4	3	10	7	4	Red-bellied Woodpecker
1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
51	58	56	74	71	76	78	51	Downy Woodpecker
8	10	17	12	20	17	28	9	Hairy Woodpecker
2	2	0	6	0	2	2	0	N. Flicker
2	1	1	3	3	3	3	1	Pileated Woodpecker
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	E. Wood Pewee
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	E. Phoebe
200	1*	343	272	0	310	380	380	Horned Lark
38	44	133	170	179	202	257	67	Blue Jay
10650	12983	13041	16377	12742	1154	3231	2069	Am. Crow
1*	0	0	0	2	2	2	1*	Com. Raven
392	393	481	425	581	424	310	535	Black-capped Chickadee
69	69	199	135	214	193	178	197	Tufted Titmouse
9	3	14	5	4	3	4	1*	Red-breasted Nuthatch
67	80	71	137	166	94	103	72	White-breasted Nuthatch
2	1	2	11	1	3	4	4	Brown Creeper
1*	0	1*	6	3	5	7	9	Carolina Wren
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Winter Wren
6	21	33	20	6	4	39	23	Golden-crowned Kinglet
0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
8	7	0	5	0	11	20	12	E. Bluebird
0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	Hermit Thrush
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Wood Thrush
1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Thrush, sp.

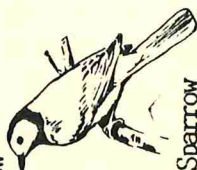


COUNTS OVER 200										
1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990			
1*	18	3	1	0	13	4	4	Am. Robin		
0	0	0	1	4	0	1	1	N. Mockingbird		
0	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	Brown Thrasher		
32	19	8	64	27	9	13	20	Cedar Waxwing		
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	N. Shrike		
982	1193	620	1174	978	938	1321	2396	Eur. Starling		
0	0	0	0	0	1*	0	0	Yellow-rumped Warbler		
115	99	185	230	398	214	237	190	N. Cardinal		
86	41	163	115	60	92	180	61	Rufous-sided Towhee		
4	11	10	0	3	0	7	2	Am. Tree Sparrow		
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	Field Sparrow		
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Vesper Sparrow		
31	17	41	43	53	45	57	22	Fox Sparrow		
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Song Sparrow		
25	104	32	33	28	15	41	32	Swamp Sparrow		
0	0	1*	0	0	0	0	0	White-throated Sparrow		
0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	White-crowned Sparrow		
246	249	544	522	283	381	679	416	Sparrow, sp.		
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Dark-eyed Junco		
3	0	1*	0	150	0	14	5	Snow Bunting		
0	0	0	21	5	0	0	0	Red-winged Blackbird		
0	1*	1	1	43	3	11	8	E. Meadowlark		
0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	Com. Grackle		
0	0	12	1*	75	1*	1*	4	Rusty Blackbird		
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	Brown-headed Cowbird		
97	84	42	0	25	2	21	45	Blackbird, sp.		
270	268	456	1666	671	603	515	472	Purple Finch		
14	0	0	0	0	1*	0	0	House Finch		
7	0	4	8	97	3	118	0	Com. Redpoll		
103	31	95	120	169	62	88	35	Pine Siskin		
68	0	1180	74	226	0	3	6	Am. Goldfinch		
410	930	496	863	1266	521	421	961	Evening Grosbeak		
								House Sparrow		
14913	16861	19948	24370	21124	7683	9726	10077	INDIVIDUAL BIRDS		

* Seen in Count Week but not on Count Day

57 52 62 61 65 61 68 60 SPECIES ON COUNT DAY
69 59 68 63 66 70 76 70 SPECIES IN COUNT WEEK

2 NEW SPECIES IN 1990
107 TOTAL SPECIES 1983-90



OBSERVER INFORMATION										
1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990			
43	39	58	65	59	64	54	52	Observers		
27	51	22	29	13	20	10	9	Party Hours on Foot		
38	39	42	54	58	46	45	61	" " by Car		
18	18	43	50	37	40	42	26	" " at Feeders		
31	54	28	21	14	23	13	12	Party Miles on Foot		
387	476	526	522	583	424	525	487	" " by Car		
0	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	Party Hours Owling		
PARTICIPANTS										

Dick Akers, Shelly Bock, Doris Brown, Billie Custer, Chris, Dwight, Sally & Tom Dick, David Escherich, Wanetta Escherich, Eugene & Juanita Foor, Tim Fox, Brian Freiwald, Roger Gerney, Donna Gregory, James Hamphill, Henry & Velva Idzkowsky, Thomas Inman, John Jakell, Shirley Jensen, Claudia Jones, Donald Kreutzberger, Joan Lohr, Alberta Long, Karlice Makuchan, Mary Mock, Richard Murphy, Joyce Neilan, George & Helen Nicely, Allan & Alyce Ober, Jeff & Retta Payne, Paul Perneluzi, Hewlett & Tom Frucher, Robert Rudgeair, Glenn & Ruth Sager, Lynn Sanderson, Linda & Rick Sell, Paul Sheesley, Charles Voytko, Dorothy Williamson, Neil Woffinden, Betty, George & Michael Wolfe



The 1990 Fall Hawkwatch on the Allegheny Front near Central City was exciting from the beginning August 30 to the end on November 30. Ninety hawks on the first day aroused the interest of a faithful crew of twelve daily leaders. A. C. "Che" and Marion Mincone, from the Pittsburgh area, David Kyler, from Huntingdon, and Bill King, from Altoona, served as leaders along with our local Audubon Society crew of Tom and Sally Dick, David Escherich, Kevin Georg, Paul Perneluzi, Glenn and Ruth Sager and Neil Woffinden. Whether scanning the skies from the vantage point of Col. George W. Gage's cottage when East winds prevailed or watching the passage of hawks over the fields of Mrs. Dolly Landis when West winds prevailed, the days on watch were very rewarding. We cannot thank Col. Gage and Mrs. Landis enough for this opportunity to enjoy and learn about migration at the most western hawkwatch in Pennsylvania.

The immature Swainson's Hawk observed by Kevin Georg on 9/1 left little room for expectation of a more rare sighting during the year. Apparently this was an opportune year to claim this rare species since five counties reported Swainson's in the fall summary of "Pennsylvania Birds". It was fortunate that sharp-eyed Kevin was on board 9/1, as well as many other days when he endured the pain of a serious back injury. Pain-killers, a bean bag pillow and the practice of lying flat on the ground were among his strategies for keeping on with the watch.

There was early anticipation of a good Broadwing flight because of our experience in 1989 when we topped Hawk Mountain's single daily high with our 2713 BW's on 9/19. "Don't predict hawks" was a truth pounded home by the end of Sept. when our total BW's reached only 742 and the highest daily count stood at 209 on 9/13. However, the first Peregrine Falcon on 9/21 began an amazing flight of 27. A good Osprey count developed in Sept. that reached 66 before the end of Oct. The 1511 Sharp-shinned Hawks led the species totals. 160 Cooper's and 89 Am. Kestrels were very good counts. As 11 Rough-legs and 34 Golden Eagles added spice to the waning days of the season, we basked in the memories of our second good year at "The Front".

Memories of the Tussey watch at Everett, conducted by our Audubon Society 1983-88, faded as all but two of Tussey's records for the highest yearly counts were broken. We will enter the 1991 season hoping to surpass Tussey's remaining yearly Goshawk record of 16 and Golden Eagle record of 54. Since our sanity was questioned concerning abandonment of the good Tussey watch (especially by "Mr. Hawkwatch" Mike Sankovich, instigator of the Tussey effort), vindication has been a sweet victory. Aside from this frivolous attitude, the delights of this season were many. The assimilation of important data collected and submitted to the Hawk Migration Ass'n. of N. America; the constant learning process involving the actions of birds in migration; the weather, terrain and other factors influencing them; the constant anticipation of seeing something unusual or rare; the majestic grace and beauty of flying raptors; and the pleasant hours spent sharing hawk stories and unrelated information on practically any subject gave reason for spending 83 days on watch, good and bad weather included. On one very dull day when few hawks were flying, the conversation degenerated to a discussion of body odor.



1990 will surely stand out as a "people year". Many Allegheny Plateau Audubon members found out for the first time that "The Front", so close to home, was a great place to see hawks. Friends brought friends and a comradery of hawk friends--or friends of hawks--grew day-by-day. More than 200 watchers were on hand during the season. After a newspaper article was published, the crowds on watch in late October and November sometimes surpassed the numbers of hawks going through. Visitors from Western and Central Pennsylvania were happy to find a watch close to home, eliminating the necessity for a long drive to Hawk Mt. A few people even came from out-of-state. New friendships sprang up. Families discovered a new fall pastime that can bring joy to the family from the youngest to the oldest member. Photographers, writers, video cameramen, and curious passersby found interesting insights into the hawk-watching craze or the crazy hawk-watchers at "The Front", depending upon their perception. If you missed the exciting 1990 year on "The Front", plan now to set aside next fall for a flirtation with getting hooked on hawks.

ALLEGHENY FRONT HAWKWATCH

YEARLY TOTALS

	1989	1990
Turkey Vulture	81	77
N. Goshawk	5	9
Sharpshin	1054	1511
Cooper's	125	160
Redtail	1385	1306
Red-shoulder	95	59
Broad-wing	2967	762
Rough-leg	3	11
Golden Eagle	37	34



	1989	1990
Bald Eagle	7	9
N. Harrier	132	75
Osprey	53	66
Peregrine	12	27
Merlin	18	13
Am. Kestrel	66	89
Swainson's	0	1
Unidentified	75	137
TOTALS	6115	4346



KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

MO - Month (first two letters)
HRS - Hours
TV - Turkey Vulture
GO - Northern Goshawk
SS - Sharp-shinned Hawk
CH - Cooper's Hawk
RT - Red-tailed Hawk

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

OS - Osprey
P - Peregrine Falcon
M - Merlin
AK - American Kestrel
SW - Swainson's Hawk
U - Unidentified Raptor
TOT - Totals

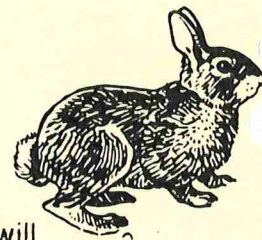
1990 DAILY SUMMARIES

MO	DATE	HRS	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	SW	U	TOT
AU	30	6		6				79					1			1			90
<u>TOT</u>		6		6				79					1			1			90
SE	1	5		6				34				1	1				1	3	46
	2	2		1															1
	3	8		6		3		19				1	2					4	35
	4	6.5		2				17										1	20
	6	4.1		3				2											5
	7	5.25																	0
	8	7.5		3				68					7			2		2	82
	9	Rain																	
	10	7		1				26					1					9	37
	11	7.2						34					4					1	39
	12	4.5																	0
	13	6		8	2	6		209					1					1	227
	14	5						1											1
	15	6.75		7		2		66			1		2			6	3		87
	16	3.75		1				4										1	6
	17	8.3		9		5		105			1	2	4			10	5		141
	18	7.6		8	2	4		38				4					2		58
	19	2.6																	0
	20	7.7		4				14											20
	21	8.2		30	1	8		8			1		12	1		1		5	67
	22	5		1															1
	23	6		6		5		1				1	2						17
	24	7.2		13	2	3		5				3				4		2	33
	25	7.5		2	2	7		4					2					7	24
	26	6.3																	0
	27	6		15	7	2						1	1					3	29
	28	8		29	10	10		8				2				6		5	70
	29	2		9												4			13
	30	Rain																	
<u>TOT</u>		160.95		164	26	55		663			3	15	39	1		33	1	59	1059

MO	DATE	HRS	TV	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	NH	OS	P	M	AK	SW	U	TOT
OC	1	9			47	17	12	1	8				3	8	2		4		8	110
	2	6			64	4	20	2	4					3	1		9		2	109
	3	9			58	12	25							3	8		5		8	119
	4	Rain																		
	5	8			35	3	5						2	1	1		13		1	61
	6	8			62	2	14	1						1		1	1		2	84
	7	8.3		1	74	3	5		1			1					4		2	91
	8	8.2			70	6	4		2					1	1				6	90
	9	6.7			20			1					1	2			3			27
	10	8.3			248	21	45		5						5	4	3		3	334
	11	Rain																		
	12	4																		0
	13	7.3		1	64	3	7							1	1		1		2	80
	14	8			49	15	21	1				1	1	2			1		3	94
	15	8			53	10	31	1					3		1		5		3	107
	16	8	12		70	4	116	1			1		2	1		1			3	211
	17	9.5			118	8	120	6			1		2		4	2			2	263
	18	Rain																		
	19	7.7			32	2	15	4					1	1		1	1			57
	20	8	28	1	113	7	192	8			2		3			2	2		11	369
	21	8	12		99	6	226	3			1		6	2		2	1		2	360
	22	Rain																		
	23	3									1									1
	24	8	8	1	27		62	8			1	1	1		2		1		2	114
	25	3.8					8													8
	26	5.1	5		4		12	5			1		3						1	31
	27	6.5			1		31	4		2			1							39
	28	4					10						1							11
	29	6.5			2	1	14	1		2									1	21
	30	7			1	1	14	2		4			1				1			24
	31	8				1	9				3		1						1	15
TOT		191.9	65	4	1311	126	1018	49	20	8	11	3	32	26	26	13	55		63	2830

NO	1	7			4		27						3						1	35
	2	7.7		1	2	1	19	1			1		1							26
	3	6		1	4		21	1					4							31
	4	6.2	1		1		15												1	18
	5	9	7		5	3	44				5		3						1	68
	6	6		1	2		11	2			3		3						2	24
	7	7.7	1	1	2		22	1		1	3									31
	8	7.5	1				15	2			1								2	21
	9	8	1	1			8				3		2							15
	10	Rain																		
	11	6			3	1	6						4							14
	12	3				1	1					1								3
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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

February 3--A one day Chesapeake Bay Crash tour--Look 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. LD 2

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 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.

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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

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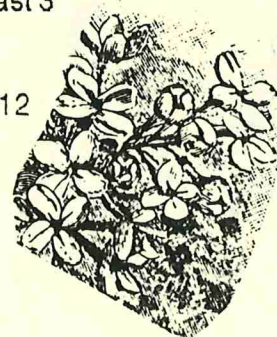
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August 16--Field flowers and butterflies -- A late afternoon foray looking at a variety of butterflies and field flowers at UPJ from 3 to 5 pm. Call Tom Dick at 266-7912 for further details. LD 2

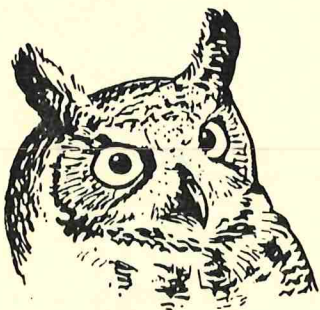


The Folks running the show

President: Joe Emerick (472-7504) Box 235, Ebensburg, 15931
Vice President: Tim Fox (495-9011) 503 Main St., Box 352, Summerhill, 15958
Recording Secretary: Joan Lohr (266-5104) 255 Collegiate Dr., Johnstown, 15904
Corres. Secretary: Velva Idzkowsky (255-1910) 1324 Christoper St. Johnstown, 15905
Treasurer: Shirley Jensen (629-6338) Box 282 Jennerstown, 15547
Conservation: Jeff Payne (443-1323) Box 76 Shanksville, 15560
Programs: Dr. Dennis McNair (539-8293) 517 Cypress Ave., Johnstown 15902
Outings: Dr. Sally Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, 15904
Publicity: Becky DeAngelo (629-6546) RD#1 Box 48 Boswell, 15531
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
Editors: Dr. Thomas Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904
Hewlett Prucher: (539-2485) 109 Bucknell Ave. Johnstown, 15905
Membership: Rick Sell (266-2734) RD2, Box 457, Johnstown, 15904
Hospitality: Juanita Foor (266-2199) RD1, Box 290, Saxton 16678
Academic Consultant: Dr. Neil Woffinden (467-5738) 1775 Regal Dr., Johnstown, 15904
Bird Seed/Fund Raising: The Stuvors (288-3603) RD7 Box 458, Johnstown, 15905
Education: Billie Custer (288-2809) 2338 Franklin St. Johnstown, 15905
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
Special Projects: Linda Sell (266-2734) RD2 Box 457, Johnstown, 15904

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

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Chickadee Chatter
Newsletter of the
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 8

Number 2

April 1991

First Annual Bird-A-Thon
Earthday Revisited
Global Warming
Outings



**THE FIRST ANNUAL BIRD-A-THON OF THE ALLEGHENY
PLATEAU AUDUBON...**

Come Saturday, May 11th. . . Your fellow Auduboners will take to the fields and forests of our area under glorious skies (I hope) to look and listen for as many different species of feathered critters as they can find.

But wait--you say, "what's so different about that?" Let me tell you. These folks are not just looking for birds. They are raising money too. Each of these volunteers will be asking their friends, families, and co-workers to pledge a certain amount for each species they find. In this way we can accomplish two things at one time--raise funds and inventory bird species in our area.

Our volunteers will be eligible for prizes on the local level as well as become eligible for any prizes our chapter might win (which I know we will) on a national level.

Now I know you are wondering where all this money we raise will be used. I am pleased to announce that our half of the proceeds will be used to establish an ecology scholarship fund at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; a project I know everyone will want to support. The other half will go to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office which gives background support to our chapter by way of education, legislation, and lobbying on a regional level.

If you would like to participate in the bird-a-thon, GREAT! Fill out the coupon at the bottom and return it to me ASAP. Even if you can't volunteer, you can still participate. Please make your pledge of 10 cents, 25 cents, or \$1.00 per species--(Remember, we expect to see about 100 species in the one day)--on the coupon below and get it back to me by May 11th. If

you know someone participating in the bird-a-thon, and would like to mark your pledge for them, please do so.

I know you will want to back our chapter in this worthwhile endeavor. I am looking forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

_____ Yes, I would like to participate in the Bird-a-thon on May 11th--
call me.

_____ No, I cannot participate but pledge my support of _____ per
species to the chapter. I want my pledge to go to _____
_____, who is taking part.

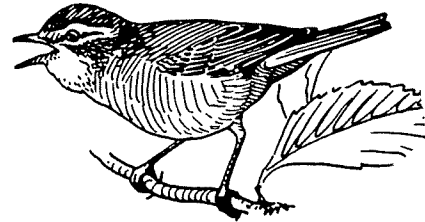
(Remember your donation is tax-deductible.)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Return to: Linda Sell
R.D. #2 Box 457
Johnstown, PA 15901
814-266-2734 or 814-539-7707



Earthday Revisited: What Have We Learned

By Dennis McNair

Last April saw the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day. With much publicity and fanfare, the environmental movement proclaimed itself reborn after at least a decade of neglect or, worse yet, active opposition by government and the private sector. Sure, pockets of resistance had remained and certain groups, like Audubon, the Nature Conservancy, etc., had kept the embers of the old fire glowing, but it seemed for a long time that they were only able to generate heat, not light. So I was excited about the resurgence of public feeling for saving the planet.

After the initial warm feelings, however, I began to have anxious moments when looking at what we had accomplished over the last twenty years. Many of the problems that had been identified at the time of the first Earth Day were still with us and in some cases had worsened. The destruction of tropical forests with the attendant extinction of their inhabitants, many of which have yet to be described, continues. The human population continues to grow while the amount of land that can be used to provide food for them dwindles. We continue to pollute our air and water at an alarming rate. Limited fossil fuels are being used for frivolous purposes

and their use as fuels adds to the load of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. Haven't twenty years of pondering these problems gotten us anywhere?

Yes they have, and, considering the enormity of the problem and the fact that in many cases we had to act against our immediate self interest to make headway on some long-term problems, we've done remarkably well. The explanation lies in perspective, patience and pressure. I'll deal with them one by one.

Our perspective is shaped by our lifespan. Most of us will be lucky to surpass seventy years of age. Considering that, twenty years--almost a third of our lifetimes--seems a very long time. In fact it is quite brief. It's about the minimum period for us to educate a cohort of children and inculcate in them the values that they must accept if they are to act responsibly regarding the environment. I've found cigarette smoking an apt model for the problems of changing society's attitudes. With the possible exception of Jesse Helms and the American Tobacco Institute, people recognize that cigarette smoking is not good for you. But it is a habit and nicotine is addicting, so people continue to smoke. When I was young smoking was the norm and people who didn't smoke were looked upon with some suspicion. In the Army, we were given smoke breaks and if you didn't smoke someone was likely to come along and give you something to do. Now, more and more, smokers are not even accommodated, never mind catered to. And how many people do you know who have quit smoking because their children continued to ask them why they did it? I know several.

Because of this long time-line for social change we must be patient. Patience is not a common virtue among Americans. We see change all around us--Nintendo, aluminum baseball bats, Nike Air Jordans-- and we wonder why the same change can't be effected in the areas we consider significant, such as protecting the environment. Changes of the magnitude we are suggesting, though, affect all of us in the way we live, the way we move from place to place, how much food and clothing costs, and in many ways we can't even predict. Such changes involve the cooperation of the government and the economy. They are not fads; they are permanent modifications of our way of life. As such, they must be made with deliberation and widespread discontent and disregard of the rules.

How do we get people educated? I would suggest with slow, steady pressure, making your points clearly and rationally every time you have the opportunity to make them. Groups like the Audubon Society do more, I think, to advance the eventual cause of environmental



responsibility than radical groups like Greenpeace. Such groups send a mixed message that allows opposing forces to point to their illegal activity and defiance of established policies thus diverting society's attention from the points Greenpeace wishes to get across, no matter how correct their ultimate goals may be. Permanent change can and will occur only when it has broad backing. In the words of Fred Krupp of the Environmental Defense Fund, "Changes occur when the time is ripe. Our task is to go out and ripen the time."

The time now is a little riper than it was twenty years ago and certainly riper than it was ten years ago. There is a resurgence of concern for the environment. If groups like ours can keep that feeling alive and educate another generation, if we can maintain our perspective, patience, and pressure, we can plan on celebrating the fortieth anniversary of Earth Day on a cleaner and healthier planet Earth.

Global warming: Some thoughts

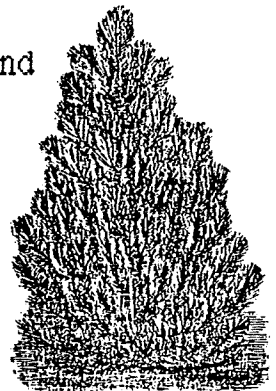
Tom Dick

Global warming, or more popularly the greenhouse effect, is the accumulation of gases in the upper atmosphere allowing heat in quickly and out slowly. Conceptually, it's the nursery greenhouse with glass being replaced by gases. The gases involved are carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons, and nitrous oxides. Carbon dioxide is most important. Fortunately, carbon dioxide is also a gas we can reduce with good energy and forestry practices. Some common sources of these gases are as follows:

- Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels
- Methane from cattle and landfills
- Chlorofluorocarbons from coolants, solvents
- Nitrous oxide from fertilizers.

Just increasing the temperature by a fraction of 1% causes carbon dioxide to increase by 25%. That 25% is the work of plants. With temperature increases plants give off more carbon dioxide and less oxygen. When warming occurs it will be most significant at the poles where thawing will contribute to hastening of sea level rise. Many scientists feel we are already experiencing this effect. At the present rate of heating (1 degree centigrade per decade) massive climate changes would occur causing forest deaths due to drought and heat. Massive tree mortality followed by decomposition releases carbon dioxide. A very vicious cycle indeed.

The Pa. Fish Commission, a traditionally conservative agency, has gone on record through its Keystone Aquatic Resource Education program in laying out what Pa. will be like in 60 years. They say if present warming continues both coldwater and coolwater fishes will decline or disappear from

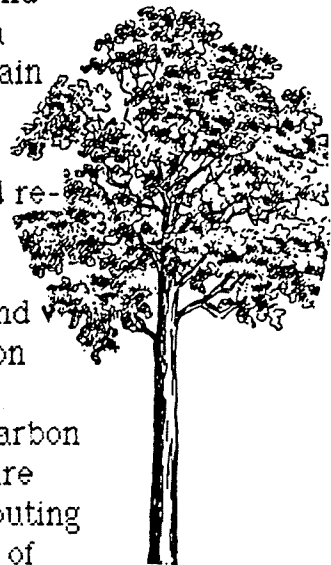


the state. Forests will disappear only to be replaced by prairies. An EPA environmental scientist from Philadelphia is quoted as saying, "We'll have more hurricanes, with increase in the severity, frequency and migration northward---forest retreat will be common, increases in diseases and disease vectors will be common."

Burning fossil fuels are, of course, the striking edge of the problem. Can we depend on the federal government for a good comprehensive national energy policy? It seems unlikely! The Bush administration and especially Chief of Staff John Sununu and his allies want nothing to do with conservation measures, but seem instead bent on rampant extraction and enjoy it while it lasts. If they have their way there will be increased drilling off our coasts, massive exploitation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and intensified mining. Unfortunately, they've also turned their backs on conservation measures such as tax incentives for alternative energy, consumer incentives for conservation, and emphasis on auto fuel efficiency. Today we have the alternative energy technology to provide warmth and convenience at a fraction of the cost of fossil fuels. By pursuing such a course we also have the advantage of increasing national security. Again the bottom line is reducing carbon emissions which contribute to the greenhouse effect.

There are things you can do, and the easiest is the highly touted re-leaf programs where we are all encouraged to plant trees. Support international efforts at preventing deforestation and local efforts of reforestation no matter how modest. This requires thinking globally and acting locally. Plant trees in property hot spots and contribute to carbon binding (one tree ties up about 13 pounds of carbon dioxide/year).

Besides tree planting we can do many other things to decrease carbon dioxide. It's estimated that globally 5.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide are added yearly to the atmosphere with each individual American contributing 6 tons by home energy and fuel consumption. Remember, the burning of fossil fuels to produce energy releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. If you reduced your overall energy consumption, and there are hundreds of ways to do it, you will be not only be saving tons of carbon dioxide but tons of money as well. Having just added another warm winter to a decade of the warmest weather in 60 years, I've now decided to go on a carbon dioxide diet. If you want good information on this diet just purchase the book entitled CO2 Diet for a Greenhouse Planet: a Citizen's Guide to Slowing Global Warming from: National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022 for \$4.95. It's not only highly readable but it's fun as well. The combined effect of efficient appliances, insulation, fuel economy, lighting, and the list goes on, saves those CO2 calories and saves a lot of money in time.



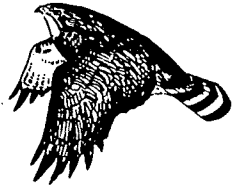
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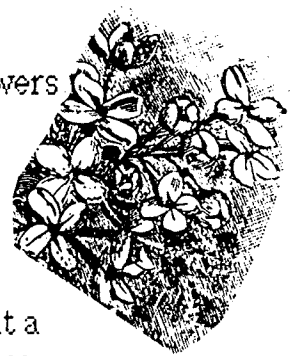
April 20-22--Special Earthweek Activities-- Our Audubon chapter is also co-hosting a continuing education program on ecology for teachers at UPJ on April 20-21. On April 21 (Saturday), Tom Dick will lead an Audubon interpretation of Stackhouse park. Meet at the park entrance on Luzerne Street. Also plan to attend our booth and lectures at Central Park on April 22.

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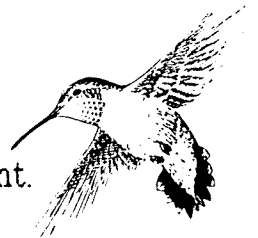
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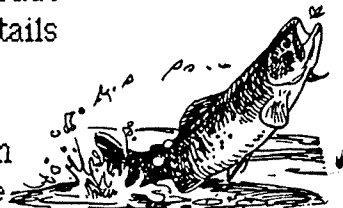
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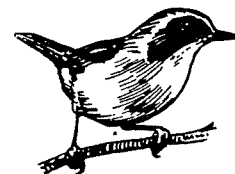
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POWDERMILL NATURE RESERVE is offering the following Spring Programs

The center is located along Rt. 381, about halfway between Rt. 30 and Rt. 31. The programs are scheduled on Saturday mornings (at 8:00 or 10:00 am), on some Saturday evenings (at 8:00 pm), and on Sunday afternoons (at 2:00 pm). To confirm the following programs call 412-593-6105.

April 20--10:00 am--Spring Hawk Watch: Meet at the center, bring binoculars, snacks, folding chair, and dress warmly--its usually windy at the front!



April 20--8:00 pm--Calling All Owls: Bob Mulvihill to provide an interesting program on our local owls, followed by an owling trip to a nearby pine woods.



April 21--2:00 pm--Wildflower Folklore: Naturalist, Terri Springer will introduce you to the beautiful wildflowers along Black Birch Trail.

April 27--10:00 am--Guffy Hollow Tour: Join Peggy Wisner, artist/naturalist, on a unique visit to this special Spring wildflower area. Meet at the commuter parking lot adjacent to the Irwin interchange of the PA turnpike.



April 27--8:00 pm--M. Graham Netting Remembers--People, Places, and Books: Scientist, ecologist, conservationist, writer, historian, teacher--Dr. M. Graham Netting, Director Emeritus of The Carnegie Museum of Natural History will share an evening of lasting impressions of people, places, and books.

April 28--2:00 pm--Powdermill Wildflowers--Join Doris Brown, from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, for a botanist's eye view of our many Spring wildflowers.

May 4--10:00 am--Nature Day by Day: Artist/naturalist, Peggy Wisner will help you to start a nature diary. She will teach you to put your experiences and observations into words and drawings. Blank nature diaries are available to get you started during the program for a \$2.00 donation.

May 5--2:00 pm--Preserving Herbs and Flowers: Herbalists Lee Jernstedt and Theresa Gay Rohall will talk about gathering, pressing, and otherwise preserving Springtime herbs and flowers so that you can have them on hand for your potpourri and dried arrangements later in the year.



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.

DO SOMETHING



Introductory Membership Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society (U20)
Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

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

The Folks running the show

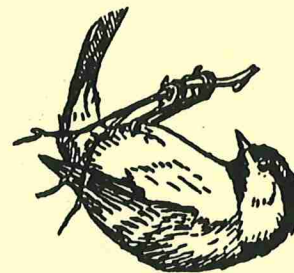
President: Joe Emerick (472-7504) Box 235, Ebensburg, 15931
Vice President: Tim Fox (495-9011) 503 Main St., Box 352, Summerhill, 15958
Recording Secretary: Joan Lohr (266-5104) 255 Collegiate Dr., Johnstown, 15904
Corres. Secretary: Velva Idzkowsky (255-1910) 1324 Christopher St. Johnstown, 15905
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Outings: Dr. Sally Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, 15904
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Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society
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Chickadee Chatter
Newsletter of the
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 8

Number 3

September 1991



Meeting update
Hawk Watch begins
Wetlands Stormed
Outing philosophy
Wetland reclamation
Gypsy Moths postscript
Application
Bird Seed Sales

September 19, Thursday at 7:30 Engineering and Science Auditorium will be our first fall program. The topic is Monarch Butterfly metamorphosis and migration by Dr. Dennis McNair. What a timely topic for this is the time of Monarch migration. In early September I counted over 250 roosting in the dead branch of an apple tree. Attend this exciting meeting, exchange nature stories and bring along your favorite summer slides. We'll bring you all up to date on conservation issues such as Stoney Creek, Environmental Coalition, landfills, Benscreek, as well as field trips, philosophy, bird seed sales, fall bird counts, birdathon results, special projects, and the fall program schedule. It's a big meeting!!!

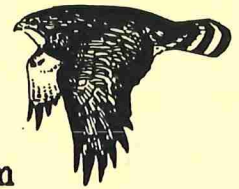


Hawk Watch Update

Another summer evaporates-- and I look forward to fall's cool breezes especially those carrying hawks and eagles. I'm excited!!!!!! Imagine being at our hawk watch seeing birds that in some instances may have spent the summer in such exciting locations as arctic tundra, mountain crags of the Gaspé Peninsula, deep forests of Pennsylvania and New York. Equally exciting is where many of these migrants will spend the winter: Southern U. S., Central and South America. Join us on our easy access hawk station maintained lovingly by members. This will be the 3rd year of counting and, of course, being eternal optimists we always expect each year to be better than the last. We had some scholarly endeavors at the watch last year when Paul Perneluzi, UPJ student and now graduate student, wrote a paper entitled "Time of day and species variation in altitudes of migrating diurnal raptors during autumn on the Allegheny Front, Pennsylvania."



For the uninformed, our wonderful little hawk watch is located on a mountain escarpment known as the Allegheny Front. It's just 5 miles south of Central City. Each year we lose counters, students graduating, others moving out of the area, so we are always looking for new counters. Interested? We'll teach you what you need to know if you're willing to spend a few hours a week at the count.



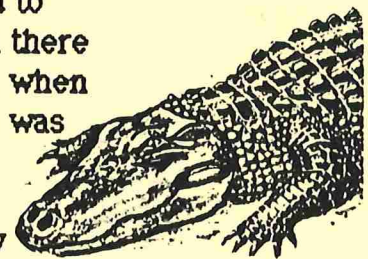
The Allegheny Front is the mountain range running obliquely from Southwestern to Northeastern Pa. The western slope leading to the summit is gentle while the eastern slope is a steep 1000 foot plus escarpment. Best winds for our hawk watch are out of the east. Unfortunately east winds only occur around 20% of the time. When we have east winds we face east and count on Col. Gage's property, with west winds we move several hundred yards to the west to Dolly Landis' fields. The number of birds varies from 25% to 50% more on the Allegheny front than on the smaller Tussey Mountain, site of our first well appreciated hawk watch. Okay here is the scoop. The hawk counters will give directions, and we welcome all. Dress warm, bring along a collapsible chair or sit on the ground. Binoculars are a must. The warmest month is September. Toward the middle of September the broad-wing migration begins to open with kettles forming on thermals and emptying to the south. By October, the winds are cooler and the Broadwings are basically gone with Red-tails, Coopers, and Sharpshins now major participants. Winds are gusty and cold by November as Rough-legged Hawks, male Harriers and Golden eagles make their appearance---this is also the month of the snow geese. All of this is mixed up with Peregrines, Merlins, Kestrels, Red-shouldered Hawks, Goshawks and the occasional rarity.



Our hawk watch is being used by nature groups, museum groups, and college ornithology classes. Over 200 people attended the watch last year.

Wetlands get stormed this summer

One more hot dry summer is logged and along with it the general indifference to nature. Coliform counts, from sewage, closed many beaches including pristine ones like Assateague. George Bush, who proclaimed to sportsman and environmentalists alike that during his administration there will be no net loss of wetlands, has reneged on his promise. Recently, when the big Bush announcement of wetland indifference was proclaimed I was touring our newest national marine sanctuary in Florida. Floridians responded by pointing out this new Bush misdeed could result in Everglades wetland loss in excess of a over a million acres. Water may exceed gold in future value as wetlands are devalued, ground water is contaminated, fossil reserves get depleted, and all the while government indecision and inaction continues. Speaking on water, Gov. Casey, a self-

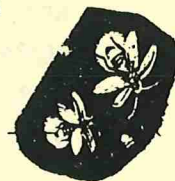
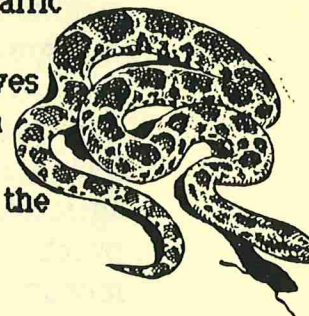


proclaimed environmentalist, has made it possible for RCC land fill to continue threatening Central City water supply. It has not occurred to the Casey Administration that a landfill over Central City's water supply is not a good idea. Meanwhile, and speaking of Somerset County, earth monsters like British coal company are trying to get permits for using their mines for dump sites. Somerset County, with the dubious title of home for the Rt. 30 earth monster, seems bent on silting its streams and contaminating ground water while replacing topsoil with junk cars and landfills. This was also the summer when Benscreek was fast polluted and fast forgotten. It's all complicated by apathy and fueled by commercial organizations and the politics of money. Maybe next summer will be different.

Earth philosophy and outings

This planet has been described by various writers as mother earth, a life support system, a catalyst for the human spirit, a resource that sustains our humanity, and other rhetoric common to the environmental community. Writers, all sensitive and concerned, like Ed Abbey, Gary Snyder, Sigurd Olson, Joseph Krutch, and many others have tried expressing their deep feelings regarding earth. The readers are nota problem. The problem is reaching the nonbelievers who go spinning off in tipsy topsy fashion, celebrating post-war victories, Disney World, stock markets, shopping malls, VCR's, while continually distancing themselves from the reality of our inherited existence. As an environmental group we have our niche--as a local group our mission is to steer people away from electrical outlets, traffic lights, fumes and asphalt and hook them on to photosynthesis, detritus, saprophytes, herbivores and uninterrupted streams. We want to open eyes to bugs, snakes, leaves, melting snow, scat, and clouds--not necessarily in that order. Maybe we can try gentle coercing like Chief Seattle when he said, "You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin." Our mission, I believe is not to write about nature but rather to make people earth sensitive through natural encounters and this can only be done through field trips and lectures.

Our outings will be a little different this year. Unfortunately, last year, out of 31 planned outings only 24 materialized due to reason being poor advertising and late signup. This year's outings will be fewer in number but more advertised. The least successful season is summer, so those months will be dropped. Trip leaders must be notified 24 hours in advance---don't call the day of the outing for it is already too late. Emphasis will be on repeating successful outings and dropping others.



Our next newsletter will delineate outings but this year we will have outings as follows:

Hawk Watch: Allegheny Front, September 1 to Nov. 31--contact Ruth Sager at 798-3242

Hawk Watch and Dick Farm: In October, contact Tom Dick about the date. Will include a trail walk, catfish talk, some jawing on wildlife management and old field succession followed by a short jaunt to the hawk watch to learn about birds of prey. Call Tom at 269-3313

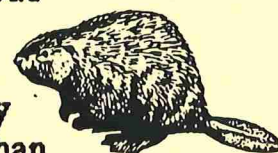
Wetland Reclamation site visit: Notify Tom at one of the meetings of your intent to visit the site and spend a few hours on location learning about wetland restoration. Call Tom at 269-3313.

Christmas Bird Count: This year's count will be held on Saturday December 14. Attend meetings and sign up. If unable to attend meeting call Ruth Sager at 798-3242. This is a fun-filled invigorating day--join us!

Auduboner wetland reclamation project

Reclamation literally means to reclaim or restore to a previously undisturbed state. In this article we're referring to land that has been degraded by the nearsighted activities of man. Unfortunately, it's easy to find these types of properties; they're present in the form of spoil piles, stripmines, abandoned farms, abandoned development, decaying industries, overgrazed pastures, polluted streams, and filled wetlands to name a few. The job of restoring is easier when backfilling a stripmine or covering a spoil pile, but dealing with wetlands can be an unbelievable impasse. In this instance we're talking about a small ephemeral stream and 90 acres of agricultural land. The land is owned by Sally and Tom Dick and was purchased specifically for reclamation. The acreage is on a flood plain, mostly wet, and, unfortunately, ditched and drained to get rid of all that bad water. The soil is alluvial, impervious, and poor quality for typical agricultural crops---so it was decided it should be returned to its original state: a wetlands. Little did they know that in order to flood the land they would need dikes, extensive piping, surveying and permits from no less than 6 government agencies. Of course there is always the little matter of money.

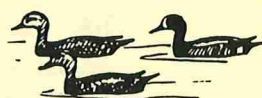
With cautious optimism they trudged forward. The complexities of an aquatic ecosystem flaunted them. Since water is the controlling factor, how deep should it be and where would the plants come from. It was always assumed they would just appear, but it was soon discovered that that statement is not written in stone. They searched the tract and found



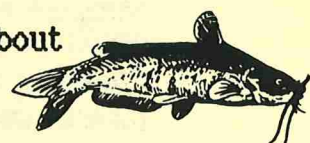
remnant wetland seedbanks. They were isolated pockets of wetland plants that survived agriculture and could be the source of future plants. With many questions unanswered they joined the Society for Ecological Restoration. One thing learned is moist soil produces a greater plant variety than inundated soil. That was a nifty discovery since they didn't know how much water the wetland would hold since Bedford Co. is in the rainshadow of the Allegheny Front. In other words it's a fairly dry county and they couldn't count on water being in place at all times. At last they grew confident the site could be a wetland once again. The next step, the biggie, is how much free help could they get?



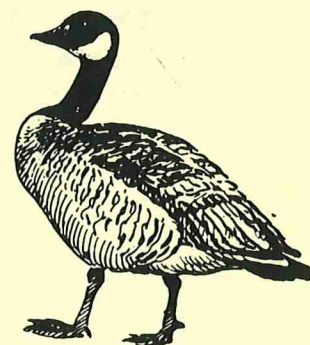
The Soil Conservation Service was helpful. They had a biologist give suggestions while another agent did some preliminary surveying. Great! except heavy earth moving machinery was needed for an elaborate system of shallow ponds. Worse yet, dikes needed to be built and they needed to withstand 25, 50 and 100 year floods from the infamous Dunnings Creek. Dunnings Creek forms one border of the property. According to a neighboring farmer, whose home is approximately 150 yards from Dunnings Creek, "I went to bed one rainless night and woke up to find my yard flooded." Apparently, it poured in the mountains 15 miles away and caused rapid basin expansion of the valley streams causing Dunnings to rise 5 feet.



Information is power, so they say, but it can also be penniless for the project stopped until ways were found to fund it. Everything was considered from raising catfish to leasing acreage till they heard news about a novel federal fish and wildlife program of reclaiming wetlands. The nearest office of F & W at Penn State was contacted and they visited the property. They were immediately interested and soon other mid-Atlantic federals were in agreement that the property was what they had in mind. After extensive surveying, bids, evaluations, and delays, the project was passed. Today the project is getting started with 30 to 50 acres to be underwater by spring. Another section of the project with deeper impoundments will be initiated in '92. They are also eying the property for Woodcock Management since it's an important migratory stopover.



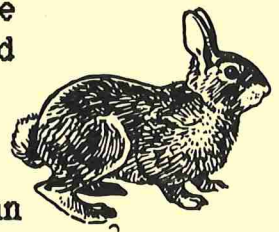
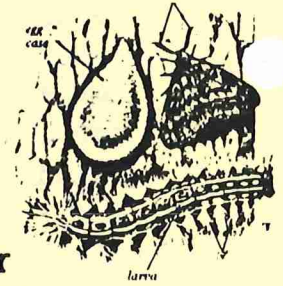
So what does this all have to do with our Audubon Chapter? It means this is another Audubon project with volunteers needed for doing plant and bird surveys. Observers and photographers are needed since a project of this type is definitely unusual and unique. Watching the various stages of development of a wetland is a rare experience since most naturally occurring wetlands take lifetimes to develop. In order to be an observer or participant just call Tom or Sally at 266-7912.



Parting thoughts on Gypsy Moths

Gypsy moths are still making headlines as they continue altering ecology, influencing politics, regulating lumbering and making millions for out of state spraying companies. Not many subjects have amassed so much information, stirred so much emotion, and raised so many questions. Instinctively, we abhor the caterpillars for their nasty eating habits, sloppy manners, and painful urticating hairs. We're not dumb; we retaliate by biologic and chemical means until by late June we have fought the moths to submission ----or have we. You see, by late June the leaf-eating caterpillars have already metamorphosed into cocoons and many are emerging as the adult moth. Leaf damage is now finished. The carnage is over for this year and it has little to do with spraying. It's just the natural rhythm of their life cycle.

What if we didn't spray? We'll certainly lose many trees! Benefits, however, begin to accrue. Benefits include: restoring plant diversity, allowing understory development, enhanced habitat for cavity nesters. Long term net results might be more life without chemicals, allowing natural predators to become established like wasps, birds, bacteria and viruses; defoliation may increase certain small game populations, and Millions of dollars would be saved. Remember not all trees die. Forests we need and forests we'll have long after the Gypsy moths have finished their initial destruction. Unsprayed forests in the future will have more moth-resistant species, greater variety, and less vulnerability to massive destruction. Understory trees will grow where once only their dormant seeds were buried. More of these trees will produce fruits useful to wildlife. Canopy trees not killed by moths will continue to flourish; in other words, we'll still have oaks and hickories, only not as many. A forest without chemical management is healthier and more varied. Dead snags, unique in their majesty, provide habitat for nearly a hundred cavity nesters. Short term spraying removes natural predators and therefore long term control. Gypsy moths are now part of our permanent insect fauna and moth predators are the most cost-effective means of control. Hunters who have long lamented the decline of rabbits can no longer blame predators. Now thick new understory brought about by Gypsy moth defoliation has started a rabbit renaissance. Many but not all trees dead from defoliation were already stressed by age, drought, weather damage or disease and therefore met an earlier death. Many healthy trees have withstood repeated defoliation until finally the moths burned out through natural disease and predation.



In conclusion, be aware of the responsibility of spraying, i.e. loss of natural predators, loss of many other species of beneficial moths and butterflies, soil and water contamination, and rampant escalating costs of chemical control which we all pay. Protect lawn trees by wrapping, physically removing larva, and, if necessary, spot spraying with Bacillus thuringensis. Larger tracts might fare well without any interference. Let's pass the test of environmental chemical independence and do as little spraying as possible.



Sign up for new or expired memberships

The 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 and continuing education programs for teachers, outings and 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. 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.

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Introductory Membership Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society (U20)

Name: _____

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

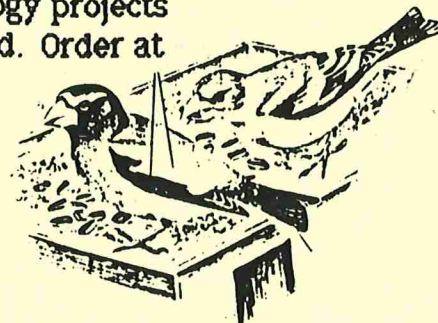
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1003 Eisenhower Blvd.

Johnstown, Pa. 15904

Bird seed order

Once again Eric and Eileen Stuver of Stivers Nursery will sell bird seed for our chapter. The Stivers have raised many thousands of dollars for our chapter which have been funneled into many worthwhile ecology projects and educational endeavors. Volume purchases will be delivered. Order at the next meeting or call the Stivers at 288-3603.

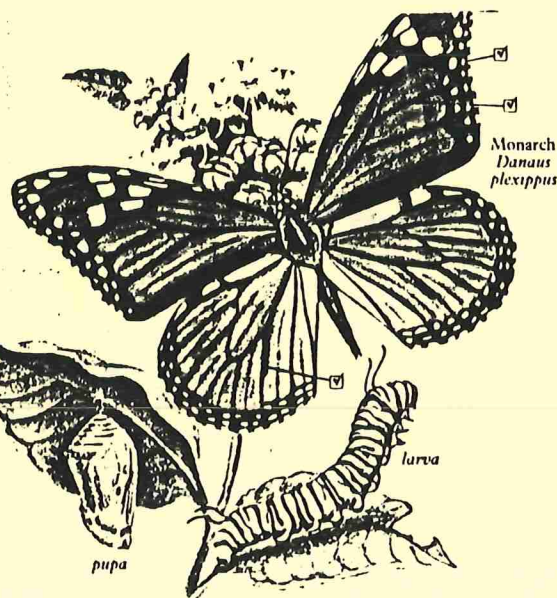


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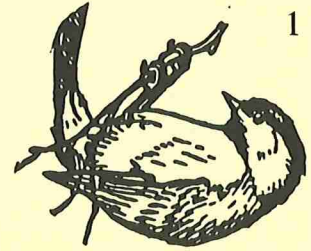
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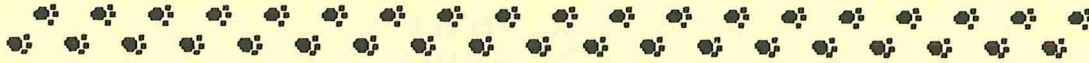
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Volume 8

Number 4

December 1991



State of the Chapter
Bird Seed Sale
Outings for 1992



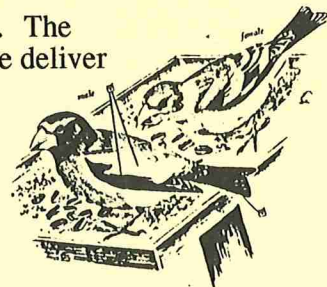
In the October meeting, regional vice president Walt Pomeroy noted that our chapter holds some kind of growth record. The average start up time for a chapter is six months and we pulled together in just three. Our membership is now in the 450 range and climbing faster than the anticipated rate of 10%. Obviously, within any membership we have subscribers-only and active participants. Although we appreciate both I particularly like converts from subscription types to active participants. Anyone wanting a more active role in Audubon is never turned down. We're very opportunistic and, besides, we enjoy the comradery and new friendships.

So what is happening now? We've finished with the fall hawk and eagle count and it's been a record year, not only for birds but for people as well. We now have 24 counters, a number practically unheard of at most hawk watch sites. On October 20 we had over 85 people staring at the sky as 160 hawks soared past. The season finished with over 200 people visiting the site. We've set site records for Peregrine Falcons, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagles, Coopers Hawk and especially Golden Eagles. By December we had counted 90 Golden Eagles. For the final tally see the bird count issue in February of '92 by Ruth Sager. The other events creeping into our schedule include programs, outings, and the ongoing bird seed sale.

Bird Seed Sale

We are now selling bird seed through the great efforts of Stuver Nursery. The prices are very competitive and the proceeds are very important to our budget. We deliver when you buy more than a hundred pounds of seed. Below is a listing:

Black Oil Sunflower:	50 lb for \$10.00
Wild Bird Seed:	40 lb for \$10.00
Gray Striped Sunflower:	50 lb for \$11.00
Thistle	.99 cents a pound



Call Stuver's at 288-1759 or 288-3603 and order enough to get you through the winter.

Christmas bird Count

Stay tuned to the next newsletter coming up in February for the results of this count. It suffices to say that, as usual, weather was unpredictable but spirits and



participation was high. Alas, this was Ruth's last year as compiler for the count and what a great job she has done over the years. Next years compiler will be Tim Fox. Don't worry! Ruth will still be compiler for the hawk watch. Actually you couldn't keep Ruth off those mountain tops in the fall.

DO SOMETHING
WILD



Outings

The outing schedule listed below is the work of 12 trip leaders, each with undying enthusiasm and expertise. The outings for 1992 are a conglomerate of old favorites, and new outings. We have tried to minimize summer outings since few participate; however, there will be a exceptions such as picnics, butterfly, wetlands and field flower outings. The new block of outings include additional farms and state parks in various seasons. The farms and rural acreage are owned by Audubon members and the state parks are within the general territory of our membership. Other new outings this year include the Wetland Restoration Project, West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage, hiking the final leg of Laurel Trail, Ottawa, Cresson Mountain Biking, Washington-Potomac Tour, Winter Raptors and winter nature. Hardy outings such as backpacking and cycling are becoming more attractive as Joan Lohr, Sally Dick, Juanita Foor and Retta Payne set the pace. Events such as the birdathon are becoming big fund raisers.

We had such a successful outing at the farm of Eugene and Juanita Foor that we decided to expand the outings to include other Auduboners who enjoy country living. Once again the Foor's will host our group on their Bedford County farm. Sager's "Springdale" acreage will be visited in February during our foray to see their active bird feeders. Tom and Sally Dick will host the Audubon picnic at their farm, and Jeff and Retta Payne will host us at their farm in Somerset County.

Call trip leaders at least 3 days ahead for day outings and 2 weeks ahead for long outings. This is a must! Failure to do so not only eliminates participation, but may also cancel some outings. Remember our outing leaders are all busy people and they need full consideration.

1992 Programs and Outings

January 16 --Wetlands UPJ program--A multiprojector program entitled *Wetlands: A Natural Wonder* by Joe Emerick

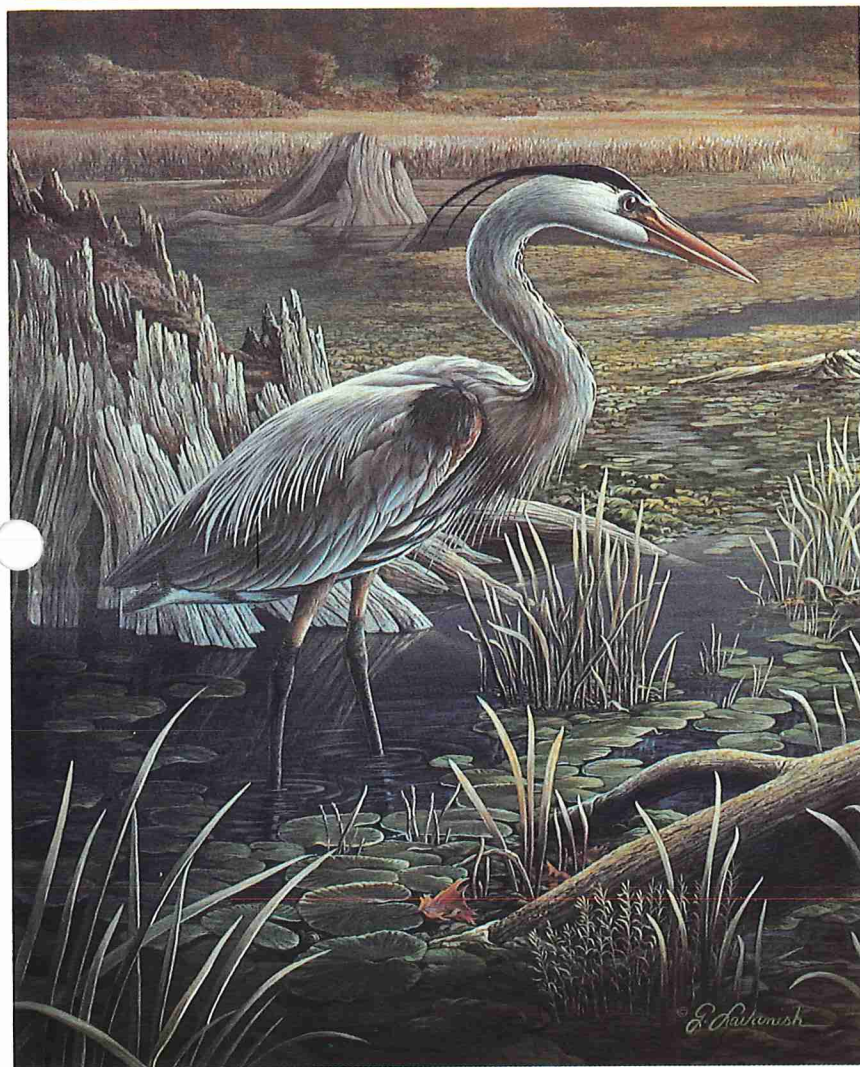
January 19--Winter Nature: Nature is not always barebones in the winter as you will see from this outing. *Winter Nature* is a brief jaunt along woodland trails peaking into the realm of nature's beings and how they fare during winter's energy shortage. Little known facts, self-discovery, and environmental rhetoric spice our appetite for the unexpected. Wear warm clothes, waterproof footwear, bring binoculars, and be prepared to look at trees, birds, tracks, and experience the solitude of a winter afternoon. The outing will last approximately 2 hours and begins at 1:00 pm. We will meet at the Richland Veterinary Hospital parking lot. Call Tom Dick at (814)266-7912 for details.

January 24-- Astronomy: Join up with Kevin Georg and Tom Dick at Hidden Acres Farm to learn the winter constellations. Dress extremely warm. Hot drinks and a warm house will be available for the hypothermic, anemic, or otherwise disenchanted. This is also a good opportunity to see deer browsing beside the house during the evening. Call Tom Dick at (814)266-7912 for details.



"First of Audubon"

by G. LaVanish



"AUTUMN BLUE"

The Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions of the National Audubon Society present George LaVanish's special "First of Audubon" limited edition print which masterfully features a Great Blue Heron wading through a wetland in autumn.

A large portion of each print purchased benefits the Audubon Regional Wetlands Campaign.

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The protection of wetlands is one of the most critical wildlife and environmental habitat issues of the 1990's.

Wetlands have many uses and values including purification of our drinking water, minimizing flooding after heavy rains, protecting valuable soil from senseless erosion, providing billions of dollars in commercial fish and food, offering unlimited and valuable recreation to countless individuals and offering an open scenic vista in a rapidly encroaching world.

That's why wetlands have become a High Priority Campaign of the National Audubon Society, State Audubon Councils, and Local Audubon Chapters.

Your purchase of this fine print will help to insure support for Audubon's wetlands protection work. Your appreciation of this fine art print will be enhanced by knowing that your acquisition provided direct support to your Local Audubon Chapter, your State Audubon Council, and Audubon Regional Office for our all important partnership to protect wetlands.



The Program

The first Audubon Society was initiated in 1887 to protect birds and their habitat. Since those early days, members have used science, education, and action to achieve that protection. Now with more than 600,000 members worldwide the National Audubon Society effectively carries on that tradition. Protecting birds and other forms of wildlife, however, also encompasses protecting their habitat and working to prevent environmental threats to it.

Birds, as represented in this Great Blue Heron wading through a wetland in the fall, are the very essence of a shrinking natural world. It is a natural wild bird that has been selected for this "First of Audubon" Regional Habitat Print — a program developed by several local and state Audubon Councils and your Regional Audubon Office. We are pleased to offer these fine art prints of George LaVanish's "Autumn Blue" as a fundraising opportunity to benefit Audubon's wetlands protection work.

Walter Pomeroy
Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President
National Audubon Society

Dave Miller
Northeastern Regional Vice President
National Audubon Society

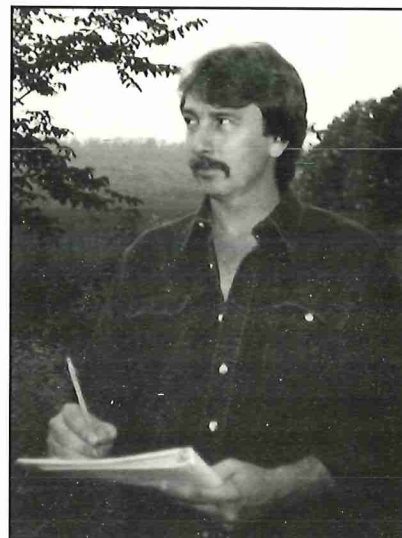
The Artist

George LaVanish was born in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia but has lived most of his life in Pennsylvania. His love for the outdoors comes naturally.

During his teenage years, he began to draw and paint outdoor scenes and wildlife. He was influenced by the art of Bob Kuhn and John Clymer through *Outdoor Life* and Ned Smith through *PA Game News*.

George has illustrated hundreds of stories and covers for many national and regional magazines. He has also designed stamps for the National Wildlife Federation and print programs for other national organizations. To date, George has illustrated eight outdoor books.

George lives in Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania with his wife, Jannette, and three children.



The Print

This special "First of Audubon" limited edition print of George LaVanish's "Autumn Blue" has been published to further wetland conservation efforts of the National Audubon Society's Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions. "Autumn Blue" has been lithographed on 100% acid-free paper using fade-resistant inks. The image size is 18" x 24", overall size of 22" x 29". All prints are hand signed and consecutively numbered by the artist, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

With your purchase of "Autumn Blue" we are offering you affordable matting and framing using complimentary triple archival matting and a two-inch hand finished accentuating wood frame. Finished size is 30" x 36".

Place your order now. These prints are limited! (matted/framed as shown below)
Regular edition 950 S/N • Artist Proof edition 95 S/N

I wish to order the following print(s):

Qty.	Item	Retail	Amount
_____	"Autumn Blue" print framed.....	\$225.00	\$ _____
_____	"Autumn Blue" print only.....	\$125.00	\$ _____
_____	"Autumn Blue" artist's proof framed..... *(includes hand-drawn color remarque)	\$350.00	\$ _____
_____	"Autumn Blue" artist's proof only..... *(includes hand-drawn color remarque)	\$225.00	\$ _____
		Subtotal	\$ _____
		Pa residents add 6% tax	\$ _____
		Shipping and Handling	\$ 8.50
		Total	\$ _____

Orders
Shipped
Within One
Week!

*Allow one extra week for remarques



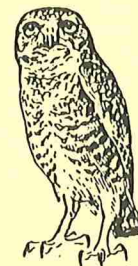
Finished frame size 30" x 36"

Please print below.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____
☐ Payment in full enclosed (check or money order)
Make check payable to Audubon Regional Habitat Print.
☐ Please charge my credit card
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard
Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

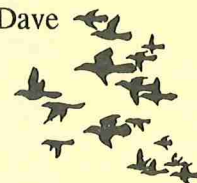
Send Your Order To: National Audubon Society
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
1104 Fernwood Ave. #300
Camp Hill, PA 17011

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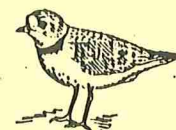


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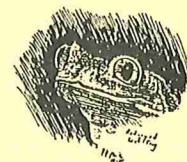
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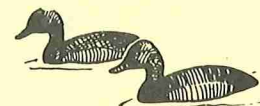
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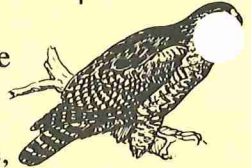
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May 3-- Prince Gallitzin Natural History: Joe Emerick will lead an outing in this beautiful state park. Visit a beaver dam along the way that attracts thousands of visitors each year. Prince Gallitzin is a great place to see many wildlife species including the whitetail deer and many species of cavity nesters and waterfowl. Call Joe at (814)472-5864.

May 12 Youghiogheny Bike Tour: Join Joan Lohr and Sally Dick for a pleasant day of biking along this scenic river. Spring wildflowers and migrating birds abound. Pack a lunch. Call Joan Lohr at (814)266-5104.



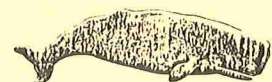
May 7-10 West Virginia Wildflowers: Join Joan Lohr and Sally Dick for a wonderful trip through the beautiful Blackwater Falls region, studying wildflowers and migrating warblers. You will participate in the annual Wildflower Pilgrimage held at Blackwater Falls State Park. Camp or stay in a local motel-- the choice is yours. Call Joan or Sally for details at 266-5104 or 754-5727 respectively.

May 16-- Mayflies, Trout, Warblers and Hemlocks: Get wet with Tim Fox turning over rocks, slipping on algae and sliding down muddy banks. Anything goes from flowers to birds but the emphasis is finding native brook trout and the emerging Mayflies. Tim knows more about streams than the streams do---I think. Call Tim at 266-7912 between 2:00 and 6:00 pm Tuesday through Friday for details.



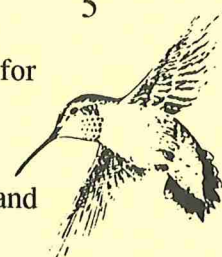
May 10 -- Birdathon: Object: to raise money for regional Harrisburg office and the local chapter by getting sponsors for the number of birds you can see in a day. This is a 24 hour event. Several teams are available, the team of Sell-Payne, Dick-Fox, Sager Et. al, Foor et. al and hopefully others. You can join up with any of these for part or the entire day. Last year our teams averaged around 100 birds, however this year we're going for the gold. In fact, rumor has it that the team of Dick-Fox is hoping for a North American Record of 600 plus. For details call Linda Sell at 539-7707 or 266-2734. See accompanying article.

May (date TBA) --Pelagic Bird Trip: Join up with Tom Dick on a 100 foot catamaran for adventure 50 miles offshore. See drifting oceanic birds, ocean sunfish and marine mammals. We leave Friday for New Jersey, board the boat at 8 pm, sleep on deck, and arrive in the Hudson River Canyon around 4 in the morning. The birding then begins.



We will return at 4:00 pm that same day. This is a memorable trip. Contact Tom Dick for details (266-7912) on this and how to avoid motion sickness.

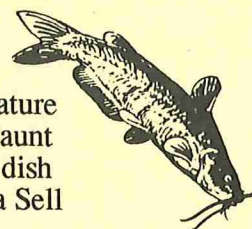
June 6-- Cresson Mountain Bike Tour: For those of you who enjoy mountain biking and spectacular scenery. This new, 8 mile outing is a invitation to enjoy nature and fitness. Very easy route. Call Joe Emerick at 472-5864.



July 11--Payne farm in Berlin: Walk and learn the birds and plants of this new Audubon member farm. Car pool from Johnstown. Call the Jeff or Retta at (814)443-1323 for details.

July 11--Bat Outing at Canoe Creek State Park: Are you brave enough to sit quietly in a cemetery near an 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 Emerick at 472-5864.

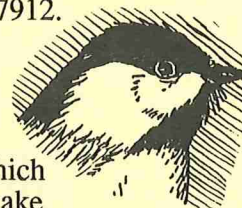
August (date TBA) Audubon Annual Picnic: Hidden Acres Farm--be at farm around 11:00 am to set up for picnic. Activities include hikes of varying lengths on nature trails, butterfly gardens, Field Flower ID, deer, seining a catfish pond, and finally a jaunt (3/4 mile) to the Allegheny front for both scenery and Bald Eagles. This is a covered dish event. Beverages, hotdogs and hamburgers are compliments of Audubon. Call Linda Sell at (814)266-2734.



August 15---Mountain Glade Tour: This is a 2 to 3 hour trip across the Allegheny Mountain looking for various bogs, identifying birds, carnivorous plants, mountain trees and shrubs, reptiles and amphibians and an occassional bug. Call Tom Dick at 266-7912.

" 1991 Birdathon Goal-Surpassed"

Thanks to the hard efforts of Rick and Linda Sell our first Birdathon was a tremendous success. A number of teams were organized for this 24 hour event in which the area was scoured for birds. Each team armed with sponsors for each bird seen make sure all was carefully documented. The result was \$1,394.00. Proceeds from the event went to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of National Audubon and to the establishment of an Audubon Scholarship fund at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown for a deserving student of ecology.

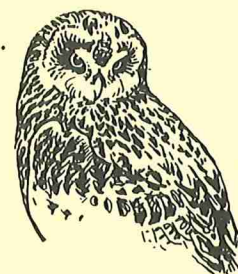


Participants were awarded prizes based on the amount of pledges collected. First place went to the team of Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Foor and the second place was awarded to the team from Richland Veterinary Hospital. The local chapter placed second among its membership category in the Mid-Atlantic region which encompasses Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware.

Most teams reported seeing over 110 species of birds in the 24 hour period allowed by the contest. The count area covered Cambria, Bedford and Somerset Counties. Anyone wishing to send in their pledges, or participate in the 1992 count may contact Rick or Linda Sell, Birdathon Coordinators.

Powdermill Nature Reserve

Powdermill has an excellent series of free winter nature programs being offered at Powdermill Nature Reserve's Florence Lockhart Nimick Nature Center on Sunday afternoons at 2:00pm in January and February. Call (412) 593-6105 for an update. Programs cover everything from groundhogs to gardening for good health.



The Folks running the show

President: Joe Emerick (472-7504) Box 235, Ebensburg, 15931
Vice President: Tim Fox (495-9011) 503 Main St., Box 352, Summerhill, 15958
Recording Secretary: Joan Lohr (266-5104) 255 Collegiate Dr., Johnstown, 15904
Corres. Secretary: Velva Idzkowsky (255-1910) 1324 Christoper St. Johnstown, 15905
Treasurer: Shirley Jensen (629-6338) Box 282 Jennerstown, 15547
Conservation: Jeff Payne (443-1323) Box 76 Shanksville, 15560
Programs: Dr. Dennis McNair (539-8293) 517 Cypress Ave., Johnstown 15902
Outings: Dr. Sally Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, 15904
Publicity: Becky DeAngelo (629-6546) RD#1 Box 48 Boswell, 15531
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
Editors: Dr. Thomas Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904
Hewlett Prucher: (539-2485) 109 Bucknell Ave. Johnstown, 15905
Membership: Rick Sell (266-2734) RD2, Box 457, Johnstown, 15904
Hospitality: Juanita Foor (266-2199) RD1, Box 290, Saxton 16678
Academic Consultant: Dr. Neil Woffinden (467-5738) 1775 Regal Dr., Johnstown, 15904
Bird Seed/Fund Raising: The Stivers (288-3603) RD7 Box 458, Johnstown, 15905
Education: Billie Custer (288-2809) 2338 Franklin St. Johnstown, 15905
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
Special Projects: Linda Sell (266-2734) RD2 Box 457, Johnstown, 15904

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

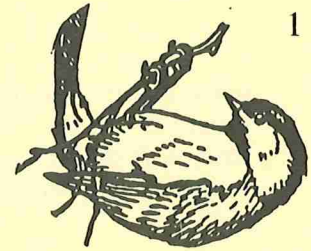
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Thomas & Sally Dick
1003 Eisenhower Blvd.
Johnstown PA 15904



Chickadee Chatter

Newsletter of the
Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society



Volume 8

Number 4

December 1991



State of the Chapter Bird Seed Sale Outings for 1992



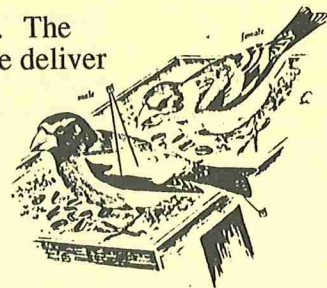
In the October meeting, regional vice president Walt Pomeroy noted that our chapter holds some kind of growth record. The average start up time for a chapter is six months and we pulled together in just three. Our membership is now in the 450 range and climbing faster than the anticipated rate of 10%. Obviously, within any membership we have subscribers-only and active participants. Although we appreciate both I particularly like converts from subscription types to active participants. Anyone wanting a more active role in Audubon is never turned down. We're very opportunistic and, besides, we enjoy the comradery and new friendships.

So what is happening now? We've finished with the fall hawk and eagle count and it's been a record year, not only for birds but for people as well. We now have 24 counters, a number practically unheard of at most hawk watch sites. On October 20 we had over 85 people staring at the sky as 160 hawks soared past. The season finished with over 200 people visiting the site. We've set site records for Peregrine Falcons, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagles, Coopers Hawk and especially Golden Eagles. By December we had counted 90 Golden Eagles. For the final tally see the bird count issue in February of '92 by Ruth Sager. The other events creeping into our schedule include programs, outings, and the ongoing bird seed sale.

Bird Seed Sale

We are now selling bird seed through the great efforts of Stuver Nursery. The prices are very competitive and the proceeds are very important to our budget. We deliver when you buy more than a hundred pounds of seed. Below is a listing:

Black Oil Sunflower:	50 lb for \$10.00
Wild Bird Seed:	40 lb for \$10.00
Gray Striped Sunflower:	50 lb for \$11.00
Thistle	.99 cents a pound



Call Stuver's at 288-1759 or 288-3603 and order enough to get you through the winter.

Christmas bird Count

Stay tuned to the next newsletter coming up in February for the results of this count. It suffices to say that, as usual, weather was unpredictable but spirits and



participation was high. Alas, this was Ruth's last year as compiler for the count and what a great job she has done over the years. Next years compiler will be Tim Fox. Don't worry! Ruth will still be compiler for the hawk watch. Actually you couldn't keep Ruth off those mountain tops in the fall.

DO SOMETHING

WILD



Outings

The outing schedule listed below is the work of 12 trip leaders, each with undying enthusiasm and expertise. The outings for 1992 are a conglomerate of old favorites, and new outings. We have tried to minimize summer outings since few participate; however, there will be a exceptions such as picnics, butterfly, wetlands and field flower outings. The new block of outings include additional farms and state parks in various seasons. The farms and rural acreage are owned by Audubon members and the state parks are within the general territory of our membership. Other new outings this year include the Wetland Restoration Project, West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage, hiking the final leg of Laurel Trail, Ottawa, Cresson Mountain Biking, Washington-Potomac Tour, Winter Raptors and winter nature. Hardy outings such as backpacking and cycling are becoming more attractive as Joan Lohr, Sally Dick, Juanita Foor and Retta Payne set the pace. Events such as the birdathon are becoming big fund raisers.

We had such a successful outing at the farm of Eugene and Juanita Foor that we decided to expand the outings to include other Auduboners who enjoy country living. Once again the Foors will host our group on their Bedford County farm. Sager's "Springdale" acreage will be visited in February during our foray to see their active bird feeders. Tom and Sally Dick will host the Audubon picnic at their farm, and Jeff and Retta Payne will host us at their farm in Somerset County.

Call trip leaders at least 3 days ahead for day outings and 2 weeks ahead for long outings. This is a must! Failure to do so not only eliminates participation, but may also cancel some outings. Remember our outing leaders are all busy people and they need full consideration.

1992 Programs and Outings

January 16 --Wetlands UPJ program--A multiprojector program entitled *Wetlands: A Natural Wonder* by Joe Emerick

January 19--Winter Nature: Nature is not always barebones in the winter as you will see from this outing. *Winter Nature* is a brief jaunt along woodland trails peaking into the realm of nature's beings and how they fare during winter's energy shortage. Little known facts, self-discovery, and environmental rhetoric spice our appetite for the unexpected. Wear warm clothes, waterproof footwear, bring binoculars, and be prepared to look at trees, birds, tracks, and experience the solitude of a winter afternoon. The outing will last approximately 2 hours and begins at 1:00 pm. We will meet at the Richland Veterinary Hospital parking lot. Call Tom Dick at (814)266-7912 for details.

January 24-- Astronomy: Join up with Kevin Georg and Tom Dick at Hidden Acres Farm to learn the winter constellations. Dress extremely warm. Hot drinks and a warm house will be available for the hypothermic, anemic, or otherwise disenchanted. This is also a good opportunity to see deer browsing beside the house during the evening. Call Tom Dick at (814)266-7912 for details.

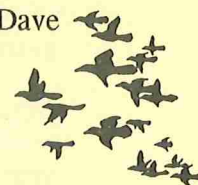


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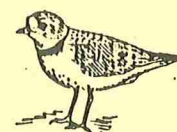


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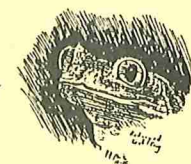
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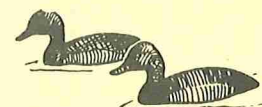
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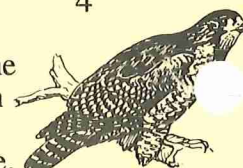
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April 24 and 25--Regional Audubon Meeting at Penn State: A good place to exchange ideas with other chapters, inter-relate, reflect, and just have fun. Outings included! Learn what Auduboners are doing in other parts of Pennsylvania. Our chapter partially subsidizes this trip. For details call Tom Dick at (814)266-7912.



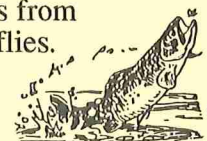
May 3-- Prince Gallitzin Natural History: Joe Emerick will lead an outing in this beautiful state park. Visit a beaver dam along the way that attracts thousands of visitors each year. Prince Gallitzin is a great place to see many wildlife species including the whitetail deer and many species of cavity nesters and waterfowl. Call Joe at (814)472-5864.

May 12 Youghiogheny Bike Tour: Join Joan Lohr and Sally Dick for a pleasant day of biking along this scenic river. Spring wildflowers and migrating birds abound. Pack a lunch. Call Joan Lohr at (814)266-5104.



May 7-10 West Virginia Wildflowers: Join Joan Lohr and Sally Dick for a wonderful trip through the beautiful Blackwater Falls region, studying wildflowers and migrating warblers. You will participate in the annual Wildflower Pilgrimage held at Blackwater Falls State Park. Camp or stay in a local motel-- the choice is yours. Call Joan or Sally for details at 266-5104 or 754-5727 respectively.

May 16-- Mayflies, Trout, Warblers and Hemlocks: Get wet with Tim Fox turning over rocks, slipping on algae and sliding down muddy banks. Anything goes from flowers to birds but the emphasis is finding native brook trout and the emerging Mayflies. Tim knows more about streams than the streams do---I think. Call Tim at 266-7912 between 2:00 and 6:00 pm Tuesday through Friday for details.



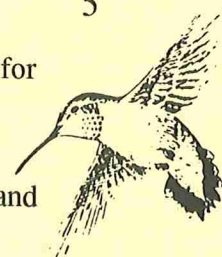
May 10 -- Birdathon: Object: to raise money for regional Harrisburg office and the local chapter by getting sponsors for the number of birds you can see in a day. This is a 24 hour event. Several teams are available, the team of Sell-Payne, Dick-Fox, Sager Et.al, Foor et.al and hopefully others. You can join up with any of these for part or the entire day. Last year our teams averaged around 100 birds, however this year we're going for the gold. In fact, rumor has it that the team of Dick-Fox is hoping for a North American Record of 600 plus. For details call Linda Sell at 539-7707 or 266-2734. See accompanying article.

May (date TBA) --Pelagic Bird Trip: Join up with Tom Dick on a 100 foot catamaran for adventure 50 miles offshore. See drifting oceanic birds, ocean sunfish and marine mammals. We leave Friday for New Jersey, board the boat at 8 pm, sleep on deck, and arrive in the Hudson River Canyon around 4 in the morning. The birding then begins.



We will return at 4:00 pm that same day. This is a memorable trip. Contact Tom Dick for details (266-7912) on this and how to avoid motion sickness.

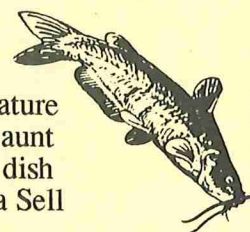
June 6-- Cresson Mountain Bike Tour: For those of you who enjoy mountain biking and spectacular scenery. This new, 8 mile outing is a invitation to enjoy nature and fitness. Very easy route. Call Joe Emerick at 472-5864.



July 11--Payne farm in Berlin: Walk and learn the birds and plants of this new Audubon member farm. Car pool from Johnstown. Call the Jeff or Retta at (814)443-1323 for details.

July 11--Bat Outing at Canoe Creek State Park: Are you brave enough to sit quietly in a cemetery near an 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 Emerick at 472-5864.

August (date TBA) Audubon Annual Picnic: Hidden Acres Farm--be at farm around 11:00 am to set up for picnic. Activities include hikes of varying lengths on nature trails, butterfly gardens, Field Flower ID, deer, seining a catfish pond, and finally a jaunt (3/4 mile) to the Allegheny front for both scenery and Bald Eagles. This is a covered dish event. Beverages, hotdogs and hamburgers are compliments of Audubon. Call Linda Sell at (814)266-2734.



August 15---Mountain Glade Tour: This is a 2 to 3 hour trip across the Allegheny Mountain looking for various bogs, identifying birds, carnivorous plants, mountain trees and shrubs, reptiles and amphibians and an occassional bug. Call Tom Dick at 266-7912.

" 1991 Birdathon Goal-Surpassed"

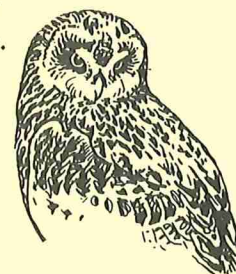
Thanks to the hard efforts of Rick and Linda Sell our first Birdathon was a tremendous success. A number of teams were organized for this 24 hour event in which the area was scoured for birds. Each team armed with sponsors for each bird seen make sure all was carefully documented. The result was \$1,394.00. Proceeds from the event went to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of National Audubon and to the establishment of an Audubon Scholarship fund at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown for a deserving student of ecology.

Participants were awarded prizes based on the amount of pledges collected. First place went to the team of Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Foor and the second place was awarded to the team from Richland Veterinary Hospital. The local chapter placed second among its membership category in the Mid-Atlantic region which encompasses Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware.

Most teams reported seeing over 110 species of birds in the 24 hour period allowed by the contest. The count area covered Cambria, Bedford and Somerset Counties. Anyone wishing to send in their pledges, or participate in the 1992 count may contact Rick or Linda Sell, Birdathon Coordinators.

Powdermill Nature Reserve

Powdermill has an excellent series of free winter nature programs being offered at Powdermill Nature Reserve's Florence Lockhart Nimick Nature Center on Sunday afternoons at 2:00pm in January and February. Call (412) 593-6105 for an update. Programs cover everything from groundhogs to gardening for good health.



The Folks running the show

President: Joe Emerick (472-7504) Box 235, Ebensburg, 15931
Vice President: Tim Fox (495-9011) 503 Main St., Box 352, Summerhill, 15958
Recording Secretary: Joan Lohr (266-5104) 255 Collegiate Dr., Johnstown, 15904
Corres. Secretary: Velva Idzkowsky (255-1910) 1324 Christoper St. Johnstown, 15905
Treasurer: Shirley Jensen (629-6338) Box 282 Jennerstown, 15547
Conservation: Jeff Payne (443-1323) Box 76 Shanksville, 15560
Programs: Dr. Dennis McNair (539-8293) 517 Cypress Ave., Johnstown 15902
Outings: Dr. Sally Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown, 15904
Publicity: Becky DeAngelo (629-6546) RD#1 Box 48 Boswell, 15531
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
Editors: Dr. Thomas Dick (266-7912) 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904
Hewlett Prucher: (539-2485) 109 Bucknell Ave. Johnstown, 15905
Membership: Rick Sell (266-2734) RD2, Box 457, Johnstown, 15904
Hospitality: Juanita Foor (266-2199) RD1, Box 290, Saxton 16678
Academic Consultant: Dr. Neil Woffinden (467-5738) 1775 Regal Dr., Johnstown, 15904
Bird Seed/Fund Raising: The Stivers (288-3603) RD7 Box 458, Johnstown, 15905
Education: Billie Custer (288-2809) 2338 Franklin St. Johnstown, 15905
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
Special Projects: Linda Sell (266-2734) RD2 Box 457, Johnstown, 15904

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

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