UPLAND INFORMER

Vol. 9 No. 1 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 1990

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Welcome back from summer! I don't know about your summers, but mine seem to get shorter every year!

Perhaps the best part of fall is looking forward to the migrations and the possibility of adding new birds to our life lists. So it seems fitting that we begin to meet again to discuss birding and other aspects of the environment.

The environment needs all the help we can give it now, both locally and nationally. Locally, the potential of having a hazardous waste treatment facility in the Plain Grove ...a, has mobilized several hundred Lawrence ...d Mercer County residents in an effort to protect the wetlands and the habitats on the proposed site. (The upland sandpiper and Henslow's sparrow have both been sighted at this very place.) Our September program will deal with this issue in detail. I hope you will join us for this important informational opportunity.

On the national scale, the old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest are in greater peril than ever. Logging interests there are pressing to cut greater and greater tracts of this valuable timber, and the Forest Service seems bent on granting their wishes. There is a movement to have these huge trees, some of which are more than 700 years old, declared a National Treasure, forbidding logging of them for all time. At the September meeting we will issue an update concerning this movement.

The aluminum can collection project at the Medieval Festival at Cooper's Lake Campground is in full swing as I write this. It looks like a bumper year for us. Attendance is at an all time high, and the combination of those numbers and the heat, have produced ...ly, many cans! Thanks to all who helped on this important fundraiser, including Marilyn Johnston, Leslie Hubenthal and family, Tammi Bauder, the Kristophels, and Willis Bates. We really appreciate your help!

I am still in the process of filling important chairmanships on the Board of Directors for the coming year. If you would like to become more personally involved in the chapter and the environment, please call me and indicate an area in which you would like to serve. The coming year should be an exciting one, I invite you to be a part of it. Daytime phone number is (412) 654-6651 and ask for the Mainstreet Office, evenings call (412) 924-9314.

I am also seeking members for a special Wetlands Task Force. If that interests you, let me know.

Special Note: Board Meetings for the coming year will be held on the first Monday of the month, the week immediately preceeding our regular meeting, except for the month of September, when the Board Meeting will be held the same night as the regular meeting, September 10, beginning at 6:30PM. All other Board Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

DESPERATELY NEEDED: KIND SOUL (s) TO HANDLE REFRESHMENTS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING --- PLEASE CALL ME.

Becky

> Man is amazing, but he is not a masterpiece... Sometimes it seems to me that man is come where he is not wanted, where there is no place for him; for if not, why should he want all the place? Why should he run about here and there making a great noise about himself, talking about the stars, disturbing the blades of grass?
>
> Joseph Conrad, **LORD JIM**

BOOK REVIEW

THROUGH THE SEASONS: A CELEBRATION OF CREATION. By Gene Wilhelm, Ph. D 74 pages; 13 color photographs by the author and table of contents. OIKOS Publications $10.60 including postage and handling. Order: AVES/OIKOS, c/o Dr. Wilhelm, R.D.2, Box 2120 Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Gene Wilhelm stood in his backyard and waited for the sunrise to become enriched in color. At the precise moment that he sensed the full color spectrum and felt its impact, he pressed the shutter button. The result is the stunning photograph that graces the cover of Through the Seasons and your clue to the contents of this uncommonly beautiful book.

The book is the outgrowth of Wilhelm's weekly "Nature Notes" column which he has been writing for the Butler Eagle since Jan. 1986. His writing, like his photography, is motivated by the purest and simplist of human emotions: a love of nature. He moves through the seasons with a poetic prose style of writing.

Wilhelm begins the calendar year with the star studded skies of "January Nights" and a wondrous view of the ancient constellations and finishes the month with sensitive observations of how some of the wild animals seek the warmth of the winter sun. In March he takes us through the subtle changes from winter to spring and in "June Chorus" I was deeply moved when I read what happens to bird song moments before the sun appears. This sublime passage speaks for itself. "Summer ripens with the milkweed pod: one mild September afternoon summer will go shimmering down the valley on a banner of silken floss." In November I could almost hear the sound of the wind and the voices of the owls. Anyone familiar with Gene's past record as conservationist will appreciate his final urgent message.

Nature is beautiful as it is and if Wilhelm only wrote what he saw the book would be a beauty too, but he took the unknown and mysterious road and used insight and imagination. He listened and let nature speak to him. This is the difference between looking at nature and looking into it. He shows us that nature embraces the whole universe and the ability to deal with it and be a part of it belongs to all of us. A collection of full-page color photographs add substance and artistic quality. Anyone who loves nature will love this book.

Barb Dean:Editor of
Bartramian Audubon 's
Upland Informer

THE GNAWING

From American Indian Myths and Legends, published by Pantheon Books.

There is a great pole somewhere, a mighty trunk similar to the sacred sun dance pole, only much bigger. This pole is what holds up the world. The Great White Grandfather Beaver of the North is gnawing at that pole. He has been gnawing at the bottom of it for ages and ages. More than half of the pole has already been gnawed through. When the Great White Beaver of the North gets angry, he gnaws faster and more furiously. Once he has gnawed all the way through, the pole will topple, and the earth will crash into a bottomless nothing. That will be the (of the people, of everything. The end of all ends. So we are careful not to make the Beaver angry. That's why the Cheyenne never eat his flesh, or even touch a beaver skin. We want the world to last a little longer. -- Told by Mrs. Medicine Bull in Birney, Montana, with the help of an interpreter. Buzzworm Magazine

Membership Application (circle one) #018

New Member $20 Sr. Citizen $21 Student $18
Sr. Cit. Fam. $23 Reg. Fam. Membership $38

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MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY

PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IS THE KEY TO IMPROVING OUR WORLD AND OUR ENVIRONMENT.

WASTE REDUCTION TIPS:

Use the blank side of already used paper for scratch pads, grocery lists, ect.

Fix fruit juices and drink mix from concentrate and store in reuseable containers.

Don't leave the water running while you brush your teeth. This will save gallons of water.

Rinsed out glass and plastic containers make great storage containers for food, hardware, and hobby items.

Save wrapping paper, gift boxes and ribbons. They can easily be stored and used again.

Store leftovers and lunches in washable containers rather than plastic wrap or foil.

Clothes and bedding too worn to be repaired can be cut and used for cleaning rags.

****

RECYCLING

Newspaper- Any glossy inserts should be removed. Stack in manageable bundles and tie with twine. Recycled newspaper can be used to create many other products, such as more newsprint, insulation and cereal boxes. Unfortunately, the current market for old newsprint is limited. Studies are being conducted to find new uses for recycled newsprint and the market may improve in the future. Environmentally concerned citizens can help by encouraging local publishers to use recycled newsprint.

Corrugated Paper and Cardboard- To recycle, boxes should be flattened and bundled. Old corrugated paper is used to make new corrugated and other cardboard.

Glass- All glass containers can be recycled. Bottles and jars should be rinsed and separated by color. Some recyclers will require you to remove metal rings, caps or lids. Old glass is used to manufacture new glass.

Aluminum- Aluminum cans are molded without side seams and are non-magnetic. Rinse the cans out and store. It is not necessary to crush the cans but doing so saves space. Aluminum foil, pie pans, TV dinner trays and lawn furniture are also recyclable but not all waste dealers will accept them. Recycled aluminum can be made into new aluminum products, and by recycling them you will save natural resources.

Tin and Bi-Metal Cans- Tin-coated cans are used to package foods. They are magnetic and usually have a seam down the side. To recycle you should rinse, remove the label and both ends, and flatten the can. Tin is reclaimed from food cans.

Bi-metal cans are used mainly for beverage containers. They look like aluminum cans but have steel sides and an aluminum top. De-tinned cans and bi-metal cans are used in steelmaking.

Plastic-New markets are being developed for many types of commonly used plastic. Look for the plastic industry's coding symbol on the bottom of plastic containers to help you ID the various types of plastic. Plastic 2-liter bottles, coded PETE, are accepted by many recyclers. Caps should be removed and the bottles rinsed. PETE has many uses, such as filling for sleeping bags, carpet backing, rope and twine, and much more.

Plastic milk and juice bottles, liquid detergent bottles and motor oil containers are also recyclable. Coded HDPE, they are made of high density polyethylene and can be recycled into many products. Rinse the bottles and remove the caps. Recycled HDPE is used to make industrial floor coverings, agricultural draine tile, flower pots and plastic lumber.

Textiles- Old clothing is recyclable as long as it is clean and dry. Clothing can be donated to the needy, given to community theaters or playhouses. Old clothing sometimes goes to other countries to be worn or rewoven into new cloth.

Motor Oil-It becomes dirty but it never wears out. Drain oil into a tight fitting lid. A local service station may accept used oil. Once impurities are removed it may be used as industrial fuel oil.

Organic Waste- Grass clippings, fallen leaves, garden plants, weeds and certain kitchen wastes (food scraps) can be made into valuable soil enrichers through composting. You should not use cooked kitchen waste, grease, meat bones or fatty foods for composting as they may cause odors, attract pests and slow the decomposition process. Choose a convenient spot in your back yard for a compost bin or area. Layer the organic wastes with soil and fertilizer, keep the pile moist and turn it often. By composting yard waste, you return organic matter to the soil in a useable form and save landfill space.

Appliances- When possible, repair or sell used appliances. Unuseable appliances may contain recyclable materials such as pipe, copper wiring, lead and other scrap metals. Check with scrap metal buyers regarding how to prepare and sell these items.

TIPS FOR REDUCING AND REUSING

A good starting point for energy reduction is in your home. Consider the fact that by using less electricity, there will be less nuclear waste, and fewer power plants will need to be built. If less coal is burned at electric power plants, there will be less acid rain and air pollution.

- Attempt to buy products with long lives. It may cost more initially, but durable goods won't need to be replaced as often and may save money and resources in the long run.
- When possible, avoid using disposable goods such as polystyrene cups and plates.
- You can make a valuable contribution to your world by using reuseable items such as replaceable razor blades, rechargeable batteries and reuseable shopping bags.
- Consider carpooling whenever possible. By using less gasoline, there will be less smog and greenhouse gases.
- For short errands, ride a bike or walk rather than driving your car.
- You can reduce the amount of packaging you purchase by shopping wisely. Packaging makes up about 1/3 of household waste, and 13% of your food bill is spent on fancy packages.

...source -Make Every Day Earth Day
Ohio Dep't of Natural Resources 4/4/90

OSPREY IS SEEN IN COUNTY by Tom Eldred
News-Herald Franklin, PA

Area conservationists were delighted last year when wildlife enthusiasts announced they were very sure osprey had returned to Venango County to nest and breed.

That enthusiasm turned to outright excitement this month after it was learned that the first active nesting osprey to be sighted in decades in western Pa. has been discovered in a remote area along the Allegheny River in a southern section of the county.

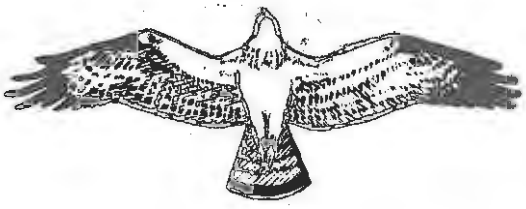
"We are extremely excited by this discovery," said John Hummell of Kennerdell. "A nest has been found and it is active."

Hummell is a member of the Western PA Citizens for Safe Communities (WPCSC), a local grass roots organization based in Kennerdell. The group, along with members of the Bartramian Audubon Society has been active during the past year in seeking out a bonafide osprey's nest in the area.

Hummell said the nest in Venango County was discovered by a logger who wishes to remain anonymous. The logger contacted the appropriate authorities and an initial investigation of the nest was conducted by Mark Bodamer, of the state Bureau of Forestry at Clarion.

Bodamer said he saw an adult pair of the birds near the nest and noted that he is 99% sure he sighted an immature osprey from the nest. The presence of a young osprey indicates the nest is active and adult birds have raised an offspring.

(continued on page 5)



OSPREY ...continued from page 4.

"We were basically going on an educated guess that the birds were nesting, but the area is so vast that it would take some luck to prove it," Hummell said.

"It is our understanding that the nest has been active for at least two years. The fact that osprey are here and reproducing indicates good water quality, excellent habitat and a sufficient supply of the fish."

With the exception of two osprey nests located along the lower Susquehanna River that are determined to be natural extensions of the osprey's range from the Chesapeake Bay, the find in Venango County represents the only other known natural nesting area in the state.

Active osprey nests can also be found in the Poconos in eastern PA, but these nests are the result of eggs originally hatched by conservationists under simulated natural conditions in an effort to locate osprey in that region.

.....submitted by John Hummell
P.O. 207, Kennerdell, PA, 16374

John Hummell would like to express his thanks to Bartramian Audubon Society for our help on behalf of the osprey. He said," We feel that all our goals will be accomplished. Draft legislation for Scenic River status is now in Congress."

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National Audubon Society Clip Art

Road rules save trees

The Federal Highway Administration has wisely rescinded its 13-year-old policy of chopping down trees along the nation's highways in order to protect the view to all those billboards on the roadside. Given time and fair weather, this decision to stand up for shrubbery could grow into the most effective weapon yet against the visual blight of outdoor advertising.

In announcing the decision, government spokesmen conceded there was a certain incongruity between their old policy of cutting down trees to benefit the billboard companies at the same time that President Bush was proposing to increase spending to plant still more trees. In fact, many of the thousands of trees that have been slashed over the years — often at taxpayer' expense — were planted with public funds during the original highway beautification program in the 1960s.

Because most states never went along with the federal pro-sign policy in the first place, it's possible that those that did may feel free to keep right on hacking for the advertisers even now. That's why this action by federal highway officials, no matter how welcome, is no substitute for passage of the legislation currently pending in Congress to forbid this practice altogether.

New Castle News — The Sacramento Bee

B. A. S. MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1990 - 7:30 P. M.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (basement) - FRANKLIN AND MAPLE STREETS
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA

(September Board Meeting at 6:30 PM)

Program: Citizens Against Toxic Sites in the Slippery Rock Area (CEASRA)

The Concord Resource Group (comprised of Consolidated Rail Corporation of Philadelphia and OHM of Findley, Ohio) has announced the possibility of locating a 526 acre hazardous waste disposal site in Springfield Township, Mercer County, and Plain Grove Township, Lawrence County. The Mercer/Lawrence County site is one of five proposed county sites in Pennsylvania. Concord and what it calls its' Public Participation Committee, will narrow the sites to two on August 24, 1990.

Representatives of Citizens Against Toxic Sites in the Slippery Rock Area will discuss how they organized in an effort to defeat the proposal to locate a waste facility in the Mercer/Lawrence County area. If our area is chosen as one of the two sites the panel will also discuss what can be done from that point on.

Join us and feel free to bring friends.

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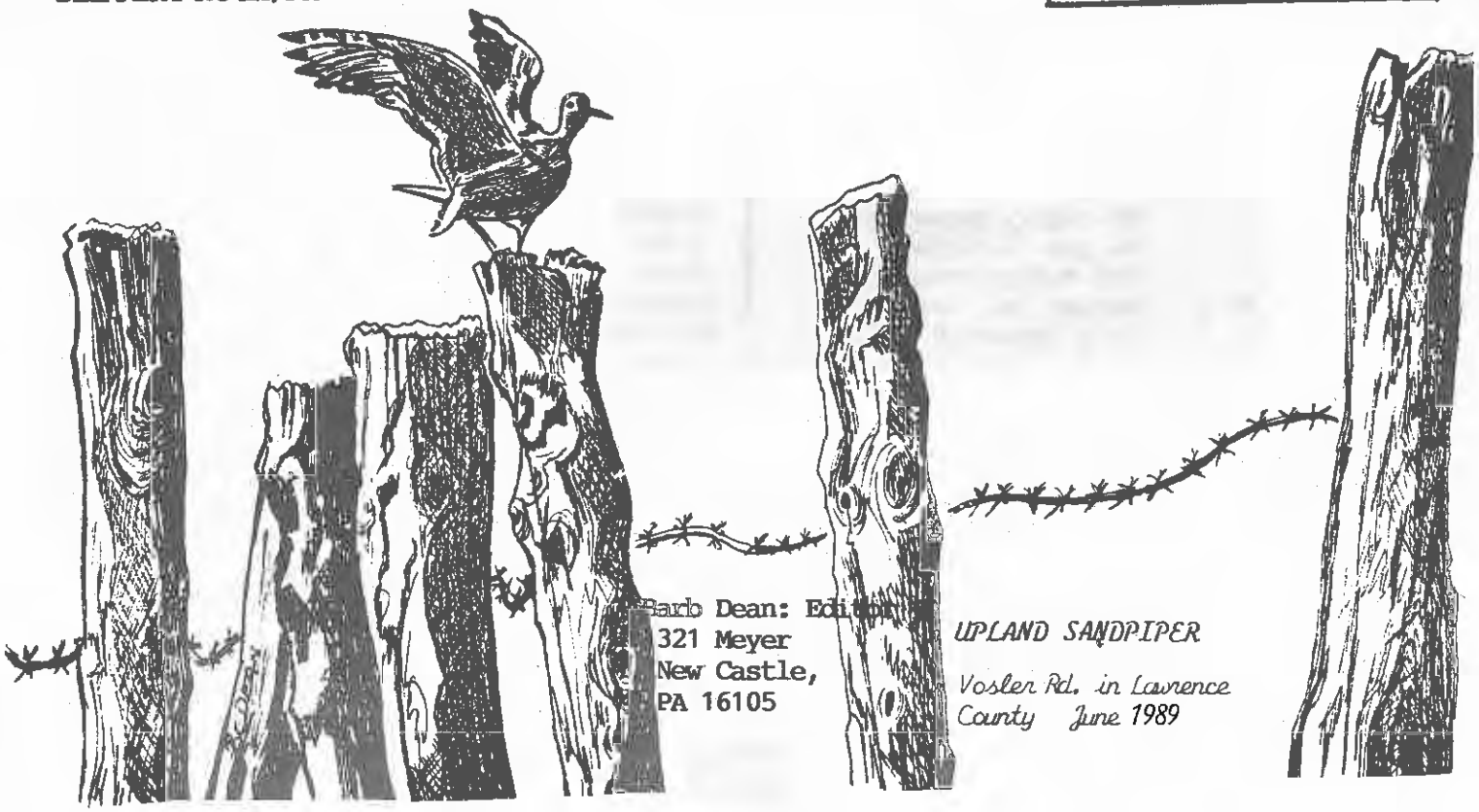

UPLAND INFORMER

Vol. 9 No. 2 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY OCTOBER 1990

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

At this time of unrest in the Middle East, when oil prices are increasing almost daily, I think back to a similar happening in the seventies. At that time the cry was for conservation and the development of alternative energy sources. With somewhat typically short foresight, all that was forgotten the moment gasoline was readily available. And here we are, back in the same situation years later, energy conservation a pasee notion, and alternative energy developments abandoned. History repeats itself because we never listen.

In truth , we live in an age which frustrates individual initiative. It is easy to say that no one person can make a difference, so why bother.

I disagree with that idea , completely! Throughout history, it has been the committed individual with vision, who has pushed the remainder of the culture toward the future. Events that we all studied in school were seldom the result of random action. More often they were the result of a few committed individuals. The climate is still ripe for that kind of activity.

What has changed is the direction of such potential power. Whereas, change was formerly achieved by political activity, today change seems to stem more from economic activity. The quickest and easiest way to make a point is to withhold your dollars from those companies who are not acting responsibly.

In order to impress on the oil conglomerates that the American public wishes them to reduce dependency on petroleum products, we have only to purchase alternate products. Companies are quick to react to the bottom line.

And alternative products are available. Automobiles can be converted to run on propane, solar energy, electricity, even compressed air. Of course you won't see them at your local car lot, but the search for such a vehicle could have its own rewards. Just purchasing the most fuel efficient vehicle that you can afford makes a statement. If the demand for fuel efficient cars increased, Detroit would respond.

It all starts with you. If you are concerned about the amount of plastic in our environment, don't purchase items made of plastic, or items packaged in plastic. If you are concerned about the amount of garbage generated by our civilization, research ways to decrease your own output. The ways to succeed are numerous. And once you begin, you'll think of other projects, and you"ll talk to your family and friends about what you are doing. More people learn from example than from rhetoric.

BECOME COMMITTED!

You'll be surprised how good you feel.

The environment supports life, consider the connection.

Becky

CALENDAR & FIELD TRIPS

OCTOBER

1 Mon. BAS Board Meeting
FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE MONDAY PRECEEDING OUR REGULAR BAS MEETINGS.

6 Sat. Glades Field Trip. Leader is Marguerite Geibel. (412 283 2154) Meet at Moniteau High School on Rt. 308 near West Sunbury, at 9:00 AM. This will be a beautiful outing!

8 Mon. BAS Monthly Meeting. This is also the deadline for the November Upland Informer.

14th Sun. Hell's Hollow Field Trip. Leader is Becky Sheeler. Meet at 1:00 PM at the Hell's Hollow parking lot. It is in Law. Co. one mile east of Route 65. (Turn at Harmony Baptist Church.) You can also come in from the covered bridge at McConnell's Mills by following the signs. (412 924 9314)

27th Sat. BAS Field Trip to Hartstown/Pymatuning. Leader is Shirley McCarl. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Boron Station at the Intersection of I-79 and Rt. 208 and carpool. (412 748 3433)

NOVEMBER

4 Sun. BAS Field Trip to Presque Isle. Bob Walczak will be our leader. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Boron station at the intersection of I-79 and Rt. 208 and carpool. Call (412 656 0201) for more info.

5 Mon. BAS Board Meeting.

10 Sat. BAS Field Trip to Moraine State Park. Dr. Gene Wilhelm will be our leader. Meet at the Bike Shop on the North Shore at 8:00 AM. (412 794 2434)

12 Mon. BAS Monthly Meeting.

DISPOSING OF UNUSED PESTICIDES AND EMPTY CONTAINERS

Leftover pesticides and empty containers pose a problem. Ideally, they should be confined to spots where they cannot contaminate surface water or groundwater, and they should not be released into the air through burning. In reality, however, everything in the ecosystem is connected to everything else. No spot of ground is truly seperated from the rest of the world. Some places are merely more isolated than others. You should call your local county commisioner's office for advice on how to dispose of large amounts of very toxic materials.

Less toxic materials can be buried in a hole at least two feet deep in soil with a high organic content. In time the pesticide molecules will bind to the organic molecules. Choose a spot where there is no chance of drainage into a nearby body of water. Wearing gloves, empty the pesticide into the hole. Then pour rinse water into the container, shake it, and dump the water into the hole. Rinse the container at least three times, pouring all water into the hole, for the protection of those who may handle the container later. If the container is made of glass you can recycle it. If it's made of cardboard or plastic send it to the dump.

submitted by Russ States ...from Getting the Bugs Out (a guide to sensible pest management in and around the home). National Audubon

Membership Application (circle one) $OUB

New Member $20 Sr. Citizen $21 Student $18
Sr. Cit. Fam. $23 Reg. Fam. Membership $38

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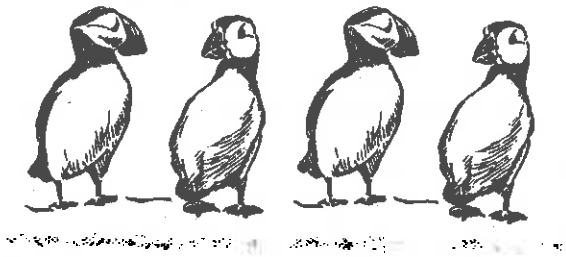
The Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society and is published 10 times per year. Free to members, friends may receive 3 consecutive free issues on request. Non members can receive this newsletter for a contribution of $4 per year.



Puffin Researchers Report Big Gains

Audubon scientists working to restore decimated populations of Atlantic puffins off the Maine coast to healthy numbers were elated this summer when nearly a quarter of the puffins "transplanted" from Newfoundland in 1988 returned to their new homes in Maine.

Between 1984 and 1989, Audubon ornithologists transplanted, or relocated, 912 puffins from Great Island, Newfoundland, to Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge in outer Penobscot Bay, Maine, where the state's largest puffin colony once had been. Hunted for food and feathers, the stocky seabirds were extirpated from Seal Island by 1887; the entire Maine population was reduced to a single pair on Matinicus Rock, six miles west of the island.

Audubon scientists and student interns hand-reared the transplanted puffin chicks in specially constructed burrows. Upon fledging, the birds were banded (for identification) and released into the wild. The researchers hoped the young puffins would return to Seal Island when they reached adulthood (in two to three years) and start a new colony.

But according to Steve Kress, director of the "Puffin Project," the results at Seal Island were disappointing until this year. Only six of 534 birds transplanted between 1984 and 1987 returned. By mid-August of this summer, however, a total of 46 puffins from the "class of '88" had been sighted either at Seal Island or Matinicus Rock. An influx of unbanded (wild) individuals to the island added to the positive prognosis for the puffins.

"It's likely that the birds will not breed before 1992," said Kress, "but after this very encouraging field season, the prospect for another successful puffin restoration is very good."

A quarterly newsletter, *Egg Rock Report*, provides a full report on the Puffin Project, as well as on related Audubon programs to restore tern populations in the Northeast and the dark-rumped petrel of the Galapagos. For a copy, write *Egg Rock Report*, National Audubon Society, c/o Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

CLAPPING GORILLAS

In the years that J. Michael Fay has studied lowland gorillas in the forests of central Africa, he has often stood his ground in the face of charging silverbacks weighing about 450 pounds. So you might think it would take a truly amazing gorilla feat to fluster this primatologist. Fay admits just such astonishment at the unexpected reception he received from a group of female and young gorillas perched in a tree.

On seeing Fay, one of the gorillas began to clap in a very human manner. Over the next few hours most of its companions joined in. They weren't applauding, says Fay, who has since encountered many other hand-clapping gorillas. The behavior seems to signal distress. If a protective male silverback hears the claps, he will respond with threatening grunts and roars.

Fay's studies indicate that hand -clapping may be quite common among the lowland gorillas. Yet it is seldom seen in the larger mountain gorillas...Nat'l Geographic Society

..submitted by Shirley McCarl

LIVE IN MAIDS

Eastern screech owls, tolerant of humans and wise to cars and pets, have become five times more numerous in suburbs than in their natural environment. Well tended yards supply a more stable supply of bugs, birds, and snakes than the owls can find in the forest. And natural predators are few.

Ecologist Federick Gehlbach of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, has studied this particular su burbanite for the last 23 years. One of his most fascinating discoveries is that the owl keeps its nest tidy with the help of shanghaied serpents. The eastern screech owl captures small blind snakes and drops them into the tree hollow where it raises its chicks. There the serpents live among the nestlings, eating maggots and other insects that thrive in the messy chick droppings.(double Yuk!!)

Gehlbach has found that owlets whose homes are snake-sanitized grow significantly faster and survive in greater numbers than other broods. Without housekeepers to keep them in check, insects can infest and overwhelm crowded chicks. In thanks, the parent owls seldom eat their live-in maids, although they have a great appetite for other small snakes.

submitted by S. McCarl from Biology Magazine.
Shirley, I almost lost my lunch typing this!

News from NAS

International Programs with An Audubon Flavor

by Peter A.A. Berle
President, National Audubon Society

We live in a world where we can no longer ignore the global consequences of our actions. The burning of a tree in a Brazilian rainforest, the shooting of an elephant on the African plains, and a child starving in India all have implications that go beyond borders. So does what we do in this country, whether driving a car to work or turning up the air conditioner.

The interdependence of life on Earth forms the core of Audubon's wide array of international programs; a few are described below:

* Audubon chapters in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, and other conservation partners around the world work together on global environmental problems with U.S.-based chapters and our regional offices. For example, the Juniata Valley Audubon Society in Pennsylvania is sponsoring an exchange between environmental activists in Peru and the United States to study tropical rainforests.

* The Foreign Assistance Action Project seeks to establish ecologically sustainable development as the focus of U.S. foreign assistance policy in the 1990s. Informed and effective activists promote a foreign policy that emphasizes conservation of energy, environment and natural resources, stabilization of population growth, and sustainable agriculture.

* The Beringia Natural Heritage Program is Audubon's effort to foster greater understanding and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in conserving the unique natural resources of the Bering Strait. With our Soviet counterpart, the Magadan Regional Nature Conservation Committee, we are urging our governments to adopt new and expanded bilateral agreements to protect the area.

* Population, Wildlife, and Environment is a project that seeks to promote an understanding of the balance between humans and wildlife in both the United States and developing countries. Managers from Audubon sanctuaries and protected areas abroad exchange visits to compare the environmental challenges faced by each other.

Audubon's international presence is ever growing to help meet the challenges of the new decade and beyond. Become a part of this movement by joining or initiating an international program in your chapter or community. For more information, contact Frances Spivy-Weber, NAS, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

New Bill Will Save Last Ancient Forests

by Tensie Whelan
Vice-President, Conservation Information

Culminating a year of intensive work and strategy, activists have put forward a proposal in Congress to preserve the remaining stands of old growth, or ancient forests, in the Pacific Northwest.

The Ancient Forest Protection Act of 1990 (HR 4492) aims to establish an "ancient forest reserve system" that includes all of the remaining ancient forests on public lands (about two million acres) and "associated forests." These associated forests are second-growth areas that link the highly fragmented stands of old growth so that endangered wildlife can move through "corridors," increasing habitat range and likelihood of survival. The bill was introduced on April 5 and is sponsored by Reps. Jim Jontz, Claudine Schneider, Bob Mrazek, and 30 others.

The Ancient Forest Protection Act is critical to the survival of old-growth forest and the more than 150 endangered species it supports, including the spotted owl, marten, and fisher. The act is needed because previous attempts to lower the rate of cutting of these forests to sustainable levels and to redirect the sales program have failed dismally.

Audubon lobbyists believe that the Ancient Forest Protection Act is a revolutionary step forward. Says Brock Evans, Audubon's vice-president for National Affairs, "The momentum is building at last to do something to protect ancient forests. How well we succeed now depends on the willingness of each American to put pressure on their representative to support the bill."

You can help by writing your representative and asking him or her to cosponsor HR 4492. You can also send in your tax-deductible contribution of $100, $50, $25, or whatever you can afford, to support our lobbying efforts, to Ancient Forest Campaign, c/o Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Ancient Forests

AMERICAN BITTERN

Since 1985 I've been a volunteer with the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project (PBBAP). As of March 1988 the American Bittern has been a confirmed breeder in less than 5 blocks in the state. A block is about 10 square miles. I wasn't assigned to Harlansburg Block 2 where Celery Swamp is, but on Saturday nights my husband, Bill, and I often go to Grove City for dinner and then to Celery Swamp in Liberty Twp., Mercer Co. Bill snoozes and I watch for waterfowl.

In April, May and early June I saw sizable brown birds fly into and out of a certain place in the reeds of the swamp but I could never really see them well enough to identify them until July 23 when I saw the pair of American Bitterns on a dead snag.

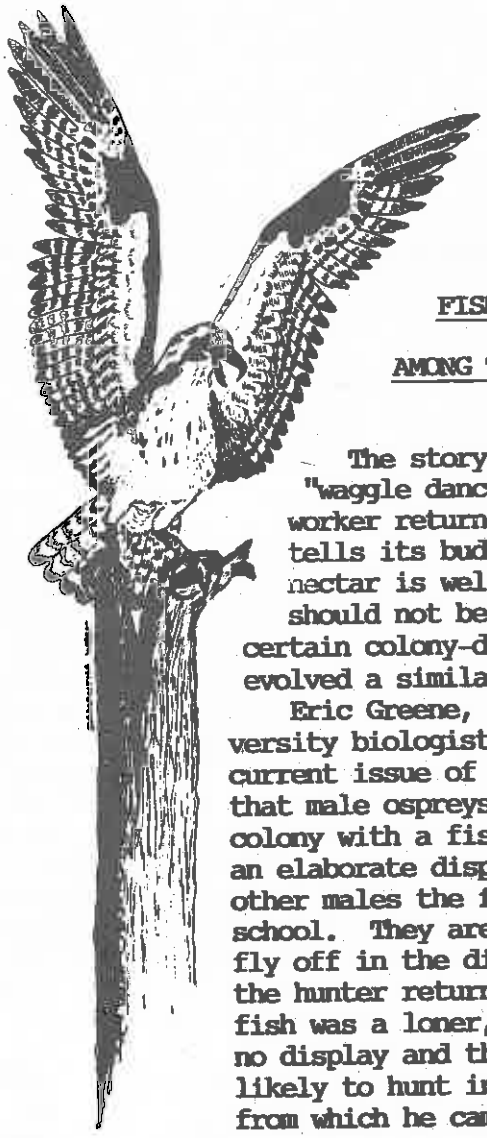
On August 12 as I drove along the side of the road by the swamp I saw a heron shape about 150 feet away. Attaching my scope to the window, I saw a young American Bittern with a large frog. I could see no other bitterns and I assume it had caught the meal itself. It was a very large bite which was followed by a bill or two of water. The bird stood with its neck stretched and the lump of whole frog moved down slowly and disappeared into the body. I thought the bittern would fly off to digest the meal. I was amazed to see that in just a couple of minutes the bird was fishing and ate at least three small fish in the next 35 to 40 minutes and kept looking for more.

Once or twice the young American Bittern extended its neck in a position parallel to the water and was motionless. With the pointed bill and the stripes on its face the young bird's eye was piercing. As I watched, the bird assumed the freeze position with its bill pointed skyward, head up, neck outstretched, indeed it looked like a tuft of grass in the swamp.

The young bird seemed to ignore the calls of both the Great Blue Heron and Green Heron; I feel most young birds are taught caution and fear by their parents. The adult American Bitterns are extremely wary, even a passing car frightens them to flight but not the young bittern.

On August 15 I saw one American Bittern land on a distant snag and preen for several minutes. Then it went into the 'freeze' briefly and was joined by a second one which landed on a nearby snag. The second one sat for a minute or two and it assumed the 'freeze' and they were joined by a third bittern. Neither of the birds held the 'freeze' for more than half a minute; by the time the third one arrived the second one had relaxed. They certainly had been signalling. All three of them were sitting on dead snags when suddenly they all took flight and disappeared through a passageway into the back section of the swamp.

"God created this earth and all that is in it and we have never cared for it well. I hope that what little I've done for the PBBAP might in some way help to protect birds like the American bittern so that future generations will still be able to see and enjoy them". ...by Nancy W. Rodgers



FISH STORIES

AMONG THE OSPREYS

The story of the honeybee's "waggle dance,", by which a worker returning to the hive tells its buddies where to find nectar is well known. Thus it should not be a surprise that certain colony-dwelling birds have evolved a similar behavior.

Eric Greene, a Princeton University biologist, reports in the current issue of Nature his finding that male ospreys returning to the colony with a fish in claw perform an elaborate display that tells other males the fish is from a school. They are likely then to fly off in the direction from which the hunter returned. If the caught fish was a loner, the osprey makes no display and the others are less likely to hunt in the direction from which he came.

EARTH CARE

THIRD WORLD NATIONS USED AS TOXIC DUMP

Faced with solid waste disposal difficulties at home, industrial nations are now dumping solid, nuclear, and toxic waste in the Third World. The South Pacific, Caribbean, Latin America and Africa are a few of the dumping grounds for materials like toxic ash from incinerators, poisonous industrial waste, radioactive material, and municipal garbage.

One recent example is Philadelphia's shipment of 14,000 tons of toxic incinerator ash which was rejected from the ports of Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and the Dominican Republic. After 17 months it arrived at Haiti under the pretense of delivering fertilizer. A third of the ship's load was dumped on a beach before the government could be warned of its contents. Haiti ordered the waste to be reloaded but the ship slipped out at night leaving 3,000 tons of toxic waste in Haiti.

Pressure on the Third World to accept waste is likely to increase as waste disposal regulations become more restrictive in the West. Ten European companies allegedly dumped more than 20 of the world's most dangerous industrial toxic wastes, including radioactive materials in Nigeria. The wastes were falsely brought in under a permit granted by the Nigerian government for the import of chemicals for construction projects.

Recycling can ease the pressure to dump abroad, but citizens must also address the appalling and unethical behavior of subjecting unsuspecting people to the hazards of toxic waste and a polluted environment.

...from Earth Care Paper, Inc. For their latest catalog send $1 to Co-op America, Dept. EC, 2100 M St.NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20063

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BRUCKER GREAT BLUE HERON SANCTUARY UPDATE
JULY 1990

From all indications a successful nesting cycle is in progress and we may have another record year. Right now we are estimating the total adult census within the Sanctuary at 450. Fledglings are estimated at over 500. As of June 22, 1990 most of the nests had two, almost fully grown, fledglings. Some nests had three and a few four. While the leaves now muffle the sound if you are in the observation shelter, it is a noisy place (and smelly) under the nests. Although some young have now left the Sanctuary we have not seen any feeding at the Shenango lake or elsewhere. Have you seen any? When you do please record the date and location and send us a note. The Sanctuary address is P.O. Box 362, Greenville, Mercer Co. , PA, 16125. Remember that while there are several ways to distinguish between the adults and young, the easiest is the color of the crown. Adults have a white stripe and young are all dark. Of course you have to be able to see the tops of their heads, but with a little patience you will see it.

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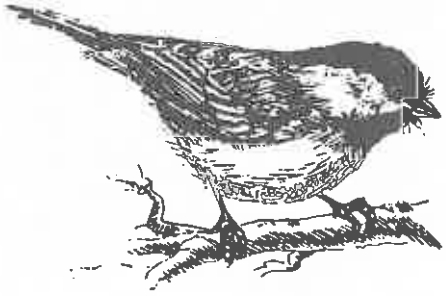
412 287 2800

Policy Coordinator:
Craig Chase
412 794 2510

##

We would like someone to volunteer for Program Chairperson. Russ States will fill in until we fill the position. We would like to thank Priscilla Stoughton for serving as Program Chairperson for many years and for doing such a great job.
We also need a volunteer for Hospitality Chairperson. We would be willing to accept a volunteer from month to month. Please call Russ States if you would be willing to help out.



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B. A. S. MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1990

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT FRANKLIN & MAPLE ST.

SLIPPERY ROCK. PA 7:30 P. M.

PROGRAM: RAILS TO TRAILS

Our October meeting will be a treat for all out-door enthusiasts. A representative from the Second Wind Running Club and a representative from the Rails to Trails Conservancy will be our speakers.

This group is responsible for the bike trail along Oil Creek State Park. They are now proposing a trail along the Neshannock Creek right-of-way.

There will be a very interesting 12 minute video shown on the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

Join us and feel free to bring your friends.

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 264
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057

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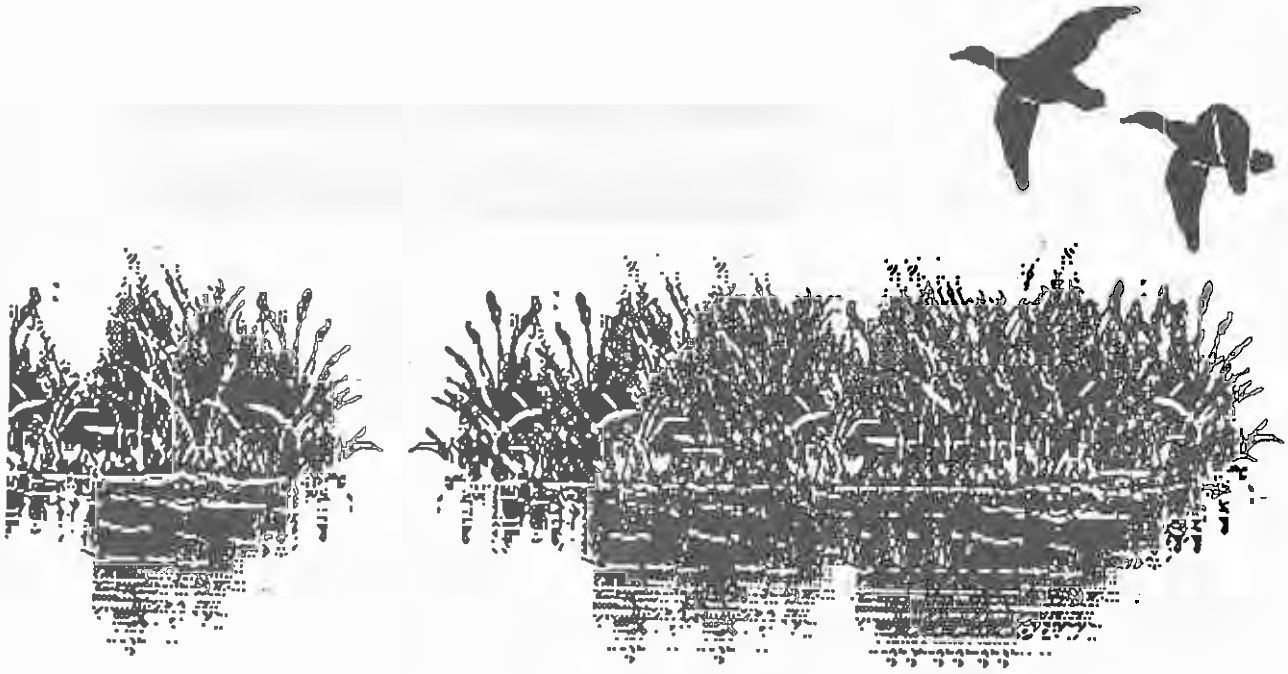

UPLAND INFORMER

Vol. 9 No. 3 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NOVEMBER 1990

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Conservation groups in this country and worldwide have historically been reactive groups. That is, they are not initiators of actions, but were formed to react against the actions of others, almost always in a negative direction.

Unfortunately we are a culture in which it is easier to rally against an idea or a concept, than it is to gather support for someone or something.

The major political campaigns have reflected this thinking by no longer telling us the good a candidate has done or intends to do, but instead, focusing on the wrongs or perceived wrongs, perpetuated by the candidate's opponent.

This is the kind of thinking that has gotten the world into the mess it's in! By allowing decisions about what we drive, watch, eat, wear, ect. to be made without our input, by only reacting after the fact, we have concurred in the rape and pillage of this planet, to the point of destruction.

It's time to stop this cycle! It's time to take positive, affirmative action. It's time to help clean up the mess we've all helped to produce.

As individuals and as a society we need to spend more time trying to ensure that there will be a planet earth 100 years from now. Without the planet there will be no birds to watch, no animals, no people.

And that destruction could be very near, not off in some never-never future. The years between now and then will see one of two scenarios: a positive committment by individuals all over the world to seek solutions to make the environment better on a daily basis, or the continual deterioration of the atmosphere, the water and the health of all the inhabitants of this earth.

Instead of trying to deal with hazardous waste, let's research alternate products which do not produce such waste. Instead of saying no to all sites proposed for waste facilities, let's develope criteria for acceptable sites to deal with the waste that currently exists. Let's each examine our households to see what hazardous materials are present, and develope a plan for their disposal, then vow not to contribute to this problem in the future.

The wetlands inventory that B. A. S. members are working on at this time, is one such positive step. Let's make others. If you have an idea, no matter how outlandish by current cultural standards, call me or drop me a note. I'd like to print some positive action ideas every month. Please put on your thinking caps - - the biological clock of destruction is already ticking!

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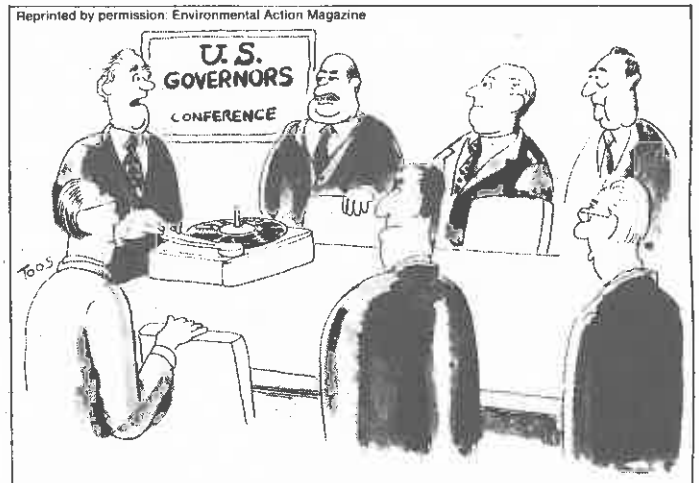


"Alright, when the music stops, go for a chair. Whoever's left standing has to allow nuclear waste to be stored in his state."

President: Becky Sheeler
RD 6 Box 648
New Castle, PA 16101
412 924 9314

CALENDAR AND FIELD TRIPS

OCTOBER

27 Sat. BAS Field Trip to Hartstown/Pymatuning. Leader is Shirley McCarl. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Boron Station at the intersection of I-79 and Rt. 208 and carpool. (412 748 3433) for more info.

NOVEMBER

4 Sun. BAS Field Trip to Presque Isle. Bob Walczak will be our leader. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Boron Station at the intersection of I-79 and Rt. 208 and carpool. (412 656 0201) for more info.

5 Monday- BAS Board Meeting.

10 Sat. BAS Field Trip to Moraine State Park. Dr. Gene Wilhelm will be our leader. Meet at the Bike Shop on the North Shore at 8:00 AM. Call (412 794 2434) for more info.

12 Mon. BAS Monthly Meeting.

DECEMBER

3 Mon. BAS Board Meeting.

10 Mon. BAS Monthly Meeting.

15 Sat. BAS Christmas Bird Count.

22 Sat. Winter Solstice

25 Tues. Christmas

DEADLINE FOR THE UPLAND INFORMER IS ALWAYS THE EVENING OF OUR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.

Seabirds Add Nutrients To Florida Bay

AUDUBON RESEARCH ON SEABIRDS HAS just yielded a breakthrough advance in the esoteric field of nutrient cycling in tropical estuaries. Dr. George Powell, working in Florida Bay at Audubon's field research center in Tavernier, discovered that seabird defecations influence the type and density of marine plants growing in Florida Bay's shallow waters.

Scientists have labored for a long time to identify the role that nutrients play in estuaries. Marine plants form the base of major food chains in these bodies of water, in addition to serving as a primary source of protection and support for fish and invertebrates. Powell carried out an ingenious set of experiments that took advantage of double-crested cormorants' and royal terns' natural penchant for sitting on pilings and navigation markers. Powell constructed two types of artificial stakes: one like the navigation markers, on which birds could perch; the other too small for birds to land on. After a year he returned to see what effects the accumulated guano had on plants beneath the stakes.

Denser grass surrounded stakes that birds used as perches. Additionally, Powell observed around the bird stakes a grass that was rare except where birds had been roosting. His analysis of grass nutrient content showed that it was enriched by phosphorus from the guano.

These results reveal that nutrients limit seagrass growth in Florida Bay. This contrasts with what happens in more temperate waters, where nutrients are not the critical limiting factor. Powell's results have important implications for conservation management because they reveal that small changes in Florida Bay's nutrient balance, either through removal or addition, will have a pronounced impact on the habitat. If nutrient inflow is cut off by channelization, as is happening to Florida Bay, seagrass growth will decline. This will likely be followed by a decrease in wildlife that depends upon marine vegetation in the bay. At the other end of the spectrum, dumping excess nutrients into these waters may affect the species composition of grasses and induce dramatic changes through over-enrichment.

Thus a study of seabird defecation alerts us to the delicate ecological balance prevailing in tropical estuaries.

AN IROQUOIS PRAYER

There is a law--a law of time and nature.
If you do not listen to the law, there will
come a time of suffering,
And the law of nature will seek retribution.
Let us bring our heads together as one.
So be it that way.

There is one law for all.
Man is not the ruler,
The law applies to all,
The law applies to the four-leggeds, and to
the wingeds, and to the humans.
Let us bring our heads together as one.
So be it that way.

The law works in two's:
The sun and the moon, the day and the night,
male and female, birth and death.
All the suffering of our mother the earth
Has been brought by man.
Let us listen to the law of natural things.
Let us bring our heads together as one.
So be it that way.

..from The Audubon Council of PA Drummer.

From *Weather Wisdom: Facts and Folklore of Weather Forecasting* by Albert Lee, published by Congdon and Weed, 1976, reprinted, 1990.

SUMMER

When the swallow's nest is high
The Summer is very dry.

Expect fine weather if larks fly high and sing long.

The peaceful kingfishers are met together
About the docks, and prophesy calm weather.

If the moon shows a silver shield,
Be not afraid to reap your field.

SPRING

When moles throw up earth during a frost, it will thaw within forty-eight hours.

When the cat lies on its brain,
Then it is going to rain.

When the stars begin to huddle,
The earth will soon become a puddle.

A moon with a circle brings water in its beak.

A severe autumn denotes a windy summer;
A windy winter a rainy spring;
A rainy spring a severe summer;
A severe summer a windy autumn;
So that the air in balance is
Seldom debtor unto itself.

FALL

A dog rolling on the ground is a sign of violent wind.

Onion skins very thin
Mild winter coming in,
Onion skins very tough,
Winter's coming cold and rough.

Clear moon,
Frost soon.

WINTER

White partridges (willow grouse) perching high in trees mean a snowstorm is coming.

January wet,
No wine you will get.

Year of snow,
Crops will grow.

Winners and losers

Moth warnings — The gypsy moths are here. Those voracious leaf-eating creatures have been spotted in growing numbers this year in Lawrence County, and their impact in 1991 will probably be even worse. In the effort to combat these pests, officials must consider the effects of certain insecticides. They should also look at recent reports that say a naturally occurring fungus might prove useful in keeping the moth population down. If nature can do the job, man should step aside.

....New Castle News

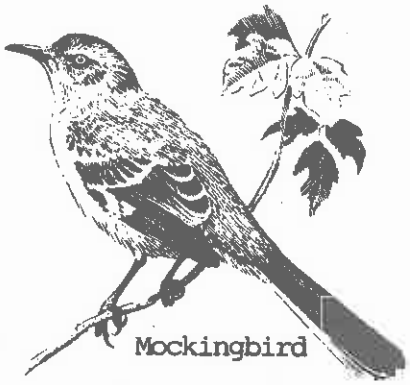
DIALECTS OF BIRDS — "Birds sing in dialects as distinct to the avian ear as the difference between a Boston and a Mississippi accent is to humans. But there has been a long debate over the significance, if any, of local differences in the songs of a particular species.

"According to one major theory, birds are inclined to choose a mate with the same dialect because that helps to keep the local group together, thus selectively preserving inborn behavior patterns that are most successful in coping with the local environment."

"Scientists studying brown-headed cowbirds have developed a new theory. They believe that the female bird cocks an educated ear in choosing her mate, not so much from chauvinism as from the assurance that the right song means that the male is biologically fit."

This new idea came from observations by Stephen Rothstein, University of California, Santa Barbara and Robert Fleischer, University of Hawaii from observations made in the eastern Sierra Nevadas.

Source: Science Watch, N.Y. Times



SONG BIRDS SPEAK, BRAIN GETS CREDIT

In a six -foot-tall cage at the American Museum of Natural History, a starling flits from perch to perch, casts a quick glance at a visitor and says, "Hi, Sam! Hi, kid!" Not quite Bogart, but very human.

How come biologists and ornithologists want to know? How is it this bird and some of its cousins can accomplish such virtuosity in sound with a primitive vocal apparayus and a brain the size of a grape?

Most species in the wild will not respond to or learn the vocalizations of other species. But several species of song birds - including mocking birds, starlings, thrashers, catbirds, wrens, thrushes and sparrows - imitate the calls and songs of many different kinds of birds, including environmental sounds. Captive crows might imitate the squawk of a hen, a dog's whine, human laughter; captive mynas, the neigh of a horse, as well as human speech. Thrashers can imitate frogs, crickets, mammals and other birds.

A possible use for mimicry, especially in thick woods where it is hard for one bird to see another, could be to use the call of a more aggressive bird to establish territorial rights, protect food sources and deter rivals from courting a rival's mate.

..Source: Baynard Webster, New York Times

THE PRICE OF LIFE

Endangered species cost a fair penny. In the fiscal year of 1989, $43,725,000 was spent on species conservation by state and federal agencies. A total of 554 threatened and endangered species needed the money, but they had to share. Here's a breakdown of how the government split the pie among the struggling species:

Species, listed according to expenditure	status	total spent in 1989
1. Eagle, bald	E,T	$3,108,580
2. Bear, grizzly or brown	T	$2,924,310
3. Woodpecker, red-cockaded	E	$2,792,030
4. Falcon, American peregrine	E	$2,744,170
5. Wolf, gray	E,T	$2,205,320

Among the rest of the high ranking species were a variety of cranes, otters, manatees, ferrets, plovers, warblers, vireos and panthers.

346. Pearly Mussel, Cumberland monkeyface	E	$100
347. Pigtoe, fine-rayed (animal)	E	$100
348. Achyranthes Rotundata (animal)	E	$0
349. Akepa, Maui (honeycreeper)	E	$0
350. Akialoa, Kuai (honeycreeper)	E	$0

Actually, the list goes on to include an additional 207 wanting species which received a big zero, some of which don't even seem to have a common name. Among the 37 percent of endangered or threatened species not fortunate enough to receive financial help are a variety of butterflies, boas, cacti, crayfish, creepers, beetles, geckoes, iguanas, mussels, mint, poppies, seals, toads and wireweed.

What does $3,108,580 buy for an endangered celebrity species? Permits, recovery action plans and consultations. And what does $100 buy for an endangered species? Perhaps a brochure? A spokesperson for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said, "It's a nasty business to try to draw conclusions from this report." Unfortunately, we all know what nothing buys. For more information read the Federal and State Endangered Species Expenditures, Fiscal Year 1989, compiled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DOI, Washington, DC 20240.

Buzzworm

MANATEES—TOO SLOW FOR THEIR OWN GOOD?

Over 44 endangered manatees died off the coast of Florida early in the year due to unusual cold weather. It is thought that the manatees underestimated the cold and could not swim fast enough to reach warm water. The Save the Manatee Club worries that the species may be extinct by the year 2000 if habitat protection efforts do not improve. Manatees are often run over by speed boats and killed by other habitat intrusions. It is estimated that just 1,000 manatees are left. For more information contact Lee Emerson, Friends of the Oleta River, 290 NE 131st St., North Miami, FL 33161, (305) 895-0787.

BUZZWORM: THE ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

" If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children,I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from the sources of our strength."

-Rachael Carson

CAN YOU TOP THIS BALD EAGLE?

Oak Harbor model airplane club members Fred Forrester and Woodrow Wilson were flying radio-control models at OLF Field near a town called Coupeville,PA. Overhead, an immature bald eagle circled lazily while keeping an eye on the proceedings. To the men's surprise, the eagle followed the plane down as they landed it. The eagle strutted over and inspected it. The eagle was not amused and gave the model plane a mighty kick that sent it flying.

For the next hour the men sat on a convenient bench(probably because their knees gave way) and watched the eagle parade past their lined-up models, giving each one - if you'll forgive the expression - the eagle eye. One model didn't pass inspection. Each time the eagle went by he aimed a kick at it orsnapped with his beak. It was like the top sergeant giving recruits their first inspection. Then the eagle flew off leaving behind the bird story of the year.

....From Whidby Audubon Society Shorlines. 1985

TOSSING TRASH OVERBOARD— DEATH IN YOUR WAKE?

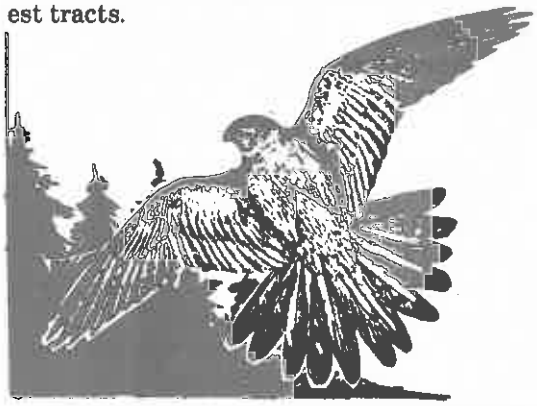
Recreational boaters dump more than one pound of garbage into the water every time they go out in a boat—beer and soda cans, plastic bottles, wrappers and bags, cigarette butts, glass bottles, dinner leftovers, foil and six-pack holders—things you would not even feed your goldfish. According to the Center for Marine Conservation, plastic in our waterways is a more than just a litter problem. These seemingly harmless if not ugly items can kill. Marine mammals confuse plastic for food. Ingested plastics cause fatal internal injuries to sea life. Some birds feed plastic debris to their young. Sea turtles often mistake plastic bags for jelly fish. Thousands of marine animals also die every year from entanglement in plastic trash. In case the threat to wildlife isn't great enough to make boaters carry their trash back to shore, another consideration is the threat to personal property. Plastics can foul boat propellers and clog sea-water intakes and evaporators. In 1989 it became illegal to dump plastic trash overboard in U.S. waters; the deep, briny blue is no longer a deep, briny dump. For more information contact the Society of the Plastics Industry, 1275 K St. NW, Ste. 400, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 371-5200 or Center for Marine Conservation, 1725 DeSales St. NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 429-5609.

Study Shows Some Hawks Prefer Conifers for Nesting

"Other studies have shown hawks nesting predominantly in hardwoods in the eastern United States, but we have learned that three of four hawk species [in our study] show preference for nesting in conifers," reports Jeffery Grimm, graduate research assistant at The Pennsylvania State University. The information was contained in a release from Penn State, reporting on a recently completed study by Grimm and Richard H. Yahner, associate professor of wildlife management, on the nesting habitat of four hawk species in the state.

The raptors studied were sharp-shinned, Cooper's, broad-winged, and red-tailed hawks. All four species of hawks were found nesting in white pine, and three used red pine and eastern hemlock. With the scarcity of coniferous forests in Pennsylvania, Grimm says that maintanence of conifer stands can be important to the management of hawks in the state.

"The sharp-shinned hawk is the most selective in choosing nest sites," he said. This raptor nests in dense stands of small conifers and seems to nest near brushy habitats in which it frequently hunts. The red-tailed hawk is the least restricted in nest site use. This more conspicuous hawk will nest in both small woodslots and large forest tracts.



The broad-winged hawk, a close relative of the red-tail, nests in older conifer forests or mixed deciduous stands. It typically selects mature trees near lowland areas as nest sites. "Broad-winged hawks also showed an affinity for gently sloping or level terrain and sparse understory and shrub vegetation," the report states.

The study also found that populations of certain species of hawks are not consistently changing throughout the entire state. While species population may increase in one region, their number may be stable or declining in another. One of the difficulties in determining numbers of hawks in the state results from the different methods required to census each species, Yahner said. Some species can be easily detected from motor routes surveys, while careful searches of woodlands on foot may be the only practical means of locating other species. "Because hawks are at the top of the food chain," he added, "they are wide-ranging and few. Their low densities make them difficult to census."

Yahner concludes that changes in hawk populations may be related to forest maturation and timber management in given regions. He also predicts that unless there are major changes in land-use trends here, the four species of raptor will continue to be a part of the Pennsylvania scene.

OUR WORLD, THE DUMPSTER: HOW LONG?
By Sr. Kathleen M. Ryan, SND

Are we going to be remembered as the generation that left billions of pieces of trash?

According to the Environmental Defense Fund, the United States produces more trash than any other country in the world--13,500 pounds per person annually. In our convience-orientated society, disposable is the key word.

If every year we throw away enough paper to build a 12 foot high wall from New York City to Los Angeles, or enough glass each year to fill New York's World Trade Center, how disposable is our trash?

If every three months Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild the entire U.S. commercial airline fleet and every hour we throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles, each of which may take more than a century to decompose, how much can our world absorb? How much longer can we continue to trash our environment?

As you head for the trash barrel, you may consider the trash " properly disposed of," but in reality it represents the first step in a journey which ends in mountainous landfills. Throwing away trash is, of course, necessary but an urgent global dilemma is nagging our consciousness: How to reduce the gargantuan waste by-products of civilization without endangering human health or damaging the environment.

Pope John Paul II in his World Peace Day Message, the first papal document dedicated exclusively to ecology, stated, "The indiscriminate application of advances in science and technology have shown that we cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention both to the consequences of such interference in other areas and to the well-being of future generations."

Next time you shop, consider the disintegration time for these common items.

PRODUCT	DISINTEGRATION TIME
Paper	2-5 months
Orange peels	6 months
Cotton rags	1-5 months
Milk cartons	5 months
Filter tip cigarettes	1-12 years
Plastic bags	10-20 years
Plastic containers	50-100 years
Soup cans	100 years
Aluminum	200-500 years
Plastic rings	450?? years
Styrofoam	NEVER, NEVER!!!

submitted by Dr. Gene Wilhelm
from Catholic Universe Bulletin, Jan, 1990

Membership Application (circle one) $XXX

New Member $20 Sr. Citizen $21 Student $18
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Nat'l Audubon will send notice for renewal.

The Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society and is published ten times per year. It is free to members. Friends may receive three consecutive free issues on request. Non members can receive this newsletter for a contrubution of $4 per year.

Editor: Barb Dean
321 E. Meyer Ave.
New Castle, Pa. 16105

BIRDS AND BUGS

Carl and Jane Bock, Audubon scientists at the Society's Research Ranch, spent the last three field seasons counting grasshoppers. The goal of their research, funded by the National Science Foundation, is to ascertain what role grassland birds, which feed almost exclusively on grasshoppers, have in controlling population densities of these plant-eating insects. Audubon's Research Ranch is located in Elgin, Arizona. Here, in protected prairie habitat, grasshoppers are the principal consumer of the grasses. "We wanted to find out," said Carl Bock, "whether there are enough birds in the area to have significant affect on their food supply." This in turn might have an influence on the ecological structure of the grasslands.

Sixteen caged exclosures were constructed to prevent birds from foraging on certain patches of grassland and were subject to weekly grasshopper counts for six months during 1987, 1988, and 1989. For a basis of comparison, an equal number of open grassland plots were studied during the same time period. The project runs through 1990.

In the first experimental year, the researchers found that grasshopper densities were 50% higher inside the cages than in the open plots. In other words, if there were 100 grasshoppers in the open plots, there were 150 in the caged plots. "That was interesting and significant," said Bock, "but we got the impression, based on the weekly pattern, that these cages were becoming centers for grasshopper dispersal." They found that they were actually underestimating the impact of birds because as populations increased inside the cages, the grasshoppers dispersed out into the surrounding area.

In order to test for this unexpected occurrence, 8 of the 16 cages were modified to make them less permeable to grasshoppers. With the birds unable to feed on the grasshoppers in the cages, and the grasshoppers unable to migrate out of the enclosures, the Bocks found that grasshopper populations in the more secure cages grew to double that in the open grassland areas after only one field season. "The birds in the system," Bock said, "are really playing a key role in affecting grasshopper densities."

Contrary to popular perception, most grasshoppers most of the time don't fly or jump, they walk. Said Bock, "You get the impression that they fly but that's what they do when you scare them. Mostly what they do is crawl on the ground." Working with these fundamentals of grasshopper behavior, in order to keep track of their numbers the scientists approched wire hoops that were placed on the ground and counted the startled grasshoppers as they jumped out. The chicken-wire fencing was tall enough to prevent the grasshoppers from escaping when they jumped, and the added flashing provided extra security against crawling escapees.

But, he added, there has been no obvious evidence that grasshoppers are affecting the vegetation within the cages. While the difference in grass cover between the study and control plots may be statisticallysignificant, even with the doubling of grasshoppers foraging for a full season in the confined cages, "it's not as if they're mowing down the grass," said Bock. One reason might be the hardiness of the perennial grasses.

So what does all this mean? Replied Bock: "Ever since I was a little kid, everyone has been saying how good it is to have birds in your backyard because they control the insects. That idea has very rarely been tested scientifically, whether it really does matter if there are birds in your yard in terms of bugs. It has rarely been tested ecologically and that's what we're doing here."

... From Audubon Science Quarterly 1990

MAGAZINE EXCHANGE

Wondering what to do with your old magazines? Hate to throw them away, but don't know anyone who wants them? Send me a list or call. Give the title, month & year per issue and we'll put the list in the Upland Informer. If anyone is interested we'll let you know & you can make arrangements to have the magazines taken off your hands. (Only nature oriented magazines at the present time, please.)

..Russ States...814 676 6320

B. A. S. MONTHLY MEETING

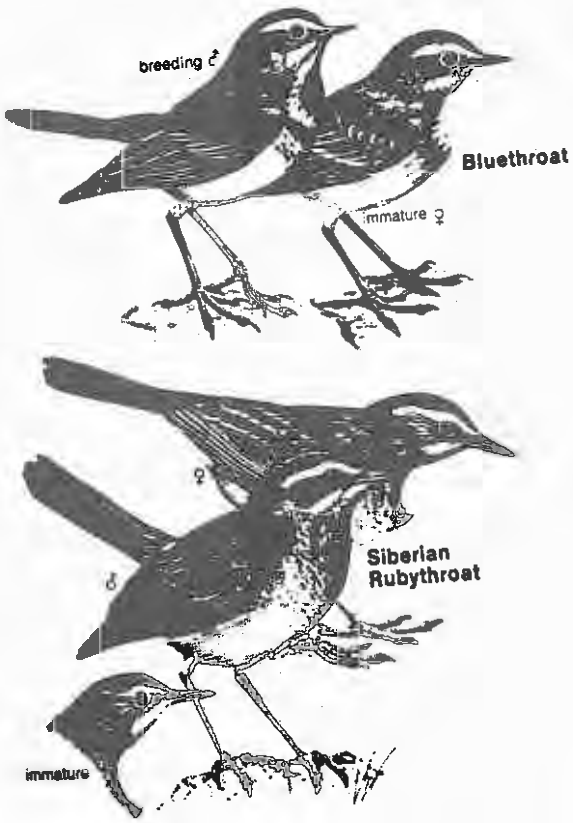
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1990

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT FRANKLIN & MAPLE ST.

SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 7:30 P. M.

PROGRAM: ALASKA

Come to the November meeting of the Bartramian Audubon Society and enjoy the "trip of a lifetime" with Mary McKinnis, our former Education Chairman. The splendid scenery, the congenial companions, and the knowledgeable interpretation by Dr. Gene Wilhelm made this pilgrimage an unforgettable experience for her. Mary's enthusiasm plus Dr. Wilhelm's slides will make this an enjoyable experience. Join us!



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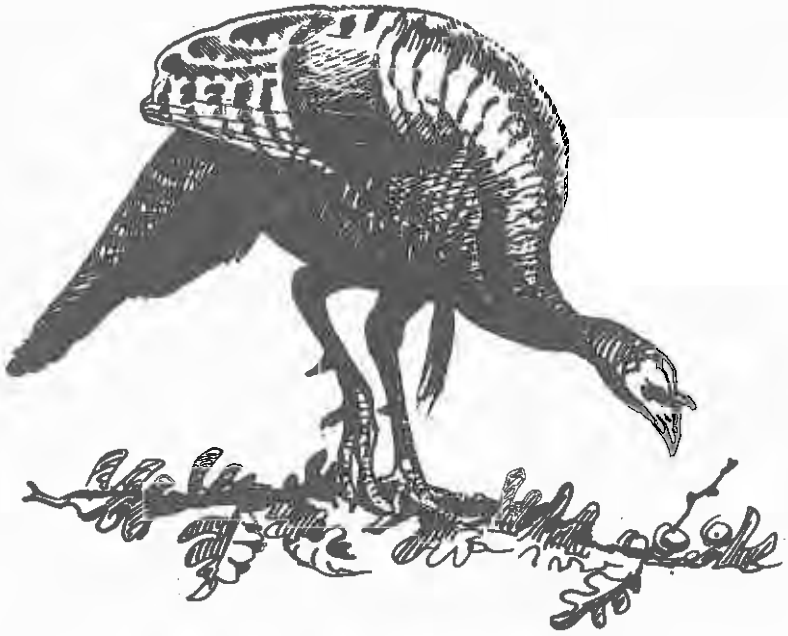


UPLAND INFORMER

Vol. 9 No. 4 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY DECEMBER 1990

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

In the wake of the "unrest" in the Middle East, advertising has appeared in major magazines touting nuclear power as the answer to all our energy needs. The petroleum industry is pictured as an evil snake, while nuclear power is called the key to our energy independence.

This type of propaganda is extremely dangerous on several levels. First, it portrays reptiles as vicous and vindictive, relying on the general population's unfounded fear of snakes. Second, it indicates that nuclear power is safer and more desirable than petroleum.

I certainly agree that our dependence on petroleum is not healthy, for the environment or the economy, but the inherent problems with nuclear power pose even greater threats to the future of the planet.

How can we, in good conscience, create nuclear waste materials which will contaminate the environment for thousands of years, making our great-grandchildren's children responsible for cleaning up the mess we have made?

There is no safe storage of nuclear waste. Today's technology can only containerize the material currently being produced, then place it as deep as possible in the earth, in the hope that it won't leak during the forseeable future.

What a price to pay for electricity! To think that the power you are using in order to watch the football game or microwave your dinner is creating a waste marterial which will still be toxic for generations to come, is too much to consider.

Technology MUST look for alternative sources of energy. We must look to the sun, the wind, the tides, to other sources not yet even considered. We must face this issue creatively, not rely on current technology.

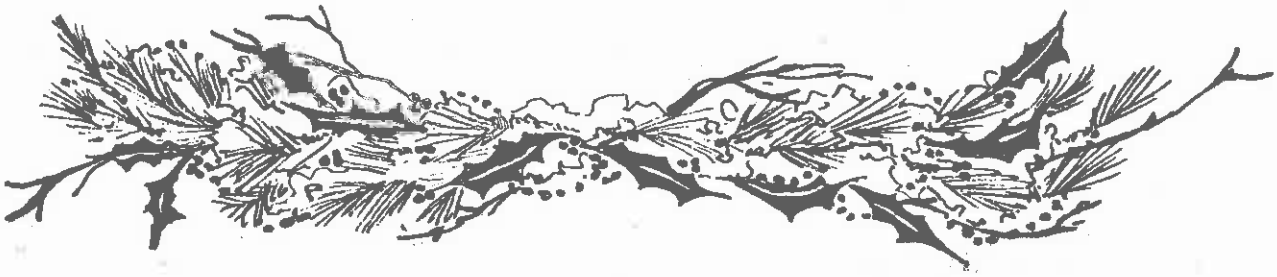
Consider how greatly the electronics industry has changed in the last 20 years. Personal computers, VCR's, compact disc players and video cameras were all just ideas in someone's brain, and yet now they are available everywhere at prices most everyone can afford. The same change could occur in the field of energy, if we seriously searched for new answers.

The problem is that big business in this country and the world, doesn't want change to occur. They want to milk the petroleum industry until it is dry-there's a lot of money to be made! Then they would like to build nuclear power plants, at the taxpayer's expense, to make them even more money, and the cycle would just go on and on.

The only way to stop this cycle is by refusing to make it profitable for them to continue. If our dependence on

(continued on page two)

Merry Christmas To All Of You From All Of Us!



PRESIDENT'S PERCH (continued)

electricity were decreased, the energy industry would not be such a lucrative business. If we demanded legislation limiting the use of nuclear power, and providing incentives for the creation of alternative energy sources, they would work harder at alternative technology.

Money is the bottom line. The energy industry is banking on the fact that more and more energy will be needed to supply the demands of the future. Let's prove them wrong. Let's prove to them that we believe that the future of the planet and the survival of its inhabitants is more important to us than watching television. Think of ways to do this in your own life, and ways in which we can do it as an environmental group- then write to me. We'll print the letters, and maybe we'll all get some ideas on how to practice more of what we preach.

NOTE: Don't go out in the woods, the annual animal harvest is about to begin. Safe birdwatching, hiking, horseback riding,ect. can only be undertaken on Sundays.

Becky Sheeler
R D 6 Box 648
New Castle, PA 16101
(412) 924 9314

NOTE: The Wetland Task Force will meet 1/2 hour before the Board Meeting on Monday December 3rd. Meet at 7:00 PM.

Becky

June 12, 1990
JUNE PICNIC AT COOPER'S LAKE

Once again it was our good fortune to be invited to Cooper's Lake by Ed and Joan Wilver for Bartramian's June picnic.

After feasting on grilled hamburgers and hot dogs by master chef, Ed Wilver, we had little room left for all the other food but we managed!

Ruth Crawford announced the results of the very successful bird-a-thon. Thankyou for all your hard work, Ruth.

We did not locate the upland sandpiper on this outing. One group studied wildflowers and another group went birding. The highlight of our outing was a hayride aroun the lake and campgrounds.

GLADES FIELD TRIP OCTOBER 6, 1990

Our leader, Marguerite Geibel, assured us the ultra-marine blue sky and colorful autumn foliage were a special order for this outing.

Nine participants enjoyed close views of 30 turkey vultures wheeling overhead and flying through the trees. Other highlights were marsh wren, rusty blackbirds,sharp-shinned hawk, great blue heron and osprey. Several members enjoyed watching towhees, juncos and several other species engaged in "fall frenzy". It was a wonderful day.

...the above field trips were submitted by
Shirley McCarl

NOTE: What is "fall frenzy"? See page 57 of Gene Wilhelm's book , which is called THROUGH THE SEASONS.

Earth Care Paper Co.
325 Beech Lane, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

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Russ States
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RD 1 Box 385
Slippery Rock PA 16057
412 794 5688

Christmas Bird Count:
Dr. Gene Wilhelm, Jr.
RD 2 Box 2120
Slippery Rock PA 16057
412 794 2434

Consultant:
Dr. Genevieve Tvrdik
405 Stockton
Grove City PA 16127
412 458 7770

(Please note that Dr. Tvrdik's last name was incorrectly listed as Ratslaff in Oct.)

Consultant:
Dr. Earl Houts
360 Andros Drive
Sarasota FL 34233

Consultant:
Helen R. Ferguson
412 287 2800

Policy Coordinator:
Dr. Craig Chase
412 794 2510

AVES/OIKOS™ is pleased to announce its 18th year of Field Workshops in 1991 to the destinations listed below. All Field Workshops are open to the public and stress the inter-relationships of plants/animals to their natural environment. Please query AVES/OIKOS™ c/o Dr. Wilhelm R. D. 2, Box 2120, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 Phone (412) 794-2434

1991 Theme: "See the Americas First"

Copper Canyon, Mexico	Sat 09 Mar - Sun 17 Mar	09 days, 08 nights
Coastal and South Texas	Mon 18 Mar - Thu 28 Mar	11 days, 10 nights
Eastern Shore, MD-VA	Tue 23 Apr - Sun 28 Apr	06 days, 05 nights
Big Bend & Hills of TX	Mon 29 Apr - Thu 09 May	11 days, 10 nights
Southeastern Arizona	Thu 16 May - Wed 29 May	14 days, 13 nights
Acadia, ME/Grand Manan	Tue 25 Jun - Wed 03 Jul	09 days, 08 nights
Wilderness Alaska	Thu 18 Jul - Sat 03 Aug	17 days, 16 nights
Grand Manan Sea Watch	Tue 27 Aug - Mon 02 Sep	07 days, 06 nights

SACRED PLACES

Chris Ranier worked as a photographic assistant to the late Ansel Adams from1980 to 1984 when, in 1983, he was asked to be picture editor of the United Nations report, World Conservation Strategy. From that began Ranier's life work documenting vanishing indigenous peoples and their wilderness homes. Ranier works for the United Nations family of organizations including UNICEF and the International Red Cross. Buzzworm,(the environmental magazine,) asked Ranier for a sneak preview of his forthcoming book on sacred places.

by Chris Ranier

Modern society has lost its connection to the land and the sense of sacredness that can exist between humans and the earth. Until this century, ancient cultures existed in harmony with the planet- taking only what was needed and being a part of a natural order. Ancient man lived side by side with nature and animal, calling them brother, provider and sacred. A mutual relationship of providing nourishment and a purpose to life existed. In order to continue to survive on this planet I believe we must reconnect with the spirit of the earth, and em-brace once again a mythology that allows us to feel respect and wonder for the remaining untouched wilderness that exists today.

For the past five years I have documented sacred places on the planet. I have photographed sites where ancient civilizations once existed in harmony with the land and documented ancient cultures which still barely exist today. We are running out of time to save what little is left of these present day indigenous peoples. As we cut down the last tree in our forests, pave the last of the wilderness areas with cement and civilize the last "noble savage" of the jungle, we will have cut our last tie to the spirit of the land, destroying forever the chance we still have to live in harmony with the planet for generations to come.

If we are to save ourselves not only must we save the rainforests and stop the acid rain, but we must awaken to our responsibility as home-keepers of the globe, reconnecting with the sense of sacredness and respect that humankind had until we lost the way. We must tie ourselves once again to the umbilical cord of life and, rather than destroy, we must begin to truly live.

PAPUA, NEW GUINEA

New Guinea is considered to be home to the most ancient of the primitive cultures found on the planet. The few remaining tribes live in the jungles and highlands of the remote Pacific island. Though it is still possible to find tribes that have never seen white people, there has been a dramatic change for these stone age people: the exploitation of the island's natural resources of timber and minerals. Time has run out for these people- as their land is taken from them and the forests cut, they are forced to give up their ancient ways and to seek employment in the modern 20th century cities. The isolated tribes left in the forest, although still living in complete harmony with the land around them, face a bleak future. As natural resource development continues over the next ten years, their entire culture will be overwhelmed. These people of the land stand as the last true reminder of where we, the rest of humankind , came from. They are witness to our primeval roots and our journey away from the Garden of Eden.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS, CANADA

Located 100 miles off the coast of British Columbia, the Queen Charlotte Islands are called the Galapagos of Canada. Rich in resources, these islands were home to the powerful Haida Indian tribe, known for their artwork and totem poles, and a rich mythology and relationship with the ocean and the land. The Haida were killed off in the latter part of the 1890's by diseases introduced by white traders. Today their totem poles, hidden in the rich forests of the great Northwest, stand as haunting reminders of a civilization that lived in complete rhythm with the land, ocean, sky and wildlife. Modern logging habits have almost completely destroyed the old growth forests in the areas around the ancient Haida sites, once the most sacred of all land to the native inhabitants. The remaining Haida of today do not wish to preserve the totems. Rather they have left them to decay with the forest. This is their process of giving back to the earth, an act of respect and reincarnation.

LADAKH, THE HIMALAYAS

For hundreds of years the Buddhists of the Himalayas have lived their existence in isolated valleys and plateaus that stretch the entire length of the great mountains. Practicing their intricate religion that preaches

SACRED PLACES (continued)

LADAKH, THE HIMALAYAS

otal harmony with their environment, the uddhists have lived successfully in an arid, ugged landscape in a state of spiritual isola- ion. With the opening of Ladakh to tourism n 1976, an onslaught of 20th century culture hreatens to quickly unravel their deeply rooted eligion. Many devout Buddhists fear that their eligion is being destroyed by contemporary roblems of materialism and greed.

uzzworm magazine.....Bark Dean

A Statement of Audubon Philosophy

Below are statements from the Audubon Charter. As you read these statements, take a few moments to reflect on their meaning.

* Audubon chapters are the ecological conscience of their communities.

*We realize that all forms of life are interdependent and that the diversity of nature is essential to our well being.

*We are committed to protecting wildlife and the life-support systems, the air, land and water, on which we all depend.

*We recognize that the environmental choices we make today will affect future generations, and that we must choose accordingly.

*We believe that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where nature is undisturbed.

*We seek to be a voice of reason in our crusade for a healthy bountiful earth.

*We dedicate ourselves to opening the eyes of young and old to the wonder, beauty and variety of nature.

ALLEGHENY RIVER SCENIC STATUS IS DELAYED

The House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill that would have made 85 miles of the Allegheny River in Warren, Forest and Venango Counties part of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers system. It was up to the Senate to follow suit. Unfortunately, the bill met with a hitch in the Senate.

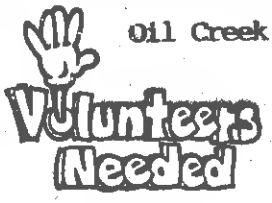
The Senate Energy Commitee rejected a

ALLEGHENY RIVER (continued)

request by Senator John Heinz to have the bill sent to the floor without a subcommittee hearing. The additional time involved was critical. The bill could not be moved to the floor for quick passage before the end of the session. As a result , the bill will have to go through the entire legislative process all over again in the next session.

A group called the Pennsylvania Landowners Association is a coalition of oil, coal, gas, timber and farming interests and is convinced that this political ineptitude has given them a year to defeat Scenic Rivers status for the Allegheny River. PLA has joined efforts with an organization known as the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO). The PA Landowners Assoc., in conjunction with the Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA), were instrumental in organizing ECO after several years of complaints from members that landowners and property rights were consistently being over-looked by both the regulating agencies and the legislature. They feel this has been due in large part to the massive lobbying efforts of many environmental organizations during recent years. ECO has been actively supporting the causes of PLA, including overwhelming support in obtaining changes to federal wetland regulations. To date ECO represents more than 200,000 people.

For more information...John Hummel, P.O. 207 Kennerdell, PA 16374 (814) 385 6556



Oil Creek State Park- Venango Co.

The 25th Pleasantville Christmas Bird Count will be held Saturday, December 30, 1990. They need observers and feeder watchers. If you would be willing to volunteer, you can contact Russ States by calling (814) 676- 6320 or Nick Kerlin at (814) 676-5915 for more information.

It is a time when one experiences going into a dark ness of ensnaring dangers. Hold to the lessons learnable from nature.

When one releases oneself from subjective attitudes, one becomes like water in a ravine, and moves on as actions become correctly responsive to a situation. One cannot ladle with a sieve, nor strain with a dipper.....

I Ching Calendar

CALENDAR AND FIELD TRIPS

DECEMBER

3 Mon. BAS Board Meeting

10 Mon. BAS Monthly Meeting

15 Sat. BAS Christmas Bird Count

22 Sat. Winter Solstice

25 Tues. Merry Christmas!

MAGAZINE EXCHANGE

Wondering what to do with your old magazines? If you hate to throw them away but don't know anyone who wants them, Russ States would like you to give him a call. You could also send him a list of your magazines. Include the title, month and year per issue. We will put the list in the Upland Informer. If anyone is interested we will let you know and you can make arrangements to have the magazines taken off your hands. (Only nature oriented magazines at the present time, please.) .....Russ States, 24 East Fifth Street, Oil City, PA 16301
Phone number is (814) 676-6320

A membership would make a nice gift.

Membership Application
(circle one)

U18

New Member ($20) Renewal Individual ($30)
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Amount Enclosed: _____
Make checks payable to National Audubon
Mail to: Mr. & Mrs. Ed Silver
R.D. 2
Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Our annual BAS Christmas Bird Count will take place Saturday, Dec. 15, 1990. The purpose of this count is to survey the wintering bird population.

The count area is a 15 mile diameter circle centered on Moraine State Park and is sponsored by the Bartramian Audubon Society on the local level in conjunction with the National Audubon Society. You can participate in this historic event in one of two different ways. You can become a member of a field party by meeting at the Moraine Headquarters at the day use area just off Rt. 422 at 8:00 AM, or if you live within the count area, you may count birds at your feeders all day. Both field counters and feeder watchers are needed.

We welcome participants regardless of skill levels or birding experience. If you think yousee a bird and you can point, we need you!

Dr. Gene Wilhelm is the leader of this event. If you are interested in participating you may sign up at the monthly membership meeting on December 10th. Call Gene if you would like more info. (412) 794-2434.

Dr. Gene Wilhelm will have autographed copies of his new book, Through the Seasons, available for sale at the December 10th meeting. They make lovely Christmas gifts. Cost is nine dollars.

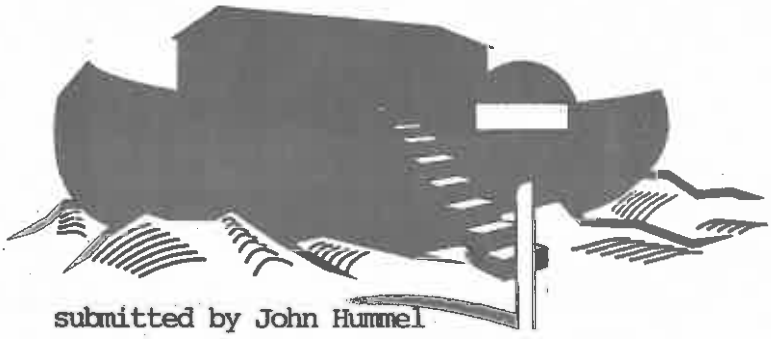
Essay

Ted Gup

Down with the God Squad

Imagine revising *Genesis*. In the new version Noah stands on the gangplank to the ark, reviewing the species of the world pair by pair, deciding on a purely economic basis which creatures to save and which to consign to the deepening waters. He turns away the pests, the serpents and other species he deems useless to man or too costly to take along. If such a vision strains the imagination, consider the call by some Bush Administration officials to amend the Endangered Species Act. Their aim is to expand greatly the powers of a committee of political appointees that already can exempt species from the protection of the act when man's economic interests so dictate. The committee is commonly known as the "God Squad," not for its collective wisdom but because the decisions it may render were once left to an even higher authority.

Noah's directive was to preserve all species. Modern man has no such option. Some species are already doomed, the incidental victims of logging, mining, dams and the fragmentation of their habitats. Almost daily we face another agonizing conflict between ecology and economics. In the Pacific Northwest loggers' jobs are pitted against the need to save ancient forests, the habitat of spotted owls. In the Southwest a $582 million water project is delayed because it threatens the squawfish. In Arizona a $200 million observatory was held up on behalf of some 150 rare Mount Graham red squirrels. Are all these species worth saving? And who among us is fit to make such decisions?



submitted by John Hummel

The preservation of species is a task involving a volatile mix of biology, politics, economics and morality. For 17 years the Endangered Species Act has provided a "911" distress line for life forms teetering on the edge. But its species-by-species approach does little to avert conflict. Man cannot manage nature through a series of ad hoc rescue attempts, ignoring the underlying causes for the loss of biodiversity. The answer is not to dilute the Endangered Species Act but to better anticipate the consequences of human activity, focusing on entire ecosystems rather than on single species. By the time a creature joins the endangered list it may be too late, the genetic stock impoverished, its habitat destroyed.

Species preservation depends upon political resolve. Costs of conservation can be stunning, appearing all the more so when weighed against the abstract value of a species. Increasingly, biologists intent on saving a species are heard to cite either its usefulness to man or the dangers to man attendant upon its loss. Thus the tropical rain forests are said to hold medicinal, agricultural and scientific wealth. This kind of argument, credible as it may be, reflects scientists' perceptions that only appeals to man's self-interest will generate public support for conservation. But anthropocentric arguments legitimatize the notion that species must justify their right to exist by proving their utility to man. That leaves the vast majority of species defenseless and debases the fundamental reason for preserving them—their intrinsic worth.

Precisely what makes the Endangered Species Act unique is that it views the world not through man's eyes but from the high ground of the Creation. It sets no test for survival and respects the meek as it does the mighty. The humpback whale and the black rhinoceros enjoy no greater protection than the noonday snail and the lakeside daisy. Recently an inch-long unpigmented eyeless shrimp found in a sinkhole near Gainesville, Fla., joined the ranks of the imperiled. In shielding the humblest species, the act expresses its highest reverence for diversity, and has evolved into an almost sacred covenant defining the nation's relationship with nature.

In recent months, Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter Jr., Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan and some in Congress have suggested amending the law and letting the God Squad make the toughest calls. That would be the effective demise of the act. The Senate last week defeated a measure that would have empowered the God Squad to settle the dispute over timbering the ancient forests. But the broader question remains. Ruling on a species' fate has eternal consequences. A political appointee's vision dims beyond the next election. Matters of such gravity ought to reflect society's broadest interests. Biologists, environmentalists, theologians, historians and, yes, representatives of industry have a claim to participate in such decisions. Some in this Administration and its predecessor have criticized the Endangered Species Act and shown a willingness to subordinate biological evidence to political expediency. Such was the case with the spotted owl and the Mount Graham squirrel.

Today species are vanishing on a grand scale. There are 1,116 imperiled species on the list, an additional 3,600 candidate species behind them. Some will die out waiting to be listed. These numbers are only a pale reflection of a wider problem. In tropical rain forests, loss of habitat is pushing at least 20,000 species a year into extinction, according to Harvard entomologist Edward O. Wilson. If the U.S. is to influence policy overseas, it will be by dint of example, not rhetoric. Wealthy nations must check their own appetites before asking far greater sacrifices of poorer nations.

A relative newcomer on earth, man knows little about the species with whom he shares the landscape. Fewer than 1.4 million of earth's tens of millions of species have been named, much less examined for their part in making the planet more hospitable. How then do we measure each loss or know when we have severed a vital link with nature? Observes noted paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould: "It would be a very bleak world with cockroaches and dogs and not much else." The final blessing of the Endangered Species Act is that it preserves the elements that stir man's sense of wonder. That benefit alone is too precious for the God Squad to barter away. ■

A Christmas Tree for Wildlife

String foods like cheese cubes • popcorn • raisins • peanuts in shell • donuts • dried apples . . .
Fill hollowed out oranges with bird puddings made from beef suet, bird seed, sand, and peanut butter. Pine cones stuffed with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed. Hang dog biscuits.

B.A.S. MONTHLY MEETING - MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1990

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN SLIPPERY ROCK, PA

7:30 P. M.

PROGRAM: CHRISTMAS SOCIAL & SING-A-LONG

Our December meeting will feature a "goodies" buffet and a Christmas sing-a-long. Each family attending is asked to bring a "goodie" for the table. Beverages will be supplied.

Virginia Lytle will lead us in the sing-a-long accompanied by her camichord. Virginia has collected seasonable memorabilia for years and will entertain us with readings.

Priscilla Stoughton, suggests that members bring a special momento, such as a bird carving, photos, a stamp collection, figurine, old book, origional poetry or perhaps a decoy. Anything that is seasonal or nature related would be appropriate. We would like to set up a display table for all to enjoy.

(We love you, Priscilla, and hope your arm is improving.)

The beautiful holiday cover for our newsletter was designed by Ed Wilver.

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 264
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057

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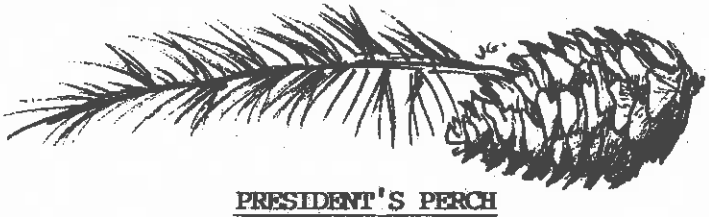
UPLAND INFORMER

Vol. 9 No. 5 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY JANUARY 1991



PRESIDENT'S PERCH

The holidays, which seemed so far away in the summer, are upon us. Every year they seem to come sooner. I hope that all of you are more organized than I am at this point!

But I thought I'd share some holiday ideas with you, that might make your season a little easier to handle, and at the same time, make the plan- healthier.

Stuck for wrapping paper? Brown paper grocery bags can be the answer. Cut the bag apart at the seam, remove the bottom, then use the inside of the bag for a great country look for your holiday packages. Use yarn instead of ribbon for the finishing touches. Red and green yarn twisted together makes a very festive bow, but the color combinations are endless.

For those extra special packages, buy a few yards of real ribbon, grosgrain, satin, or velvet, and tie the bow with a sprig of holly or some pine. The plain brown paper is the perfect backround.

By using these wrapping techniques you've recycled and used reusable materials, creating less waste, and at less cost!

For our outdoor friends, both feathered and furred, create a "feeder tree". Decorate a pine or other tree with edible treats for wildlife. Strings of popcorn or cranberries, nuts rolled in peanut butter, fruit, suet bags tied with red and green yarn, ect. The tree will look good, and you will be rewarded by being able to watch the ornaments being eaten!

And, at your Christmas feast, I know you don't want to spend the day doing dishes, but please don't use styrofoam tableware. If disposable plates are a must, choose some of the beautiful paper plates available for the holidays.

In the coming New Year, let us all resolve to change at least one aspect of our lives, to make our lifestyle more environmentally safe. Remember, everything you rinse down the drain, throw in the garbage, use on your car, flush down the toilet, put on your lawn, spray on your garden--ends up in a water supply eventually, and someone, perhaps your grandchildren, will have to drink it. We've all got lots of room for improvement.

The Board of Directors of Bartramian and I wish you the happiest and healthiest of holiday seasons, and a wonderful new year!

President: Becky Sheeler
RD 6, Box 648, New Castle, PA 16101
Phone (412) 924-9314

Becky

Streamside Ecosystems: Ribbons Of Life

The Missouri River, the second-longest river in the United States, begins near Three Forks, Montana and traverses seven states on its long journey to the Mississippi over two thousands miles away.

Once the banks of the Missouri were covered with a rich and complex variety of streamside vegetation. But changes to this mighty river--brought by man in the form of dams and other types of flood control projects--severely disrupted its streamside ecosystems.

Today, there are no river otters left along the Missouri River. The large blue catfish and the lake sturgeon fisheries have been wiped out. Countless other species of wildlife have suffered, along with the native trees, bushes, and shrubs that once lined the Missouri.

America is losing its streamside or "riparian" habitat at an alarming rate. Yet, riparian ecosystems are vital to wildlife.

In any given region of the country, anywhere from 10 percent to as many as 80 percent of the terrestrial wildlife species depend on or "prefer" streamside vegetation.

Up to 50 percent of the bird species in some western states are found primarily in riparian habitat. Deer and elk use streamsides for migration or winter habitat. Mink and otter can not survive without riparian communities.

Riparian ecosystems also are useful to man. They purify our drinking water, absorb flood waters, and recharge underground aquifers. In addition, streamsides are valuable to picnickers, kayakers, fishermen, hikers, canoeists, and many other people who enjoy the outdoors.

Illustration by Margo Booth

Streamsides are valuable to everyone who loves the outdoors.

America Is Losing Its Streamside Habitat

Before Americans even know what a riparian ecosystem is, most of it will be gone.

Once, over 100 million acres in the United States contained riparian forests and wetlands. Today, only 23 million acres remain in their natural or semi-natural state.

Seventy percent of the original floodplain forests have been converted to urban or agricultural use. In the floodplains of some rivers, only five percent of the natural vegetation still exists.

Although the impoundment of streams and the construction of navigable waterways has benefited American society by providing water supplies, hydroelectric power, and transportation routes, they have cost us some of our most valuable wildlife habitat.

With no major rivers and few small streams left unaltered, the environmental price of each new unit of stream development increases exponentially.

Federal projects and policies that advance or encourage the destruction of riparian habitat must be halted. When this happens, both our economy and our environment will benefit.

" If I were to name the three most precious resources of life, I should say books, friends and nature; and the greatest of these, at least the most constant and always at hand, is nature."

-John Burroughs-

B. A. S. CALENDAR & FIELD TRIPS

JANUARY

7 Mon. B. A. S. BOARD MEETING

12 Sat. B. A. S. CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP AT MORAINE STATE PARK. Becky Sheeler will be our leader. You will be responsible for your own equipment. Meet at the Moraine State Park Office at 11:00 AM. Contact Becky ahead of time if you are interested in participating. Home phone is 412 924 9314. Becky or her husband, Brad, can give you information about ski rentals. The S. N. P. J. in Lawrence County and the Slippery Rock Park Commission in Butler County are two possibilities for ski rental. Weather permitting, this outing should be a lot of fun!

14 B. A. S. MONTHLY MEETING

February

4 Mon. B. A. S. Board Meeting

11 Mon. B. A. S. Monthly Meeting

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP REPORTS

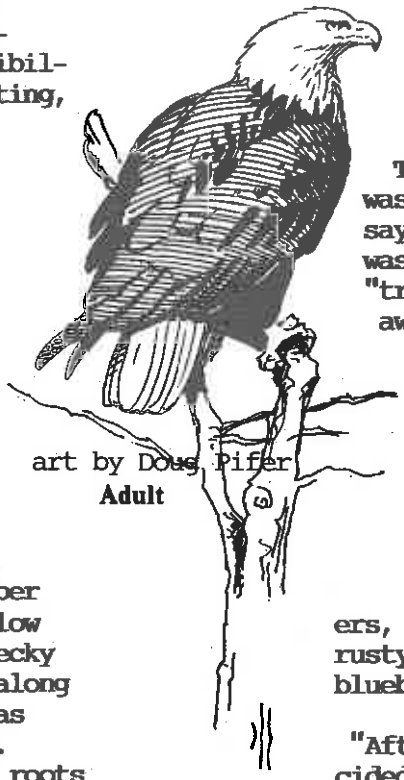
Six participants met on October 14, 1990 at Hell's Hollow in Lawrence County. Becky Sheeler led the group along the scenic path which was covered with fall leaves. Trees with part of their roots over the stream made small grottos along the banks and ferns covered large areas of the hillsides. The Old Furnace and the beautiful waterfall were other points of interest. Chickadees, blue jays, white-breasted nuthatches were the only birds observed in the deep wooded area, but plants were a delight! Priscilla identified many of them for us. Wild Ginger, Winged Goldenrod, White Avens, Thimbleweed, Spleen-leaved Grape Fern, Walking Fern, blooming Witch Hazel and Jack-in -the-pulpit with its fruit cluster of shiny red berries were present.

HELL'S HOLLOW (continued)

Did you know that American Indians gathered the fleshy taproots (corms) to use as a vegetable?

The drawing in the lower left hand corner of this page is of Jack-in-the pulpit as it appears, in bloom, April through June.

submitted by Shirley McCarl



art by Doug Pifer
Adult

Bald Eagle

HARTSTOWN/PYMATUNING

OCTOBER 27, 1990

The leader for this field trip was Shirley McCarl. Shirley says,"Attendance for this trip was low as some of our regular "trippers" decided to "trip" away to Virginia."

Best of the day were an adult bald eagle hunting over the marsh. The bald eagle flew right over the heads of the participants! Eight double-crested cormorants, approximately 200 hooded mergansers, ruddy ducks, pine warbler, rusty blackbird and three sets of bluebirds were enjoyed by all.

"After we left the area, we decided to visit Sagulla's in Mercer County. We were delighted to find coots, wigeons, great blue herons and an osprey. A pied-billed grebe was also present. Finally an adult black-crowned night heron rounded out the day."

submitted by Shirley Mc Carl who is one of our Field Trip Leaders. (412) 748 3433
You can also call Bob Walczak if you have any questions about future field trips. 412 656 0201

ALTERNATIVES FOR SOME HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

OVEN CLEANER	Use baking soda for scouring. For baked on grease, apply ¼ cup ammonia in oven overnight to loosen; scrub the next day with baking soda; sprinkle salt on spills when warm, then scrub.
DRAIN CLEANER	Pour ½ cup salt down drain, followed by boiling water; flush with hot tap water; or pour one handful baking soda and ½ cup white vinegar and cover tightly for one minute.
GLASS POLISH	Add a little ammonia and vinegar to water and wipe with old newspapers.
WALL AND FLOOR CLEANERS CONTAINING ORGANIC SOLVENTS	Use detergents to clean large areas and then rinse with water.
TOILET BOWL, TUB AND TILE CLEANER	Mix borax and lemon juice in a paste. Rub on paste and let set two hours before scrubbing.
MIRRORS	Use a one-to-one mixture of vinegar and water.
GENERAL SURFACE CLEANER	Use mixture of vinegar, salt, and water.
BLEACH	Use baking soda and borax to whiten.
MILDEW REMOVER & DISINFECTANT CLEANER	Chlorine bleach
FURNITURE POLISH	Melt 1 lb. carnauba wax into 1 pint mineral oil. For lemon oil polish, dissolve 1 teaspoon lemon oil into 1 pint mineral oil.
SPOT REMOVERS	Try cornstarch, vinegar, lemon juice, club soda or a paste of cornmeal and water.
CARPET SHAMPOO	Sprinkle with cornstarch and vacuum.
WATER SOFTENERS	Washing soda
PESTICIDES INDOOR AND OUTDOOR	Use natural biological controls;sprinkle boric acid for roaches, for ants pour a line of red chili powder, cayenne pepper, paprika, or dried peppermint at points of entry or wipe surface with vinegar.
MOTHBALLS	Soak dried lavender, equal parts of rosemary and mint, dried tobacco, whole peppercorns, and cedar chips in real cedar oil and place in a cotton bag.

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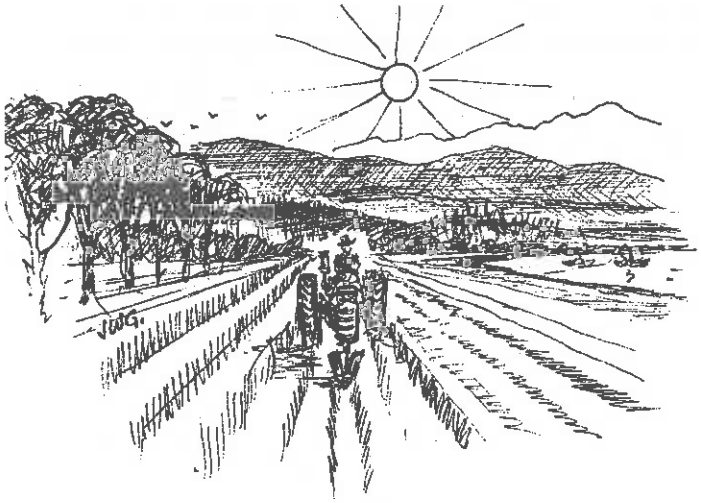

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Sr. Cit. Fam. $23 Reg. Fam. Membership $38
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Name: _____
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Amount enclosed: _____
Make checks payable to National Audubon
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Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057
Nat'l Audubon will send notice for renewal.

The Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society and is published 10 times per year. Free to members, friends may receive 3 consecutive free issues on request. Non members can receive this newsletter for a contribution of $4 per year.

RAPESEED OIL TO FUEL GERMAN TRACTORS

Scientists in Braunschwig, West Germany, have perfected a method of "transesterifying" rapeseed oil so that it can be used as fuel in diesel engins with no buildup of heavy deposits that have limited the use of vegetable oils in deisel engins up to now.

Environmentalists are excited by the process because it allows a significant decrease in stack soot and a sulfur emission of nearly zero. Also, although engins fueled by rapeseed oil do emit carbon dioxide, this will be offset by new crops of rape plants, which, like all growing plants, consume carbon dioxide. A balance is struck, and the amount of carbon dioxide in the air remains constant.

Experimental tractors at the Braunschweig research establishment have been run for thousands of hours on pure rapeseed ester oil without any disturbances at all.

The initial use for the rapeseed fuel oil is as a replacement for petroleum in West Germany's many farm tractors. It may require 15% of the country's farmland to grow the rapeseed needed to fuel the tractors.

The German scientists point out that this acreage is virtually the equivalent of the acreage needed for draft animal feedstuffs prior to the diesel tractor era.

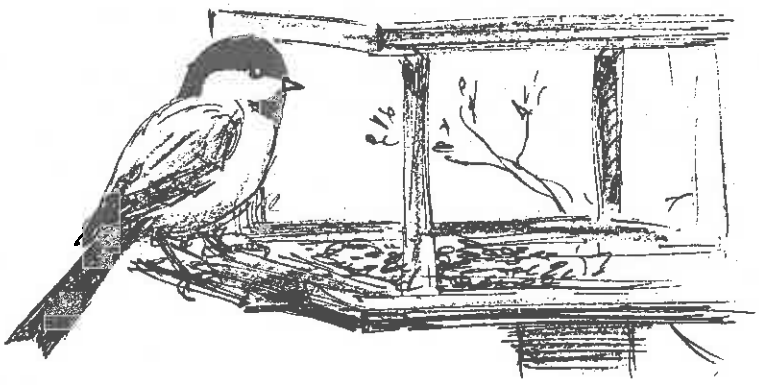
Because a high-quality, high-value glycerin is produced as a by-product of the transesterification process, the conversion costs from raw vegetable oil to fuel oil are insignificant, the scientists say.

From the Stockman Grass Farmer, March 1989

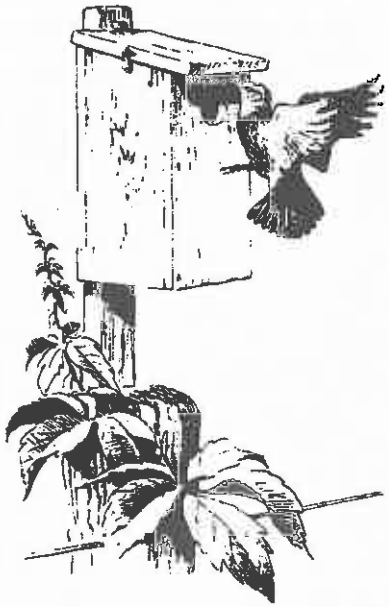
LURING BIRD FOOD

4 cups boiling water
1 3/4 cups peanut butter
1 lb. lard or fat drippings
5 1/2 cups rolled oats
3 1/2 cups cream of wheat
3 1/2 cups cornmeal
You can add a small amount of bird seed.

Mix 2 cups of rolled oats with the boiling water and boil for 2 minutes; stir often. Remove from heat; put in large pan, add remaining ingredients and stir thoroughly. Put mixture in clean (recycle) tuna cans or other container which can be placed in your feeder. Since it makes a lot, you should plan on freezing some for future use.



Art by John Gumpper



1990 BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES

Mahaney Recreation Area

In the November 1989 issue of the Upland Informer there was an article which discussed the idea of incorporating a portal or inverted u-shaped piece of wood over the entrance holes of bluebird houses. It was thought that this portal would discourage house wrens from using bluebird houses. Twigs used by the house wren is stiff but nesing material used by the bluebirds is pliable. It was thought that the portal would keep the wren off balance when it tried to take twigs into the box. (See vol.8 No.3 for details.)

Seven bluebird boxes using the wren guard were not effective. The wrens were able to adapt by using shorter and more flexible sticks for nest building! Five of the seven bluebird houses using the wren guard were used by wrens.

Five bluebird boxes without wren guards were also monitored. Two of these boxes were used by wrens. The other three were used by tree swallows.

Next year, a two inch piece of wood will be used for the wren guard instead of a one inch thick piece.

submitted by Bill Sarver

(BAS would like to thank you for the great records you kept for the field trips, Bill.)

Going Squirrely

A gray squirrel hanging upside down, skillfully robbing a backyard bird feeder, is a model of adaptation. Originally, gray squirrels lived in trees, coming down only to gather food and to bury nuts and acorns. Gray squirrels in the wild still live this way, eating nuts and seeds from pine cones, as well as mushrooms, insects, and even small birds and their eggs. Some squirrels, however, have found a much easier way to survive; they grow fat on handouts from humans, eagerly taking bread and seed put out for the birds. Their engaging looks and cheerful manner make it hard for most people to deny them some share of the bounty. Those same characteristics led ladies of ancient Rome to keep squirrels for pets. They are said to have enjoyed stroking the squirrels' soft tails.

Unlike many of the animals that live on close association with people, gray squirrels do us almost no harm. In fall they help to plant new trees by burying winter supplies of nuts and seeds, many of which they forget or lose track of.

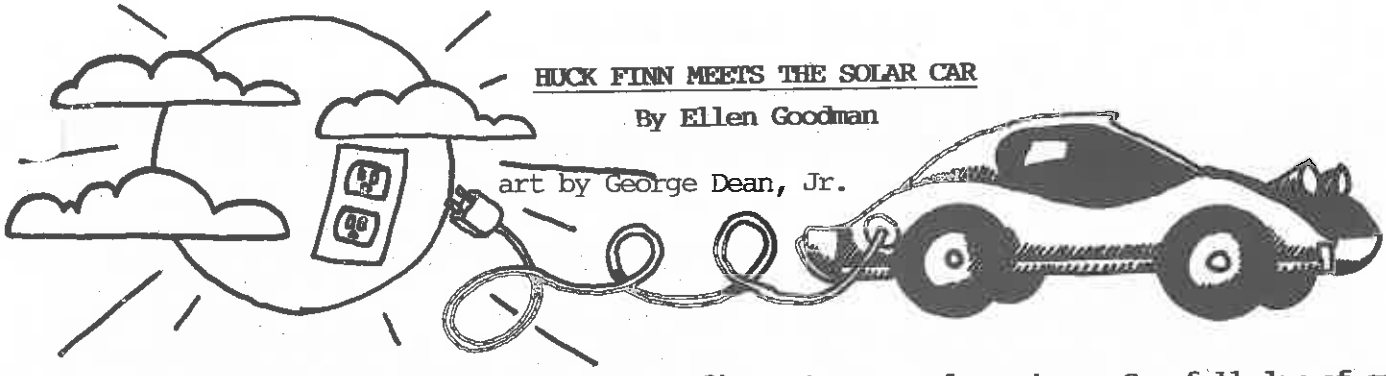
Squirrels have to learn how to crack the nut efficiently. They are born with the innate desire to handle and chew nuts, but only with experience do they discover the weak points of different kinds and figure out how to open them with the least effort.

Red squirrels tend to be slightly less tame than the grays, although they are just as delightful to watch as they speed through the trees, jumping from branch to branch. Both types of squirrel make several nests. One is built loosely in the br ches of a tree and is used in warm summer weather. Anothe built in a hole in a tree trunk, and serves to keep the animals warm in winter. A third is tightly constructed in the thickest part of tree's foliage to keep out bad weather. Red squirrels sometimes also dig burrows in the ground.

The diets of the two squirrels are similar, but the red's contain more of the seeds found in pine cones. For that reason houses surrounded by evergreens often harbor a large population of red squirrels, which can make a nuisance of themselves by finding their way into attics and setting up housekeeping. Red squirrels forced to spend the winter outdoors often store up huge caches of pine cones, and they will burrow through feet of snow to reach them when they need food.

From *The Backyard Bestiary*, by Tode Joods and Anthonie Stolk, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1982.

BARB DEAN: EDITOR
321 EAST MEYER AVENUE
NEW CASTLE, PA 16105



HUCK FINN MEETS THE SOLAR CAR

By Ellen Goodman

art by George Dean, Jr.

The Tour de Sol isn't as famous as the Indianapolis 500. Not yet anyway. Nor is James Worden a race driver of the same stripe as Emerson Fittipaldi. Indeed, his car went more than 100 miles an hour slower than the Penske PC-18's average of 167 miles per hour that won the famous prize. And his pit stops are a bit longer as well. Worden has to wait for the sun to charge up his batteries.

Neverless, on Memorial Day weekend (1989), while millions of Americans watched 500 ear-splitting, gas guzzling, air polluting miles end with a bang-up finish, James Worden slipped over the line known as Nerd Crossing at MIT. The 22 year old had won the 210-mile, three stage race from Montpelier, Vermont.

The Cambridge crowd on hand to greet him was small by Indy standards, but the victory was ure, sunny, and sweet. Worden isn't just going or a trophy, after-all. When he graduates from MIT, this young scientist isn't going into supercomputers or the military-industrial complex.

He and his teammates are going to pursue what he calls the dream:"We want to mass-produce solar cars." He doesn't blush at the suggestion he might become the next Henry Ford.

So those who have become dubious about the trade-offs of science, cynical about progress, sure that there is a price to be paid for every advancement, the James Wordens of the world are as refreshing as commencement day. He is one of the breed of high-tech environmentalists, people who don't think we have to choose between modern life and the ozone layer. Who believe that we "can do", without screwing up.

Not surprisingly, Worden made his first solar car while he was in high school. It is stored in the garage behind the house in Arlington, Massachusetts, where he grew up. On the day after victory, the Worden home bore a flag in the front and a nest of finches in the back. In the driveway was the Worden centerpiece: a solar-powered commuter car. It's a commuter car, not a racing car , that he wants o produce.

"It's kind of crude, and it's really dirty," Worden apologized as he ushered me in for a test drive through the neighborhood. This was a five-year old version.

The car runs on silicon solar cells, a battery,, and a motor. One full day of sun will store up to 50 miles of power. Not a lot but the average commute to work is 10 miles. This crude model goes 35 miles per hour.

But the real beauty, he says, is that "if you're sitting in a traffic jam in the sun, this car isn't using power, it's gaining power. There's no pollution and no noise."

There is something about this scene that sounds too Huck Finn-ish, too backyard-ish, to compete in the modern world of GM's and Fords. But Huck Finn didn't go to MIT, and Worden's team is not the only one who has seen the handwriting on the wall or the hole in the ozone.

"The automakers are saying they can't meet the lower emission standards," Worden says. "The environmentalists are saying that low emission standards aren't good enough. I put A plus B together and say we have to have solar cars."

So this summer, Worden's Selectron Corp. will begin to make a "sleek-looking", two-seat sports car that may have a range of 200 miles and a speed of 60 miles an hour. In its early stage, they expect it to sell for $15,000.

The idea of solar cars has been around. So have the prototypes, including GM's $8 milliondollar version. But the hot cars on the market this year are as archaic as fossil fuels; big and bad. They are in lethal conflict with the environmental laws popping up in places as distant as California and Vermont.

The Big Three car makers may be too big and too few to change. Perhaps it takes environmental entrepreneurs in their backyards to start tinkering with solutions.

But before he begins manufacturing, James Worden is getting ready for one more race. "If I can cross the country in ten days on the sun, then, by golly, anybody can go to work on the sun." When you get there, simply pick a sunny place to park.

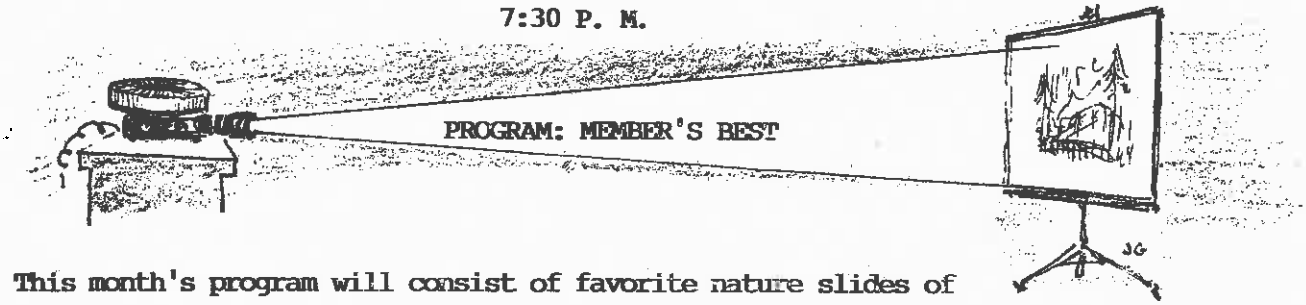
From the Washington Post, June 6, 1989

B. A. S. MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1991

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT FRANKLIN & MAPLE STREET - SLIPPERY ROCK, PA

7:30 P. M.



This month's program will consist of favorite nature slides of members and guests of Bartramian Audubon Society. Slides will illustrate wildlife, flowers or other subjects related to nature. Everyone is urged to bring 10 of their favorites to the meeting. Several members have already volunteered to show and describe their slides. It would be very helpful if you would contact Russ States (814) 675 6320 so we can plan ahead. This should be a varied and interesting program.

JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!

Stories — Photos — or Slides

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Vol. 9 NO. 6 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY FEBRUARY 1991

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Happy New Year to all! I trust that everyone has come through the holiday season full of resolution to make major changes in this new decade.

Last month I mentioned the importance of considering the effects of several everyday events upon the water supply for the future. Too often we do things that harm ourselves, others and the environment, not because we intend to do harm, but simply because we don't consider what we are doing to be harmful.

I suggest that we all become more aware of the p[illegible]ntial harm we can inadvertantly cause. O[illegible] way to accomplish this is to inventory our own homes for items which could be harmful.

We tend to believe that hazardous waste is confined to industry and business. However, a great percentage of toxic material is generated by private households. In fact, some experts feel that the total of toxics generated by individual households may surpass that of industry, if indeed it has not already done so!

The problem is that this material is hidden away in our garages, under our kitchen sinks and on the back shelves of our basements, so that no real inventory of this material exists.

I suggest that we start looking at our own homes and our own lifestyles as partial solutions to the hazardous waste problem. If industry stopped producing toxic materials today, the currently existing amounts would still create a major waste problem. And much of that material is in our homes.

A very useful guide is published by the [illegible]r Pollution Control Federation. The [illegible]le is "Household Hazardous Waste- What You Should and Shouldn't Do." The cost is 20¢.

If you would like a copy, the address is:
Water Pollution Control Federation
601 Wythe Street
Alexandria, virginia 22314-1994

This brochure contains a Household Hazardous Waste Chart which tells you what is toxic, where to look for it and safe disposal of it.

> "The average household contains between three and ten gallons of materials that are hazardous to human health or to the natural environment."

> "Sewers have exploded and garbage trucks have burned because people have carelessly discarded flammable or reactive wastes."

Start by inventorying your own personal cache of toxic materials. Look under your kitchen sink for bleaches, cleansers, pesticides, waxes, ect. Go into the bathroom and check for drain cleaners, disinfectants and expired medicines. Check your garage for antifreeze, fuels, polishes and oils. The list goes on.

Every household should have one of these brochures to help identify toxic materials.

Let's look toward a safer and healthier new year.

B. A. S. CALENDAR & FIELD TRIPS

FEBRUARY

4 Mon. B. A. S. Board Meeting

6 Wed. Deadline for bird seed orders.

9 Sat. B. A. S. Field Trip to Presque Isle for waterfowl and possible saw-whet owls. Gene Wilhelm will be our leader (412 794-2434). Meet at BP Station at 7:30 AM at intersection of I-79 and Rt. 208. We will carpool. You may also call Bob Walczak at 412 656-0201 or Shirley McCarl at 412 748-3433 if you need more information.

11 Mon. Regular B. A. S. Monthly Meeting.

14 Bird seed pick up at Rodger's Slippery Rock Agway through the 16th.

23 Sat. B. A. S. Housebuilding day at Camp Crestview-Slippery Rock. 10 AM to 5 PM.

MARCH

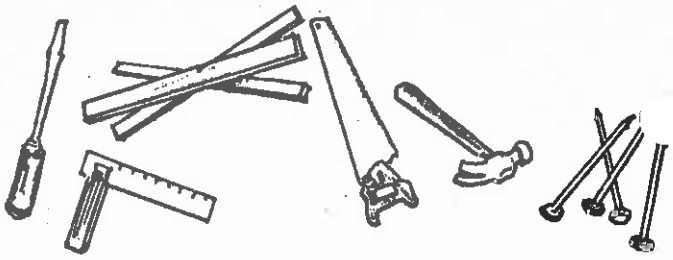
4 Mon. B. A. S. Board Meeting

11 Mon. B. A. S. Monthly Meeting

****

SNIPES AT EVENING

Haughtily posturing, rapidly stepping
across the snow still covering
the life-sustaining marsh,
soft-feathered pair
oblivious to all except each other
and the rising blood
take to the air to sound
their hollow winnowing,
tail feathers spread
to shape the plaintive sound,
then down again to dance--
confront, withdraw,
bow, dip, then saunter off
and up the muddy bank,
then down again
and back across the frozen marsh.
Weaving their way among
last season's dry, stalk-brittle grasses,
repeating their jerky ritual
of leads, retreats, advances
leaving their passing hieroglyphed on white,
merging into each other and the night.



HOUSEBUILDING DAY

The Bartramian Audubon Society is continuing its efforts to provide nesting boxes for bluebirds in its four county area. You can help to build them on Saturday, February 23rd at Linda and Peter Surgenor's place at Camp Crestview in Slippery Rock, PA.

From Slippery Rock, take W. Cooper Street out of town. Cross the creek and go left up the hill and you are there. Interested individuals are asked to come anytime between 10 AM and 5 PM. If you can contribute any 1" x 6" (3/4" thick x 5 1/2" wide) or wider lumber of any length, that will be helpful. You may also contribute 6-8 penny nails to the project but we can not use plywood. We need 1 3/8" drill bits and electric drills.
Table saws will be set up to cut lumber. If you have a sturdy hammer, any other useful carpenter's tools, or are just willing to help, please come. Bring a brown bag lunch and stay as long as you can.

.....submitted by Jerry Kruth

RECYCLE YOUR NEWSPAPERS

The United Methodist Church of Slippery Rock is accepting newspapers. Shredded newspapers are being used as bedding for cattle and other animals on some farms. It seems that paper is more absorbent than straw and the animals accept it. Afterward this bedding can be spread on fields as a form of fertilizer. See vol.8 No. 7 of the Upland Informer. You should remove the glossy inserts and feel free to bring your stacks of newspapers to be recycled to either the board meetings or our regular meetings. The church will accept your newspapers anytime. The United Methodist Church is located at the corner of Franklin and Maple Street.

****

The poem to the left was written by Linda Peavy of of Bozeman, MT and was taken from Sunrust Magazine which is published in New Wilmington, PA.

91st CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Bartramian Audubon Society's official Christmas Bird Count took place on Dec. 15, 1990. It was one of more than 1,550 similar counts designated to survey the wintering bird population.

Locally the count was the second biggest birding event of the calendar year for Bartramian, superceded only by the annual spring Birdathon in May. By tradition, the"count area" is a circle comprising a 15-mile diameter of roughly 177 square miles centered on th Route 528 bridge crossing Lake Arthur in M. ine State Park.

Within this circle, count organizers attempt to field as many birders as possible. These birders are grouped into "parties" and each party is designated a section of the circle which it surveys.

There were 9 parties this year, consisting of 23 field observers, plus two feeder watchers. The group counted 77 bird species and 5,811 individuals. In 1989, by comparison, 25 participants recorded 59 species and 4,444 individuals.

This year's CBC was once again dominated by the weather. Heavy rain started falling about 6 a. m. Birds remained in hiding during this period. Best birding occured between 10 a. m. and 1p.m. under cloudy and misty conditions. About 1 p.m. we experienced a dense fog that lasted the remainder of the day.

A few birds associated with last year's Artic Express were absent this year: N. goshawk, red-breasted nuthatch, purple finch, and common redpoll. Other species were in much lower numbers. Lake Arthur and all streams were open, permitting many species of aterbirds to be recorded. The most comm. species this year was the Canada goose (1079) followed by mourning dove (706) and E. starling (555). Finches were scarce this year.

List of participants: Harriett Bauer, Helen Beck, Katherine Brydon, Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher, Ruth Crawford, Barbara Dean, Helen Furguson, Marilyn Johnston, Fred Lochner, Shirley McCarl, Richard Noel, Virginia Noel, Bill Sarver, Betty Starr, Priscilla Stoughton, Linda Surgenor, Peter Surgenor, Bob Walczak, Loraine Weiland, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm. George Wilson, Ed Wilver & Joan Wilver.

---

1 c. loon, 2 horned grebe, 1 dbl-crested cormorant, 14 great blue heron, 15 snow goose, 1079 Canada goose, 2 Am. black duck, 262 mallard, 1 N. pintail, 1 N. shoveler, 3 gadwall, 1 Am. wigeon, 3 canvasback, 6 redhead, 5 com. goldeneye, 18 bufflehead, 4 hooded merganser, 66 red-breasted merganser, 6 ruddy duck, 2 N. harrier, 2 sh. shinned hawk, 5 Cooper's hawk, 24 red-tailed hawk, 1 rough-legged hawk, 6 Am. kestrel, 1 ring-necked pheasant, 2 ruffed grouse, 15 wild turkey, 2 Am. coot, 19 killdeer, 1 com. snipe, 83 ring-billed gull, 1 herring gull, 331 rock dove, 706 mourning dove, 2 E. screech owl, 2 great horned owl, 2 barred owl, 2 belted kingfisher, 18 red-bellied woodpecker, 1 yel. bellied sapsucker, 41 downy woodpecker, 29 hairy woodpecker, 3 N. flicker, 2 pileated, 3 horned lark, 232 blue jay, 102 Am. crow, 345 black-capped chickadee, 98 tufted titmouse, 55 white-breasted nuthatch, 5 brown creeper, 9 c. wren, 2 winter wren, 50 golden-crowned kinglet, 62 E. bluebird, 84 Am. robin, 1 N. mockingbird, 23 cedar waxwing, 555 Eur. starling, 1 yel-rumped warbler, 149 N. cardinal, 2 rufous-sided towhee, 174 Am. tree sparrow, 1 field sparrow, 36 song sparrow, 1 swamp sp., 41 wh.-throated sp., 324 dark-eyed junco, 28 red-winged black bird, 2 E. meadowlark, 1 com. grackle, house finch 108, 2 pine siskin, 124 Am. goldfinch, 20 Evening grosbeak, 378 house sparrow.

...Gene Wilhelm was the compiler for the CBC and submitted this information. BAS would like to thankyou Gene.

Barbara Dean: Editor
321 E. Meyer Ave.
New Castle, PA 16105

News from NAS

Challenges For Our Chapters
by Peter A.A. Berle, NAS President

It's Been A Good Year, On Balance

To many of us, impatient to change the world for the better, the progress of environmental legislation through Congress can seem excruciatingly slow. The payoff comes, after years of painstaking negotiations and sleepless nights, when a bill is finally passed and signed by the President.

Such is the case with the Clean Air Act: It took 13 years, but in late October, Congress at last approved a bill to reauthorize and strengthen this vital law. President Bush deserves credit for putting forth a proposal last year that helped put the legislation on course.

Besides the Clean Air Act, we got a solid new farm bill, with major improvements in wetlands-protection programs and pesticide record-keeping. Regrettably, the law does not stop the "circle of poison," the export of U.S.-banned chemicals and the import of foods treated with them, but the Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy plans to take up the issue next year.

We applaud Congress' good sense in passing tough new oil-spill liability legislation making companies like Exxon fully accountable for their actions. President Bush also signed a bill to limit the export of raw logs from national and state forests in Oregon and Washington, reducing for the time being one cause of the accelerated logging of the giant trees.

We even--thanks in large part to our hard-working activists--put out some serious fires. Pressure from several senior senators, responding to outraged Audubon-ers and others, forced Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski to back down on his efforts to open the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. And Congress withstood an attempt by Oregon Senator Bob Packwood to cripple the Endangered Species Act.

So it's time to slap ourselves on the back, take a deep breath of fresher air--and then gird ourselves for the challenges ahead. It won't be easy. But that's why we're in this in the first place.

---Exerpted from the *Audubon Activist*, Dec. 1990.

The Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society and is published 10 times per year. Free to members, friends may receive 3 consecutive free issues on request. Non members can receive this newsletter for a contribution of $4 per year.

Time to Stop the Trade in Wild-Caught Birds for Pets

Do you know that there are more than 40 million caged birds in the United States? Most of these birds--parakeets, canaries, zebra finches, and cockatiels--are bred in captivity. But eight million birds, including most parrot species, were trapped in the wild as adults or nestlings.

The United States is the largest market for imported birds. At least half a million birds are imported each year, and thousands die before they ever reach stores. On average, a bird has no better than a 50-50 chance of surviving capture, transport, and sale.

As a result of the dramatic threat posed to many bird species by the pet trade, Audubon staff are involved in a joint effort with the pet industry, bird breeders, zoos, and animal-welfare and conservation groups to solve this urgent problem. The joint effort is known as the Cooperative Working Group on Bird Trade.

The group is lobbying for national legislation to ban the trade in wild-caught birds for pets and is seeking its introduction in Congress some time in the spring of 1991. You can help make a difference by buying only captive-bred birds for pets and encouraging retailers not to sell birds caught in the wild.

This spring Audubon will be launching its own International Wildlife Trade Program. A key component of the program will be an activist kit for chapters and individuals to help educate the public, campaign for bills, and monitor the enforcement of wildlife trade laws. General information on wildlife trade will also be provided for concerned citizens.

If your chapter is interested in becoming involved with wildlife trade issues, please contact Dorene Bolze, Director of the International Wildlife Trade Program, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022; (212) 546-9297.

Membership Application (circle one) $[illegible]

New Member $20 Sr. Citizen $21 Student $18
Sr. Cit. Fam. $23 Reg. Fam. Membership $38
BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
_____
Amount enclosed: _____
Make checks payable to National Audubon
Mail to MR. & Mrs. Bi Wilver
R.D. #2
Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057
Nat'l Audubon will send notice for renewal.

EDIBLE WILD PLANTS OF PENNSYLVANIA AND NEIGHBORING STATES
by Richard J. Medve and Mary Lee Medve

Ralph Waldo Emerson defined a weed as a "plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered." To the wild-plant enthusiast who has discovered the virtues of many plants, there are relatively few weeds. After using this book, you ll never again consider lamb's-quarters a ed. Instead you will nuture it with respect and even encourage its growth in your garden.

Edible Wild Plants of Pennsylvania and Neighboring States contains botanically accurate, up-to-date information essential for the identification of more than 100 delectable wild plants. Each plant entry provides characteristics, habitat, distribution, edible parts, food uses, precautions, and preparation, followed by tasty recipes and interesting remarks about the plant's botanical history. The plants are arranged according to height, with the ground huggers appearing first and the trees last. Each plant is also cross-referenced by common and scientific names.

The authors have written this book with the novice forager in mind, including useful tips on foraging from where to search for food to precautions to take. They also provide a list of toxic look-alikes, a nutrient composition chart, and a glossary of terms.

Richard J. Medve is Professor of Biology at Slippery Rock University. Mary Lee Medve ntributed library research and her exper- se in food preparation to this volume.

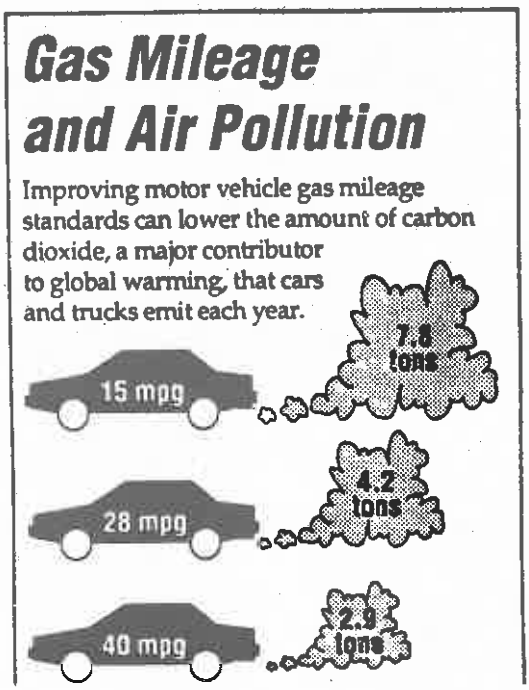
Edible Wild Plants is 256 pages long with 136 illustrations. Cloth, $35 ; paper $16.95. Payment by: check or money order. Make checks payable to Penn State University or you can charge your Mastercard or Visa. Include your card# and Exp. date and signature. Postage is $2 for 1st book and 50¢ each add'l. Include your name & address and send order to Penn State Press, Suite C, Barbara Bldg., 820 N. University Dr., University Park, PA 16802. Dr. Medve says you can also purchase the book at the SRU bookstore and Walden Books.

....Barb Dean: Editor of UI

HOPE FOR THE TROPICS

Hope for the Tropics, Audubon's next Television Special, focuses on the rain forests of Costa Rica. Hosted by actress Lauren Bacall, the program examines possible forestry alternatives to help save Central America's prized tropics. Meet seven people from around the world who are making a difference in Costa Rica's conservation policy, including: Field biologists taking inventory of species found in Braulio Carrillo National Park; an American forestry expert discussing alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture; a wood-products manufacturer working to protect rain forests; and a German zoologist heading an iguana reintroduction project with a hidden bonus.

Hope for the Tropics will air on TBS SuperStation on Sunday, February 24, at 10:00 p.m. (EST); February 25, TBA; March 2 at 9:05 a.m.(EST); and March 3, TBA.



BAS FIELD TRIP

The Bartramian Audubon Society's field trip to Moraine State Park on Saturday, November 10, 1990 was anything but pleasant weatherwise. Occasional showers, a cold biting northwestern wind, and a wind-chill factor approaching 20° F. were factors that deterred both birds and their avid watchers. Nevertheless six hardy souls braved the inclement elements to record 39 species of birds in four hours. The best species of the day was a common loon in winter plumage and scores of American robins, eastern bluebirds, and mixed flocks of blackbirds encouraged the birders onward. Ducks were generally well represented in species but not individuals. Although the group looked for tundra swans on Lake Arthur, we were just too early. Approximately 10,000 started migrating over Slippery Rock Township about 12:30 p. m. Long V's of swans were flying below 1000 feet altitude and heading due southeast with a strong northwestern tail wind behind them. I estimated their full speed at 50 m. p. h. meani ng that they should have reached the Chesapeake Bay, their winter home destination, in time for their dinner that same evening.

....Gene Wilhelm, Ph. D.

"We do not inherit this land from our ancestors, We borrow it from our children."
...author unknown

B. A. S. WINTER BIRD SEED SALE

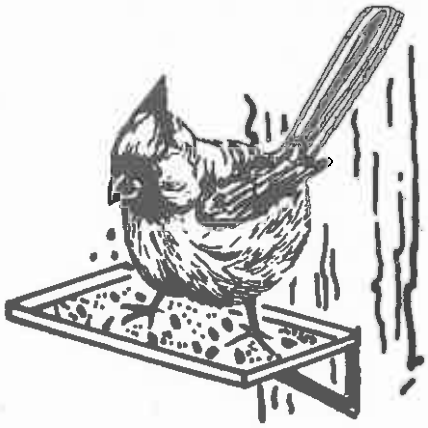
The Bartramian Audubon Society will be holding a winter bird seed sale. Order forms may be obtained from Linda Surgener, RD #2, Box 71, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Her phone number is 412 794 4022.

All orders must be accompanied by a check made out for the full amount to the Bartramian Audubon Society (BAS) and returned to Linda NO LATER THAN FEB. 6. Orders may be picked up from the Slippery Rock Agway anytime during business hours on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. If you have a problem with the pick-up dates or if you can not pick up your seed during business hours, please call Linda and she will make special arrangements to get your seed to you.

The bird seed sale is conducted to provide winter food resources for wild birds in our area. The proceeds from the sale will be used to support the work of Bartramian Audubon. Please remember that once you start to feed the birds in your yard, it's a good idea to continue until the leaves are fully out on the trees.

This sale supports our local chapter an goes toward projects in our area. Our prices are competitive. When you are filling out your order think of a friend or neighbor who might be interested in buying bird seed from BAS. ...Linda Surgenor

We appreciate your support



1991 GLOBAL REPORT

by James Mackenzie..Buzzworm Jan. '91

The "energy problem" is actually a complex of environmental and national security problems. Burning fossil fuels gives rise to environmental damage on many fronts, the most alarming of which is global climate change. But such "local" damage as oil spills, acid rain, wilderness destruction and soil and groundwater contamination also result from producing, transporting and using such fuels- especially oil and coal.

The latest Persian Gulf crisis illustrates once again the security and economic risks inherent in our dependence on imported oil. The United States' oil production keeps declining while oil imports rise, with grave implications for the country's security and balance of trade. In 1989, the US imported about ½ its total oil supply at a cost of about $50 billion, almost ½ of the trade deficit. Since transportation consumes the bulk of US oil, the national security issue is very much a transportation issue. US dependence on foreign oil- and the attendant security and economic threats- will keep rising until measures are taken to curtail petroleum demand or substitute new energy sources for oil.

As a nation we are a long way from adopting a rational response to energy-related problems. The US government, almost alone among the industrialized democracies, constantly downplays the need for national energy policies that address the threat of global warming. The Bush administration is dealing with the oil-import problem by deploying military force and promoting more exploration and development of domestic oil resources, while ignoring the need for improved energy efficiency. Meanwhile, federal funding for the renewable energy technologies that could reduce these environmental and security risks is languishing. In short, the federal government is more a part of the energy problem than a part of the solution. Fortunately, some states-California is a prime example- are moving to fill the vacuum. Energy efficiency standards, electric vehicles and the development of renewable energy sources are all being promoted at the state level.

Over the next decade, we need measures to increase energy effiency. We should strengthen building codes; encourage higher new-vehicle fuel efficiency through fuel taxes, gas guzzler fees and annual registration fees based on efficiency; adopt programs to remove older (thus pollution-prone and inefficient) vehicles from our roads; and provide incentives to utilities to weatherize existing buildings and to install and lease solar domestic hot water heaters. Longer-term efforts should focus on promoting widespread adoption of nonfossil energy technologies such as wind turbines, solar thermal power plants, photovoltaic cells and electric and hrdrogen powered vehicles.

Historically, it has taken several generations to switch to new energy sources. Use of new fuels-coal in the 19th century, oil and gas in the 20th- generally grew by 6% to 7% per year, doubling every decade. It takes some 50 years or more for new energy sources to displace old ones.

There is no reason why a transformation of energy technologies should take so long. During a period of national emergency such as the world wars of this century, factories were quickly converted to make entirely different products deemed critical to the national interest. If the US government- and the electorate- recognize the urgent need for new energy technologies, the transition to solar hot-water collectors, solar thermal power plants, wind turbines and other nonfossil technologies could be greatly accelerated, as could improvements in national energy efficiency.

In sum, the energy problem presents enormous challenges over the next few decades. Political leadership and forsight will be needed to change current practices- especially the inefficient burning of fossil fuels- and thereby mitigate the growing climate, pollution and security problems that loom over our future. Since the technological means of moving to an efficient, sustainable energy system are within our reach, the resolution of our long-term problem is not a matter of fate, but of choice.

Dr. James J. Mackenzie is a senior associate in the World Resources Institute's Climate, Energy and Pollution Program.

printed on recycled paper

B. A. S. MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1991 at 7:30 PM

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FRANKLIN & MAPLE STREET

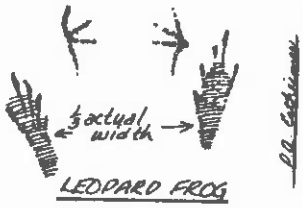
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA

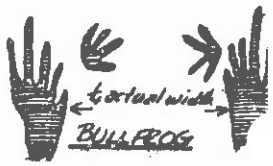
PROGRAM: BIRDS OF LAND AND SEA

Our own Linda and Jerry Kruth will present our February program. They will speak and show slides of their recent visit to Maine, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Come and receive first-hand information about puffins, gannets, warblers and other birds of land and sea. Sound interesting?

Join us and bring a friend.

We still need hospitality volunteers. If you would be willing to volunteer for a month or more, please call Becky or Brad Sheeler at 412 924-9314.





BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 264
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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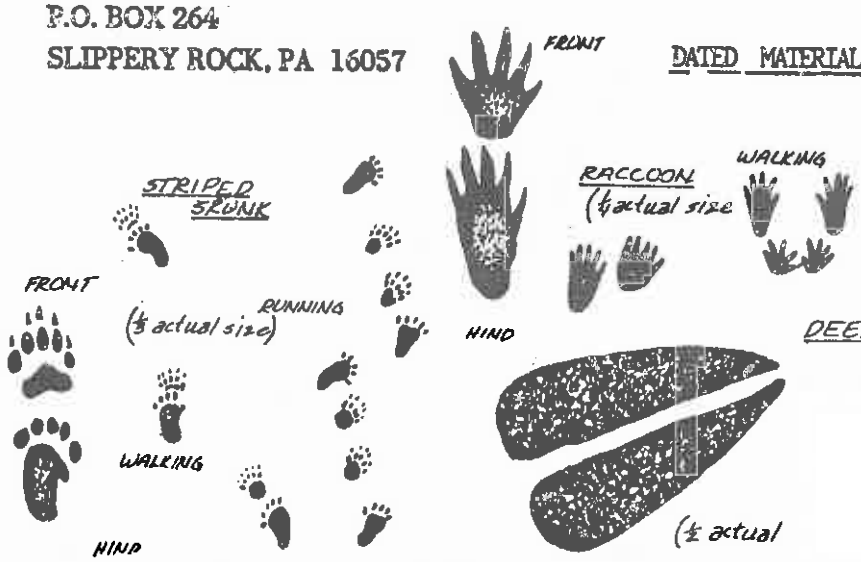
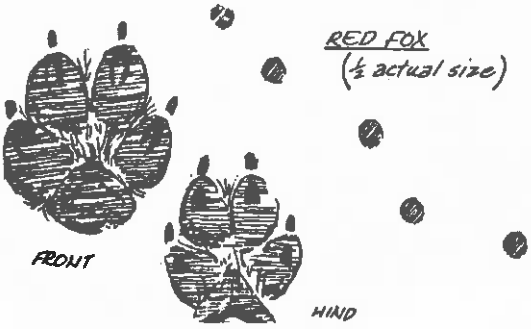
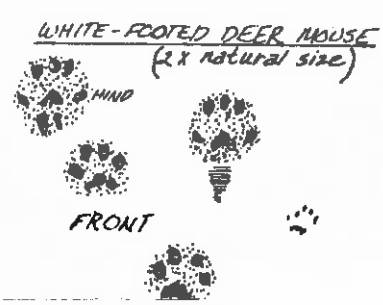
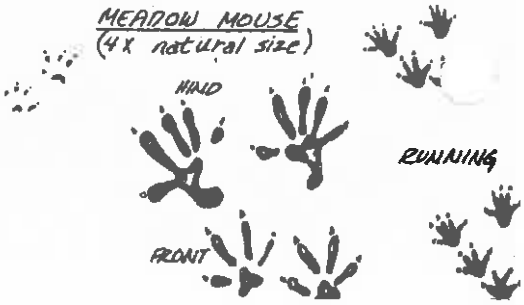
Permit No. 59









UPLAND INFORMER

Vol. 9 No. 7 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY MARCH 1991

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Continuing the household hazardous waste theme, I thought I would list some typical items you might find in various sections of your home. This month I will highlight the kinds of materials you could find in your basement or workshop, and proper disposal of them.

The following materials may be safely flushed down the drain, with plenty of water: paint brush cleaner with TSP, water based glues, lye based paint stripper, rust remover with phosphoric acid.

Empty aerosol cans and latex paint can be containerized and disposed of in a sanitary landfill, that is with your regular garbage pick-up. Paint should never be poured into a sewer system.

The following items are considered hazardous waste and should be saved for a community wide collection day, or given to a licensed contractor, if one is available, (contact your local recycling coordinator, or D. E. R. for information): paint brush cleaner with solvent, cutting oil, solvent based glue, oil based paint, automobile paint, model paint, paint thinner, paint stripper, primer, turpentine, varnish, wood preservatives.

This will give you an idea of the scope of the problem, as well as some suggested solutions. The real solution is, of course, to purchase as few of the hazardous materials as possible, so that you won't have to deal with them.

We can't expect companies to stop manufacturing products which are financially successful for them. And you can't even expect them to become really involved in on-site handling of the toxic wastes generated from the manufacturing process, if we, the consumers don't exhibit any such foresight in our buying practices.

It all comes back to the individual consumer. Educating yourself concerning the items currently available, then choosing those items which have the least environmental impact, from raw materials, through the manufacturing process, to the final disposal of waste, is the way to make a difference.

Wouldn't you feel better about yourself and your household, if you knew that your house had a clean bill of health, with no toxic waste problems for you or your children or grandchildren?

It revolves around responsibility. Accept responsibility for the items you purchase, by being an environmental shopper, then accept responsibility for proper disposal of these items.

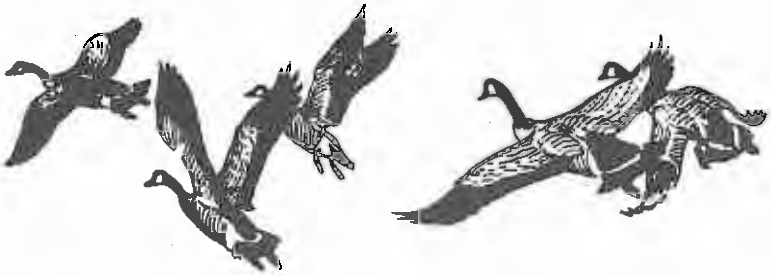
There is a backpacking adage which says, "If you take care of the ounces, the pounds will take care of themselves."

IF EACH ONE OF US DOES JUST ONE THING EVERY DAY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT, THE PLANET WILL LIVE AND PROSPER!

It's your life, it's your planet, get involved.

Becky Sheeler: President RD6 Box 648
New Castle, PA 16101 (412 924 9314)

Becky



B. A. S. CALENDAR & FIELD TRIPS

MARCH

4 (Mon.) B. A. S. Board Meeting

11 (Mon.) B. A. S. Regular Meeting

23 (Sat.) Hartstown/Pymatuning area. Bob Walczak will be our leader. Meet at BP Station at 8:00 a. m. at the intersection of I-79 and Rt. 208. We will be looking for waterfowl.

APRIL

1 (Mon.) B. A. S. Board Meeting

8 (Mon.) B. A. S. Regular Meeting

13 (Sat.) Moraine State Park Field Trip. Joan Wilver will be our leader. Meet at the park office at 8:00 a. m.

27 (Sat.) A walk at Wolf Creek Narrows. Dr. Medve will be our leader and we will enjoy the plants and birds in the area. Meet at the Miller Tract Parking Lot at the Narrows. Wolf Creek Narrows is in Slippery Rock, Butler County. We will meet at 9:30 a.m.

If you need more information on any of the above field trips, you may call Shirley McCarl at 412 748-3343 or Bob Walczak at 412 656 0201. (Fieldtrip chairpersons)

THANKYOU

Bartramian Audubon would like to thank Al Bartman of Protzman Road in Butler County for building 9 bluebird boxes and donating them to BAS to be given away. We appreciate your efforts!

Heron Study Under Way on Florida Bay

By Dr. George Powell, Research Biologist
National Audubon Society 9/88

Young great white herons raised this year in Florida Bay colonies are leaving home with tiny radio transmitters strapped to their backs. An Audubon research team is spending days and nights on the bay studying this pure-white race of the familiar great blue heron. Recent monitoring of the great white heron population in Florida Bay has indicated that these birds are in trouble. An earlier study raised the possibility that the birds were no longer able to find enough food to successfully raise their young. In an attempt to test this hypothesis and to discover some of the other causes behind the population decline, the research team has focused on the young birds and their struggle to survive.

Sightings of herons marked with wing tags established that most of them did not survive their first year, and those that did surprisingly seemed to leave Florida Bay and move north—some as far away as Texas and Georgia. To get more data, the Audubon team has begun radio-tagging young birds. Nestling great whites receive their transmitters just before they are ready to leave the nest. Daily radio checks from a boat keep tabs on the young while they are still close to their nests. Many young are lost to starvation, disease, parasites, and predation soon after leaving the nest, but some survive to fly north, where their movements are tracked from a small plane.

The evidence suggests that parasites and predators—including the bald eagle and possibly alligators and racoons—play a role in heron mortality. However, results so far point to starvation as the major cause of death among the young birds. Great whites leave the bay within a few days after their parents stop feeding them, quickly move north, and settle in the Everglades. There, they must find an abundant food supply to make up for their inefficient foraging abilities. Our study indicates that they are not finding what they need. The ecological problems of the Everglades—man-made and otherwise—may be placing yet another species at risk.

NATIONAL'S NEW LOOK

The National Audubon Society is changing its appearance and will soon be implementing a new graphic look that will include a symbol consisting of a flag containing the Audubon name. Surveys have shown that although Audubon is widely esteemed, people don't know what we are doing and don't recognize the National Audubon Society's work as coming from that organization. Audubon is characterized as being narrowly focused on birds.

The National Audubon Society was founded in 1905, and through the study of birdlife, became increasingly aware of the interconnectedness of all life and of the major cumulative impact of humankind's activities on the health of the life-support systems -- the air, water, and land. Its prime objective is long-term protection of all life and the preservation of our natural resources.

The goals of the Society are to:

1. Conserve wildlife and the life-support systems of the natural environment.
2. Promote rational strategies for energy development and use, stressing conservation and renewable energy sources.
3. Protect life from pollution, radiation, and toxic substances.
4. Further the wise use of land and water.
5. Speak for the public interest in public lands and waters.
6. Promote awareness of and actions to solve global environmental problems.
7. Work for stabilization of world population.

To carry out its work, the Society has developed a well coordinated effort in three interdependent fields -- research, education, and action.

B. A. S. OPPOSES NEW AUDUBON LOGO

Members of BAS discussed the new National Audubon logo at the January Board Meeting and at the regular monthly meeting in January. BAS is 100% against the new "generic" logo and asked Dr. Gene Wilhelm to write letters to National Audubon expressing our opposition. Most of the letter is printed below.

NEW AUDUBON LOGO

"What concerns me most about the new Audubon logo is not its artistic blue and white colors, its stylish lettering, its geometric shape, or other graphic dimensions, but its neglect of origin, its lack of related symbolism, its void of process."

LOGO (continued)

"Audubon has forgotten its origin as a preservation organization established to save birds and their habitats. And in moving farther away from a legitimate preservation theme that "ecology begins with birds", Audubon overlaps and competes more and more with the missions, goals, and budgets of other American conservation organizations. What made Audubon unique in the past was its emphasis on birds as key indicators of environmental quality and the quality of life. As long as the flying white egret existed in Audubon's logo there was still an interrelated and interconnected symbolism to its origin and tradition with birds. I do not find these cherished values in the new logo."

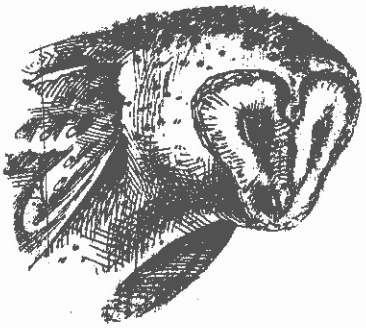
"Perhaps the time is at hand for the new logo because it does symbolize the new Audubon. But I for one cannot see any difference between the missions and goals of the new Audubon and a score of other American conservation organizations. What differentiates the new audubon now from the others?"

"Unfortunately Audubon is severing its visual logo link with birds at the most critical time in human-earth history when our avian friends everywhere need all the help they can get and in a period of growing awareness and interest in birds with more than 75 million Americans so inclined. I personally believe that a major reason why Audubon has attracted only a fraction of these bird-watchers as members is that the organization has consistently diluted and changed its origional preservation mission time and time again."

"It should be emphasized that the most successful preservation organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, always have been single mission-oriented and have retained simple, clear, realistic, and traditional logos throughout their history: an oak leaf in the case of the former organization and the panda in the case of the latter organization."

Dr. Gene Wilhelm has been associated with Audubon most of his life, having worked as a volunteer for the St. Louis Audubon Society, Missouri Audubon Society, Fort Smith Audubon, B A S Audubon Society & Audubon of Western PA. He was appointed Vice President of Education, National Audubon Society, in New York headquarters between 1982- 1985.

recycled paper



barn owl

Barn Owls Rescued

On June 15, 1989, Mike Ondik, District Conservation Officer for Crawford County from the Pennsylvania Game Commission brought five, 2- to 7- day old barn owls to the Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Meadville, PA. A farmer had discovered them while cleaning out one of his silos. The farmer immediately contacted the Game Commission, fearing that the parents had been scared away by his activities and that the young owlets would die.

Through the wise and quick action of this farmer, the owlets were given a chance for survival. The owlets, in the abscence of their parents, had become chilled and had developed sour crop due to being unable to digest their food. Once being received at the Center, they were placed in an incubator to bring their temperatures up to normal and given fluids to help them recover from the shock. The two youngest died due to the sour crop, but the three others did survive.

While growing, these unusual creatures resemble monkeys. As you can see by the drawing, they have heart-shaped faces, which encompass not only their eyes and beaks, but also their highly sensitive ears. It is ironic that these owls, which are handsome and graceful as adults, are so ugly and awkward in their youth. Barn owls are becoming very rare due to many old barns being torn down and the use of pesticides on the fields where they hunt.

Upon completing their growth, the three owlets were transported to Bob and Linda Gleason's farm in the Guys Mills area. The Gleason's had agreed to take over the task of hacking these birds back to the wild. A special hacking station was built to give the owls the opportunity to be in the wild and away from human contact, yet with some sort of protection and a good food source. The owlets had to stay in their hacking station until they hadcompleted their fledging, that is, until they had all their flight feathers. Bob left food such as mice, voles, and quail in their hacking cage in the barn so no other animals could steal it.

At last sighting, all three owlets were handsome young adults. Thanks to the combined efforts of the farmer, Game Commission, Tamarack Lake Rehabilitation Center and the Gleason's, there are three more barn owls hopefully living in the Crawford County area.

..The above article is from the Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center newsletter. Until October,1989, the wildlife center was supported solely by the Wilson family, but due to the overwhelming numbers of animals and the extreme costs involved with the animal's care, they formed a Non-Profit Organization, that enables them to accept donations which in turn pays for medical treatment, food, and safe shelter for the wildlife. They are offering yearly memberships for $20 to the Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, which includes a T-shirt, semi-annual newsletter, the opportunity to come to the center and help with the animals, and annual picnic. Also additional T-shirts will be available for $10 each. Contact Harriet or Charles Wilson if you would like to be involved. Wildlife Rehabilator, Harriet Wilson can be reached by calling 814-337-5586. The center is located at RD 7, Box 406, Springs Road, Meadville, PA 16335.

In addition to cash donations or memberships, the following is a list of items that could be utilized at the Center: Dad's Dog Food-Meal only; Canned Pet Milk Brand Evaporated Milk- only; Building supplies as follows: 2"x 4"s, 2"x 6"s - Any size; Plywood - rough or smooth; Wire - all kinds; Nails; Tar Paper; Old Windows/screens; Hay - straw; Wood chips; Old Newspapers; Paper Towels; Cardboard Boxes; Old blankets/towels; Cotton rags; Cages; Aquariums.

Harriet Wilson will present the program in April and members will be asked to consider bringing some of the above items to any regular meeting in order to help the Center. You may call Linda Surgenor at 412 794-4022 and she will see that your donations get to the Wilsons any time you are able to donate. Linda is our Conservation Chairperson.

snowy owl

B. A. S. FIELD TRIP TO PRESQUE ISLE

The BAS field trip to Presque Isle on Saturday, February 9, 1991, was a huge success! Gene Wilhelm was our leader. Best birds of the day were snowy owl and long-earred owl.

All eleven participants viewed the first year female snowy owl perched on top of a telephone pole near the Albion Exit just off Rt. 79 on Silverthorne Road.

Snowy owls are rare and irregular visitors to Pennsylvania and they show up mainly from November through February. If food is scarce on the artic tundra, large numbers may migrate south. Immatures, which are darker in color, go farther south than the adults.

We walked the pine trails at Presque Isle in search of saw-whet owls and examined owl pellets found under the pines. Leslie Hubenthal found the long-earred owl perched about 10' above the ground in a pine tree.

The long-earred is one of the most efficient mouse-catchers of the Pennsylvania owls. This slender crow-size owl has a 16-inch body length, a 40-inch wingspan and weighs about 11 ounces. This uncommon PA resident gets its name from two prominent ear tufts.

While it looks a bit like a small version of the great horned owl, the long-earred can be told from its larger relative by a streaked belly--rather than barred--and closer set ears.

We saw 45+ species on the field trip, including an estimated 10,000 common goldeneye on Lake Erie. Other highlights of the field trip are listed below:

Hairy, downy, red-belly and pileated woodpecker.
A flock of 15± yellow-rumped warblers.

PRESQUE ISLE FIELD TRIP (continued)

Herring,ring-billed, greater black backed & Bonapart's gulls
Mallards, black ducks, Amc. wigeon,bufflehead, red-head, canvas backs, scaup and pied-billed grebe
2 light phase & 1 dark phase rough-legged hawk
Kingfisher, Carolina wren, golden-crowned kinglets, horned lark and killdeer

We saw great blue heron on the way to Erie and 100's of Canada geese and five snow geese were at Slippery Rock on the way home.

Just the breath-taking sight of so many common goldeneye in flight over the waters of Lake Erie would have made this field trip worthwhile, not to mention the owls, which were "lifers" for most of us. Wow!

Participants: Suzanne and Gene Butcher, Leslie and Jim Hubenthal, Shirley McCarl, Bill Drolsbaugh, Bill Sarver, Barbara Dean, Lorraine Weiland,Harriett Bauer & Gene Wilhelm.

UTILITY WORKING ON WILDLIFE HAVEN

A Pittsburgh utility is working to make a friendly marriage between industry and nature a better relationship on a 180-acre Ohio River island roughly 2 miles downstream from the city.

Duquesne Light Co. has owned Brunots Island since 1894 but says it's actually for the birds - and the beavers, rabbits, raccoons and other animals which coexist with a power station on the property.

The company's oil-fired power station occupies about 50 acres in the middle of the island but much of the remaining land is a popular habitat for wildlife. The firm is now working with the Western PA Conservancy to develope ways to enhance the island's role as a wildlife haven.

Brunots Island is accessible only by ferry. The 12 or so employees who work there fire up the power station only during times of peak demand for electricity.

A survey found that the island is home to beavers, rabbits, raccons,pheasants, migratory birds, song birds and various birds of prey.

submitted by Becky Sheeler...New Castle News

100% recycled paper

Mercer County is Number Six in Pennsylvania

(From R-A Harrisburg Bureau:)

Toxic chemical releases in Mercer County were the sixth-highest among the state's 67 counties in 1988 according to the report "Poisons in Our Neighborhoods: Toxic Pollution in Pennsylvania." While doing nothing illegal, the companies released pollutants to air, water and land, injected underground, discharged to public sewage treatment plants or hauled away for treatment, storage or disposal at another site.

Over eleven million pounds of toxic waste generated in Mercer County came from steel and other manufacturing plants in the southern end of the county. Eight million pounds were released by Sharon Steel's Farrell plant and Sharon Tube's Sharon facility alone, the report said. Another 1.2 million pounds origi nated at Wheatland's Tube Company in Wheatland, and Sharon Steel's Greenville plant accounted for 780,000 pounds of chemicals.

So far, federal and state governments have not acted to force companies to cut emissions of the chemicals listed in the report, which include sulfuric acid, ammonia, chromiums, toluene, thichloroethane, methyl ethyl ketone, benzene and dichloromethane.

Amounts of toxic chemicals in pounds generated by local industries in 1988 according to Citizen Action:

* Sharon Tube Sharon Plant, 3.4 million
* Sharon Steel Corp., Farrell, 4.6 million
* Trinity Industries Inc., Greenville, 62,000
* Babcock & Wilcox Special Metals, Koppel, 38,000
* Babcox & Wilcox Koppel Steel Plant, Koppel, 225,000
* GTI Corp. Electronics, Hadley, 21,000
* Jamestown Paint & Varnish, Jamestown 170,000
* Sawhill Tubular Division, Sharon 890,000
* Sawhill Tubular Division, Wheatland, 103,333
* Shenango Inc. Sharpsville Foundry, Sharpsville, 1,000
* Sylvania Wood Preserving Co., Fombell, 2,600
* Wheatland Tube Co., Wheatland, 1.2 million
* R. D. Werner Co. Inc., Greenville, 1 million

With careful tracking of toxins generated and their distribution, the day may come when a base-line health study will be done on county citizens and possibly determine why Mercer and Lawrence Counties are among the highest cancer-per capita rates in the country.

The volume of toxic waste must be cut, and hopefully, manufacturers will agree to voluntarily reduce their output of toxic substances due to public pressure and economic factors. We hope the ammendments to the "Clean Air Act" will change the statistics.

This article was reprinted from the Project NO newsletter. Project NO is a special project of C. E. A. S. R. A. (Citizens Environmental Assoc. of the Slippery Rock Area.) This is the group that successfully protested the toxic waste facility that was proposed for Mercer/Lawrence Co. They are strictly a volunteer group. You can be a voting member of CEASRA-PROJECT NO for a $12 donation, or for $5 you can receive their newsletter. Make checks payable to CEASRA INC. P O Box 385 Dept. 1, Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057

Membership Application

(circle one) U 18

New Member ($20) Renewal Individual ($30)

Sr. Cit. ($21) Sr. Cit. Fam. ($23) Student ($18)

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

******

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to National Audubon

Mail to: Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wilver

RD 2, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

The Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society and is published 10 times per year. Free to members, friends may receive 3 consecutive free issues on request. Non members can receive this newsletter for a contribution of $4 per year.

Rare Dark-rumped Petrels Breed in Artificial Burrows

Attempts to assist the endangered Dark-rumped petrel met with a major success this summer when four pairs of these rare seabirds nested in artificial burrows.

For three years, National Audubon Society, the Galapagos National Park, and The Charles Darwin Research Station have joined forces to test a novel plan to help the Dark-rumped Petrels on Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos. This was the first year petrels produced chicks in the artificial burrows, 160 of which have been hand-dug in an extinct volcano on the island. Tape recordings of a bustling petrel colony are also used to attract prospectors to the man-made nests.

On July 9, the first egg was discovered in burrow B-19. Petrels bred in three additional artificial burrows as well. However, all four chicks, one of them still hatching, were killed by rats.

Dark-rumped petrels have a long breeding cycle that brings them to land for eight to nine months each year. They have an incubation period of 52 days and take an additional 110 days to rear their single chick. This slow development is necessary for birds that feed far from islands. Because the petrel chicks are left untended for several days between feedings, they are very vulnerable to exotic animals such as the black and Norway rats, which are now well-established on all of their known breeding islands. Dark-rumped petrels, distant relatives of the albatross, nest only in the Galapagos and Hawaiian Islands. ...Audubon Science Quarterly January 1991

Florida Protects its Panthers

By Eliot Kleinberg

Like a bank robber caught in the act, a Florida panther is captured on film crossing under busy Alligator Alley.

The pictures-made by a movement-activated unmanned camera- show the panther using one of 37 underpasses being built on the western half of the road that connects Fort Lauderdale and Naples, Florida. The private land to preserve the panther's habitat is crucial, but only if the animal is protected from motor traffic as well.

In the past, the animal might have wandered onto the road and become the one panther that in an average year is killed by a car- a grim statistic considering only 30 to 50 of the endangered animals remain.

About half of the underpasses are in place, with completion set for next year. They will cost about $20 million, with $7 million coming from the federal government's $315 million widening of the road as part of Interstate 75.

The remaining $13 million is part of the state's $35 million contribution to the widening, which comes from the gas taxes and continuation of tolls through 1995 or 1997.

For each underpass, the state Department of Transportation either raised the roadway or selected a low spot, then built a bridge across, leaving an 8-foot high, 100 foot-wide pathway for the panthers and other animals. Surrounding fences rising up 12 feet will keep animals from the busy road.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission worked with DOT to position the crossings where animals cross the road. Biologists determined movements by monitoring animals through radio tracking collars.

That way, panthers "didn't have to learn where the underpasses are," panther specialist Dave Maehr said.

source...Grit January 19, 1991
submitted by Becky Sheeler: President

Groundhog art to the left was drawn by Priscilla Stoughton.

B. A. S. MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1991 at 7:30 PM

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - FRANKLIN & MAPLE ST.- SLIPPERY ROCK, PA

PROGRAM: SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

Dr. Larry Patrick will be the speaker at the March program. He is Professor of Sustainable Systems at Slippery Rock University and he runs an organic farm in Evans City.

Dr. Patrick is associated with the ALTER Project at SRU. The ALTER Project demonstrates how one can add virtually nothing to the vast pile of garbage that is burying us - how to limit drastically the loss of soil in one's own garden, how to get along without toxic, agricultural chemicals, how to grow nutritious food, and how to provide oneself and one's family with a quality life-style and for less cost than the quantity life-style which puts us all in perpetual debt. Permaculture (anacronym for permanent sustainable agriculture) got its start amongst people who began to realize that nature itself knows what is best, therefore the best lessons can be learned directly from observation of the natural process in our midst. Perculture is applied common sense, understanding and accepting our niche in the complete web of life.

Sound interesting ? JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!

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UPLAND INFORMER

Vol. 9 No. 8 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY APRIL 1991

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Last month I featured potentially hazardous materials which could be found in your basement or workshop. This month I'll focus on items which can be found in your garage.

Garage items can be extremely dangerous, which is why most of us store these materials in the garage in the first place. But proper disposal of these materials is as important as proper storage.

Antifreeze and windshield washing fluid are perhaps the safest items to be found there. Both of these materials can be flushed into your sewage system with plenty of water.

Auto body repair products cannot be flushed, but can be safely disposed of in a sanitary landfill, or put out for your regular garbage pick-up. Be certain that it is properly contained before you put it at curbside.

All of the following materials are hazardous and should be treated very carefully. The good news is that most of them can be recycled. First I'll list those which are NOT recyclable. These materials should be saved for a community collection day for hazardous materials, or given to a licensed hazardous waste collector, (contact your local recycling coordinator or D.E.R.), brake fluid, car wax with solvent, metal polish with solvent and miscellaneous oils not otherwise specified.

All of the following are also hazardous, but these items are RECYCLABLE: automatic transmission fluid, batteries, battery acid, diesel fuel, fuel oil, gasoline, kerosene and motor oil. To locate companies which accept these materials, contact your local recycling coordinator.

Every county now has a person or a department with responsibility for recycling and/or solid waste disposal. If you are unable to find a number listed for such a person in your area, call your county courthouse and ask who in your county handles such information. If they are unable to help you for some reason, call the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, tell them the county where you live, and they will supply you with the person or agency to contact in your area.

Here are four suggestions from the Water Pollution Control Federation which could help you reduce the amount of hazardous material in your home:

1. Before you buy a product, read the label and make sure that it will do what you want. Once you purchase something you are responsible for proper disposal of it.

2. Do not buy more than you need.

3. Read and follow directions on how to use a product and dispose of the container.

4. Use safer substitutes when they are available.

One more tip, NEVER attempt to incinerate hazardous materials in your furnace, fireplace or woodburner. These never get hot enough to safely burn such materials, and may subject you to dangerous, even lethal gases.

CHAPTER NOTES: Thanks to all volunteer carpenters who built birdhouses at Camp Crestfield. Thankyou to Linda and Jerry Kruth and also to the Surgenors who offered the use of their facility.

The environment supports life - consider the connection.

Becky

100% Recycled Paper

April is Audubon month. The 21st anniversary of Earth Day will be celebrated on Sunday, April 21, 1991. Earth Day was organized to activate grassroots demonstrations of public concern for the environment and to force conservation issues into the mainstream of social and political dialogue.

B. A. S. CALENDAR & FIELD TRIPS

APRIL

1 (Mon.) B. A. S. Board Meeting

8 (Mon.) B. A. S. Regular Monthly Meeting

13 (Sat.) BAS Field Trip to Moraine State Park and Lake Arthur. Joan Wilver will be our leader and we will be looking for early spring migrants and waterfowl. Spring ...at last! Don't miss it. Meet at the park office at 8:00 AM.

27 (Sat.) A walk at Wolf Creek Narrows. Dr. Medve will be our leader. We will enjoy the plants at this area. Meet at the Miller Tract Parking Lot at the Narrows. Wolf Creek Narrows is in Slippery Rock, Butler County. We will meet at 9:30 AM.

If you need more information on any of the BAS field trips, you may call Bob Walczak at 412 656 0201 or Shirley McCarl at 412 748-3433. (Fieldtrip Chairpersons)

MAY

4 (Sat.) Annual field trip to Rock Point. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Wayne Township Firehall. Going south into Ellwood City on PA Rt. 65, you will see the firehall at the base of a mile long hill on the left. Bob Walczak will lead us to see Toni Nastas and his exotic birds. Toni will lead us to Rock Point to see the wildflowers and Priscilla Stoughten will help with wildflower identification. Bring a brown bag lunch if you are going to both locations. This location is excellent for the spring warblers!

6 B. A. S. Board Meeting

MAY CALENDAR (continued)

11 A possible canoe outing is in the works and there will be more information on this field trip in the May Upland Informer.

13 (Mon.) Monthly B. A. S. Meeting

18 (Sat.) Birdathon --We need your support!

25 (Sat.) Plans are in the works for an outing to go see covered bridges. Look for information in the next newsletter.

8th ANNUAL BIRD-A-THON

Plans are moving forward for the 8th Annual Spring Bird-a-thon to be held Saturday, May 18, 1991. Teams will again be seeking sponsors to pledge per SPECIES recorded. For those who would like to support the Birdathon, let me explain that if team members see a flock of 300 cowbirds, that would only count as one bird species. THIS IS OUR PRIMARY FUND RAISING EFFORT! Our chapter supports specific programs such as Audubon Adventures in our local schools in our four county area. We also support other projects that further the Audubon cause.

We encourage chapter members, other than team counters, to participate by securing pledges or donations. This year we will not be soliciting ads for the Birdathon and there will be a limit of four birders per team.

If every member would fill out the Birdathon coupon on page 7, the success of our "thon" would be assured.

The Bartramian Audubon Society supports twenty-eight Audubon Adventures classes and much more.!

EARTHWALK

There will be an Earthwalk at Camp Crestfield from 4:00 to 5:30 pm on Sunday, Earth Day April 21, 1991. Please bring food for a potluck dinner at 6pm. From Slippery Rock take W. Cooper St. out of town. Cross the creek and go left up the hill and you are there. Last year 150 people attended. Call 794 4022 if you need more information.

INDEBTED TO WETLANDS

We owe a great debt to our wetlands for performing many beneficial tasks for us.

The loss of wetlands denies the human community of these benefits. Natural drainage and sedimentation characteristics are altered, a natural system of water filtration is lost, plants and animals disappear, and the overall environment is degraded.

Wetlands are our earth's "workhorses" - a great big "Thanks!" is due to them.

art by John Gumpper

The BAS Wetland Task Force will soon be at work recording wetlands in our 4-county area. This work will take several years to complete. If you know of a wetland "off the beaten path" that you feel our task force should record, please contact the following: Lawrence County- Barb Dean 412 658 3393, Mercer County- Shirley McCarl 412 748 3433, Venango County- Russ States 814 676 6320 and Butler Co.-Gene Wilhelm 412 794 2434.

HOW CAN WE SAVE IT

Greenpeace
January/February 1990

Until last year, it was all the environmental community could do to convince the public that the planet is in trouble. Recent events--rainforest destruction, oil spills, hunger, global warming, mounting garbage and nuclear wastes--have persuaded people that it is. If the '60s, '70s and '80s were the decades of education, the '90s will be the decade of action. Greenpeace *asked a diverse group of people who are in the business of thinking about the planet to answer the question, "Where do we go from here?" This is their advice.*

Kirkpatrick Sale

The next step should be backward--backward to a new place. We now can see all too plainly that humankind has led the world to the edge of a precipice. It is that ecocatastrophe whose various manifestations have become the stuff of daily headlines. And the only sensible thing to do at the edge of a precipice is to step back.

Not back to the 1930s or the 1850s or the 1770s, not to any part of the trajectory that has led us, inevitably as it were, to this tragic and fearful place. We cannot find our salvation in any part of our vaunted Western tradition, at least not in any of the forms that have evolved since the Renaissance, when the Modern Age began. It is precisely the Modern Age and the Western civilization it has fostered, with its values of humanism, science, technology, rationalism, progress, materialism and the conquest of nature, that has created the culture and psychology of human dominance and destruction.

Back rather to some other place, in some other, non-Western, non-industrial tradition. I would suggest that for those of us in this country, that tradition might best be the one that thrived here once and that we all but destroyed. It was a tradition, to put it simply, of integration into nature, species humility, sacralization of the earth, biocentrism and what Calvin Martin has called "the biological outlook on life." It permitted perhaps 20 million people to live in the area of this nation for many thousands of years, hunting, fishing, gathering, farming, burning and building, and still inhabit a land that seemed to every single early European visitor to be a "wilderness" and a "paradise."

The task for the 1990s, then, is not (or not only) adopting newly popular "life-style" changes, or contriving a Green Party, or electing a greener president, or fighting the bastards one more time at this dam or that forest. It is something more fundamental, more serious: nothing less than to begin the long process of changing our culture, our values, to the point that we can finally come to realize the very simple truth that forward on this road is death and backwards is life.

Kirkpatrick Sale is author of Dwellers in the Land. *His new book,* Conquest of Paradise, *will be published in October by Knopf.*

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Once a common sight in the Pennsylvania countryside, the bluebird has dwindled in the past half-century. Among the many reasons for its decline are loss of tree-cavity nesting spots, and competition for the few sites from house sparrows and starlings. Many outdoorsmen erect suitable bluebird nest boxes in an effort to bring back this lovely little bird with the voracious appetite for insects. Boxes must be the exact size to let bluebirds in and keep competitors out. Both sexes are blue, with reddish throat and breast, but the male is much brighter. Favorite habitat is open farmland and roadsides. Call, a soft warble.

B.A.S. EARTH DAY PROJECT

Saturday, February 23rd, the Bartramian Audubon created a bluebird housing plan at Camp Crestfield. A total of 54 bluebird houses were built, 14 of the Peterson variety.

Linda and Peter Surgenor were delightful hosts, lending the use of their lovely workshop, and treating the crew to homemade soup and cornbread. Peter contributed considerable skill with saw and hammer.

The boxes were pre-cut by this writer, who donated the lumber. They were drilled and assembled by a willing crew that consisted of Marilyn Johnson, Bob and Dorothy Walczak, Barb Dean, Gene and Joanne Wilhelm, Russ States, Jo-Ann Wilver, and my wife Linda. Hot drinks and good humor were also evident.

The boxes are part of a continuing effort by the Bartramian Auduon Chapter to develope bluebird trails in its four-county area. Over the past two years, over 100 boxes have been built and added to the nesting potential for bluebirds.

The small blue and orange member of the robin family finds rolling farmland, such as in the Bartramian area, ideal habitat for nesting. The Chapter is hoping to continue public interest in such projects. The boxes, built from recycled wood are available for sale.

The Peterson boxes are a much larger, more sophisticated variety. Their elongated opening, and small base is supposed to specifically suit bluebirds. It is hoped research can be conducted to see if there is a local preference.

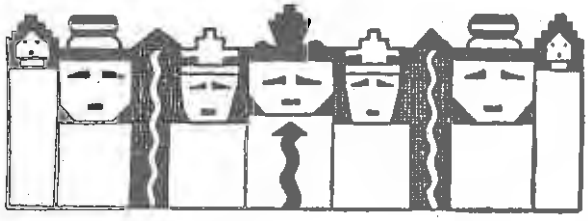
submitted by Jerry Kruth

BLUEBIRD MONTH

April 1991 has been declared Bluebird Month by the Bartramian Audubon Society with members in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties and headquarters in Slippery Rock. To celebrate the occasion in cojunction with Earth Week 1991, volunteers constructed fifty-four bluebird nesting boxes from recycled materials recently and these boxes are now for sale to the general public. The standard box type sells for $6.00; the Peterson model for $7.50. Further, the Society invites any organization to sponsor a Bluebird Trail by donating $10 per nesting box for a minimum of fifteen boxes. Cost includes the Bartramian Audubon Society locating a suitable site for a trail, erecting the nesting boxes, and monitoring them through the 1991 breeding season with the help of volunteers. Each bluebird Trail will be named in honor of the organizational sponsor and will receive a report of breeding results in the fall. THE GOAL IS TO HAVE ALL BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES SOLD AND IN PLACE BY EARTH DAY, SUNDAY 21 APRIL 1991.

For information please contact Linda or Peter Surgenor at 794-4022.

submitted by Gene Wilhelm



SONGS FROM THE HAKO: A PAWNEE CEREMONY

TENTH RITUAL

THE BIRTH OF DAWN

As the night draws to a close, the Kúrahus orders the server to lift the skins which hang at the outer and inner doors of the long passageway of the lodge, and to go outside and watch for the first glimmer of light.

At the first indication of a change, when the air begins to stir, the server comes in with the tidings, and we rise, take up the Hako, and stand at the west, behind the holy place; there, looking toward the east, we sing this song. We sing it slowly and with reverent feeling, for it speaks of the mysterious and powerful act of Tiráwa atius in the birth of Dawn.

The Summons to Mother Corn

I

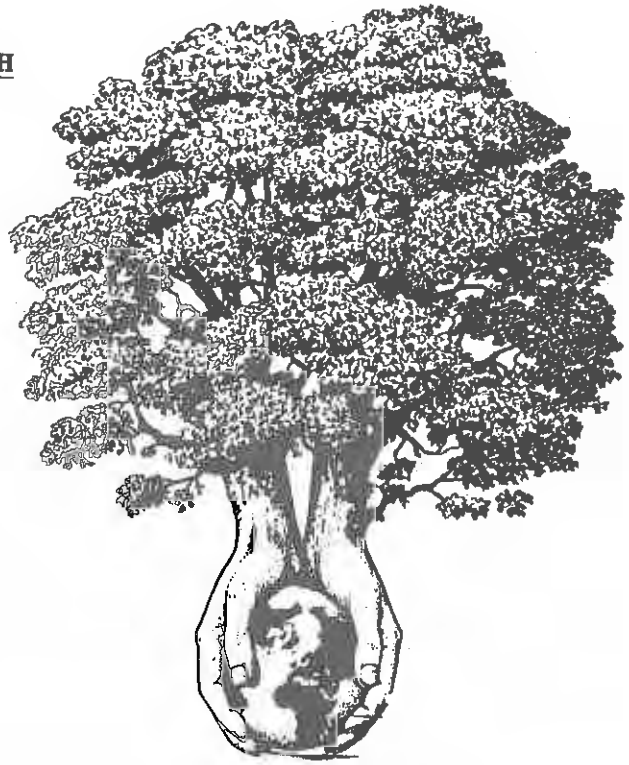
Awake, Oh, Mother, from sleep!
Awake! The night is far spent;
The signs of dawn are now seen
In east, whence cometh new life.

We call to Mother Earth, who is represented by the ear of corn. She has been asleep and resting during the night. We ask her to awake, to move, to arise, for the signs of the dawn are seen in the east and the breath of the new life is here.

Mother Earth hears the call; she moves, she awakes, she arises, she feels the breath of the new-born Dawn. The leaves and the grass stir; all things move with the breath of the new day; everywhere life is renewed.

This is very mysterious; we are speaking of something very sacred, although it happens every day.

American Indian Poetry -An Anthology of Songs and Chants by George W. Cronyn



We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals.

Remote from universal nature, and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethern, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisnors of the splendour and travail of the earth.

by Henry Beston

When some remote ancestor of ours invented the shovel, he became a giver: he could plant a tree. And when the axe was invented, he became a taker: he could chop it down. Whoever owns land has thus assumed, whether he knows it or not, the divine functions of creating and destroying plants.

- Aldo Leopold-

Leaves From The Sand County Almanac

"Slot" Machine Adds Reward to Recycling

Even in an era when environmentalism is becoming trendy, consumers need a boost. So how about this: Recycle your empty soda can and get a coupon good for a full one.

Now, two seemingly incompatible pastimes are united in a reverse vending machine that aims to promote recycling by offering incentives in a way that resembles gambling on a slot machine.

Consumers who place an aluminum or tin can in the free-standing "Lucky Can" set the spinning wheels behind five display windows in motion. When the wheels stop spinning, consumers will receive a printed reward in the form of a coupon, voucher for merchandise or services, or an environmental theme message.

The machine, invented and produced by Egapro Management A. G., Zurich, has been tested in Austria, with scheduled rollouts in the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, and West Germany.

When tested for eight weeks in Linz, Austria, more than 1.2 million cans (more than 1,000 cans per day per machine) were collected at service stations and supermarkets. The program is expected to roll out nationally in Austria by summer 1990, and to increase the can recycling rate in that country from under 10% to more than 50%. Each unit can store up to 2,000 cans.

The Howard Marlboro Group, New York, has exclusive rights in the U. S. for the machines. Vice president Rich Wilson says four levels of sponsorship are being offered in the United States, where firms can opt for national or local participation. These are total sponsorship, co sponsorship with one other company, or sponsorship of one position on the wheel.

The final option, most suitable to retail outlets, is to buy the machine and sign on sponsors yourself. (All rates are currently negotiable.) Funds raised from the recycled materials will go solely to the sponsors or be shared with the owner of the machine's location, depending on each deal's structure.

Future machines will be able to read bar codes and track which cans are being inserted in the machine. A version in production for use at golf courses will dispense golf balls.

Also in development, says Wilson, are machines that will accommodate glass, plastic and batteries. All distrubition channels are being explored, plus schools and military bases--anywhere people may drink beverages.

Although vandalism could become an issue, Wilson believes the machines will remain intact once people realize nothing of intrinsic value is inside. Coupons and vouchers aren't printed until a can is deposited.

As for the social benefit, he says, "You have manditory legislation in some places, and people still aren't bringing back that many cans."

..from Adweek, Jan. 8, 1990

BIRDSEED SALE

Linda Surgenor reports that seed orders totaled $547.20. Bartramian Audubon Society made a profit of $104.17 to help support our work.

Thankyou, Linda!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR APRIL ELECTIONS

A nominating committee comprised of Gene Wilhelm (412 794 2434), Bob Walczak (412 656 0201) and Priscilla Stoughton (412 368 8865), will be presenting a slate of candidates for officers for the coming year. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the April meeting as long as permission has been obtained from the nominee prior to the meeting. Anyone interested in any office, please contact the committee members.

I will sponsor a team by pledging _____cents per species.

I will donate (circle) $3 $5 $10 or ____ to the Birdathon. My check payable to Bartramian Audubon Society is my receipt.

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone:_____

Mail to: Russ States
24 East Fifth Street
Oil City, PA 16301
phone 814 676 6320

Welcome to Bartramian Audubon Society

(Joan Wilver Membership Chairperson)

Our March program on Sustainable Systems by Larry Patrick was wonderful and B. A. S. would like to welcome several "new Faces" who attended our meeting. They are: Joseph j. Drapola, Joyce Viertel, Sally Greenfield, Pamel Pope Courtney, Sam Williamson and Dick Krear.

Membership Application (circle one) #018

New Member $20 Sr. Citizen $21 Student $18
Sr. Cit. Fam. $23 Reg. Fam. Membership $38
BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Name:_____
Address:_____
City, State, Zip:_____

_____
Amount enclosed:_____
Make checks payable to National Audubon
Mail to MR. & Mrs. Bil Wilver
R.D. #2
Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057
Nat'l Audubon will send notice for renewal.

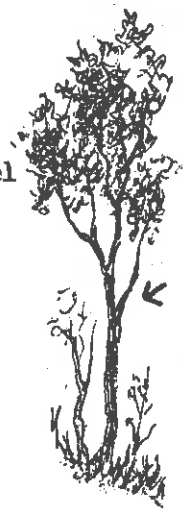
The Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society & is published 10 times per year. Free to members, friends may receive 3 free issues on request. Non-members can receive this newsletter for a $4 contribution each year.

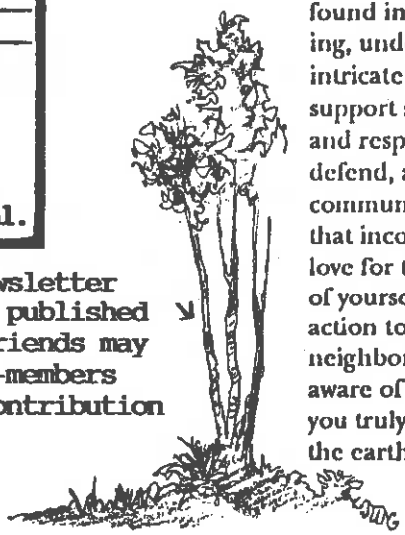
EARTH SOUND

The Egg, Winter 90/91 by Gene Wilhelm

Attaining Eco-Ethics Through the Senses

(The following piece is just a few paragraphs borrowed from the above article. There will be a few copies of the entire article at the next meeting.) 412 794 2434





If you have a deciduous tree in your natural site, follow this simple exercise. Because a tree is a living creature of earth, it eats, rests, breathes, and circulates its own "blood" much as we humans do. First, bear hug the tree with wide-spread arms. Next, touch the tree trunk with your cheek. How does it feel? Finally, press your ear firmly against the tree trunk, remaining motionless so as not to make interfering noises. Listen for the heartbeat of the tree which is a wonderful crackling, gurgling flow of life. You may have to try several different listening spots on the tree trunk before you are successful. Of course, the best time to hear the tree's heartbeat is in the spring when the tree sends first surges of sap upward to its branches, preparing them for another season of growth and reproduction. The best species of trees for this experience are those with a thin bark such as aspens, birches, and willows. Finally, using all of your senses, mentally describe your natural site and the weather conditions of the day.

With time, patience, and repetitious visits you will become not only familiar with your natural site, your piece of earth, your sense of place, but even intimate. Perhaps even without realizing it you will progress beyond the initial stage of curiosity about nature to a keen awareness and sensitivity of the rich biodiversity found in any natural place on earth; to learning, understanding, and appreciating the intricate web of life with its interconnecting support systems; to accepting the challenge and responsibility to preserve, replenish, defend, and cherish your natural site as a life community; and finally to follow an eco-ethic that incorporates a humility, a reverence, a love for the earth which is an inseparable part of yourself, an eco-ethic that takes explicit action to make other members of your family, neighborhood, congregation, and community aware of nature's crying needs. At this point you truly have become a part of the earth, and the earth has become a part of you.

B. A. S. MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1991 at 7:30 P. M.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - SLIPPERY ROCK, PA

PROGRAM: REHABILITATION OF WILDLIFE

One day, a young boy named Charles Wilson, brought home a wild raccoon that he had found, injured, while exploring the woods around his home at Tamarack Lake. His mother, Harriet, who held a great and special love for animals since her childhood, of course, could not say no to the little raccoon. This was how the Wilsons first got involved in the rehabilitation of wildlife in Meadville, Pennsylvania, some 15 years ago.

From the beginning, the main purpose of the Wilsons has been to provide the necessary care and medical treatment to sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife, including: wild mammals, birds, water fowl, and raptors (hawks, owls,etc). They try to return, whenever possible, wildlife back to its natural habitat. Join us for a very special evening with Harriet Wilson.

Please bring any of the following items that could be used at the Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to this meeting: Dad's Dog Food-Meal only: Canned Pet Milk Brand Evaporated Milk-only; Building supplies as follows: 2"x 4"s, 2"x 6"s, Any size plywood; All kinds of wire; Old windows or screens; Old newspapers; Paper towels; Cardboard Boxes; Old Blankets or Towels; Cotton rags; Cages; Aquariums.

YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS PROGRAM!

Barb Dean: Editor
New Castle, PA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 264
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057

DATED MATERIAL

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Slippery Rock, PA
Permit No. 59

SNOWY OWL
Silverthorne Rd.
Edinboro, PA
by Ed Wilver

UPLAND INFORMER

Vol. 9 No.9 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY MAY 1991

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

April 21 was Earth Day, a day set aside to commemorate the earth. Typically that day was celebrated with a variety of events and activities throughout the planet. That was certainly a wonderful experience for all concerned, but one day a year is not enough.

During the Persian Gulf War I read an article on the front page of the Wall Street Journal which stated that their research had determined that Americans were unwilling to take simple measures to conserve gasoline, even though millions of gallons of oil were being dumped into the Persian Gulf, hundreds of oil wells were burning out of control;, and the price of oil was predicted to escalate.

The attitude reflected in their research was "I don't care about tomorrow, there's enough for now."

That's the image we portray to the rest of the world. Oh, it's true, we give money to all sorts of funds to study how to stop the deforestation of the Amazon, or save the whales, or feed certain people, etc., but we are not willing to give up our conveniences and comforts at home.

The recent resurgence in sales of large, luxury automobiles is another case in point. If you drive a car that doesn't get more than 25 miles to the gallon, and say that you are concerned about the environment, you are just fooling yourself. And that is just one issue.

The list is long.

Take the opportunity to examine your lifestyle and see what changes you can make to bring your life and the lives of your loved ones, more into harmony with the earth. Then go out and enjoy your activities with even more enthusiasm, knowing that you are going to make a difference on more than one day. Make every day Earth Day!

/.

This is a good time to examine some materials in your homes in order to locate the rest of those household hazardous wastes. With the advent of the planting season, garden items seem to be appropriate. I'd be willing to bet that 90% of you have some old pesticides or poisons in your basement or garage. First of all, don't use them. Second, dispose of them in accordance with the following instruction. And third, don't buy any more! There are organic alternatives to each and every one of them. It might take some research on your part to locate the proper method or material, but you will benefit by not having to handle poisons, your household will benefit by not having such dangerous chemicals within it, and the planet will benefit by being allowed to revert to its natural condition. In addition, you will have deprived some chemical company of revenue and if enough people do that, think what effects that could have!

The following items are hazardous wastes which need to be saved for a community collection day or given to a licensed hazardous waste contractor, including the empty containers: fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, rat poisons, weed killers.

Chemical fertilizers can be disposed of through your regular garbage collector. They should never be poured down the drain.

In addition to gardening supplies, several other types of miscellaneous materials which may come to light at this time of year are also hazardous wastes. The following items are recyclable: dry cleaning solvents, gun cleaning solvents.

Photographic chemicals, mixed and properly diluted, may be flushed down the drain, using lots of water.

Shoe polishes may be disposed of at curbside with your regular trash pick up.

(continued page two)

PRESIDENT'S PERCH (continued)

The following items must be given to a licensed contractor: ammunition, artists paints and mediums, fiberglass epoxy, lighter fluid, mercury batteries, moth balls, old fire alarms, unmixed photographic chemicals, swimming pool acid.

Please be aware, not only of these items, but of all the items we've covered in the last few months, while you're doing that spring cleaning. The water supply of the planet depends on all of us being responsible with these materials.

A brochure containing all the information I've outlined is available through THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FEDERATION, 601 Wythe St., Alexandria, VA 22314-1994 Phone 703-684-2400.

To quote from a currently popular country song, "Let's save some for tomorrow."

Becky

HARTSTOWN FIELD TRIP REPORT

March 23, 1991

Participants: Helen Ferguson, Janet Heater, Harriett Bauer, Barb Dean, Shirley McCarl, Loraine Weiland, Marguerite Geibel, Bob Walczak, Marie Wheaton and Martha Haverstick.

Highlights of the field trip are listed below:

blue-winged teal	bald eagle
American wigeon	kingfisher
pied-billed grebe	bluebirds
lesser scaup	yellow-rumped warbler
Northern shoveler	ring-necked pheasant
bufflehead	American kestrel
hooded merganser	meadowlarks
common goldeneye	common snipe
redhead	towhee
black ducks	gr. blue heron
canvasback	tundra swan
gadwall	mute swan

Participants observed the first tree swallows of the season on this field trip. The spring peepers were singing and some observers noticed snow drops blooming. Bald eagle was seen on the nest and in flight.

Bob Walczak....Field trip leader.

OTTER UPDATE

Four River Otter released on Tionesta Creek in Forest County last summer are having a good winter and are doing well according to Otter Project Leader Tom Serfass.

Signals from surgically implanted transmitters in each of the four otters help researchers monitor the active otters from a distance. The two young male otters were recently located while fishing on Tionesta Creek behind Ball Island.

The scrappy female otter released last June is four miles downstream below Kellettville.

Beaver Meadows is the temporary home of the large male otter who was the fourth member of the group release. Because the big fellow moves between Beaver Meadows and The Branch frequently, Serfass and his team have learned to release him first by air, then go in by land for a closer fix.

New York is presently holding two female and one male otter for processing to Pennsylvania where they will be released at the same area of Tionesta Creek in late April.

While crustacean make up the vast majority of the otters summer diet, when crawfish are plentiful, their winter diet is made up mostly of fish.

For information contact Robert G. Mac Williams 814 432- 3178 January 29, 1991
....submitted by John Hummel

"Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals. Food chains are the living channels which conduct energy upward; death and decay return it to the soil. The circuit is not closed; some energy is dissipated in decay, some is added by absorption from the air, some is stored in soils, peats, and long lived forests, like a slowly augmented revolving fund of life."

--Aldo Leopold

Coal Mine Proposed for Polk Area

News-Herald, Franklin, PA 2/11/91
by Tom Eldred

Fishing enthusiasts and other conservationists in Venango County expressed extreme concern five months ago when they learned that a Lawrence County coal company planned to seek state permission to mine a 350-acre tract of land adjacent to the Venango County line in Mercer County.

Those concerns surfaced again last week when the News-Herald carried a public notice indicating that Ambrosia Coal and Construction Co., of Edinburg RD 1, has, in fact filed a formal application with DER to conduct surface mining activities, auger mining activities and blasting at the site in Mill Creek Township, Mercer County.

Among the worst fears the fishing enthusiasts have is a reference in a section of the permit application that states the application also involves stream variances on two unnamed tributaries to Little Sandy Creek as well as one stream crossing.

Members of the Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited say they are afraid any coal mining in the area will in fact pollute the waters of Little Sandy Creek.

Little Sandy winds through French Creek Township to Polk Borough, where it joins with Sandy Creek to flow on to the Allegheny River.

Trout Unlimited is in the process of preparing a petition that will ask the state to declare the entire area as unsuitable for mining, based on the alleged pollution danger to Little Sandy Creek, as well as to private and public water supplies in and around Polk Borough.

Various users tap the creek for water, including Polk Center, which gets as much as 70% of its potable water supply from that source.

Because the proposed mining site is actually in Mercer County, copies of the application are on file at the Mercer County Courthouse.

BAS members can write to : Bureau of Surface Mine Reclamation, Memorial Bldg., P. O. 669 Knox, PA (This article was submitted by John Hummel.)

B. A. S. CALENDAR & FIELD TRIPS

MAY

4 (Sat.) Annual field trip to Rock Point. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Wayne Township Firehall. Going south into Ellwood City on Pa. Rt. 65, you will see the firehall at the base of a mile long hill on the left. Bob Walczak will lead us to see Toni Nastas and his exotic birds. Toni will lead us to Rock Point to see the wildflowers and Priscilla Stoughton will help with wildflower identification. Bring a brown bag lunch if you are going to both locations. This location is excellent for the spring warblers and if you are a camera buff, be sure to take advantage this photographic opportunity.

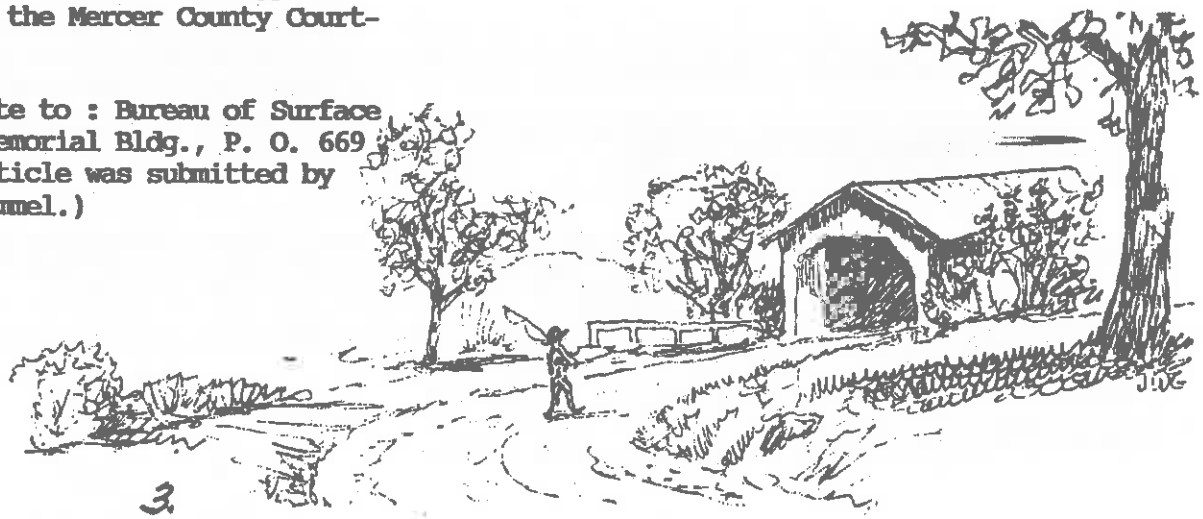
6 B. A. S. BOARD MEETING

PLEASE HAVE YOUR INFORMATION READY FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE UPLAND INFORMER ON MAY 6th AS THE EDITOR WILL NOT BE HERE FOR PART OF THE MONTH.

13 (Mon.) Monthly B. A. S. Meeting

18 (Sat.) Birdathon

25 (Sat.) BAS Field Trip to see covered Bridges. Tom Walczak will lead this outing. This will be a full day as we will try to see as many covered bridges as possible and Tom advises everyone to bring a lunch. If you own a CB, bring it along and Tom will give you lots of information as you are traveling. Meet at 8 AM in the Mentzers Flea Market parking lot which is right off Rt. 18 and Rt. 60 (West Middlesex) You can call Bob Walczak at 412 656-0201 or Shirley McCarl at 412 748-3433 if you need more specific directions. Shirley and Bob are Field Trip Chairpersons.



Scenic Legislation Tags Clarion River

The Derrick - 3/19/91 - Oil City, Pa.

Legislation introduced earlier this month in the U.S. House to protect the Allegheny River also includes a provision to consider another area waterway for inclusion in the U.S. Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Congressman Bill Clinger (R-23rd) of Warren introduced legislation March 7 to designate 85 miles of the Allegheny River as a national recreation river. Such a designation would protect the river by limiting development and preserving its recreational values.

In a newspaper column written by Clinger outlining the legislation, the congressman explained the bill also addresses the status of the Clarion River and a tributary, Mill Creek in eastern Clarion County and western Jefferson County.

According to Clinger, the bill "will also study the Clarion River from Ridgway to its confluence with the Allegheny to seek if it, too, can be protected."

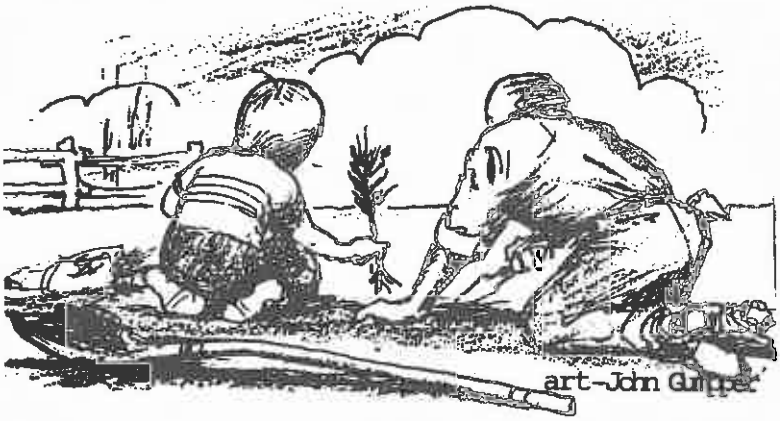
Also under study will be Mill Creek.

The study is expected to be undertaken by the U.S. Forest Service, the same federal agency which readied the Allegheny River proposal.

U.S. Senator John Heinz (R-Pa.) proposed similar legislation in the Senate. Clinger and Heinz both indicated they are "hopeful" Congress will act soon to pass the legislation.

.....submitted by John Hummel P.O. 207, Kennerdell, PA 16374 814 385-6556

(John reports that construction has begun on Scrubgrass power plant. The plant is being built on a 650-acre tract of land near Lisbon in Scrubgrass Township.)



EIGHTH ANNUAL BIRD A THON

Bartramian Audubon Society will hold their 8th Annual Birdathon on Saturday, May 18, 1991. Teams will be seeking sponsors to pledge per species recorded. THIS IS OUR PRIMARY FUND RAISING EFFORT! Please fill out the form below and support the Audubon cause which includes the Audubon Adventures classes in our four-county area.

I will sponsor a team by pledging _____cents per species.

I will donate (circle) $3 $5 $10 or ____ to the Birdathon. My check payable to Bartramian Audubon Society is my receipt.

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone:_____

Mail to: Russ States
24 East Fifth Street
Oil City, PA 16301
phone 814 676 6320

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!

Why not consider editing this newsletter? Anyone can do it and it's a lot of fun. You will have a wonderful group of folks to help you.

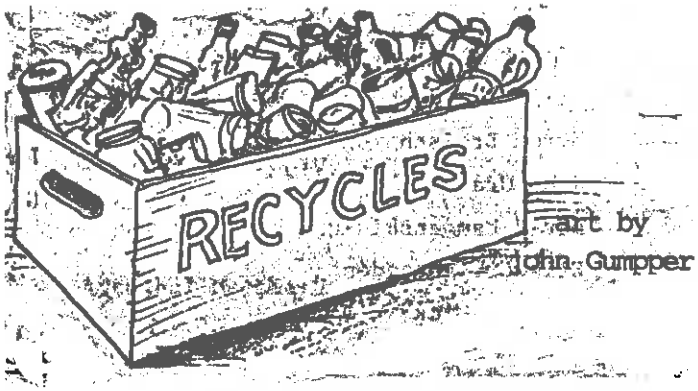
Art for the newsletter is not a problem because we have many talented artists at BAS. Typing skills are helpful but I type with two fingers.

Many articles will be submitted to you and you will simply select the ones you would like to see in print. Activities such as field trips and future programs will be provided to you. You simply assemble everything with scotch tape and you are finished. Katherine Brydon will take over the mailing responsibilities. This newsletter can be as short or as long as you like.

If you are interested, please call me at 412 658-3393 or you may call any member of the Board of Directors.

I can show you how to do the newsletter at any time and will be glad to help you with anything. (10 issues per year)

.....Barb Dean:Editor
321 E. Meyer Ave., New Castle,PA 16105



NEW RECYCLING CENTER

"Rinse and Pitch" is the simple slogan of the new, automated Franklin Township Recycling Center on Pa. 65 about a mile south of Ellwood City.

About 200 local, state and county officials from throughout Lawrence and Beaver counties, sporting "Michael Recycle" buttons, gathered inside the building for its grand opening on March 21, 1991.

Michael Recycle is a drawing of a man who is surrounded by recycling bins and stacks of material. He was adopted as the center's logo.

The center, operated by Franklin Township, is available for the public and organizations to take their recyclable goods there. Those who choose to use it can eliminate a large bulk of their garbage which otherwise would go into a landfill.

Materials accepted include all glass, tin, bimetal cans, aluminum cans, foil and siding, copper tubing and other copper products, used car batteries, plastic soda and milk bottles, and plastic jugs from laundry and cleaning products, newspapers, magazines, high grade office paper and corrugated cardboard. Other types of materials also will be accepted in the near future.

The goods which are separated are compacted, baled by the automated machines and sent to companies which can reuse them by making them into marketable products.

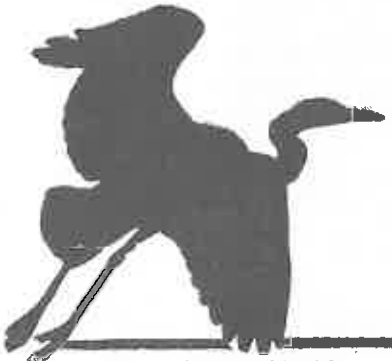
The center processes 16 tons of materials per day or 2½ tons per hour. By May it will employ about 30 people.

Individuals who would like more information about the center or would like to participate in its recycling program should contact Novalesi at the center, 758- 2755.

The center will offer free aid in setting up community recycling programs, identification programs for high-grade paper and educational programs for high schools and communities.

Ground was broken for the 256-by-156-foot building in August on a plot of land behind Christy's Plaza. The center is intended to become a headquarters for recycling of wastes from Beaver, Lawrence, Mercer and Butler counties.

This article was in New Castle News 3/22/91. It was written by Debbie W. Bonnie and was submitted by Becky Sheeler.



Membership Application (circle one) #018

New Member $20 Sr. Citizen $21 Student $18
Sr. Cit. Fam. $23 Reg. Fam. Membership $38

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
_____
Amount enclosed: _____
Make checks payable to National Audubon
Mail to MR. & Mrs. Ed Wilver
R.D. #2
Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057
Nat'l Audubon will send notice for renewal.

The Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society and is published ten times per year. Free to members, friends may receive three free issues on request. Non-members can receive this newsletter for a $4 contribution per year.

Earth Care Paper Co.
100 S. Baldwin, Madison, WI 53703

Attracting Moths to Your Garden!

from Environmental Reconstruction Newsletter by Dwight B. Demallie Landscaping P.O. Box 1792 Hightstown, NJ 08520 via Bird Watchers Digest

Attracting moths is fun and exciting. Owlet moths, like most moth families, are nocturnal, which means they only come out at night. Being the largest family in the order Lepidoptera, owlet moths are probably flying about in every backyard and are easily attracted to prepared mixtures of sugary, fermented baits. Smear a combination of molasses and brown sugar mixed with mashed bananas, overripe peaches, and stale beer onto the bark of trees. A sprinkling of yeast will accelerate the fermentation process. Make sure the mixture is gooey enough not to run, but choose a tree in an out-of-the-way spot because a stain will remain on the trunk. With the help of a flashlight visit the site at night between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. This concoction should attract many moths and other nighttime insects, as well as deer mice, raccoons, and even flying squirrels.

Put 'Em Back!

What to do when your child adopts a baby bird

by Gail Lawrence from The Beginning Naturalist and again in the 1980 May/June issue of Bird Watcher's Digest.

Every spring the "baby bird crisis" occurs. By May many birds have hatched their first broods and are feeding them as the nestlings grow their feathers and learn to fly. Baby birds have a way of tumbling out of their nests, and children have a way of finding them and bringing them home. What should a family do if faced with this "crisis"?

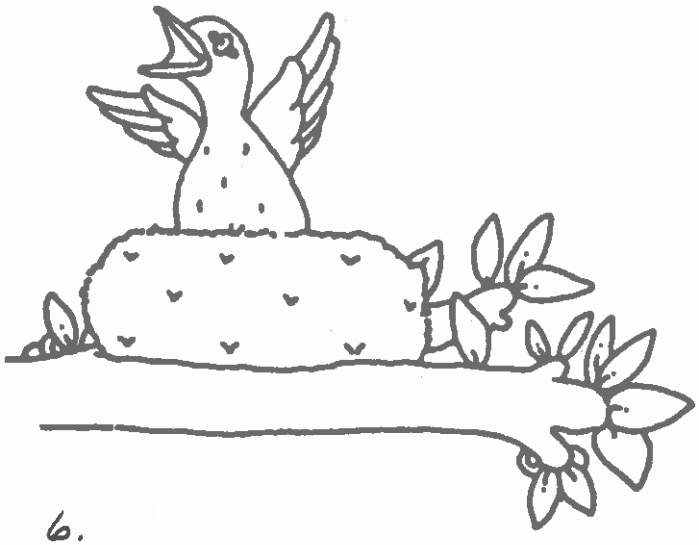
First, take the bird back to the exact spot where it was found. Look carefully for a nearby nest. If it is accessible, put the bird gently back into the nest. Contrary to popular belief, the mother bird will not reject a baby that has been handled by human beings. If you find the nest and return the baby, you have done the best you can do.

As a next-best measure, tie a small box onto a branch of a tree or shrub near where the bird was found, and put the baby bird in the box. Off the ground, the bird will be out of the reach of neighborhood cats and dogs.

The third best thing you can do is simply to leave the bird in the exact spot where it was found. Parent birds are accustomed to having their young out of the nest, and they will feed them on the ground. Of course, the baby bird is more vulnerable on the ground than it is in the nest or in a box, but it still stands a better chance of surviving under its own parents' care than under human care. If the baby is found near a house it is better to keep dogs and cats indoors than to bring the bird in to protect it.

The adoption of a baby bird will probably result in failure. It might even cause a death that would not have occurred had you left the baby bird where it was. The ethical impulse that motivates your actions might be the best kind, but you should know that even experienced veterinarians have a low success rate in caring for wild animals.

Perhaps the most important thing a child or adult can learn from an encounter with a baby bird is the difference between wild animals and domestic pets. Whereas puppies and kittens warm to human attention and become a part of the family, a wild bird never will. Attempting to make a pet out of a wild animal is a serious disservice to that animal--so serious, in fact, that there are laws against it. Life in the wild does not consist of friendly humans, readily available meals, and a protected environment. Wild animals must remain wild to survive.



BUTTERFLY SAVED

Fall/Winter 1990 The Nature Conservancy

Pennsylvania Chapter

The exact location must remain a mystery to protect the species from collectors, but we can tell you that the Conservancy was able, with the help of cooperative landowners, to protect the habitat of one of the state's rarest butterflies, the regal fritillary (Speyeria idalia).

Lost from vast regions of the Mid-west where it was once common, the regal fritillary is a candidate for the federal list of endangered species. The species is known to occur at only one other location in Pennsylvania.

Regal fritillary caterpillars are finicky eaters who feed only on violets, and only at night. They are black with six rows of fleshy, bristle-tipped spines. After metamorphosis into a large, showy butterfly, the regal fritillary's wings are mostly orange with bright purplish-black spots and bars and and a black margin containing a row of creamy white spots.

This spring and summer The Nature Conservancy was able to negotiate an arrangement with the landowners to delay mowing the violets and nectar sources for the adult butterflies, including milkweed and ironweed, until after the regal fritillary was no longer active. In addition, the owners agreed to restrict and herbicide use in the area. We thank these special landowners.

....submitted by Gene Wilhelm

Regal Fritillary

art by George Dean, Jr.

The fallen blossom flies back to its branch:
A butterfly.
...by Ezra Pound (haiku)

ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

The 1991 recipient of the Bartramian Audubon Society Ecology Workshop is Mrs. Judy Mathieu, Science Teacher at the Laurel Elementary School, RD4 Box 52 in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Mathieu and taxidermist, Mr Larry Baker, have been working together to provide Laurel Elementary School with a permanent collection of wildlife which is on display there.

Mrs. Mathieu feels this project will help students learn to recognize and appreciate the natural instincts and habits of Pennsylvania's wildlife.

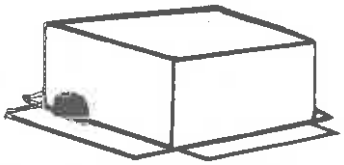
Submitted by Helen Ferguson:Education

BIRD/WINDOW COLLISIONS

By this date several migrant bird species may have already returned. Killdeers, Red-winged blackbirds and Meadowlarks, to name a few, occasionally arrive as early as mid-February. Within a few weeks their numbers will swell with Warblers and Tanagers, Sparrows and Thrushes, Kinglets and Hummingbirds.

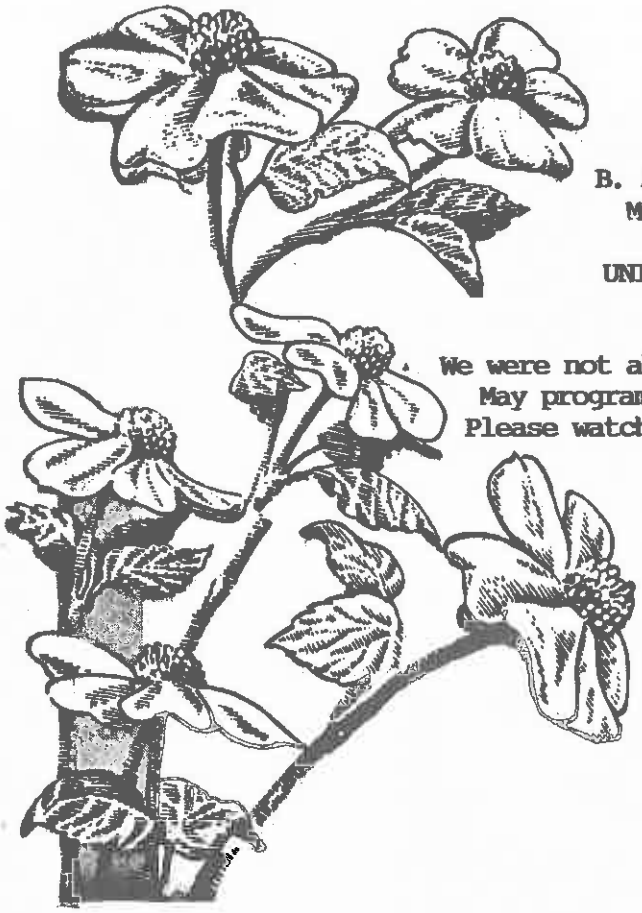
Those of us with large unscreened windows well know the sadness we feel when a bird strikes a window killing or injuring itself. Hawk silhouettes facing downward (as if diving) placed high on your windows may provide some protection. By and far the most effective solution is netting stretched over the outside of each window most apt to cause such accidents. It does not obstruct your view, but breaks up the pattern of light which attracts birds.

In the meantime, if a bird strikes your window and is merely stunned, you can help its recovery by making sure it is in a safe quiet and dark place outside. Do not handle more than necessary. Cut a hole in a cardboard box just large enough for the bird to get out (see drawing) and place it upside down over the bird. Put something heavy on top so the box can't be tipped over by curious neighborhood pets and kids. Then wait. If the bird is not seriously hurt it will probably recover within a couple of hours or less and take off for safe surroundings.



If the weather is particularly cold or wet bring the bird into a cool, quiet part of your home and place it in a small box where it can have time to recover safely.

— Jean Stull, Presque Isle Audubon Society Newsletter, March '87



B. A. S. MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 13, 1991
7:30 P.M.
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA

We were not able to get confirmation on our May program in time for the newsletter. Please watch your local newspaper for the announcement.

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 264
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057

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UPLAND INFORMER

Vol. 9 No. 10 NEWSLETTER OF THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY JUNE 1991

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

IN DEFENSE OF THE UNKEMPT LAWN

"Short, green monoculture," is the term futurist Geoff Godby uses to describe the lawns of America. I call it "Golfcourse Syndrome."

Nowhere else in the world, except America, is grass mowing such an obsession. In most parts of the world lawns themselves are an unknown entity. The lawnmower is not a common sight anywhere but here.

I have asked myself why this is true. I have found myself deep in thought as to how this situation occured, historically. Ah, you say, this is a person with a lot of free time. Unfortunately not true, but I am a person obsessed with the idiosyncracies of our society.

Two hundred years ago, the only persons who had mowed lawns in this country were the very rich, who had paid serevants or slaves to cut small areas of grass by hand, or farmers who let their animals graze close to the house.

Typically houses would be surrounded by formal plantings with brick or stone walkways. Since grass would have been mowed with a scyth, it would not have been the short, uniform lawn we're used to seeing at all.

Two concepts seem to me to be the main reasons that grass was mowed at all. First, keeping an area around the house short aided in minimizing household chores. Feet didn't get as wet in the dew-ladden grass in the mornings. And, if you cut it by hand, mowing was probably the least expensive method to accomplish this. Bricks or stone would be more expensive and more labor intensive.

Secondly, is the fact that low grass makes it more difficult for an enemy to sneak up on your house. In an era of Indian attacks and lawless frontier personalities, this aspect was certainly a critical one.

The first reason, housekeeping, seems to have been largely forgotten in our thinking, but the second reason has assumed astronomical proportions.

At the end of the Indian attacks, low grassy areas began to provide another kind of security, especially to those new to the frontier. It became a defense from animals. You could always see a bear or a moose, but high grass could hide raccons, bobcats,coyotes or even snakes. People cleared the areas around their houses to be more and more secure against these invaders.

What really happened was that we removed ourselves from nature by providing a neutral, sort of demilitarized zone, around our homes, that would be free of creatures. As we moved to suburbia and everyone mowed their lawn, distinctions between properties disappeared, and treelines, the highways of animals, disappeared also. Then we were forced to erect fences for security and privacy, which only made it worse for the critter population.

OK, so we gained privacy and/or security, but what have we lost? We've lost the potential to see an indigo bunting land on a dandelion stem and enthusiastically munch on the seeds. (Several birds, including goldfinch, sparrows and buntings seem to love those seeds.) We now have to put up feeders to dispense seeds of grasses in order to have these birds in our yards. Wild grass seeds were a staple of their diets until we came along.

Because we spend so much time and money fertilizing and debugging our lawns, most birds wouldn't want to eat there anyway. Without all that chemical stuff birds and other critters would try to help us take care of grubs (robins), flies (flycatchers, etc.)

PRESIDENT'S PERCH (continued)

In Defense of the Unkempt Lawn

and mosquitos (bats).

Considering the fact that all the stuff we put on our grass just seems to make the bugs and " weeds" more resilent, maybe we should revert to natural means of control. Birds, bats and other critters would benefit for sure.

And so would you. Your lawn might not look like a golfcourse, but it wouldn't be a toxic chemical site either. You might have Dandelions, but you might also have other wildflowers, many of which are edible. Dandelions are completely edible, flowers, leaves and roots. And you could cut down on the amount of birdseed you have to buy because you would be providing food for a variety of birds, which you could observe eating their chosen, natural food.

It also gives you an opportunity to be creative. Everyone has mown grass, you could cut paths to make natural areas, or plant certain wild grasses to provide a border, the potential is limitless.

Oh yes, there was a third reason why, I believe, mowing the lawn became popular in our culture. Historically, only the rich could afford this service, and we all want to look as though we're rich. The only problem is that now the truly wealthy rarely have golfcourse lawns, so we've come full circle. So if you cut the grass just to impress the neighbors, impress them even more by not following the sterotype.

You'll save on fossil fuel consumption too, and you'll have a lot more free time to enjoy those birds!

Happy Summer

Becky Sheeler: President
R D 6 Box 648
New Castle, PA 16101
412 924 9314

Becky

BRUCKER GREAT BLUE HERON SANCTUARY
GREENVILLE, PA

Two herons were seen flying into the sanctuary and over the nests February 19, 1991 at 11:00 AM. The next day three heron were counted. By March 1st the census had increased to 70, a significant group having arrived from their winter migration during the night.

On March 11 observers witnessed something seldom seen. At first it was specks high in the sky, then quickly descending the observers knew it was a tight flock of 45 Great Blue Herons returning from their winter migration. They circled twice over the nests opposite the shelter before landing. About 40 Great Blues had already claimed some of the nests, having been there for about 10 days. It was pandemonium, then all the herons (there were 75 now) went up in the air, flew in a disorganized manner, then back down on the nests. It was all over in 2 or 3 minutes and 30 to 40 additional nests had a heron on them.

Great Blue Heron

Some Data from Prior Years Members always seem interested in how the herons are doing compared to prior years and whether they are holding their own. A few years ago we showed some statistics in the newsletter. We have again selected some items from our records for your review.

Year	Nests Before Herons Arrived	Date First Heron Arrived	Census Adults & Helpers	Date First Eggs Hatched
1979	155	?	* 225	?
80	179	?	* 250	?
81	171	?	* 240	?
82	147	?	* 200	?
83	132	Feb 28	175	Apr 17
84	101	Feb 24	207	Apr 21
85	119	Mar 13	205	Apr 19
86	153	Mar 9	300	Apr 25
87	179	Mar 2	345	Apr 14
88	219	Feb 26	412	Apr 15
89	234	Mar 9	450	Apr 17
90	235	Feb 19	450	Apr 10
91	238	Feb 19	Later	Later

* Best estimate.

Note: 1986 was the year the colony site was declared a Sanctuary and 1987 was the first full year when no entry was permitted from Feb. 1st thru Aug. 31st.

State Audubon Council Met Saturday, April 27

Russ States represented B. A. S. at the spring meeting of the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania in State College at the Park Forest Elementary School on Saturday, April 27th.

Concurrent sessions were held on wetlands, hazardous waste, activist networks, and local, national, and international environmental education projects.

BAS would like to thankyou, Russ.

FIELD TRIP REPORT AT LAKE ARTHUR AND MORAINE STATE PARK APRIL 13, 1991

Participants: Barb Eshelman, Helen Ferguson, Marguerite Geibel, Janet Heater, Shirley Mc Carl, Caroline Phelan, Eulalin Phelan and Pam Wilson. Joan Wilver was the field trip leader.

Species seen: Bufflehead, Mallard, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Robin, *Masked Duck, House Finch, Flicker, Grackle, Lesser Scaup, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Merganser, Double -crested cormorant, Field Sparrow, Killdeer, White-breasted Nuthatch, Turkey Vulture, Bonaparte's

LAKE ARTHUR FIELD TRIP (continued)

Gull, Tree Swallow, Red-winged Blackbird, Canada Geese, Red-tailed Hawk, Song Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, Am. Coot, Mourning Dove, Am. Crow, Forester's Tern, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingfisher and Junco.

We had a good time in spite of the wet, cloudy weather. Surprisingly, we found visibility to be good. After breaking for lunch, one group went in search of cliff swallow nests said to be under the 528 bridge last year. A second group hunted for the great egret seen earlier at the cove by the Regional Office. Both groups will have to hope for better luck next time.

Submitted by Marguerite Geibel

*Masked Duck!!! N-a-a-aaa, that's just your editor "trick'n ya", and trying to keep you on your toes.

Recycled Paper

TRYING TIMES FOR OUR HONEYBEES—After more than 350 years, our honeybees are under assault. Why? Jet planes have happened. They have brought new enemies: European mites *Acrapis woodi* which attack the breathing tube of the bee restricting oxygen intake.

Also, the ill-tempered descendants of African bees have completed their march from Brazil to Texas and are ready for an invasion that threatens to displace our relatively mild-mannered honeybee. These bees move northward at 200 miles a year.

A second mite problem, *Varros jacobsoni*, a larger, external parasite, can wipe out a hive within three years. The *Varros* has spread up the East Coast from Florida to Maine.

Various methods to combat bee enemies are being proposed and used by the Agriculture Department and others but none have seen sure fire.

The importance of the $150-million yearly beekeeping industry which produces 200 million pounds of honey, far exceeds it size. Owners move thousands of colonies around the country each year so bees can pollinate crops valued at up to $20 billion a year. This extensive migration complicates disease and parasite control.

— Warren E. Leary
N.Y. Times

◆ ◆ ◆

THANKYOU NOTE TO B. A. S.

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center would like to thank all those who donated items to the center at our April 8th meeting. Harriet Wilson commented that your gifts could not have come at a better time!

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Elementary teachers (grades 4 through 6) or persons who know of such teachers, who would be interested in participating in our Audubon Adventures Classroom Program should contact Helen Ferguson: Education Chairperson. You could also contact any other BAS officer. Helen's phone is 412 287 2800.

ROCK POINT FIELD TRIP REPORT

Participants: Priscilla Stoughton, Marilyn Johnston, Helen Ferguson, Mike Grotta, Mr. Bates. Bob Walczak was the leader.

Bob reports that there were no warblers seen on the field trip but that scarlet tanager and Baltimore oriole (northern oriole) was enjoyed by all. Best birds were spotted sandpiper and pileated woodpecker.

Priscilla Stoughton reported that Fire Pinks were blooming all over the hill-sides and they were magnificent. The Trilliums were also beautiful even though they were past their prime. Bloodroot was past its prime too, but the leaves were still lovely. Virginia bluebells were "wall to wall".

Toni Nastas led participants to see racing pidgeons and this was the highlight of the field trip. Thankyou, Toni.

Barb Dean: Editor
321 E. Meyer Ave., New Castle, PA 16105
412 658 3393 If you would like to edit this newsletter, please call me.

BAS CALENDAR & FIELD TRIPS

JUNE

3 BAS Board Meeting

10 BAS Annual Picnic at Cooper's Lake

29 (Sat.) Croll's Mills Field Trip. Meet at 9:45 AM at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock, PA. It is a 10 minute drive to Croll's Mills and participants can carpool from the church. Our host will be Lanning McClure who will interpret the Mill and its history. Call Priscilla Stoughton at 412 368 8865 if you need more information.

******

Please be sure to have all your Birdathon pledges mailed to our Treasurer by June 3rd. Marilyn Johnston has volunteered to do this job and we ask that you try to collect your pledges within two weeks after the "thon."

******

Bald Eagles successfully nested at The Glades in Butler County. Two young were being fed by the adults and there is a possible third young in the nest, which is a rare occurence.

******

Upland sandpipers arrived in Lawrence County (Vosler Road) on April 24, 1991. This is the earliest date recorded for their arrival at that location.

******

Day Ink Art

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

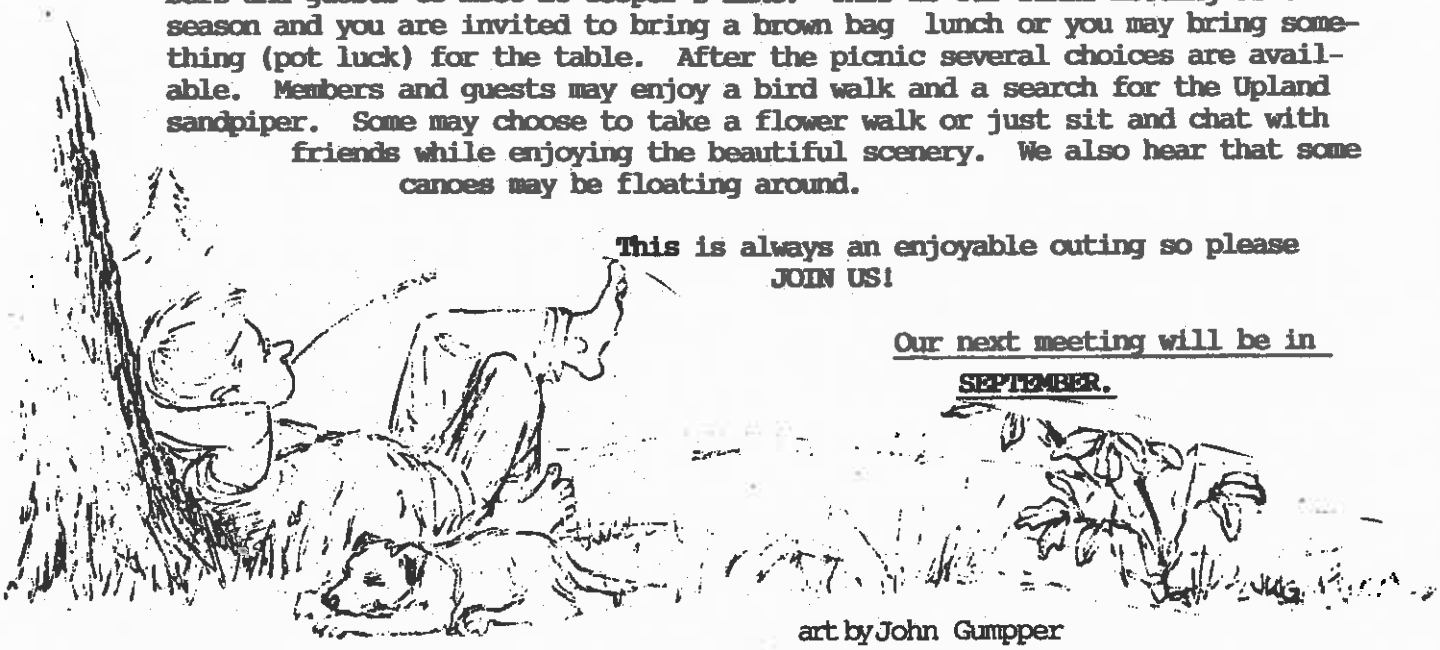
MONTHLY MEETING, MONDAY — JUNE 10, 1991, 5:00 P.M., COOPER'S LAKE CAMPGROUND

ANNUAL PICNIC & FINAL SPRING MEETING

Ed and Joan Wilver have again extended an invitation to B. A. S. members and guests to meet at Cooper's Lake. This is our final meeting of the season and you are invited to bring a brown bag lunch or you may bring something (pot luck) for the table. After the picnic several choices are available. Members and guests may enjoy a bird walk and a search for the Upland sandpiper. Some may choose to take a flower walk or just sit and chat with friends while enjoying the beautiful scenery. We also hear that some canoes may be floating around.

This is always an enjoyable outing so please JOIN US!

Our next meeting will be in SEPTEMBER.



art by John Gumpper

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