



Birdwatchers treated with waterfowl migrations

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - Southbound flights of waterfowl - such as wild swans, ducks, and geese - should reach their peak over Pennsylvania about now, according to Merrill Wood, author of "Birds of Pennsylvania" and retired

zoologist at The Pennsylvania State University. He reports that more swans than geese seem to migrate through Pennsylvania in the Fall. This southward migration of waterfowl ends in November. He adds this is also the

month to watch for the beneficial hawks soaring south over mountain ridges, taking advantage of updraft air currents. The number of land bird species migrating south drops off in October from peak migration in Sep-

tember, Wood says. Then winter birds begin to arrive in October. He considers October a good time for birdwatchers to get the winter feeding station in operation. Wood describes the migratory habits of 30 species of waterfowl, and 378

total species normally reported in the Commonwealth, in "Birds of Pennsylvania," a guidebook published by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State. A calendar of Pennsylvania birdlife tells what

may be seen in each month. The calendar lists the beginning of the fall and spring migrations. For each species, the guidebook includes abundance, seasonal occurrence, habits and status changes, and general breeding and wintering ranges.

Agricultural leaders request DER to hear farmers too

HARRISBURG - The Agricultural Advisory Committee to the Department of Environmental Resources wants the General Assembly to create regional review boards to hear appeals of farmers who disagree with the Department over enforcement of erosion and sedimentation control regulations. The Committee said such review boards should be comprised of three persons appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Two of the three would be appointed from lists supplied by chartered farm organizations and the third would be from a Conservation District list. Aaron Stauffer, Ephrata, of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors said the review boards should be independent of DER to seek a resolution when the farmer or landowner does not agree with application of the erosion and sedimentation regulations by the Department. Committee members expressed their concern over recent news coverage of increased levels of radioactivity and the effect this had on some agricultural interests. Members expressed the hope that should such situations arise in the future DER will give due consideration to the effects of its news releases and statements on any agricultural products involved. The Advisory Committee

was told by one of its working groups that proposed regulations will be submitted by the Department to the Environmental Quality Board in November to implement a manual on manure management for environmental protection which is to be printed soon. Christopher Allen of the Pennsylvania Farmer's Association said the manual has been edited and a revised draft should be in the hands of Committee members shortly for final review. The manual offers a "best practices" approach to manure management. The Environmental Quality Board will be asked to exempt from some DER permit requirements those landowners who elect to follow the manual's recommendations. Gary Triplett of the DER Bureau of Air Quality and Noise Control presented the Advisory Committee with a suggested change in air quality regulations which would state that any agricultural source operating in compliance with guidelines adopted by the Department would be considered in compliance with specified sections of the regulations which have been creating some problems for farmers. The Committee approved a motion calling on the Department not to submit the Environmental Master Plan to the Environmental Quality Board for final action until the Advisory

Committee has had sufficient time to review the latest draft. Questions over the land disposal of sewage sludge will be referred to a working group to pull together data from other sources and start work in 1977 on a committee study and recommendations. The Advisory Committee asked Afton Schadel, chief of the DER Division of Soil Resources and Erosion Control, to approach agricultural economic specialists at The Pennsylvania State University regarding the need for research into economic considerations of conservation practices. A committee work group will develop an agricultural practices manual identifying erosion and sedimentation controls, cropping systems, equipment, facilities and land use management presently in use.



Precautionary measure during the farmers' promotion at Park City in Lancaster last week.

