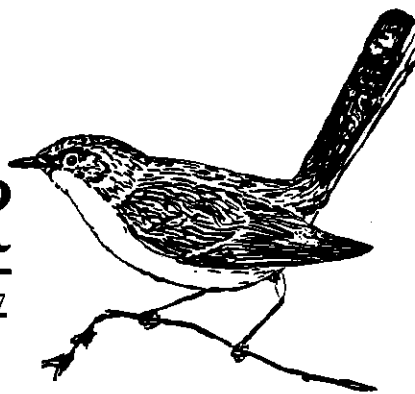


THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

Feb. 1987



February's Meeting

February's meeting, to be held on the 24th at 7:30 p.m. at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren, will feature reports on the Audubon Ecology Camps by last year's participants from JVAS: Wendy Reimold and Jean and Dan Sinel. At the meeting we will also show the film, Acid Rain, Requiem or Recovery? This film was produced by the Canadian government and made the news when the Reagan administration tried to have it banned as "propaganda." Come and see for yourself. Also at February's meeting will be a bake sale for the benefit of our International Issues Interest Group's Peruvian Project. If you can help, or if you need more information, contact Ann Borland.

Education Committee News by Wendy Reimold

JVAS will have a booth at this year's Central Pa. Outdoor Show at the Jaffa Mosque on Feb. 27, 28, and Mar. 1. Tom McMann will be on the show's agenda providing a seminar on black bear biology. We need members to help staff our display. If you can help out for a couple of hours, contact Wendy Reimold (695-0679). The exhibition will be held from 5 to 10 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Thanks to the following people who helped cut out 40 bluebird house kits to be sold at the show: John, Emily, and Colin Lennox, Tom McMann, Terry, Ben, and Daniel Wentz, Glen Mock, and Jean Sinel. [Ed. note: a little bird tells me Wendy helped too!] Special thanks to Arlene Lennox for putting up with the sawdust and noise in her basement all evening! Proceeds from the sale will go toward purchasing a slide projector for the speakers' bureau.

It's that time of year again to think about applying for JVAS's Audubon Ecology Camp scholarship. I can say from experience that camp is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the environment and to get to know other "nature nuts" in a fun-filled setting. Scholarship applications will be available at the next meeting and must be returned to a member of the education committee by April 9. The recipient will get a free week at the camp of his or her choice.

If you have a hobby or collection that you think others might be interested in, why not display it at one of our meetings? Contact Wendy Reimold to schedule your display.

Finally, don't forget to "Do Something Wild" when you fill out your state income tax return this year. All or part of your refund can be donated to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund via the checkoff on your tax form. Contributions can also be sent directly to: Wild Resource Conservation Fund, Comptroller, Box 2063, Harrisbur, PA. 17120.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Marcia Bonta

TYTOONA NATURAL AREA--Our Cave Committee has been working hard to keep the area looking great. Many members stop by on a regular basis to check up on conditions here. A recent information sheet put out by the WPC on the Tytoona Natural Area says, "The Juniata Valley Audubon Society polices, protects, and cares for the natural area." Last November, under the direction of Cave Committee chairperson, John Orr, Al Burd, Truth Close, Janet DeMuth and Johnny Orr put up an attractive sign built by Russ Wade of Canoe Creek State Park. I would like to thank those people as well as Bob Keppler, who helped round up the sign materials, for their work. In addition, a hearty thank you to the following people who regularly clean up the grounds--Janet DeMuth, Bill and Mary Jane Anslinger, John and Marian McCall, Melvin Lane, Al Burd and Fred Evert.

THANK YOU--When I accepted the position of president I said that I expected a lot of help from members. I certainly have received it. Many JVAS activities function without any input on my part and I really appreciate the responsibilities so many of you have taken on and carried through without any urging from me. One example was the Bird Seed Sale under the direction of John Lennox and Bob Keppler. We made over \$600 on the sale which was possible only because the following people gave so much of their time: Fran Burgoon, Terry Wentz, Jesse Perry, Dick and Nona Weicht, Wilson Kreitz, Dan and Jean Sinal, Bruce Grianda, Clarence Becker, Glenn Mock, Doris Thurheimer, Janet Neely and Alice Goodlin.

While I am handing out thanks, I would also like to acknowledge Angeline Stout's hard work as compiler for the CBC and Mary Burgoon's in setting up the best-ever covered-dish supper at the Grange.

And finally, our field trip in January with 14 people attending, was fun and a learning experience due to the three leaders--Jim Winsor, Rob Loeb, and Tom McMann.

BLUEBIRD BOXES--Speaking of Tom McMann, he had great success with his bluebird trail last summer. While most people reported a poor season, Tom tells me he erected over 50 boxes and fledged 151 youngsters. Perhaps the tears of his two-year-old daughter Alyssa, when she discovered empty boxes, gave him the edge!

GNATCATCHER EDITOR--After much thought, I decided to try replacing Paula, who is resigning as editor of the newsletter at the end of May, with a Gnatcatcher Committee. All of you seem happier working with others so I have added Gnatcatcher to the infamous sign-up sheet I send around each month. If we get a good, strong corps of volunteers I see no reason why the newsletter would be too large a burden for anyone. So far I have two volunteers but we need many more to keep the newsletter as successful as it has been under Paula's solo efforts. Without a newsletter, JVAS would cease to function since one of NAS's requirements is that we put out a newsletter at least six times a year. Please call me if you are interested. According to my calculations, well over 60 members have helped the organization in one or more ways over the last year. That works out to one-fifth of the members who are listed on our membership sheet. I would like to improve that ratio if possible so if you have never volunteered before and would like to help in any capacity, please sign those sheets I send around or call me. Please, WE MUST HAVE A NEWSLETTER AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS--Many of our members participate each spring and summer in Pennsylvania's Breeding Bird Atlas work and have a good time doing it under the leadership of Dave Kyler. The recent issue of the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter acknowledges Dave as one of 47 people throughout the state who went all out and further distinguishes him as one of 22 people who added 10 new blocks to their territory. Other interesting items in the newsletter sent to every participant include a list of species reported but unconfirmed as nesters yet: little blue

heron, gadwall, redhead, ring-necked duck, red-breasted merganser, common snipe, laughing gull, common tern, olive-sided flycatcher, and red crossbill. In addition, the three new documented species last year were laughing gull, little blue heron, and chukar! You can still join this effort even if you only document the species around your own home area as we do. Every little bit helps. Just call Dave Kyler 943-6030 or talk to him at any monthly meeting.

ADOPT-A-PUFFIN--I received a letter about our own Perry puffin last November from Steve Kress. "Chick #134 was 22 days old and weighed 176 grams on July 13 when it was transplanted from Great Island Newfoundland to Seal Island. Your chick weighed 360 grams when it fledged the night of August 4. It ate almost all of its fish until it fledged, which put it in excellent condition for its first days at sea. Hopefully, it will return to Seal Island by 1988 or 1989 to help found a new puffin colony." Unfortunately, we could not afford to support one this year, but I do have information on how you as an individual can help. A signed 14x19½ art print by Karen L. Allaben-Confer called "Seabirds of Eastern Egg Rock" is available free to patrons who donate \$100 for their own chick as well as to supporters who donate \$50. In addition, those people will receive the newsletter Egg Rock Update. If you donate \$15.00 you will receive the newsletter but not the print. Send your check to the Fratercula Fund, National Audubon Society, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

BIRD FEEDERS--Everyone agrees that feeding birds makes the winter go faster. But have you ever kept a list of all the birds that visit your feeder in one year? We started last winter and find it quite interesting. Just divide the list into three sections--regulars, visitors, and dates seen (for the visitors). Last year we had 22 species in all; this year 18 so far including a male common redpoll all afternoon on January 29. (Dave Kyler reported 12 redpolls at his feeder on a regular basis). On January 12 late in the afternoon during a heavy wind, a mature sharp-shinned hawk landed on a fencepost just below our back porch feeder. It sat there for five minutes, head turning around, feathers buffeted by the wind, and I had plenty of time to study all its field markings including the flat edge of its tail with its thin white border. Finally it dove down into the backyard, came up empty-taloned (all the birds had simply disappeared), and flew up into the woods. So keep your lists, document your findings, and enjoy feeder watching even when the winds howl and the snow falls.

Conservation Committee News
by Paula Ford

The Conservation Committee has been very busy with the billboard issue, now in conference committee in Congress. We've also been trying to participate in choosing a site for cabins at Canoe Creek State Park. The original plans were to locate the cabins near the Marsh Trail, but after two meetings with park personnel from both Harrisburg and CCSP, a tentative compromise has been worked out--fewer cabins and located away from the marsh. More details at the meeting. The Conservation Committee was delighted to learn that Gov. Casey nominated a long-time conservationist as Secretary of DER. We hope the Senate quickly approves Dr. Art Davis of Pa. Furnace. We awarded the Thumbs Up for January to State Reps. Ed Johnson and Sam Hayes, Jr. for their support of a bottle bill for Pa. Thumbs Down went to Rep. Rick Geist for trying to "support" the bill by weakening it. Incidentally, the Casey Administration has come out against a bottle bill, so we have an uphill battle ahead. The next committee meeting will be on March 5 at Paula Ford's house at 7:30.

Thanks from State Parks
by Terry Wentz, Supt. Canoe Creek State Park

The PA Bureau of State Parks has begun a comprehensive management plan to be used for all future policies, activities, and development within the state park system. Two state parks, Presque Isle and Gifford Pinchot, have completed management plans and have received comments about their plans at public meetings. All 111 other state parks, including Canoe Creek, are working through guidelines to complete predetermined sections of the plan.

Several members of JVAS have contributed their expertise by listing plants and animals they have positively identified at Canoe Creek, Trough Creek, and Warrior's Path State Parks. Those members are Al Burd, Fran Burgoon, Janet DeMuth, John Lennox, Eugene Root, Dan Sinel, Jean Sinel, and Beryl Sternagle. Information from these individuals and others associated with the park service is being used to inventory all plant and animal life in the parks. Identification of species that inhabit parks and their required environments will be very important factors to be considered as our parks expand and meet increasing demands to provide multi-use recreation. Thanks to volunteer efforts such as those of JVAS members, PA State Parks management plans will be most meaningful.

DO SOMETHING

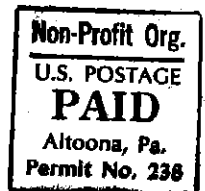
WILD



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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DATED MATERIAL