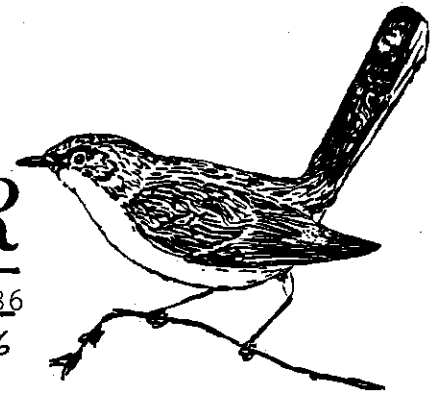


THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

November 1986

October 1986



Flora of the Mid-Appalachian Shale Barrens

Billboards

At our regular meeting on October 28 at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren, Dr. Carl Keener of Penn State's Biology Department will present a slide show and talk on the rare and beautiful plants that grow in shale barrens. These barrens are one of the most hostile environments on earth because temperatures are very high during the day and very low at night, and soil is very coarse and shallow. Join us at 7:30 to learn how plants have adapted to the extremes of the shale barrens.

Thanks to all of you who called Congressman Bud Shuster's office register your dissatisfaction with the current Highway Beautification Act. Several people mentioned that they had trouble getting through, apparently many people called. That's important, because Mr. Shuster is one of two members of congress have been pushing for a weakened bill. The other, Rep. Howard of New Jersey, is in a close race for reelection. This makes Mr. Shuster key player, and if we can bring him to a more reasonable position, we have a Highway Beautification Act that will work.

November's Field Trip

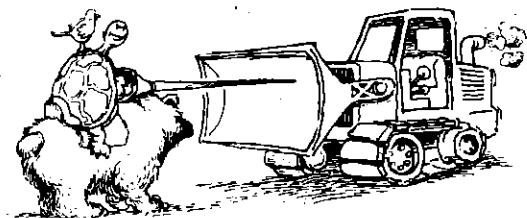
Speaking of Shuster

On November 8 we'll travel to the Pulpit Rock near McConnellsburg to watch eagles and other birds of prey as they migrate. Meet at the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 7:00 a.m. Dress warmly, wear shoes suitable for rough terrain, and bring lunch, a warm drink, and something to cushion your rock-chair. Contact Dave Kyler (643-6030) for more information.

Only 27 members of congress voted against the recently passed Superfund Act. Mr. Shuster was one of them.

Bird Seed Sale by John Lennox

KEEP UP THE CRUSADE!



Do you winter feed birds? If so, you can get your supply of seeds and assist your local Audubon Society by purchasing your seeds during our annual bird seed sale. Each year JVAS with the generous help of Imler's Agway offers for sale top quality seed at low prices.

Pick up your lance and stay with those crusading to protect wildlife and the environment. Audubon Action (NAS newsjournal) has been replaced by our new national newsletter, the *Audubon Activist*, to give you all the information you need to slay the dragons. Sign up for the "Activist" corps today. Use the subscription envelope enclosed in the June (final) issue of NAS newsjournal, or send six dollars (for one year) to the *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Please return your order blank (see below) by November 1, and pick up your seed at Imler's Agway on November 15.

Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

September's meeting, Betsy Eger presented our first monthly "Thumbs Up Award" for her efforts to recycle aluminum by putting a collection box in the teachers' room at the Juniata School.

Brockway Glass received the "Thumbs Down Award" for its recent series of television ads 9 (see below).

October's awards will be presented at the regular meeting. If you'd like to nominate someone to receive a "Thumbs Up" or a "Thumbs Down" please contact either Steve Parks (946-4592) or Paula Ford (695-4799).

Bottle Bill Update

The bottle bill continues to lie dormant in the House Appropriations Committee. In the meantime, one of the biggest opponents of the bottle bill, Brockway Glass Co., has been advertising that one of the advantages of glass is that it's recyclable.

Please help. If Brockway Glass (Brockway, PA 15824) gets hundreds of letters from people concerned about the environment and about our state's solid waste crisis, maybe they'll change their minds. Please write; even a postcard would help. Thanks.

PAC Meeting

On October 25 five JVAS members will attend the Eastern PAC meeting at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. Topics to be discussed include Audubon Adventures and Project Egret, acid rain, bottle bill, wetlands, gypsy moth spraying, PAC environmental action, and volunteerism.



Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting by Paula Ford

Three carloads (Kreitzes, Bontas, and Ford and Camerons) of JVAS members attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference held in St. Mary's City, Maryland in June. Craig, Jessie, and I met Wilson and Teddie Kreitz at the Calvert Cliffs on the way to St. Mary's City and had a great time hunting for sharks' teeth and other fossils.

On Friday we explored the area around St. Mary's City. At Point Lookout State Park, where the Potomac empties into the Chesapeake, we found a nesting pair of osprey. As we watched, the father returned empty-beaked to the nest. His mate informed him in no uncertain terms that he'd better find a meal for those chicks and find it soon. Within ten minutes he returned with large fish.

The "work" began on Friday evening as we all attended the plenary session, a welcome by Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler, an ecological look at the Chesapeake by Dr. Ralph Eshelman of the Calvert Marine Museum, and a historical look at St. Mary's City by Dr. Henry Miller, the archeologist in charge of excavations at the town's historic site.

On Saturday morning Craig and I walked to breakfast with Peter Berle, our new NAS president. Our first impression was that he was a warm, charming person. Later that morning listening to his keynote address, we concluded that Audubon is lucky to have such a dedicated person to lead us. His enthusiasm infected the whole conference.

We attended various meetings and discussion groups on Saturday and Sunday: panels on the Chesapeake, the EPA study, adopt-a-refuge programs, citizen activism, wetlands and the Clean Water Act, financial planning for chapters, wetland critters and early Audubon wardens, Audubon Adventures, habitat monitoring by volunteers, international issues, regional issues, and even a visit by "John James Audubon."

August 1986

ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT REACHED FOR SMITHVILLE

An out of court settlement was reached in early August which brings to an end the National Audubon Society litigation against the developer of the Historic Smithville Development adjacent to the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge in southern New Jersey. At the same time, the Smithville property was purchased by Jules Patt, a recreational land developer from Pennsylvania, who promoted the agreement and signed it.

At a new conference in Trenton to announce the agreement, National Audubon's Regional Vice President Walt Pomeroy commented, "This agreement protects our concern for wildlife protection and open space preservation while at the same time allowing for reasonable development in the area. We are especially pleased with the water quality protection portions of the agreement that go far beyond state law in establishing approximately 40 monitoring stations throughout the proposed development."

Another part of the settlement of interest to Audubon members is the establishment of about 1,200 acres of permanently preserved open space which will be managed for wildlife values. In addition, the new Smithville developer will provide \$25,000 to help plan on how to manage the open space and possible plan for an environmental/outdoor learning center.

Significant parts of the agreement are: reduction of the number of allowable housing units by 30% to a maximum of 4,000 units; establishment of 3 special environmental protection funds which will be financed by the sale of each dwelling unit; reduction of the amount of commercial space to approximately 15% of what the state construction permit originally allowed; established rigorous water quality testing and establishes a procedure for automatically stopping construction if water quality standards are violated; cancellation of plans for an 18 hole golf course; support for one year of a water quality/environmental planner who will represent the interests of National Audubon and the other environmental groups involved in the litigation.

This litigation has been ongoing for over 6 years and could have continued for many more years. The former developer of the Smithville site, Cadillac Fairview Corporation of Toronto, has been looking for a buyer for the property for over a year and there were indications they might even split up the property into smaller units for sale. That would have made continued litigation prohibitively expensive.

"With this settlement, we have a smaller development, more stringent environmental controls and a developer who is sensitive to the environmental values of the area", stated Pomeroy. "The three environmental protection funds and additional financial resources promised by Jules Patt as a result of our agreement will allow for adequate environmental safeguards to Brigantine".

"A healthy environment sells homes," Patt said at the Trenton news conference. "I'm pleased with the agreement. We believe a smaller development has economic viability and with less environmental impact". Part of the Patt agreement protects an additional 300 foot buffer around sensitive wetlands and will all be included in the perpetually preserved open space.

Another party to the settlement and the long litigation is the American Littoral Society, which is concerned about the coastline. "We consider the lawsuits a success", explained Dery Bennett, Executive Director of the Society. "We have struck down the state's use of vague 'conceptual approvals' to fast-track permit approvals, and, in the Patt organization we believe we have found a company we can work with."

The National Audubon Society's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office will continue to oversee the development and the implementation of the agreement.

The Juniata Valley Audubon Society had supported the Brigantine Defense Fund for several years, and we're happy to see the settlement.

Juniata Valley Audubon Society
Annual Wild Bird Seed Sale
Order Form

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

No.	Description	Price/Bag	No. Bags	Total
50#	Feathered Friend Mix	8.90	_____	_____
20#	Feathered Friend Mix	4.10	_____	_____
50#	Grey Stripe Sunflower	12.00	_____	_____
20#	Grey stripe Sunflower	5.20	_____	_____
50#	100% Oil Sunflower	10.20	_____	_____
20#	100% Oil Sunflower	4.70	_____	_____
50#	Sunflower Blend	11.40	_____	_____
20#	Sunflower Blend	5.10	_____	_____
50#	Birdsnack Premium Mix	11.80	_____	_____
20#	Birdsnack Premium Mix	5.40	_____	_____
40#	Sunflower Chips	15.40	_____	_____
20#	Sunflower Chips	8.00	_____	_____
5#	Niger Seed	5.40	_____	_____
8 oz.	Hanging Suet Feeder	1.20	_____	_____
1-3/4#	Hanging Suet Feeder	2.90	_____	_____
25#	Cracked Corn	5.10	_____	_____

Sub total _____

Please add 6% sales tax _____

Total amount enclosed _____

The deadline for orders is November 1. If you need help making out your order, call 944-5125.

The pick-up point is Imler's Agway on Rte 764. Orders should be picked up between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on November 15.

Please return this form with your check to JVAS, c/o Doris Thurheimer, P.O. Box 324, Tipton, PA 16684.

Thank you.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

WELCOME--We were pleased to welcome 80 people to our first meeting. Everyone who came enjoyed the excellent slide presentation of the interior of Tytoona Cave by cave divers Jim Faix and Bill Miller. Their program provided a rousing beginning to what looks like an excellent series of programs this year.

THANKS--To program and field trip committee members John Lennox, Wendy Reimold, Wilson Kreitz, Bob Keppler, Dan and Jean Sinal and Dave and Trudy Kyler for planning and printing our JVAS program for the year.

BARN OWLS--Melvin Lane, better known as "Mr. Bluebird," has recently begun building barn owl nesting boxes. He did get one nesting pair this past summer and is interested in expanding the project next year. If anyone would like to learn how to build barn owl boxes, come to the October meeting a half hour early (7:00 p.m.) and talk to him about it.

ATLANTIC AUDUBON--Our Mid-Atlantic Audubon Region has recently been expanded to include New York state, Connecticut, Vermont and Maine in addition to the old Mid-Atlantic region of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. Walt Pomeroy is the regional vice president of what is now called Atlantic Audubon. He will be assisted by Paul Zeph who is replacing Tom Troy. Tom resigned his position at the end of July.

AUDUBON CALENDARS--At our October meeting you will have your last chance to order Audubon calendars (Wild Bird, Nature or Wild Animal) and engagement books for yourself and as Christmas gifts. Each calendar costs \$6.75 payable to treasurer Janet Neely when you place your order. The calendars will be available for pick-up at the November meeting.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES--The International Issues Interest Group is collecting secondhand nature/conservation-related books and magazines to send to Belize (former British Honduras) Audubon for a library they have started. The library should help to educate the Belize people about the natural world so they will want to protect their own unique area--the best intact rainforest in Central America. Please bring any books or magazines you wish to donate to our monthly meetings and give them to Bruce Bonta.

The group has also made initial contact with a conservation group in the central rainforest of Peru, centered in Oxapampa, and hopes to exchange materials, ideas, and ultimately maybe even people with ECODESC, a sister organization of APECO headquartered in Lima. Both groups promote conservation of Peru's natural resources and environmental education.

And finally, individual members have been helping Fran Spivy-Weber, head of International Issues for NAS, to promote international issues. Bruce and I have been giving the Peru natural areas slide show to interested groups who will pay a fee which we will use to help fund international conservation in Peru. We are also working on a talk-slide show about Japan's threatened national park on Miyake-jima. Jim Winsor participated in a biological diversity workshop in Washington, D.C. at NAS's expense for several days in September which he will report on at our October meeting. Fran assures us that there will be other such opportunities for member participation in the future. If you are interested in joining our group please let Bruce or me know.



OCTOBER BIRDS--This is the last month to spot a wide variety of migrating songbirds. Here on the mountain Steve and I have already recorded a Swainson's thrush, several winter wrens, ^{and} numerous yellow-bellied sapsuckers, red-breasted nuthatches, white-throated sparrows, golden-crowned kinglets, hermit thrushes, black-throated green and yellow-rumped warblers, all enroute south. Monarch butterflies still flutter pass on warm days, stopping to feed on late blooming goldenrod and aster blossoms. And along the ridges during breezy days dozens of red-tailed and sharp-shinned hawks, turkey vultures and multi-colored sail planes fly past. So get out and enjoy October's bright blue weather.

--by Marcia Bonta

DON'T FORGET: Bird Seed Sale, orders due by Nov. 1; pickup, Nov. 15
Eagle Watching at the Pulpit, Nov. 8
JVAS Board Meeting, Nov. 13 at Altoona Library
Conservation Committee, Nov. 6 at P. Ford's house

MANY THANKS to Jessica Ford Cameron for illustrating this Gnatcatcher.

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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