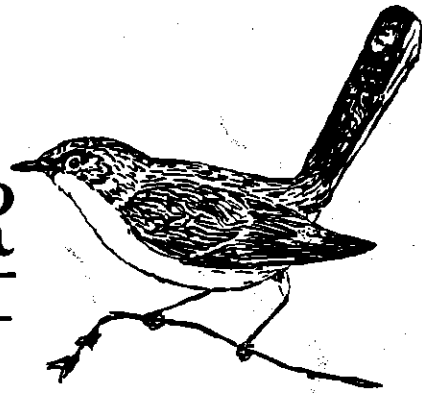


THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

March 1987



Members' Night by John Lennox

The March 31 meeting of JVAS is this year's members' night. During this special meeting, members are encouraged to share their interests and hobbies with fellow members. A slide projector will be set up and members with slides are encouraged to select their ten all-time favorites to narrate and share. If your hobby is not photography, please bring your art work, hand work, collections, or crafts. Space will be arranged. If you would like to share your hobby, please call John Lennox (946-1584) and indicate the general nature of your hobby and the amount of space you will need.

Several members have already agreed to bring slides. Colette Heller will bring a portion of her fossil collection, John Lennox is bringing ferns, and Doris Thurheimer is bringing some of her paintings. Please join us at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren at 7:30 on March 31.

A Special Project

Jessica Ford Cameron has donated an original "Save the Jungle" poster to JVAS. It will be raffled off at the March meeting. Chances will be 10 cents each. Jessica has been reading about jungles and hopes to raise some money for the International Issues Interest Group with this project.

Field Trip to Pittsburgh Aviary by Bob Keppler

On Saturday, April 11, JVAS will tour the Pittsburgh Aviary. Included in this tour will be a bird demonstration, a conservation talk, and a tour of the breeding center. The aviary has 900 birds in 285 species--the third largest collection in the U.S. Included are ten endangered species. Most of the birds are in free flight.

Adult admission is \$2.00; admission for children 12 and under and senior citizens over 60 is \$0.50. We'll leave the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. and plan to stop for lunch while in Pittsburgh. Bob Keppler (695-0742) has maps for those interested in this trip. [Ed. note: Wendy Reimold suggests wearing a hat!]

From the President's Desk
by Marcia Bonta

SHOWING THE COLORS--I do hope everyone saw our own JVAS patch featured in the March 1987 Audubon. The patch was designed by Truth Close and Janet De Muth and portrays the blue-gray gnatcatcher. If you don't have one of your own, they are still for sale at almost every meeting at the table supervised by Dick and Nona Weicht. Be sure to get one of the 31 "classy patches from National Audubon Society Chapters," as the magazine subtitled the feature that begins on page 68.

MILL GROVE--Many of us have visited the John James Audubon Sanctuary at Mill Grove near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Recently the "Friends of Audubon's Mill Grove," a non-profit corporation, was formed so that they could acquire more greenspace to protect the sanctuary grounds. They have managed to buy an adjacent 43-acre tract threatened by development, giving the sanctuary a total of 175 acres of the original 286-acre farm owned by the Audubon family. However, the purchase was expensive and they did have to borrow a considerable sum of money. If you would like to donate any amount to help pay off the loan, please send your check to Friends of Audubon's Mill Grove, P.O. Box 473, Audubon, PA 19406.

CAPE MAY-BRIGANTINE FIELD TRIP--We have changed the trip to the weekend of May 16-17. We will be travelling by van and will be led by Dave Kyler. Sign-up sheets have been circulating at meetings, but call Dave (643-6030) for more information or to get your name on the list if you have not been out to a meeting recently.

White Water Rafting
by Teddie Kreitz

On Saturday, June 6, hearty Juniata Valley Auduboners will be trekking to Ohiopyle, Pa., to raft the rapids of the Youghiogheny River. The trip will cost \$40 per person, which includes professional river guides, rafts, other necessary equipment, buffet lunch, and transportation back to the starting point. If the water temperature is too cold, wet suits must be rented for an additional charge. Rafters will depart from the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 8 a.m. and return early evening that same day.

Half of the fee (\$20) is needed by March 31 (our next meeting) to make the necessary arrangements. If you are one of the brave souls who wishes to enjoy the beauty of this Pennsylvania river gorge the wet way, contact Wilson Kreitz at 695-0126 or register at our March meeting.

Non-rafters who wish to spend the day enjoying this scenic part of Pennsylvania the dry way (on land) please tell Wilson or Teddie Kreitz at the meeting. There are many natural wonders to explore while the others are rapidly rafting over the rough and rugged rapids.

Next Year's Activities

It's not too early to begin planning our meetings and field trips for next year. If you know of a speaker, film, or other program that would be interesting to our members, please contact John Lennox (946-1584). If you know a good place to visit on a field trip, please contact Bob Keppler (695-0742).

Raptor Conference
by Mike Jackson

I recently attended a Pennsylvania Raptor Conference entitled "Raptors and Public Education" held in Bethlehem, Pa., on the campus of Moravian College. Sixteen different speakers expounded on their knowledge of raptors and education. The keynote speaker was Roger Tory Peterson. His speech, "The Artist's Role in Understanding Raptors," was unique because he had never before spoken about raptors by showing the artist's involvement. He mentioned that no birds are drawn more than the birds of prey.

Each speaker explained the need for educating the public in learning about the important role of raptors in the environment--the need to protect them and their habitats. Most speakers noted the frustration of speaking to the 250 people who were present, those who are already educated and concerned about birds of prey. Many free materials were available to share with others who were willing to spread the word. But the people who need to be educated are often difficult to "convert" to our way of thinking.

The topics and speakers' fields of specialization were varied--ranging from a high school student to many speakers with Ph.D.'s in their fields. Numerous speakers without Ph.D.'s were authorities in their own right for the many years of concentrated research on a particular bird of prey.

Perhaps the part of the conference which aroused the most excitement was an announcement that followed a presentation by Gerard W. Wendt, from the Pa. Game Commission. Donald Heintzelman, author of several field guides and books on birds of prey, announced that the state game farm (which raises pheasants) had been setting pole traps at the facility! Photographic evidence was obtained and the state and federal authorities were notified.

Annual Dinner Plans
by Colette Heller

It's that time again. Our annual dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m. Last year's dinner was a great success, so we are returning to the Trinity Methodist Church on Main Street in Bellwood. The menu, by popular request, will be roast beef served family style with many surprise extras.

Our speaker will be Dr. J. Peter Myers, newly appointed National Audubon Senior Vice President. Dr. Myers was formerly Assistant Curator of ornithology at the Academy of Natural Sciences. He holds a Ph. D. in zoology and has an international reputation for his work on shorebirds and critical habitat areas throughout the world. An important study by Dr. Myers involves the Cape May area hermit crabs and migratory birds.

Make reservations by sending a check for \$7.50 per person to Janet Neely, 8 S. Montgomery St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 by April 20.

Bits and Pieces

Pennsylvania Birds magazine has named Angeline Stout (946-5214) as its notable birds reporter for our area. If you see any unusual birds, please call Angeline so she can share the information.

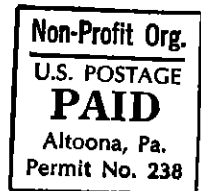
So far 14 teams representing eight school districts and one private school have registered for the Envir-Olympics, co-sponsored by JVAS. Contact Wendy Reimold (695-0679) if you can help.

Project Wild will be held on April 25 at Canoe Creek State Park. Mike and Laura Jackson will serve as facilitators for this workshop designed for teachers. Registration is limited to 35, so register soon by calling Wendy Reimold (695-0679).

Billboards

Congressman Bud Shuster has been widely criticized by environmental organizations who had fought for billboard reform as part of the Highway Bill. Mr. Shuster was instrumental in undermining these efforts. He introduced industry-backed measures in order to oppose tougher measures introduced in the Senate. Then after many Senators embraced his weaker provisions as a compromise, he at the last minute (in conference committee) deleted all provisions for billboard reform. While many in this area are singing his praises for our beautiful new highways, we are disappointed that they won't be beautiful for long. More details at the March meeting and in the next Gnatcatcher.

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DATED MATERIAL