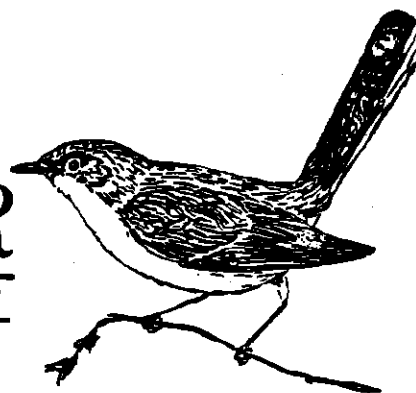


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

April 1987



## 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.

## Thank You

Jessica Ford Cameron donated an original "Save the Jungle" poster to JVAS. It was raffled off at the March meeting and was won by Emily Lennox. With this project Jessica raised \$7.15 for the International Issues Interest Group. But, more importantly, Jessica learned a valuable lesson: one person can make a difference. Even if that difference is a small one, when you add it to other small differences, the total can make the whole world better. Thanks to the JVAS Board for giving Jessica permission to raffle her poster at the meeting. And many thanks to those of you who bought raffle tickets and made donations to the project.--Paula

## Tytoona Clean-up

As part of Keep America Beautiful Day, JVAS will spend Saturday, April 25, spring cleaning the Tytoona Cave area. The clean-up is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to noon, but it's ok to work one hour and enjoy the cave during the rest of the morning. PennDOT will supply garbage bags and red safety vests. Wear gloves. If you have a rake, bring it. Bring a drink and snack--this is dusty work. For more information call John Orr (943-5629). In case of severe rain, the clean-up will be held on Saturday, May 2.

From the President's Desk  
by Marcia Bonta

The Gnatcatcher--To my great disappointment, no one has offered to take the editorship of our newsletter beginning in September. Many people have, however, offered to contribute regular columns to The Gnatcatcher so that the editor's job will consist of (1) gathering together all the columns, (2) attending board meetings for pertinent news items, (3) typing the newsletter, (4) having it photocopied, and (5) publishing it at least a week before each regularly scheduled meeting (Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., & May). Of course, if you volunteer to be the editor (or say "yes" when I ask you), you can also give the newsletter the "slant" you prefer--editor's privilege, I call it. We must have an editor, someone to whom mail from National can be sent. We must have a newsletter. Please, if anyone feels an obligation to help JVAS, consider accepting this job. This time, someone else might not do it.

International Issues--During the third weekend in March, the International Issues Special Interest Group hosted two visitors from Peru's major conservation organization, APECO. Enrique Ortiz, who has worked with Dr. Peter Myers on his shorebird research in Peru and at the Academy of Natural Sciences, and Sylvia Sanchez, who is being trained by the World Wildlife Fund to be a more effective fundraiser for conservation issues in Peru, gave an enlightening presentation on conservation issues in Peru. We also saw a slide of Cecilia Mendiola, head of the central jungle sister organization of APECO, ECODESC, with which we have set up an exchange of materials and ideas.

We are also trying to raise funds to help ECODESC finance a biological research station at a newly-created national park in the central jungle of Peru near Oxapampa. Bruce and I have given our "Natural Areas of Peru" slideshow to both the Sierra Club and the Clearwater Conservancy in State College and have generated funds and interest in our international issues work. Two raffles and one bake sale plus another slideshow last fall have netted close to \$180. At the banquet we will have a girl's heavy, long-sleeved, pink sweatshirt with an Andean cock-of-the-rock on it for sale at \$10.00. Ms. Mendiola sent it to us to show their efforts at education. We also hope that since April is National Audubon's Tropical Forest Month, you will donate to our ECODESC project to help save an almost untouched area of tropical forest.

Magazines for Belize--We have been assured by Fran Spivy-Weber, NAS's international representative, that our nature magazines have been received by Belize Audubon and are being distributed. The magazine drive has spread into two counties. Tyrone librarian Lynn Nearhouf has been helping by donating extras that their library gets from donors. An article in the Centre Daily Times generated more donations. Dr. Morgan, a retired Penn State professor, gave his whole scientific library. However, since many of the books are technical, they are being sent instead via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to the University of Costa Rica where FWS is helping to finance a graduate program in wildlife management for Latin Americans. So keep bringing in your nature magazines and books. This is an ongoing project.

#### Can You Can-Can?

Tyrone is having a can-can parade on Friday, April 24, to celebrate its recycling project. All of Tyrone's elementary schools will participate with each class having its own can-can theme. The parade begins at 1:00 p.m. at the Legion parking lot and will travel down 15th St. to the Recycling Center at 15th St. and Reservoir Dr. A truck will pick up cans from spectators--aluminum only, please.

MIDDLECREEK  
FIELD TRIP

by Dave Kyler

On Saturday, March 21st, seven hardy, early risers met at the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center, at 6 A.M. to begin a van trip to Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area in eastern Lancaster county, in search of migrating waterfowl. This Area is managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and is a major staging area for waterfowl passing through the Commonwealth.

In Huntingdon we met a van loaded with members of the local Bird Club. Other interested "birders" were picked up "en route" making the trip an interesting and enjoyable joint venture.

Along the Juniata and Susquehanna rivers we found many rafts of Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser duck, appearing bright white against the green river backdrop. After the necessary "pit stop" at Hardees, north of Harrisburg, we continued on to the Management Area.

We found the impounded lake to be full of Canada Geese, Tundra Swans, Pintail, Green Wing Teal and many other waterfowl. All were amazed at encountering five Long-Eared Owls at roost in a quiet pine thicket. The sight of the owls for us (and us for the owls) was truly a mystical moment. Other visual and audial moments stand out. The sight and sounds of a sky full of Canada Geese at sunset has to be experienced to be believed.

After a brown-bagged lunch we walked to Willow Point Observation Area, drove the loop road twice, and stopped at the Visitor Center one last time before embarking on the trip home, content with the day and the thirty-two avian species seen.

"PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS"

"Pennsylvania Birds" is a new venture by Frank & Barb Haas, of Philadelphia, to bring together bird enthusiasts in the Commonwealth. Their new publication will be a quarterly account on the who, what, where, and when concerning the avian species in the State and the individual counties. Articles of interest to Pennsylvania "birders" will include local bird surveys, birding locations and "hotspots", and interesting articles on our species of special concern. The annual subscription fee is only \$10.00 and a form is available from Dave Kyler at the monthly meetings or at his home in Huntingdon. (R.D.# 4 BOX 159A Huntingdon, Pa. 16652) Let's help get this long overdue Statewide publication off the ground.

## Purple Martin Colony Registry

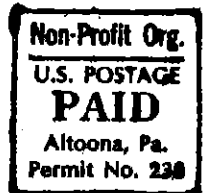
The purple martin has been managed by humans longer than any other North American bird species. Even before Europeans colonized the New World, Native American Indians were enticing these birds to nest in their villages by attaching hollowed gourds to the support poles of their wigwams. However, this species is declining in parts of its breeding range. In an attempt to remedy this situation, the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA) has been formed to help coordinate the management efforts of martin landlords. Through its Colony Registry Program, it is attempting to locate and register martin colonies in North America.

You can help. If you know of a purple martin colony, or if you're interested in starting one, please contact the PMCA. If on your birding trips you see a colony, try to obtain its address for the PMCA. Send all information to Purple Martin Conservation Association, Institute for Research and Community Services, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Edinboro, PA 16444.

### Education Committee Report by Wendy Reimold

Thanks to everyone who helped at the Central PA Outdoor Sports and Recreation Show. An estimated 30,000 to 40,000 people were exposed to the Audubon conservation message at the 3-day exhibition, including well over 100 people who attended Tom McMann's three seminars on black bear biology. We also raised \$133 toward our slide projector through sales of bluebird boxes and other items. Thanks to all the following who helped: Dan & Jean Sinel, Tom McMann, Dave Kyler, Melvin Lane, Terry Wentz, Colette Heller, Gene Root, Fran Burgoon, John Lennox, Glenn Mock, Jana Atwell, Wilson & Teddie Kreitz, Dick & Nona Weicht, Doris Thurheimer, Alice Goodlin, Jean Holland, Clarence Becker, and Ann Borland.

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**DATED MATERIAL**