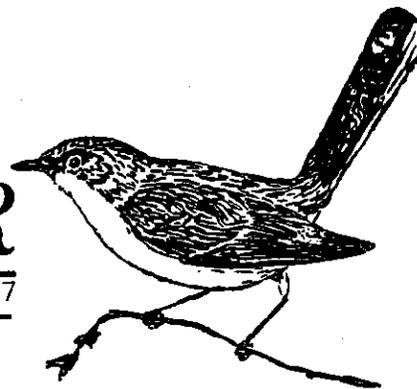


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

May 1987



## The Oaks Strike Back: Natural Control of the Gypsy Moth

On Tuesday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren, Dr. Jack Schultz, an entomology professor from Penn State, will discuss some of the ways oak trees respond to gypsy moth infestations. Dr. Schultz discovered that oak trees emit certain chemicals when attacked by the gypsy moth caterpillar. His discovery was widely reported in the press as "trees talking to trees." Be sure to attend this fascinating meeting.

### Coming Events

The next Gnatcatcher will be published in September. In the meantime, have a great summer and don't forget these coming events:

June 6--Whitewater Rafting Trip. Contact Wilson Kreitz (695-0126).

June 14--Picnic at Canoe Creek State Park. Meet at Pavilion 1 (the one at the top of the hill before you get to the beach area) at 1:00. The picnic will be held rain or shine. Activities will include swimming, canoeing, and hiking with a park naturalist. The meal will be served at suppertime. Please bring your own meat, rolls, and one covered dish. JVAS will provide charcoal for the grills. Further details will be announced at the May meeting, or call Bob Keppler (695-0742).

### Wood Ducks by Angeline Stout

The Stout family would like to announce that they have new neighbors. Somewhere between April 11 and 14 a pair of wood ducks moved into the front yard oak tree. Unfortunately Mr. Duck split shortly after the move--whereabouts unknown. Mrs. Duck wasted no time redecorating. I guess she didn't care for the former occupant's (kestrels) style. She used her own downy feathers instead to add a homey touch. On May 12 at 8:10 a.m. 6 newly hatched baby ducklings made their way up and out of the hole jumping 25 feet to their calling mother. Frank, Daniel, and Amber watched, but could not find the camera, and I had just left for work minutes before. All the ducklings formed a neat line behind mom and headed for the Pottsgrove Reservoir 1/4 mile away. Since wood ducks return to the same nest area, you can be sure that next year I'll schedule a few mornings off and have a camera ready.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK  
Marcia Bonta

BANQUET Our banquet in April was the best ever thanks to chairperson Colette Heller and her committee of enthusiastic members who turned the church basement into a tropical forest. Nona and Dick Weicht printed an outstanding program, Ann Borland and Bernetta Hill provided the beautiful flower arrangements for every table, Doris Thurheimer made the favors, and Glen Mock, Tom McMann, Mardell Garber and Colette Heller did the decorating. Other members of the committee who helped were Marjorie Delaney and Mary Burgoon who also gave the grace. Of course, our speaker Pete Myers, NAS's Vice President for Science, gave an excellent talk on shorebirds. All in all, an enjoyable time was had by everyone and we thank all those people who helped.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD I decided that one of our hardest-working members should be honored at every banquet and presented the first award to Paula Ford, outgoing editor of The Gnatcatcher and co-chairperson of the Conservation Committee. She received an Audubon Activist T-shirt which seemed appropriate. A special thanks to Paula for all she has done and continues to do for JVAS.

GOODBYE TO WENDY REIMOLD Wendy Reimold, our dynamic Education Committee Chairperson, is moving to a new job in Morgantown, West Virginia at the end of this month. We also honored her at the banquet with a "May the Forest Be With You" T-shirt, which celebrates the hundred year anniversary of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, and a nature autograph booklet signed by many of our members. We really will miss Wendy and wish her good luck in her new job!

THE GNATCATCHER At long last we have a new editor. Jim Winsor called me and volunteered last month. He does hope that many of you will contribute reports and news items to make his job easier. He also tells me he has taken seriously my statement that the editor can use the newsletter to present his own ideas. So look for changes next September. Our thanks, Jim, for taking a most important job.

EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON The Education Committee will be headed by co-chairpersons Dan and Jean Sinal. Both the Sinals have worked very hard on the committee and participated in a wide variety of Education Committee activities. Thank you to the Sinals for volunteering so promptly.

DONATIONS Recently the Juniata Valley Audubon Society received two substantial donations. Attorney and member T. Dean Lower not only donated his time to change our articles of incorporation so we can apply for tax exempt status from the federal government but his out-of-pocket expenses which came to \$83.30 as well. We really do appreciate his help in this important matter.

We also received \$50.00 from the Modern Cabinet and

Construction Company, Inc. in memory of Mrs. Geraldine Dunkel to be put in the Education Committee's fund for a slide projector. "Mrs. Dunkel was very much a lover of wild birds of all kinds and kept a vigil of feeding those which visited her bird feeders throughout the years. Mrs. Dunkel's family feel that this would be a very appropriate way in which to honor her life and memory," Sherry Wise wrote in behalf of the company.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES A check for \$200 was sent to our sister conservation group in Oxapampa, Peru to help them set up a Biological Research Station at their new National Park, Yanachaga Chemellin, in the cloud forest. In addition, Bruce Bonta, Dave Kyler, Jim Winsor and I put together a slide show about our area and JVAS for our sister organization. Steve Bonta taped a Spanish narrative to accompany the slides. Thanks also to Mike and Laura Jackson, Teddy and Wilson Kreitz, Tom McMann and Bob Keppler for donating slides for this project which we used along with those taken by Dave Kyler, Jim Winsor, Bruce Bonta and me.

PATCH REACTION A letter came to us last month from a fellow Audubon member in Tucson, Arizona named Juniata S. Hirsch. Her letter said in part, "The beautiful patch for Juniata Valley Audubon that was pictured in the last issue of Audubon magazine really intrigued me--since my given name is Juniata! (I was named for a street by that name in St. Louis, Missouri but I am sure the street name relates back to your Juniata River in Pennsylvania." She requested one of our patches and sent one from Tucson Audubon (and a check) in exchange. Juniata had learned our address from Tom Troy who formerly worked at the regional office with Walt Pomeroy and who manned the Audubon Ark when it came to Altoona. According to Juniata, Tom is in Tucson and expects to get a teaching position there.

LIBRARY BOOK Each year JVAS donates a nature-related book to a public library in Blair County in honor of JVAS deceased members and friends. This year The World of Watchers by Joseph Kastner was donated to the Tyrone Public Library.

Conservation Committee News  
by Paula Ford

The Board voted to permit JVAS to join Pennsylvanians for Acid Rain Control, so our Conservation Committee will be focussing its efforts on acid rain and working with PARC to promote an acid rain control policy for Pennsylvania.

I'd like to thank Marcia for my "Member of the Year Award." Much of the work of the Conservation Committee is behind the scenes: attending meetings, talking with and writing to government agencies and politicians, and even in a couple of cases reporting environmental violations. It's nice to know that the work is appreciated. Thanks!

Education Committee News  
by Wendy Reimold

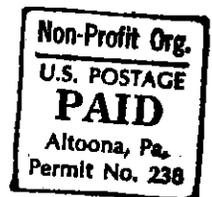
Congratulations to Jana Atwell, the recipient of this year's JVAS Ecology Camp Scholarship. As usual, the committee had to choose between several well-qualified candidates, but we felt that Jana was particularly deserving because she'll be able to use the information she learns at the camp on a daily basis in her teaching at the Blair Christian School.

The EnvirOlympics was held on May 14, with 12 teams from 7 Blair County high schools. Sixty students participated. Winners were Central High School, first; Hollidaysburg High School, second; and Bellwood High School, third. Thanks to helpers Dan & Jean Sinel, Tom McMann, Glenn Mock, and Terry Wentz, and to Laura Jackson and John Lennox who wrote questions.

Project Wild was held recently at Canoe Creek. JVAS sponsored this program taught by Bureau of State Parks personnel and Mike and Laura Jackson. Participants included the entire education committee, several teachers, environmental agency people, and Cub Scout leaders.

It has been a real pleasure serving as education chairperson for the past 2 1/2 years. I have especially appreciated the hard work of all the education committee members. I'll really miss all the great folks at JVAS. My door in West Virginia is open any time for visitors!

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**DATED MATERIAL**