THE MARCH PROGRAM

The program for March promises to be rich and exciting. Join us on Tuesday, March 29 at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren for a double program. At 6:30 p.m. Dave Kyler will lead a workshop on spring waterfowl and warbler identification. Our business meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. After that, our featured speaker, Dr. David Pearson of The Pennsylvania State University will present a slideshow talk: "Conservation, Education and Research in the Peruvian Amazon." Dr. Pearson has been closely involved in conservation issues in the developing world for some years. As he will soon be leaving the area, this may be our last chance to hear him. Please join us for this very special double program!

ANNUAL DINNER
Colette Heller

Here's something I know you've all been waiting to hear! That time has come around again--SPRING, that is--AND, our Annual Audubon Dinner!

If you've attended before, I know you'll be coming back; if you've never been--come on along and join us for an evening of friendship, fun, and fantastic food.

Speaker of the evening will be Jerry Hassinger, Pennsylvania Game Commission Biologist. His topic --"Nobody Cries When Habitat Dies."

What's cooking? --- Turkey Dinner, served family style with all the fixins, lots of extras, and special desert.

When? --- Tuesday, April 26. 6 P.M. sharp! (Come early for Friendship Punch and Chapter displays--5:30)

Where? --- Trinity Methodist Church, Main Street, Bellwood.

All this for just $7. Please send your reservations and check to:
Colette Heller
425 Bellview Avenue
Bellwood, PA 16617

Please try to have reservations in by April 20.
Thank you.

TYTOONA CAVE CLEAN-UP
John Orr

Tytoona Cave has been battered by time, the weather, and Friday night picnic people. Please come out to the cave for the annual clean-up, a PennDOT-sponsored Keep America Beautiful Project. We'll meet from 9:00 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 23. Birds and wildflowers of the cave area are included, of course. Bring light rakes and gloves. Penn-DOT will furnish the bags. This will be a fun get-together and a good chance to check up on the cave. Remember, JVAS is the caretaker of this unique Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Natural Area. The cave needs all the help it can get!
For more information, contact: John Orr, 3001 Fourth Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, 943-5629.
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS
Paula Ford

The Conservation Committee awarded a Thumbs Up to Herb Miller in January. Mr. Miller is a hauler who is recycling aluminum cans for his customers.

Conservation Committee members have been studying the solid waste issue. We recently viewed a video on recycling and will be participating in a Recycling Forum sponsored by the Altoona League of Women Voters on May 5, 1988, at the Altoona Vo-Tech Cafeteria at 7 p.m. More details on the Forum will appear in April's newsletter.

Rep. John Broujos has introduced HB 2226, The Acid Deposition Control Act, in the State House of Representatives. Rep. Ed Johnson of Hollidaysburg is a cosponsor of the bill. We thank him once again for his support of important environmental legislation. Rep. Hayes and Rep. Geist have not yet signed on as cosponsors, so please contact their offices and ask them to do so. The bill has broad support across the state; 84 cosponsors have signed on. Copies of the legislation will be available at the March meeting.

Recently Paula Ford testified at a DER hearing on Unsuitability for Surface Mining for the Bell's Gap Watershed. The hearing was well attended, and the vast majority of those attending supported the designation.

FIELD TRIPS
Dave Kyler
WOOD DUCK HOUSES FOR SALE
Wilson and Teddi Kretz

The recently formed Fund Raising Committee will be selling, and taking orders for Wood Duck nesting boxes.

These houses are built by the Alliance for Wetlands and Wildlife, a Somerset County affiliate of Ducks Unlimited, and our Chapter will be selling them for $10.00 per box, complete with nesting material.

This is the time of year to put out, or clean out, nesting boxes for these ducks. But if you don’t have any suitable Wood Duck habitat, these also make fine homes for Screech Owls or Kestrels.

One of these nesting boxes will be raffled off at the March 29, 1988 meeting.

BACKYARD NATURALIST

Hummingbirds See Red

Hummingbirds in your garden create a breathtaking beauty. In the blur of their humming, fast-beating wings, the small (smaller than the world) birds hover, almost motionless, over flowers, sipping up nectar with their brush-coated tongues. These aerial acrobats dart from flower to flower, sometimes even flying backward. They shimmer with iridescent colors that come, not from the pigments of the birds’ feathers, but from light striking the feathers’ prism-like surfaces.

Want “hummers” in your backyard? Let your garden break out in a riot of color. Hummingbirds are suckers (as to speak) for tubular red, orange and pink flowers. Therefore, any yard fluming a perpetual gaudy bloom will probably collect hummingbirds on their migrations in both spring (late March to mid-May) depending on your distance from their wintering habitats in Mexico and the Caribbean) and fall. And if you have the right habitat for nesting, you may have hummingbirds with you the whole season.

While North American hummingbirds feed on quantities of small insects (ants, thrips, and insect larvae) found on, or near flowers, their main diet consists of flower nectar. And while you can coax hummingbirds to your yard with sugarwater feeders and/or dense foliage for nesting, the flowers are probably your best lure.

Many kinds of hummingbird-attracting annual and perennial flowers, available as seeds and young plants, can be purchased at garden centers and through mail order nurseries. Some suggestions: scarlet salvia (perhaps overall the most available, effective, cultivated hummingbird plant); scarlet or pink petunia; scarlet nicotiana—or flowering tobacco (which has the added attraction of dancing night-and-day flying hummingbird moths as well as hummingbirds); and scarlet morning-glory.

Hummingbirds especially like wildflowers. Buy them only from reputable nurseries or from your local or state plant societies—places that are careful to make native perennial wildflowers available without depleting natural wildflower supplies. In the East, look for: cardinal flower Lobelia cardinalis and trumpet creeper Campsis radicans or its hybrids. In the western U.S., red flowering currant, Pacific Northwest columbine Aquilegia formosa, scarlet paintbrushes Castilleja or scarlet penstemons are highly attractive.

In the eastern U.S., look for the ruby-throated hummingbird, the only hummer commonly found east of the Mississippi. In the Rockies, look for black-chinned, calliope and broad-tailed hummingbirds. The rufous Allen’s and Anna’s hummers are predominantly Pacific-slope breeders. The hummingbird capital of the U.S. is southeastern Arizona, where 13 kinds of hummingbirds might be seen feeding their way from flower to bright flower, all day.

For more information about wildlife around your home, contact the National Wildlife Federation, Dept. BN, 1412 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK
Marcia Bonta

THANKS to Dave Kyler for taking over for me on two hours notice at the last meeting. I really appreciated his willing spirit and understand that he did a wonderful job.

ANOTHER THANKS goes to Truth Close for working so hard and tenaciously to have IVAS t-shirts for sale in time for the Sportsmen’s Show. They certainly are attractive emblems of our society and I hope more of you will invest in one or more.

SPRINGING OF THE SPORTSMENS SHOW, a special thanks to the many members who worked at our eye catching booth, especially Nona and Dick Weigh who offered numerous new items for sale. A reminder—they will also be for sale at our meetings.
THE AL BURD MEMORIAL FUND already contains $250.00. A special thanks goes to the following donors in alphabetical order: Clyde and Rita Black, Bruce and Marcia Bonta, Ann Borland, Fran and Mary Burgoon, Rachel Chipperfield, Barbara Corle, Eve and Agnes Fuoss, Eva Hartless, Colette Heller, Anna Magee, Jesse Perry and Eugene Root. Please remember to give or send your donation to our treasurer Janet Neely at 8 Montgomery Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 and designate that it is for the Al Burd Memorial Fund.

ELECTION of new officers will occur at our March meeting. Please come prepared to vote and, if you have any other nominations, call or talk to Bob Keppler or Colette Heller before the meeting or nominate from the floor.

CALIFORNIA CONDORS—According to a newspaper clipping sent to me by member Christella Butler, "Love Finally Strikes Captive Condors," the headline announced. At the San Diego Wild Animal Park a California condor couple consummated their elaborate courtship in the first known captive mating of the rare birds. The condor couple, who reside in a huge flight cage known as the "condominium," were identified as AC-4, a 7-year-old male bird captured in June 1985, and UN-1, a female bird whose exact age is unknown. UN-1 was believed to be at least 7 years old when she was captured in August 1985. Their courtship, which involves extended strutting and dancing, began in earnest last November and on February 7 condor keepers witnessed their first mating. An egg should be laid in early to mid-March if all goes well.

ROBINS AND BLUEBIRDS arrived in force on our mountaintop March 8. That was the same day the tundra swans flowed north, the siskins called incessantly and seven cedar waxwings appeared briefly, their high, keening calls alerting me to their presence on tree branches directly above my head. What a wonderful time early spring is! Do get out and enjoy it as often as possible.

BOARD NOTES

AL BURD NATURE CENTER COMMITTEE—A committee is being formed under John Orr to investigate the possibility of constructing a nature center at Fort Roberdeau in Al Burd's name. Anyone interested in being a part of the discussion and planning should contact John Orr at 943-5629 or sign up at the next meeting.

PEGGY FIELDS AT FORT ROBERDEAU needs volunteers to take school children on the nature trails during the latter part of April and the month of May. Earlier in April there will be an orientation session for new volunteers. If you are interested please call her at 946-5281.

TRUTH CLOSE urges all members who are photographers to please take photos of JVAS activities they attend and donate the best to our album which she likes to keep up to date.

FRAN BURGOON AND MARCIA BONTA were elected directors by the board for a two year term. Thanks to Colette Heller who has served as a director for four years.

THE BOARD VOTED to send $175 to help fund the Middle Atlantic Regional Office under Walt Pomeroy. They also agreed to send $125 to the newly-formed statewide Audubon Council of Pennsylvania under the leadership of our own Paula Ford.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please submit items for the April issue before April 18 to Jim Winsor, Altoona Campus, Ivyise Park, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 or call him at home: 943-8213.