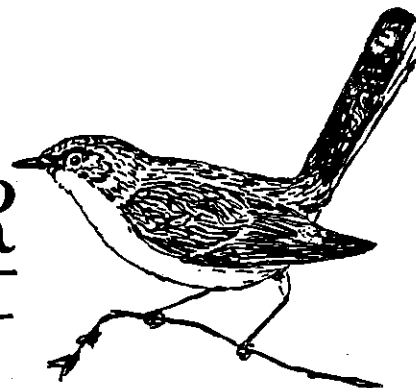


THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

March 1988



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.



"SUPPORT SOMETHING WILD"

Help Protect Native Wild Plants. Donate on Line 10C or 19C of the State income tax form to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund, Pa's Tax Checkoff.

DO SOMETHING WILD

Write for information:

Wild Resource Conservation Fund
P.O. Box 1467
Room A1-85, 3rd & Rely Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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

POWDERMILL FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, April 30th, 1988, the Juniata Valley Chapter of the Audubon Society will be sponsoring a day field trip to the Powdermill Nature Reserve near Ligonier, Pennsylvania. This reserve, nestled on the western side of the Laurel Highlands, is home to a year around Bird-banding station, research facility, and a Nature Center surrounded by several miles of marked, self-guided footpaths. Field biologist, Bob Mulvihill, will be demonstrating bird-banding techniques to us after our morning arrival. We will have several hours to explore the nature center, adjacent footpaths and wildflowers before we break for lunch. After lunch, and some "warbler watching" we will head for home.

Tentative Schedule:

- 7 A. M. Departure from Pleasant Valley Shopping Center
- 8:45 A. M. Arrival at Powdermill Nature Reserve
- 9 A. M. Bird-banding demonstration
- 10:00 A. M. Self-guided field exploration
- 12:00 P. M. Lunch
- 1:00 P. M. Departure for Altoona
- 3:00 P. M. Arrive Pleasant Valley Shopping Center

Van transportation will be available for this trip at a cost of \$15.00/person. Ten (10) seats will be available on a first come/first served basis. (Car-pooling may be individually arranged) The driver, Juniata Audubon Chapter, and Powdermill will accept no responsibility for personal loss or injury during this trip.

If you would like to join us for this trip please complete the bottom portion of this letter and send it to the following address before April 15th. (David W. Kyler, RD# 4, Box 159A, Huntingdon 16652). If you desire van transportation, please include a check for \$15.00, payable to David Kyler. Due to fixed costs for the van rental, this amount is non-refundable unless cancellation is due to inclement weather or lack of response. Please bring binoculars, field guides, a box lunch and dress according to the expected weather. We hope that you can join us for this enjoyable and memorable trip.

PRESQUE ISLE / PYMATUNING FIELD TRIP

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 13, 14 & 15, 1988, the Juniata Valley Chapter of the Audubon Society will sponsor an over-night field trip to the Presque Isle/ Pymatuning areas of northwest Pennsylvania. We expect our arrival in Erie will coincide with the peak songbird migration through these areas. During this weekend, we expect to see up to twenty (20) species of colorful warblers, plus many numerous other species on our daily field walks. Please make plans to join us for this unforgettable weekend.

Tentative Schedule:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| Friday | 6 P. M. | Depart Pleasant Valley Shopping Center |
| | 9:30 P. M. | Arrive Pannisula Motel(814-838-1938) |
| Saturday | 6 A. M. | Up for local breakfast and off to Presque Isle |
| | 12:00 P. M. | Lunch in Erie |
| | 1:00 P. M. | Field Walk in Siegel Marsh |
| | 4:00 P. M. | Return to Erie |
| | 5:00 P. M. | Supper |
| Sunday | 6:A. M. | Return after local breakfast |
| | 12:00 P. M. | Lunch in Erie |
| | 1 P. M. | To Pymatuning Lake and fish hatchery |
| | 6 P. M. | Supper at Meadville |
| | 9 P. M. | Arrive at Pleasant Valley Shopping Center |

Van transportation will be available for this trip at a cost of \$35.00/person. Seat reservations are available on a first come/first serve basis for twenty (20) participants. The driver and Juniata Valley Chapter of Audubon will accept no responsibility for personal loss or injury during this trip.

Motel accommodations are \$27.50 per day for one double bed in one room and \$38.10 per day for two double beds in one room. Please let me know if you want individual rooms or will be sharing a room. A deposit of \$15.00 must accompany room reservations.

If you would like to join us for this trip, please complete the bottom portion of this letter and send it to the following address before April 15th (David Kyler, RD# 4, Box 159A, Huntingdon 16652). A check payable to David Kyler to cover van transportation and motel deposit must accompany your reservation. Due to fixed costs of the van rental, the \$35.00 is non-refundable. For further information call 814-643-6030 after 5 PM.

NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Van Transportation: YES _____ NO _____

Signature: _____

Presque Isle / Pymatuning Field Trip
NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

VAN TRANSPORTATION: YES _____ NO _____
ACCOMMODATIONS: SINGLE _____ SHARING _____ WITH WHO _____

WOOD DUCK HOUSES FOR SALE
Wilson and Teddi Kreitz

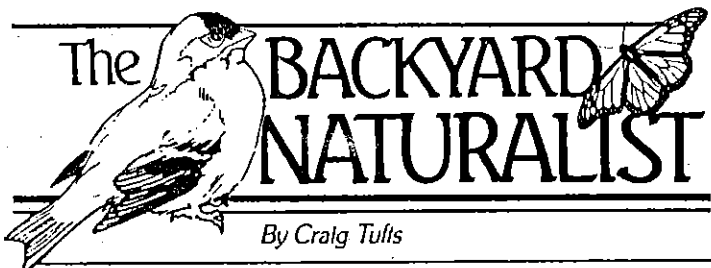
The recently formed Fund Raising Committee will be selling, and taking orders for Wood Duck nesting boxes.

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 breathless sort of beauty. In the blur of their humming, fast-beating wings, the small (smallest in the world) birds hover, almost motionless, over flowers, flipping 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' prismatic surfaces.

Want "hummers" in your backyard? Let your garden break out in a riot of color. Hummingbirds are suckers (so to speak) for tubular red, orange and pink flowers. Therefore, any yard flaunting 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 lures.



Many kinds of hummingbird-attracting annual and perennial flowers, available as seeds and young plants, can be purchased at garden centers and through mailorder 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 drawing 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 beating 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. 20036.

Watch "The Backyard Naturalist" on The Victory Garden this season. See TV listings of your local PBS affiliate for date and time.

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 JVAS 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.

SPEAKING OF THE SPORTSMENS SHOW, a special thanks to the many members who worked at our eye catching booth, especially Nona and Dick Weicht 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, Ivyside Park, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 or call him at home: 943-8213.