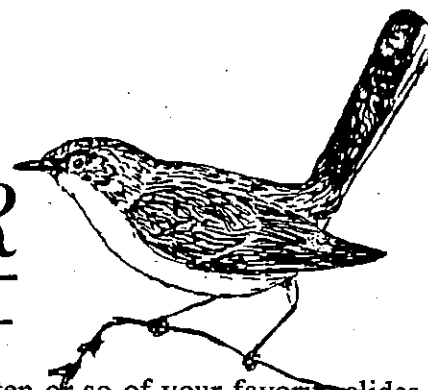


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

January 1989



**JANUARY'S PROGRAM:** Join us for Member's Night. Bring ten or so of your favorite slides or displays to share with us. Popcorn will be provided. The meeting will be held January 31 at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren on Union Avenue in Altoona. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm with the business segment, to be followed by the program.

## NEW COMMITTEE FORMED

At the Board meeting on November 10, 1988, a motion was placed before the members present to establish a new permanent committee with the purpose of monitoring activities related to wetlands.

While the preservation of America's wetlands is one of National Audubon's High Priority Campaigns, the area covered by Juniata Valley Audubon is a special example of the attacks on these fragile areas, in the form of development and highway construction, on wetlands in the Altoona and Loysburg areas.

The motion to establish the new committee was passed, unanimously. The Chairperson for the committee will be Theodora Kreitz, who will be asking for recruits to this committee.

Please remember that wetlands are natural filters, stormwater collection areas, groundwater recharge zones and very valuable habitat.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wilson Kreitz

### AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP TRIVIA

If you are like your President and clutter your mind with questionable bits of information you may enjoy the following.

2,000 members were sent an 8 page questionnaire with questions pertaining to age, income, education, travel patterns, why they joined Audubon, etc. And this is how it came out. 55% of our membership are female, with the balance being male, and average annual household income of \$63,000 and a median household income of \$45,000. 43% have done post-graduate study, and 1 in 9 has an investment portfolio worth over \$500,000; they spend an average of 2 hours reading each issue of Audubon.

So I'm expecting to see all you "average" members at our Member's Night Meeting this month!

### WETLANDS HIGH-PRIORITY ISSUE CAMPAIGN

Frank (Dusty) Dunstan, Vice-President for Sanctuaries and former Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative, has been appointed Coordinator for the wetlands campaign. The wetlands effort, which will be the most comprehensive of the high-priority campaigns, will involve every element of National's and our, organization. Dusty's first job will be to assemble a staff group to define achievable objectives at every level and put together a working plan. I hope that with the formation of our new committee we will be able to provide input and expertise to this project.

### BLUEPRINT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Over the past year 18 environmental groups have been collaborating on a document making recommendations to the new Administration. On November 30, 1988, the document was released at a press conference in Washington, D.C. On that same morning President Peter Berle and 4 other environmental leaders had a 45-minute breakfast meeting with President-Elect Bush where they presented the recommendations to him. Mr. Bush assured them there would not be a repetition of the appointments made during the Reagan Administration, and that he wanted to do the right thing environmentally.

Let's hope this is a political promise he intends to keep!

## JVAS SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Juniata Valley's Speaker's Bureau recently received national attention thanks to an article by Paula Ford in *The Audubon Activist*.

Paula described how our chapter went about setting up the bureau, finding speakers and varied programs and the importance of having a coordinator for all the programs.

Copies of the *Audubon Activist* will be available at the meeting, and I'm sure Paula will be available for autographs.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Bruce Bonta

At the December meeting of the International Issues Group a number of projects were discussed:

1) Mark Bonta reported that he'll be traveling to the Philippines over the holidays and visiting the office of the Asian Wetlands Bureau, where we have been sending used optical equipment and nature magazines. He plans to take many slides at the bird sanctuary which they have been responsible for establishing, and he will be showing them at our next meeting on Friday evening, February 10 on the first floor of the Altoona Campus Library.

2) The group reviewed the draft of a brochure which Paula Ford and Marcia Bonta are preparing for distribution along with our programs about tropical forest issues.

3) We reviewed the cassette/film strip on tropical forests which we purchased from Appalachian Audubon, and everyone felt it is an excellent production. Members will start using it as part of their talks in local schools and community groups. The program will be coordinated through the JVAS Speaker's Bureau.

4) Best news of all--Ann Borland donated \$50.00 to the International Issues group to assist us in our community outreach efforts. This prompted a reminder, appropriate for all JVAS members: since we now have our 501 (c)(3) federal tax exempt status, contributions to the society may be listed among your other gifts to charities if you itemize your deductions in your federal income taxes. Your gifts may be for the overall budget of the Society or the work of particular groups such as the International Issues Group, the Education Committee, or any other JVAS project. Please make your check out to "Juniata Valley Audubon Society" and send it to our Treasurer, Ms. Janet Neely, 8 Montgomery St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, or give it to her at any of our meetings. If you want to designate your gift for a particular group or purpose within JVAS, such as International Issues, please inform Janet. Remember, when you respond to the appeals from the many worthwhile national conservation organizations, please think of your major local conservation organization as well.

## MISCELLANY

### RAILS TO TRAILS PROPOSAL

Juniata Valley Audubon, in conjunction with several other Blair County groups and agencies, have petitioned the Public Utilities Commission to delay final action on the demolition of Puzzletown Road bridge and the Muleshoe bridge. The intent of this action is to leave the way open for the development of this area as hiking, biking and ski trail from near the Foot of Ten area to the top of Sugar Run.

While this project is only in the initial stages it is hoped that in the not too distant future it will be possible to walk, bike or ski from near the Lemon House to the Muleshoe.

### AUDUBON ON THE AIR

On January 8, 1988, Wilson Kreitz was interviewed by Debbie Hoy, News Director of WALY-FM Radio, on her Sunday morning **Studio B** news program. Even though he didn't think it was possible, they managed to discuss chapter activities, state, local, and national environmental issues for an hour.

We would like to thank Ms. Hoy and WALY Radio for the opportunity to talk about environmental issues in the area, since there doesn't appear to be too many other local media, or public officials, showing much concern for local environmental issues.