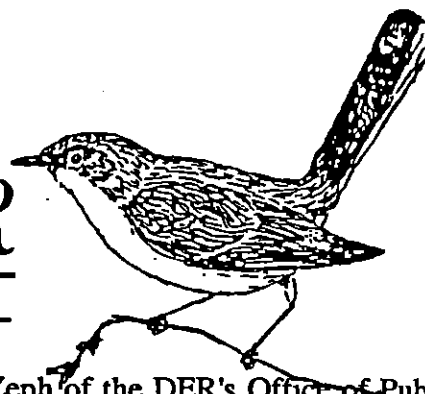


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

May 1989



**MAY'S PROGRAM:** Our May 30 meeting will feature Paul Zeph of the DER's Office of Public Relations. His topic will deal with how citizens and government agencies can work together to solve environmental problems. Many of you may remember Paul for his helpful assistance to Walt Pomeroy in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. For those who wish to meet Paul before the meeting, there will be a gathering at Dave's Dream in Hollidaysburg at 5:15 pm.

The main meeting will be at 7:30 pm at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren, in Altoona at 28th Street and Union Avenue. The business meeting will be followed by the program.

## JVAS SUMMER PICNIC

This year's picnic will again be held at Canoe Creek State Park. The date will be the afternoon of June 11 at Pavilion Number 2. To avoid the confusion of last year's picnic, please remember that the main meal is scheduled for 4:00 pm with only snacking prior to that time. Following the meal, at 6:00 pm, we will take a nature walk. As usual, this will be a covered dish affair. Please come and sample the goodies.

## ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Wilson Kreitz

While this year's dinner had its moments of tension -- Do we have a speaker? Who is our speaker? Will she be able to find the Grange Hall? -- the event came off without a hitch in the end.

Susan Lawrence, Regional Operations Coordinator from the Washington D. C. office, gave a presentation of the Critical Issues campaign and how as chapters and individuals we have a lot of battles to fight. There are refuges in need of protection, dams that don't need built and wetlands that don't need to be drained and filled.

The food was good and plentiful, even though the cooks thought we didn't eat enough. I'd like to thank those who helped put this event together: Teddie Kreitz, who chaired the committee, Colette Heller, for her hanging decorations, Anne Borland for the lovely floral arrangements on the tables and Davis Thurheimer for her poster of the value of a tree.

There are some people that deserve special recognition. Amy King provided the beautiful prints of the birds. Those of you that won one of them know what I mean. Dave & Trudy Kyler provided accommodations for Susan.

## AUDUBON COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA MEETING HELD

Paula Ford

Nearly 40 delegates and members of ACP chapters met in April at Canoe Creek State Park. Highlights were votes on four policy statements (Clean Air/Acid Rain, Solid Waste, Wetlands, and Environmental Education) and a vote to give the first annual Pennsylvania Audubon Award to Governor Casey. Attendees also hear updates on the Volunteers for Wildlife program from Jerry Hassinger and the Wild Resources Conservation fund from Frank Felbaum. Connie Mahan, of NAS's Washington, DC, office updated chapters leaders on the NAS high priority campaigns and on legislation pending in Congress. Walt Pomeroy provided a regional office update. On field trips, 67 birds were seen, including osprey, greater yellowlegs, horned grebe, and loons.

## FIELD TRIPS Dave Kyler

### DEL-MAR-VA

Our Annual spring trip to the Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia peninsula (Del-Mar-Va) in search of migrating songbirds and shorebirds, proved to be a huge success in spite of the sometimes threatening weather.

Friday's six hour drive to Bombay Hook Refuge was rain filled but once we arrived the rains magically stopped, allowing us good views of resting shorebirds. American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts and Dunlin were found at the refuge. Port Mahon, also in Delaware, yielded a few early egg-laying Horseshoe crabs, which in turn yielded a few egg-feeding Ruddy Turnstones and Red Knot. Open mudflats nearby held thousands of other shorebird species. Friday's evening meal was at an Ocean City, Maryland restaurant and once at our motel even the threat of a tornado watch didn't prevent a good night's sleep.

Early morning Saturday was spent at Pocomoke Swamp on the Maryland/Delaware border. This swamp is the most northerly Cypress swamp in the eastern U.S. and held many species of migrating warblers. Several Prothonotary Warblers serenaded us from the low bushes and were well observed by all. Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge was our destination for Saturday afternoon after a stop at a grocery for a "deli" lunch. Chincoteague, home to the famous ponies and not so famous Sika deer, also was host to many migrating song and shorebirds. Blue Grosbeak, Northern and Orchard Oriole, Whimbrel, Brown Pelican, and American Oystercatchers were present. Saturday's evening meal, at Wright's Seafood House, overlooked the bay and allowed us looks at feeding Snowy Egret and Black Skimmers while we ourselves were feeding.

Sunday morning again found us at Pocomoke Swamp with an afternoon stop at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge where we located nesting Osprey and Bald Eagle. Brown-headed Nuthatch and Summer Tanager were highlights of Blackwater's woodlands.

An early supper at Annapolis had us back in Pennsylvania by early evening, tired, but elated at having seen and identified 163 different bird species.

### DOLLY SODS & CRANBERRY GLADES

On May 29th eleven adventurous Juniata Valley Auduboners headed out, through early morning rains, towards Wild and Wonderful West Virginia. As we left Pennsylvania the weather improved and we were treated to the beauty and rugged features of our neighbor to the southwest. The deep river valleys, sculpted sandstone ridges, and high altitude "balds" amazed us all.

At Cranberry Glades we were met by a U.S. Forest representative, who took us on a guided tour of the park. On a boardwalk trail, through the "glades" we found many examples of high altitude plants and other vegetation. Marsh Marigolds were in full bloom and the road to the park was lined with Wild Columbine, Phlox, and Purple Trillium. The newly leafing trees were filled with the song and color of migrating warblers and other songbirds.

Dolly Sods, in northern West Virginia, reminded us of the Adirondacks, in upstate New York, in that most of the native trees were stunted and wind-shaped spruce. As the cloud topped mountains cleared we were all treated to beautiful vistas.

Arriving home Sunday evening, after a filling meal in Bedford, conversations centered around how wild and beautiful this area was conjecture on how it would look in full bloom in late June or early July. Maybe next year we will find out!!!

## CANOE CREEK UPDATE Terry Wentz

**BATMAN** -- Seems like this old cartoon character is gaining renewed popularity. Anyone visiting local department stores will notice BATMAN caps, T-shirts, etc. Also, soon to be released is a new BATMAN Movies. BATS have been popular at Canoe Creek before this renewed interest in Batman. This revival can provide an attention getter to educate the public about beneficial bats. Environmental Education programs this summer will accent the positive and a room in the Visitor Center is going to be devoted to the endangered Indiana Bat. The park was designated as a natural hibernaculum for bats at a recent Park Superintendent Workshop by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

**TENTH ANNIVERSARY** -- Saturday, June 10th, is set for the 10-Year Anniversary of Canoe Creek State Park. A day filled with activities is being planned for this special occasion. Included in the celebration will be: 11:00 A.M. - Recognition of PCC projects by dignitaries

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. - Cabin #2 Open House  
1:00 P.M.- 5:00 P.M. - Environmental Awareness Activities with walks, talks,  
and displays by various conservation agencies.

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES** -- Weekly - Wednesday thru Sunday -- Environmental Education activities with evening programs each Sunday.

JUNE 4th -- Pan Fish Derby sponsored by Trout Unlimited and Blair Bassmasters.

JUNE 10th and 11th -- Free Fishing. No PA Fish Commission license required these 2 days.

AUGUST 26th -- Triathlon sponsored by Hollidaysburg YMCA.

AUGUST 27th -- Harvest Hoedown with square dancing and more.

All events will be announced by local news media.

**BIRDERS DELIGHT** -- Several unusual species of birds have been observed this Spring by fellow Audubon birders. This list includes Caspian Terns, Black Terns, a Least Bittern, Orchard Orioles and a Bald Eagle. Local ospreys have been observed carrying sticks which may be an indication of nesting instincts. Members meeting during the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania weekend April 21 to 23 counted 67 species of birds in the park.

ENJOY CANOE CREEK'S new dimension this summer with the Visitor Center opening July 1st, and Modern Cabins now available for rental.

### **BIRD-A-THON**

Dave Kyler

Preliminary reports indicate that our initial attempt to conduct a BIRD-A-THON to raise funds for our local chapter and our regional office has been successful. Several counties, served by the Juniata Valley chapter, have sent in field reports and the results look encouraging. A full and complete report will be issued soon. Mr. Geoff Brugler, of Appalachian Outdoors in State College, will award a \$20 gift certificate to the leading Birdathoner. Many thanks to those who participated in this year's initial event and to those who sponsored them. After getting our "feet wet" this year we are looking toward a bigger and better event next year.

### **COMMITTEE OPENINGS**

Wilson Kreitz

As it occurs every year at this time there are several committees that need restaffing . This year we have 4 such committees:

1. Budget Committee - This committee usually has only one summer meeting to estimate our income and expenditures for the next year. Committee chairpersons are reminded to submit their estimates of what they will need.

2. Nominations Committee - Since all the officer's terms end next April, we need a slate of officers in time for February, 1990 meeting. This must occur in order to elect them in March with installation at the April meeting.

3. Programs Committee - Even though Dave Tyler (as Vice-president) chairs the committee, he will need all the input he can get on possible programs. Please remember to return the surveys that Dave circulated at the Banquet meeting.

4. Conservation Committee - This year, in addition to committee members, we are also in need of a chairperson. This is one of our most important (and required) committees. As well as responding to environmental issues, this is the group responsible for the selection of our Conservation Award. Please consider joining this committee and consider being the chairperson.

### **MISCELLANY**

**Recycle Those Magazines:** The Adult Day Activities Center in Altoona can use wildlife, nature and general magazines for arts and crafts and other activities. Please bring magazines to the May meeting.

**DROP:** Included with this issue is a pamphlet from DROP (Don't Ruin Our Park) concerning the environmental consequences of the National Guard Helicopter facility planned for Mid State Airport near Black Moshannon State Park.

**Audubon Council of PA Card Donation:** Have you mailed your Cards Donation to ACP? All monies will be used to help ACP become more effective at the state level.

EDITOR'S NOTE

There will be a summer issue. Please submit items before Monday, July 10 to Jim Winsor: 10 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 (949-5180).

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