

THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

Summer 1989



SUMMER ISSUE: This summer issue is a first attempt to keep members abreast of Audubon events during the "off season." We hope that this contact will help keep JVAS on everyone's minds during this quiet time of the year and will give members a better chance to communicate -- preparing for the busy autumn ahead.

20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Wilson Kreitz

September 29, 1969: Does this date mean anything to those of you reading this article?

I must confess that as President it didn't mean anything to me at first. Then I was informed by one of our charter members that this was the date that the National Audubon Society granted a charter to the Juniata Valley Audubon Society.

What this all means folks, is that we're **20 YEARS OLD** this year and I think this should be a special year. I will be taking suggestions on things to do in this anniversary year. It could be historical articles for the Gnatcatcher, special speakers, etc.

If anyone has a list of the charter members I would like to have a copy for the chapters records. There may have been one at one time but over 20 years I fear our records are not in good shape.

CANOE CREEK JUNIOR NATURALIST DAY CAMP

July 26-July 27-July 28

Graduation: Sunday, July 30, 2 PM at the Beach Area

What do catching crayfish, looking at butterflies and creating cattails have in common? All these things will be done in the Canoe Creek Junior Naturalist Day Camp this July 26-28 at Canoe Creek State Park! From 9 AM until 12:30 PM games, crafts, activities and hikes will be scheduled to guide you along a path of discovery and fun. Marshes, streams, forests and fields will be investigated thoroughly in search of the fascinating residents that live there. The day camp is free but we can only take the first 20 children that apply so call Canoe Creek for information and sign up soon!

(An additional camp may be scheduled if response is overwhelming)

For ages: 8-14 years old

Materials Required: Two large (3 liter) CLEAR plastic soda container.

Schedule:

DAY 1	Theme: Basic Parts of Nature	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
DAY 2	Theme: Habitat Exploration	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
DAY 3	Theme: How Man Affects Earth	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
GRADUATION: Sunday, July 30; 2:00 PM; Beach/Patio Area		

Participants will be awarded certificates and patches plus will be able to keep all that they make. A Junior Naturalist form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian for each child.

Call or write: Canoe Creek State Park (814) 695-6807
RD #2 Box 560 7 days a week
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 8 AM - 4 PM

SIGHTINGS AT CAPE MAY

Reported by John Orr to Jim Winsor

John was in the Cape May area on June 7-8 and spent a lot of time at the freshwater marsh managed by the Nature Conservancy. This site is located about two miles south of Cape May along Sunset Boulevard, and is highly recommended to anyone interested in shore birds.

John sighted a number of accidentals, birds we normally would not expect to see in this area. The White Winged Black Tern and Little Gulls, both native to Eurasia, were sighted. The Tern has been seen in springtime New Jersey only three times before. Other unusual sightings included Wilson's Phalarope, a wading bird native to the Western U.S., and the Arctic Tern. John also saw some Seaside Sparrows. These are not particularly rare, but a related bird, the Dusky Sparrow, is thought to be extinct.

Anyone planning to visit the Cape May area may check with John for some valuable information about inexpensive (but acceptable) motels, other locations, etc.

PLANNING MEETING HELD

Jim Winsor

Dave Kyler led a highly productive planning meeting for upcoming JVAS programs and field trips at the home of Dan and Jean Sinal on July 5. The meeting followed a potluck dinner assembled by those attending.

Although it would be premature to announce speakers for the 1989-1990 year (as many of the dates are yet to be finalized), a full slate of programs was organized and will be sent with the September Gnatcatcher. Likewise, field trips were scheduled from September through spring.

Many thanks to all who attended and especially to Dave and the Sinals.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

The major International Issues Interest Group event for the summer was the banquet and planning meeting held at the home of Mike and Laura Jackson on July 1. The agenda included a summary report of II's activities of the year, planning for 1988-1989, reports from the Philippines initiative, discussion of the situation in Peru, plans for community outreach programs, and comments by Fran Spivy-Weber of National Audubon.

Good news came in the form of the announcement of two grants, one from the New-Land Foundation for \$2500, and one from Ecoaction (a Penn State student organization) for \$150. Laura Jackson's students recently raised additional money for the Philippines initiative by holding a car wash.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please submit items before Friday, September 8 (Note special early deadline) to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 (949-5180).

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