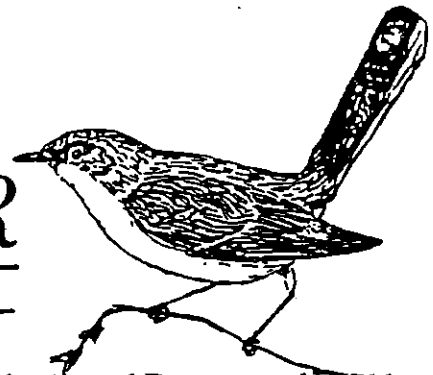


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

April 1990



**THE ANNUAL BANQUET:** April's meeting will take the form of the Annual Banquet, to be held at the Sheraton (Ramada) Inn on Plank Road in Altoona. We will have many visitors, including Antonio Brack and Cecilia Mendiola, noted conservationists from Peru, Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President Walt Pomeroy, Fran Spivy-Weber, National Audubon's Director for International Programs and members from our sister chapters.

The evening begins at 6:00 pm; dinner will be at 6:30. Tickets, which were to be purchased before April 15, are required.

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wilson Kreitz

### Cans for Congressmen

In the near future there will be mail campaign to let our Federally elected officials know that there is a need, as well as desire, for a national container recycling program.

This drive will be in the form of mailing cans to your senators and representatives. I will be receiving the mailing labels within the next 2 weeks and will bring them to the next meeting, for anyone who wants to "can" their representatives.

### Audubon on the Air

After the incident on old growth logging in the Pacific Northwest that caused Stroh's Brewery to withdraw their financial support from the Audubon Television Specials, a new sponsor was sought.

I am happy to announce that General Electric Company will become the exclusive underwriter for the series. GE is making a three-year grant to support the programs.

The next Audubon Special is on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and is titled "Arctic Refuge: A Vanishing Wilderness." It will premiere at 10 PM EST, on Sunday, May 27, 1990, on the Turner Broadcasting System. The show will be narrated by actress Meryl Streep.

### Audubon Magazine Mailers

For those that have expressed concern about the plastic mailers the "Audubon" magazine has been mailed in, the good news is that with the September issue the plastic will be gone. It will be mailed without any covering material and the bird poster will be stapled to the inside.

## MAINE FIELD TRIP 16, 17, 18, & 19 JUNE 1990

Dave Kyler

Juniata Valley Audubon, for the last field trip for the year 1989-1990, will sponsor a four day field trip to the state of Maine.

Highlights of the trip will be a visit to one of our most beautiful National Parks, Acadia, and all of the wonders it has to offer. Hopefully we will be able to watch the sunset from the highest mountain along the entire Atlantic coast, Cadillac Mountain, on Mt. Desert Island.

On Monday, the 18th, we will leave early and head north to the small fishing village of Jonesport, there we will meet Captain Barna Norton, and begin a two hour boat ride into the Bay of Fundy to visit and land on Machias Seal Island. During our half hour stay we will see many nesting Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Murres and Arctic Terns. The remainder of the day will be spent traveling to our nights accommodations in Freeport, home of L.L. Bean, a 24 hour sporting/outdoors shopping wonder.

Saturday the 16th and Tuesday the 19th will be travel days, to and from Maine. Accommodations will be at motels (double occupancy). The cost for the trip will be \$250.00/person which includes all transportation, three days motel lodging and the morning boat ride to and from Machias Seal Island. Please make reservations soon as a limited number of spaces are still available. Reservation deadline

will be 27 April 1990. Payment in full is needed by 15 May 1990. Refunds are possible only if sea can be filled from a standby list. For additional information call Dave Kyler at (814) 643-6030. (after 2 April)

## PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

I am now the Blair County compiler for Pennsylvania Birds. Every three months a report of bird species seen in the county by faithful listers, common as well as uncommon, is sent in to be published by the magazine. Reports from January through March are due to me by the first week in April, April through June by the first week in July, July through September by the first week in October and October through December by the first week in January. The more reports we get, the better our knowledge of the bird life of our county will be. For anyone interested in Pennsylvania birds, this nonprofit publication is invaluable and fun reading besides. Reports, places to bird, scientific studies, species accounts, as well as Brush Mountain Notebook, appear in every issue. For \$15.00 a year, it's a bargain. Send your subscription to Pennsylvania Birds, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726.

## FAREWELL

This will be my last set of articles in the Gnatcatcher as President of JVAS and I want to thank all those individuals who have made the last two years a pleasant experience. My able Vice-President, Dave Kyler, Chapter Secretary, Jana Atwell and our fantastic Treasurer, Janet Neely.

I don't want to neglect the many committee chairpersons who are as an important part of our chapter as our officers. Membership committee, Fran Burgoon, Conservation & Newsletter editor, Jim Winsor, Field Trips, Bob Keppler, International Issues, Bruce Bonta, Anne Borland for arranging our after meeting snacks through the Hospitality committee, the Sinals, Jean & Dan for their work in the Education committee, Truth Close, our Historian (Please send her photos & articles of chapter activities), the Weights, Dick & Nona for managing our sales of environmental merchandise, Melvin Lane & his crew that help keep Tytoona Cave reasonably clean, to Angeline Stout for her continuing coordination of our Christmas Bird Count, and our Directors, Colette Heller & Marcia Bonta.

Lastly I'd like to thank the life blood of all Audubon chapter's the members that make Audubon one of the most influential "grass roots" environmental organizations in existence.

**THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!!**

## CANOE CREEK STATE PARK PICNIC

Everyone is invited to attend a farewell, covered dish picnic for our Peruvian visitor, Cecelia Mendiola, at Canoes Creek State Park on May 5 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Roy Boyle, JVAS active member and Park Naturalist, will lead an evening walk after supper. Amy King is coordinating the picnic so please contact her at the banquet or call her at 942-7673 and let her know what you will be bringing.

## KID'S NATURE PAGE

Roy Boyle

With the warming of spring, one of the creatures that has spent its winter deep in hibernation will be emerging to resume its struggle of survival once again. Unfortunately, this particular mammal has a bad reputation that it really doesn't deserve. The bat, the spooky, black, flying horror of the night is really a victim of people passing on information that is not true. With over 100 Count Dracula movies and the holiday of Halloween, the bat has become a blood-sucking, hair-nesting, rabies-carrying killer. Actually, bats are a beneficial part of the natural world. Take the following true/false quiz to test your knowledge of the world's only flying mammal, the bat.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Vampire bats are common throughout the world.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Bats have many babies a year.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Bats are blind.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Pennsylvania bats eat only insects.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Bats nest in people's hair.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Bats are notorious carriers of rabies.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Bats that fly into your house are probably sick.

- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Bat wings are really modified hands with leathery skin between the fingers.  
 9 \_\_\_\_\_ We have only two species of bats in Pennsylvania.  
 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Bats are extremely plentiful.

### BATMATHMATICS

- A One little brown bat eats 4,000 milligrams of food a night. About 20% of the food eaten is mosquitoes (800 milligrams). One mosquito weighs approximately 2.2 milligrams. How many mosquitoes are eaten by one bat a night? In one summer? (use 90 days for a summer)
- B Canoe Creek State Park has a bat colony nearby with around 8,000 bats in it. How many mosquitoes will these consume a night? A summer?

Note: one gram is about one paper clip in weight.

### ARBOR DAY PLANTING

Jim Winsor

Please join us for the Arbor Day Planting along Altoona's 17th Street on Saturday, April 28. Seventy trees have been donated. We will begin planting at 8:00 am, breaking at 11:00 for the Arbor Day Proclamation, to be delivered by Mayor Milliron, and speeches by Senator Jubelirer, Councilman Mikula and representatives of the project sponsors. Everyone is invited to bring a rake and a shovel and join in the fun.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Marcia Bonta

"Extinction has become a part of the meaning of our lives...You're a witness to death on a scale unknown before in history and prehistory...We live in a new age: the age of mass extinction...in one bad period of the Pleistocene (considered the age of mass extinctions) over a 300-year stretch, North America lost about 50 species of mammals and 40 species of birds--about three species per 100 years. Since the Puritans landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620...over 500 species and subspecies of native animals and plants have passed into extinction...If the mass extinctions culminate as projected, human population will crash too. We are a species endangering its own collapse." This information (excluding the parenthetical phrase and underlining comes from an excellent book called Wild Echoes, Encounters With the Most Endangered Animals in North America, by Charles Bergman (McGraw-Hill, 1990). After reading that book, I've been writing more protest letters than ever.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Please submit items for the May issue before Friday, May 18 to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Ivyside Park, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 (949-5180).

### KIDS NATURE PAGE ANSWER KEY

#### TRUE FALSE

- 1 False. Only 3 of over 1,000 species of bats worldwide are "vampires". 2 False. Most bats have only 1 or 2 young a year.  
 3 False. Bats can see. Echolocation helps them hunt and maneuver in the dark. 4 True. Bats worldwide also eat fish and fruit, pollinate flowers, and a very few lap blood from open wounds. 5 False. 6 False. They are no more a carrier than cats and dogs.  
 7 False. Bats that fly into your house are probably exploring places to hibernate or are just confused. 8 True. Our group of bats in Pennsylvania belong to a group called Chiroptera, which means "hand wing". 9 False. We have had eleven species recorded in the state with 6 that hibernate here. 10 False. Bats are declining possibly due to pesticides, lack of habitat and people killing them. 60 BATTY FOR BATS!

BATMATHMATICS A 364 mosquitos a night. B 2,912,000 mosquitos a night.  
 32,760 mosquitos a summer. 23,296,000,000 mosquitos a summer!

A VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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