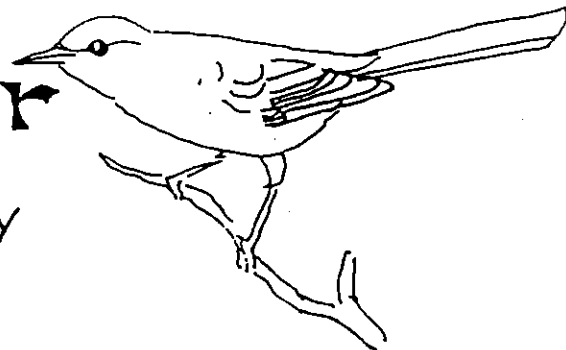


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1992

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: PROBLEMS FACING PENNSYLVANIA'S SONGBIRDS

Margaret Brittingham, a wildlife professor at Penn State, will present a program about difficulties faced by songbirds in the Keystone State.

TIME: 24 November 1992 (Tuesday) at 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: 5th Avenue United Methodist Church
5th Avenue and 4th Street
Altoona, PA

CANOE CREEK STATE PARK SPECIAL AREAS PROJECT

Juniata Valley Audubon Society vice-president Bill King is coordinating the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Special Areas Project at Canoe Creek State Park. This is one of 40 Special Areas Projects taking place in Pennsylvania this year. These are bird censuses of particular public lands which take place several times a year. Their goal is to gather data regarding avian populations during different seasons, thus contributing to the body of knowledge regarding biodiversity in the Commonwealth. At Canoe Creek each participant counts numbers of species and individuals during a four to five hour period in a given area of the park on a preassigned day. The next census will take place on Sunday, 22 November 1992. If you are interested in participating, please call Bill King at 942-7673.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS by Paula Ford

JVAS's Conservation Committee met recently to set goals for the year. The committee has decided to investigate the impact of nonpoint source pollution in small watersheds in our area and to investigate the status of several wetland areas, especially those adjacent to industrial sites.

Committee chair, Paula Ford, will continue to work on national issues including oil and gas production wastes. She currently serves on the steering committee of the National Citizens' Network on Oil and Gas Hazardous Wastes. The Network is a coalition of more than 130 national, state, local, and tribal organizations. When the new Congress convenes in January, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is due to be reauthorized, and there will be an opportunity for improving the way oilfield wastes are handled.

Paula also attended an Environmental Forum sponsored by DER's Southcentral Regional Office in Altoona on 27 October. The Forum was attended by representatives of several environmental organizations, homebuilders, businesses, and DER staff. Dr. Hugh Archer, the DER regional director for our Southcentral Region (Blair, Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Cumberland, Franklin, Adams, York, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Berks Counties) welcomed the group and introduced each of the staff members who gave a presentation. He also addressed some of the concerns that we raised. Gregg Robertson, Deputy Secretary for Field Operations, gave an overview of DER activities. Leif Ericson, Air Quality Manager, spoke about the Clean Air Act Amendments. Jim Kopenhaver, Radiation Protection Manager, spoke about mammography regulations. Leon Oberdick, Water Quality Manager, spoke about unplanned subdivisions and overloaded sewage treatment plants. (This problem is especially relevant in Blair County.) Elmer Knaub, Water Supply Manager,

spoke about the filter rule for municipal water supplies. Francis Fair, Waste Management Manager, spoke about residual waste regulations and the state's clean-up program. A blizzard of interesting handouts was available for those who have room in their filing cabinets, which Paula does not, so she took only the dozen or so most fascinating or interesting.

AUDUBON FALL WEEKEND by Stan Kotala

Audubon members from across the Commonwealth attended the Audubon Fall Weekend on October 16, 17, and 18 at Black Moshannon State Park in Centre County. On Friday, October 16, Frank Felbaum, director of Pennsylvania's non-game wildlife programs, discussed the past success stories, present programs, and future projects which have been helped by the Keystone State's Wild Resource Conservation Fund. An outstanding slide show was presented and attendees received a beautiful full-color neotropical migrants poster. We also were introduced to Marci Mowery, the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania's new executive director and regional wetlands coordinator.

Roger Fickes, the new director of the Pennsylvania state park system, joined us on Saturday, October 17, to discuss the initiatives set forth in State Parks 2000, the recently completed study regarding the future role of state parks in the Commonwealth. This report was the result of several years of meetings and surveys between the Department of Environmental Resources and the public through which Pennsylvanians overwhelmingly voted to retain the rustic character of our state parks. State parks officials will meet with local community leaders to find ways to protect parks from unsuitable patterns of development in their proximity as well as to create greenways between major population centers and their local state parks.

A new source of funding for environmental groups in the Commonwealth was introduced by Ann Dooley and Chris DeCristafaro. The Environmental Fund for Pennsylvania is a state-wide non-profit tax-exempt organization which enables environmental groups to raise funds from individuals where they work and to educate Pennsylvanians about environmental issues affecting them.

In the afternoon on Saturday we met Michael Robbins, the editor of Audubon, who discussed the direction that the magazine is taking. Audubon is committed to presenting well-researched articles which will allow the magazine to maintain a very high level of journalistic integrity.

Towards dusk Audubon members explored the Black Moshannon Bog Natural Area. A new boardwalk was built recently through portions of the park's wetlands, allowing visitors to explore the moister areas of the bog without getting their feet wet. Everyone enjoyed the fall foliage but the gathering darkness and chill drove us back to the cabins for a great spaghetti dinner and social followed by a pot-luck nature slide show.

Walt Pomeroy, National Audubon Society regional vice-president, informed us regarding Audubon's Wetlands Campaign in the mid-Atlantic region on Sunday and thereafter the meeting adjourned. A great time was had by all!

WILD RESOURCE CONSERVATION LICENSE PLATE by Stan Kotala

Frank Felbaum, executive director of the Wild Resource Conservation Fund, has announced the possibility of a Wild Resource Conservation License Plate being made available to the public. This plate would cost \$35 in addition to the annual registration fee. The Wild Resource Conservation Fund would receive \$15 of this fee. This would be a great way for Audubon members to support the WRCF as well as keeping the WRCF in the public eye through a beautiful license plate.

The legislation to make this possible is contained in Pennsylvania House Bill 355, sponsored by Representative George C. Hasay. Please write to Representative Hasay and inform him of your support of this bill. His address is

Representative George C. Hasay
369 South Mountain Boulevard
Grouse Hill Center
Mountaintop, PA 18707

(717) 474-2276

1992/1993 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT by Angeline Stout

The 93rd annual Christmas Bird Count will take place this holiday season. Approximately 45,000 people will participate, counting birds within designated 15 mile circles from Alaska to Peru. The Juniata Valley Audubon Society will hold its CBC on Saturday, January 2nd, 1993. Our count circle centers on Culp in Sinking Valley. Last year we saw 48 species. Our record of 66 species, set in 1985, was not threatened.

We will meet at the White Oak Hall at Fort Roberdeau at dusk (6:00 P.M.) for dinner. Bring a covered dish of your choice and your own place setting. We'll do a rough tabulation of the day and swap "the bird that got away" stories.

See Angeline Stout before the November meeting for more information, a check-off list and a map. If you can't make the meeting, call Angeline at 946-1783.

ACP MEETING HELD by Paula Ford

On October 16-18, the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania met at Black Moshannon State Park. The JVAS members who attended were Marcia Bonta, Stan, Alice, and Helena Kotala, Jack and Carol Cupper, Charlie Miller, and Paula Ford. The highlights of the meeting were a talk by Audubon's new editor, Michael Robbins, a beautiful slide show and talk by Frank Felbaum of Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Fund, updates from regional vice-president Walt Pomeroy, and the introduction of ACP's new executive director, Marci Mowery.

ACP's selection committee (Leigh Altadonna, Mary Herrold, and Walt Pomeroy) is to be congratulated for a job well done. Marci, the new executive director/regional wetlands coordinator, is an enthusiastic and capable person. She is a former high school home economics teacher who so enjoyed teaching a unit about the environment that she went to graduate school for a master's degree in geoenvironmental studies.

For those of you who loved the notecards that ACP distributed as part of its annual fundraising appeal, the bad news is that the project was not as successful as the card company's projections showed it would be. ACP's next fundraiser will be an appeal early in 1993. There will be no gimmicks to get you to donate, but please be as generous as you can be. Now that we have an employee, we have the opportunity to make a real difference in Harrisburg!

The good news for notecard lovers is that ACP still has several boxes of notecards left from the past appeals. See Paula Ford at the next meeting if you would like to buy a box or two (\$4.00/box). Paula also has a very few of the Pennsylvania Audubon pins for sale (\$3.00 each). Christmas is coming! If you can't make it to the next meeting but would like to buy these items, call Paula at 695-4799. She will deliver items in the Hollidaysburg/Altoona area. In other areas, there will be a small charge for postage. Hurry! They are going fast. Operators are waiting to take your order!

JVAS RECEIVES DONATION by Stan Kotala

The Penn-Cambria School District awarded Juniata Valley Audubon Society member Melvin Lane \$100 in recognition of his work in bringing his "traveling bird show" to Cambria County schools. Melvin graciously presented the award to JVAS as a donation. We express our deepest gratitude to Melvin for all of the contributions he has made to environmental education in our area.

JVAS BOARD MEETING

The next JVAS board meeting will be at the Altoona Public Library on Thursday, 7 January 1993 at 7:00 P.M..

THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY GNATCATCHER IS JANUARY 9th. Please submit articles to the editor, Stan Kotala, R.D. 3, Box 866, Altoona, PA 16601.



Loggerhead Shrike

by Stan Kotala

Juniata Valley Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2378
Altoona, PA 16603

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