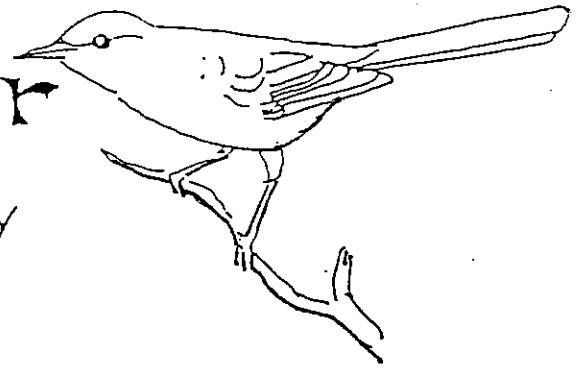


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY 1992

JANUARY PROGRAM: MEMBERS' NIGHT

All members are welcome to bring their slides, prints, field observations, or collections for display. Start gathering materials up early so that you won't forget anything at the last minute! There will be piles of popcorn and lots of fun for all.

TIME: 28 January 1992 (Tuesday) at 7:30 PM

PLACE: 5th Avenue United Methodist Church
5th Avenue and 4th Street
Altoona (NOTE NEW LOCATION!)

ARCTIC VICTORY FOR AUDUBON by Lynne Mitchell (condensed from "Audubon Activist")

Bolstered by an outpouring of grassroots support, a bipartisan group of senators has turned back S. 1220, a bill that would have allowed oil drilling on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. "This is a tremendous victory for our activists," said a jubilant Connie Mahan, Audubon's grassroots coordinator, shortly after the vote. "We couldn't have done it without them."

The triumph culminated a long and intense campaign by Audubon volunteers and other activists to expose the folly of S.1220. "Our activists have shown incredible strength and perseverance," says Brian Vincent, who helped coordinate Audubon's grassroots campaign. "Even Johnston (one of the pro-drilling bill's sponsors) was impressed with the organization and effort shown by environmentalists," Vincent says. Many thanks to all Juniata Valley Audubon Society members who wrote letters opposing S. 1220 to their senators!

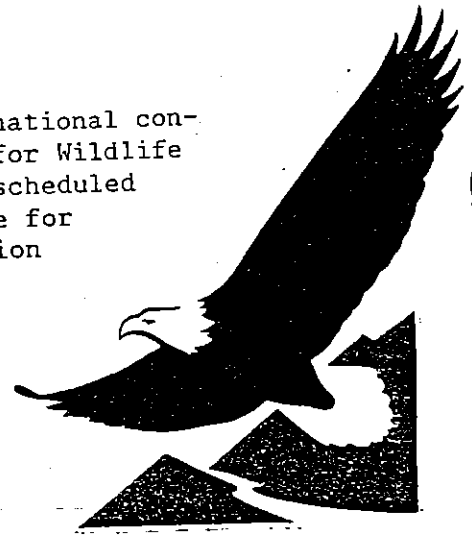


CANOE CREEK STATE PARK WINTER BIRD CENSUS

JVAS member Bill King will be coordinating a winter bird census of Canoe Creek State Park this month. Its purpose is to determine the number of species and individuals found in the park during one day in mid-winter. This will be similar to the Christmas Bird Count but on a much smaller scale. Volunteer birders are needed who will help Bill survey the park on one mutually agreed upon day. All those interested should call Bill King at 942-7673.

AUDUBON NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Audubon Society is planning its first ever national convention in Washington, D.C., in June 1992. Entitled "Act for Wildlife in '92: Endangered Species Need You!", this convention is scheduled to enable Audubon members to join forces at a critical time for wildlife in the nation's capital. Not only is it an election year, but 1992 also will be one of the biggest ever for environmental legislation affecting wildlife and wildlife habitat. The Endangered Species Act is up for reauthorization in 1992, and next June will be a critical time for decision making on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge legislation, Clean Water Act, and the Ancient Forest bill.



At least one thousand Auduboners are expected to come to Washington, D.C. next June to learn about the threats to wildlife and the Endangered Species Act and to make their views known on this and other environmental bills before Congress. "Act for Wildlife in '92" will open Saturday, June 13 at American University. It will include three days of workshops on issues, lobbying and organizing skills, a day on Capitol Hill topped off with a Congressional reception, both day-long and multi-day field trips to outstanding natural areas in the Mid-Atlantic region including the Chesapeake Bay, Canaan Valley (a unique subalpine ecosystem tucked in the mountains of West Virginia), historic Harpers Ferry, the C&O canal, and birding in little-known, local wetland areas -- not to mention the many museums, cultural and historic sites of Washington, D.C.. Look for more details regarding Juniata Valley Audubon Society participation in this national event in upcoming issues of "The Gnatcatcher."

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES by Marcia Bonta

We would like to thank the five JVAS members who contributed tents to our Help a Honduran Outdoor Education Program. Contributors were Jesse Perry, Mabel Michaels, David Bonta, David Kyler and Janet Neely. In addition, Janet Neely also donated a backpack. All of the equipment was shipped to Peace Corps volunteer Mike Smith, then in Colorado for the Outward Bound wilderness program, at the beginning of December. He planned to return with the equipment to Honduras the second of January. According to a letter we received from him, our five tents were the only ones he had gotten so far. Other than our donations, he had received four more backpacks, water and fuel bottles, flashlights, five pairs of binoculars and three pack stoves. He was hoping to buy some sleeping bags from the manufacturer at below cost with the help of the Denver Rotary Club. "I wanted to thank you for your efforts...in soliciting donations," he concluded.

The International Issues Interest Group (IIIG) met on December 6 at the Altoona PSU campus with seven members present. Bruce Bonta reported that JVAS had received two new grants to help support our proposed Latin American Educators' Exchange--\$2000 from the Bay Foundation and \$2500 from the New Land Foundation. Members of the Bucks County Audubon Society are continuing to work for larger grants to help launch this effort.

Laura Jackson, chair of the Philippine subcommittee, reported that she had sent off the slide show she and Mike Jackson put together about JVAS to our Philippine friends at the Asian Wetlands bureau in Cebu. Copies, with an accompanying dialogue, were also purchased by Fran Spivy-Weber, Director of International Issues for National Audubon and Walt Pomeroy, Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President. In addition, a copy was made for use by members of our Speakers Bureau which the Jacksons previewed for us at the JVAS members' meeting in October.

The rest of the IIIG meeting centered on prospects for a two week ecological tour to Honduras next July or August. Bruce and I are definitely going, and Mark Bonta has

already planned an ambitious itinerary of national parks, botanical gardens and archeological sites with special help from other Peace Corps workers at the various sites who will strive to make this an educational experience. Other IIIG members, as well as internationally-minded Auduboners throughout Pennsylvania, have been offered the opportunity to accompany us.

Bruce and I also received a letter from our Peruvian friend, Cecilia Mendiola, who told us that she and Antonio will be moving to Quito, Ecuador in February for three years because Antonio will be working for the United Nations there. "Antonio is sad; he did not want to leave Peru. But in that position he can do much more for Peru than now." We continue to send donations to APECO in Peru. Most recently, those funds helped to publish an environmental education pamphlet they are distributing to schools and teachers. In exchange, they sent us a tape of environmental music which they made called: Cantemos a la Vida. If any Spanish teachers are interested, we would be glad to lend the tape to them for use in their classroom.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT by Angeline Stout

On Saturday, December 28th, 1991 the Juniata Valley Audubon Society conducted its 22nd Christmas Bird Count. Sixteen people counted in the field along with eleven at backyard feeders. 53 species were counted (seen or heard) on this day. That is five more than 1990's Christmas Bird Count. The JVAS record was set in 1985 when 66 species were counted.

Many thanks to all who counted birds or prepared food for the great post-count dinner. Special thanks to Peggy Goodman for opening the White Oak Hall at Fort Roberdeau for our meal and tabulation. Good food and good company were enjoyed as we compared counts and stories of the day. Below is a list of species seen.*

Great Blue Heron	American Crow
Tundra Swan	Black-capped Chickadee
Mallard	Tufted Titmouse
Cooper's Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch
Northern Goshawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Creeper
American Kestrel	Carolina Wren
Ring-necked Pheasant	Winter Wren
Ruffed Grouse	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Wild Turkey	Eastern Bluebird
Northern Bobwhite	American Robin
Killdeer	Northern Mockingbird
Common Snipe	Cedar Waxwing
Rock Dove	European Starling
Mourning Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eastern Screech Owl	Northern Cardinal
Great Horned Owl	American Tree Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	Field Sparrow
Red-headed woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Red-bellied woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Dark-eyed Junco
Downy Woodpecker	Purple Finch
Hairy Woodpecker	House Finch
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Pine Siskin
Pileated Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Horned Lark	House Sparrow
Blue Jay	

* Final count of numbers of individuals seen not available at time of publication.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK by Dave Kyler

Whether we care to admit it or not, we all have made some resolutions to improve ourselves in 1992. Taking off those extra holiday pounds and exercising more are lofty goals, but we also need to devote more time and effort to volunteer projects. With more "resolve" we can make a difference!

A special February "Chapter Direction Meeting" will be held in the ground floor conference room of the Altoona Public Library on February 6 (Thursday) at 7:00 PM to discuss where we are as an Audubon chapter and in which direction we would like to head. All present and past active members are encouraged to attend. Thanks!

"The days come and go, but they say nothing, and if we do not use the gifts they bring, they carry them as silently away."

R. W. Emerson

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

UNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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DATED MATERIAL

