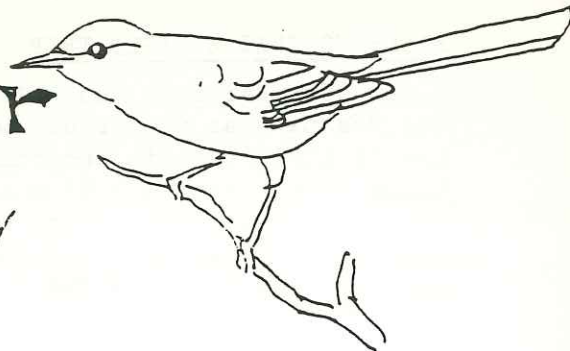


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

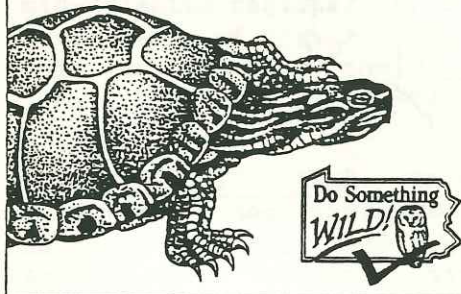
APRIL 1992

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Wild Resource Conservation Fund
P.O. Box 1467
Room 101, 3rd & Reily Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1467



APRIL PROGRAM: ENDANGERED TURTLES OF PENNSYLVANIA

The guest speaker at our annual banquet will be Clark Shiffer, Endangered Species Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. A very interesting slide show on the Keystone State's endangered turtles will be presented.

TIME: 28 April 1992 (Tuesday) at 7:30 P.M.

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

EPA SWAMPED WITH WETLANDS LETTERS

Over the past several months, Audubon members have been urged to comment on the Bush administration's proposed changes to the Wetlands Delineation Manual that would narrow the definition of wetlands and open millions of acres to development. The forces advocating increased destruction of wetlands had similar letter-writing campaigns. 75,000 letters have been

received by the EPA regarding this topic. 56 percent were opposed to any revision that would result in increased development of wetlands. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of detailed comments from wetlands managers, scientists, and other experts opposed the changes in the Wetlands Delineation Manual.

"This is the largest number of comments received on a regulatory matter related to the environment in recent memory, perhaps ever," said Clark Williams, wetlands specialist at Audubon. "Despite opposition by 'wise use' groups and others who oppose wetlands protection, the majority of comments appear to favor wetlands protection." Congratulations to all Juniata Valley Audubon Society members who wrote letters defending wetlands.

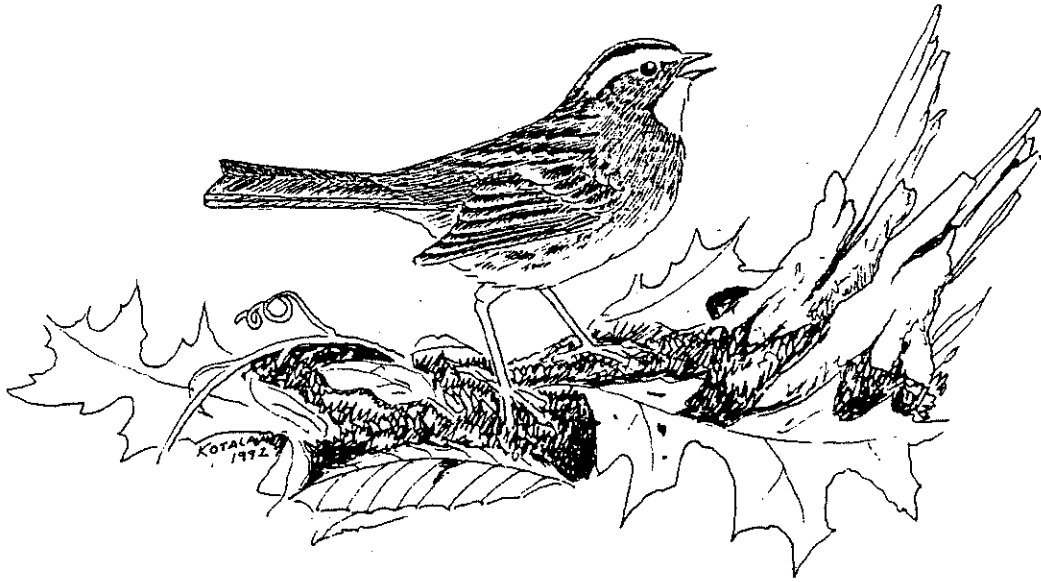
MIDDLE CREEK WMA FIELD TRIP

JVAS members and guests braved cold and blustery weather on March 14 to see a large variety of waterfowl at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area near Lancaster. Although total numbers of waterfowl were less than in previous years, the number of species seen was very good, including Tundra Swans, Snow Geese, Canada Geese, Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Mallards, Black Ducks, Pintails, Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, Lesser Scaup, and Ring-necked Ducks. An additional treat was observing a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks at close range and hearing their wild cries in a wooded wetland on WMA grounds.

While at Middle Creek, we were greeted with the good news that 110 acres of upland habitat with several springs that feed WMA ponds are to be added to this Pennsylvania Game Commission-owned preserve. The purchase will be funded by the PGC as well as the Wildlands Trust Fund of the Allentown-based Wildlands Conservancy.

RAILS TO TRAILS FIELD TRIP

Jennifer Barefoot led JVAS members on a walking tour of the Lower Trail on April 4. The weather was wonderful, with temperatures climbing into the fifties as hikers observed the trailside cliffs accentuated by the strong sunlight and shadow. Many species of birds were seen, including six pairs of Wood Ducks on the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River which parallels the trail for its entire length. Jennifer carefully pointed out the unique historical and natural features along the trail. Many thanks to Jennifer Barefoot and Palmer Brown for their hard work and commitment to our environment.



White-throated Sparrow by Stan Kotala

CANOE CREEK SPECIAL AREAS PROJECT

Juniata Valley Audubon Society members Melissa Focht, Janet Huber, Gary Koch, Terry Wentz, Bill King, Dave Kyler, Dan Sinal, and Stan Kotala participated in a census of birdlife at Canoe Creek State Park on March 29. These intrepid Auduboners were rewarded with the sight of two Bald Eagles and one Golden Eagle soaring over the park. Other raptors were well-represented also, including two Osprey, a Northern Harrier (female), four Sharp-shinned Hawks, a Red-shouldered Hawk, four Red-tailed Hawks, and four American Kestrels. The single most common species was the Ring-necked Duck, of which 155 were tallied. A total of 69 species of birds were seen. Many thanks to all who helped! The date of the next census will be announced in the May Gnatcatcher. Anyone interested in participating in the future should call Bill King at 942-7673.

NEW OFFICERS by Marcia Bonta

The Nomination Committee is pleased to announce the new officers of JVAS for the next two years. To our delight, all the incumbents agreed to run again and all ran unchallenged. First of all, our very able treasurer, Janet Neeley of Hollidaysburg, was acclaimed for her over nine years of work as treasurer, and we were happy, in fact relieved, that she will be continuing in this demanding job. Eugene Zielinski of State College will again serve as secretary. All of us who attend the board meetings appreciate his accurate, well-written accounts of our previous meeting. Vice president Bill King of Altoona has been a terrific help to our president, Dave Kyler. He and his wife

Amy often volunteer above and beyond the call of duty.

Finally, president Dave Kyler of Huntingdon has done an outstanding job in holding our diverse group together and furthering its mission. We are grateful that he will be serving a second term. In addition, Dave leads the field trips which have given many of our members wonderful memories as well as more to look forward to. Probably the most important legacy of Dave's first term has been the establishing of the bird-viewing window, feeding station, and appropriate plantings at the new Fort Roberdeau Nature Center in honor of deceased JVAS members Al Burd, Gene Root, Doris Thurheimer, and Wilson Kreitz. Dave, Bill King, and Eugene Zielinski, along with newsletter editor Stan Kotala and other interested members have worked hard to make the memorial a reality and we thank them.

At the last board meeting, the board also voted to fill the third directorship position. We elected long-time member Ann Borland. She has held a variety of positions in JVAS including secretary, and for nearly eight years she was our very able hospitality chairperson. She also has been an active member of the International Issues Interest Group. In addition, she is still collecting Bi-Lo tapes for us. Please continue to send your tapes to her at 138 A Larch Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. We thank her for her previous work and know she will continue her commitment to the Juniata Valley Audubon Society.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK by Dave Kyler

BIRDATHON: Come join and support us on our third annual chapter Birdathon on May 9, 1992. This inter-county competition will help raise much-needed funds for our mid-Atlantic regional office as well as for Pennsylvania Birds magazine. Last year seven teams of "crazies" spent the day a-counting for fun and profit. Let's make this year a success too!!

Call Bill King at 942-7673 or Dave Kyler at 643-6030 for further information or to help.

CAPE MAY FIELD TRIP: On May 15, 16, and 17 JVAS will be traveling to southern New Jersey to witness firsthand the spring shorebird migration. Leaving Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 4:00 P.M. on Friday, May 15 we will arrive at Cape May at 10 P.M.. Accomodations for Friday and Saturday night will be in West Cape May.

Saturday will be spent at the "meadows," Higbee Beach, and Reed's Beach. On Sunday we will visit Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge on the way home, arriving in Altoona by 10 P.M.. Space is available for twelve participants at \$125 per person. Make your reservations early! Call Dave Kyler at 643-6030 for further information.

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY BANQUET

The annual JVAS banquet will be held on April 28, 1992 (Tuesday) at the Fifth Avenue Methodist Church (where our regular meetings are now held). The meal will be a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The cost is \$8.50 per person. Please call Amy King at 942-7673 to make reservations.

Our guest speaker at the banquet will be Clark Shiffer, Endangered Species Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. The topic will be "Endangered Turtles of Pennsylvania." Copies of the new publication by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission on the Keystone State's reptiles and amphibians will be available at the banquet at \$10.00 each. Hope to see you there!

AUDUBON COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Audubon Council of Pennsylvania's long-held goal of establishing a Pennsylvania State Office will become a reality when it opens next month! A staff advocate will advance Audubon's position on environmental regulations before the agencies of the state government and environmental legislation before the General Assembly. Goals for the coming year include fighting for the protection of Pennsylvania's vanishing wet-

lands, strengthening environmental education through new state legislative initiatives and through changes in curriculum that will benefit every Pennsylvania student, expanding state conservation programs devoted to nongame wildlife, pursuing environmentally sound approaches to dealing with the management of solid wastes, hazardous wastes and toxics, and informing and coordinating the activities of the 26 Audubon chapters across the Commonwealth.

The ACP spring meeting will be on Saturday, April 25 at the Park Forest Elementary School in State College. Registration will begin at 9:00 A.M. with the formal program beginning at 10:00 A.M.. The program will conclude by mid-afternoon. Please call Paula Ford at 695-4799 for further information.

THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE MAY GNATCATCHER IS MAY 10th. PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR, Stan Kotala, R.D. 3 Box 866, Altoona, PA 16601.

UNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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