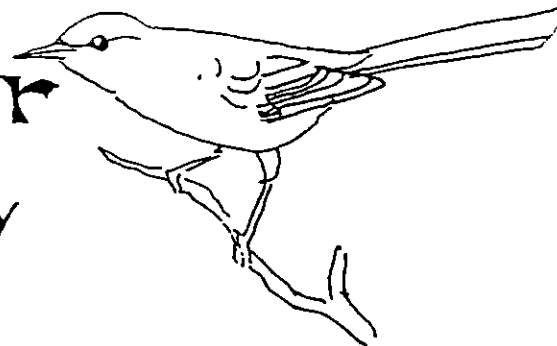


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

JUNE/JULY 1992

PLANNING PARTY by Marcia Bonta

The Juniata Valley Audubon Society is having a Planning Party and everyone is invited. The date is Sunday, July 12. The time is 1:30 PM. The place is the home of Bruce and Marcia Bonta. Drinks and snack food will be served. Those of you who wish to come early can walk the mile and a half up our hollow road through the cool greenery of what some visitors have described as our own rainforest. Others who need a ride must be at the base of the hollow by 1:30 PM where we will transport you up in the back of our pickup truck. Dress should be casual. On the other hand, we plan to adjourn to the Coach Lite Restaurant in Tyrone for dinner, but, if enough people sign on, we will have our own private room.

Please bring your ideas for next year's programs and field trips and be prepared to make budget decisions too. Suggestions for new approaches to the way our organization is run will be welcome also.

If you plan to attend, please call Colette Heller (742-7481) and let her know by July 1. That way we will know who to expect and how much food to have on hand. It is especially important to let us know if you plan to attend the dinner at the restaurant. If only a few people are interested, we will cancel our reservations for the special room and eat in the regular dining room. As an added incentive, the Coach Lite Restaurant is under new management and has a decor featuring the photographs of nature photographer Ansel Adams. Their prices are reasonable and their food good. Hope to see you on the twelfth!

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY / PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Pennsylvania Birds is now the official journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. This joint venture is expected to result in more members for the PSO, more subscribers for Pennsylvania Birds, and more and improved articles.

A discount is being offered to those wishing to subscribe to Pennsylvania Birds as well as join the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. By joining the PSO and subscribing to Pennsylvania Birds, you will receive the quarterly magazine as usual and intervening newsletters from the PSO to keep you up to date on organizational activities and late-breaking notices or stories that cannot wait for the next issue of Pennsylvania Birds. The combined one year subscription to Pennsylvania Birds and individual membership in the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology costs \$26.00. If you are interested, you may make your check payable to Pennsylvania Birds and send it to PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726.

AUDUBON ACTIVIST

Audubon Activist is a monthly newsletter published by the National Audubon Society which highlights the most current environmental news. Its goal is to promote responsible environmental decision-making by encouraging Audubon members to make their views known to lawmakers involved in these decisions. More than 100,000 Audubon members have joined the Audubon Activist network and are making a difference for wildlife, wetlands, forests, endangered species, and more. Audubon Activist is available for free to anyone pledging to write at least two letters and make at least two phone calls a year on behalf of environmental issues. If you are interested, write to AUDUBON ACTIVIST, Box AA, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE

The National Audubon Society, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the Wild Resources Conservation Fund have engaged in a cooperative effort over the past five years to offer Pennsylvanians a chance to share their knowledge and enthusiasm by participating in Volunteers for Wildlife Projects. Over one thousand citizens of the Commonwealth have responded to this call. In the past two years Juniata Valley Audubon Society members Stan and Alice Kotala have participated in the Summer Bat Trend Survey which was conducted at Fort Roberdeau County Park. Bill King, Mary Clark, and Fran Burgoon have monitored Bluebird boxes at Canoe Creek State Park as part of the Cavity Nesters Program. A Grassland Bird Survey in Sinking Valley was organized by Stan Kotala in 1991.

These multi-year inventory projects are a great help to the Pennsylvania Game Commission according to Jerry Hassinger, supervisor of PGC's Endangered and Protected Wildlife Unit. Support for comprehensive wildlife programs can be increased if opportunities are provided for personal involvement by volunteer citizens. "For new wildlife initiatives, or restoration of an endangered or uncommon species, new funding is not readily available. As a result, many states have gone to a tax check-off to help fund their programs. But even contributing your tax overpayment is nothing more than volunteered money. And it's never been a sufficient amount in any state to do an adequate job. To fill in that gap, we have come to rely heavily on volunteers," says Hassinger.

Additional Juniata Valley Audubon Society members are needed to participate in any of the following Volunteers for Wildlife projects:

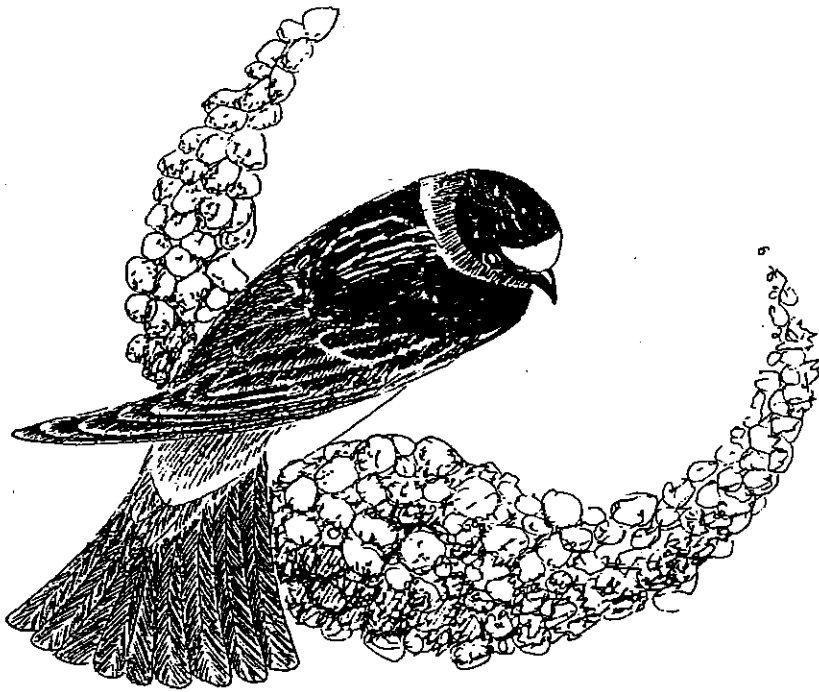
1. BARN OWL NEST TRAIL: Build five barn owl nest boxes and monitor them.
2. BREEDING BIRD TREND SURVEY: Conduct bird censuses in a particular area.
3. PURPLE MARTIN TRAIL: Keep track of Martin house use.
4. GRASSLAND BIRD INDEX: Select a grassland area and monitor the occurrence of certain species of birds.
5. SUMMER BAT CONCENTRATION SURVEY: Count all bats exiting a specific site on evenings in the summer.

Information and data collection packets regarding each of these projects are available from any of the following sources:

1. PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
2. NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1104 Fernwood Avenue, #300, Camp Hill, PA 17011
3. WILD RESOURCES CONSERVATION FUND, P.O. Box 1467, Room 101, 3rd and Reily Sts., Harrisburg, PA 17120.



Whip-poor-will by Stan Kotala



Cliff Swallow

by Stan Kotala

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

The Juniata Valley Audubon Society welcomes the new members who have enrolled in the first half of 1992:

Diana Lynn Arend
 Ramona Baker
 George Bonsell, Sr.
 Donna Burchalewski
 Bryan Burtnett
 Douglas Duncan
 Pearls Framin
 W. P. Galbe
 Dora Ingram
 Leslie Keeler
 Jerry L. Mathis, M.D.
 Merry Metz
 Tom Pascocello
 L. L. Perks
 P. Piper
 Victoria Robinson
 W. Rollason
 Darcy Salathe
 Vickie Seymour
 V. Shope
 Glenn Joanne Shore
 Mary Slippey
 Autumn Smith
 Jill Stonebraker
 Glenda Jo Truax
 Joyce White
 Vicky Williams
 Lila Winder
 James Wingate
 John Winiarski

Altoona
 Altoona
 Tyrone
 Altoona
 Everett
 Altoona
 Everett
 Bedford
 Huntingdon
 Everett
 Hollidaysburg
 Alexandria
 Huntingdon
 Tyrone
 Altoona
 Altoona
 Tyrone
 Bedford
 New Paris
 Juniata
 Glasgow
 Duncansville
 Altoona
 Altoona
 Everett
 Tyrone
 Bedford
 Juniata
 Altoona
 Hollidaysburg

CANOE CREEK SPECIAL AREAS PROJECT

The next Canoe Creek State Park summer bird census will take place on Sunday, July 19. Anyone interested in participating should call Bill King at 942-7673.

THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER GNATCATCHER IS SEPTEMBER 10. Please submit articles to the editor, Stan Kotala, R.D. 3, Box 866, Altoona, PA 16601.

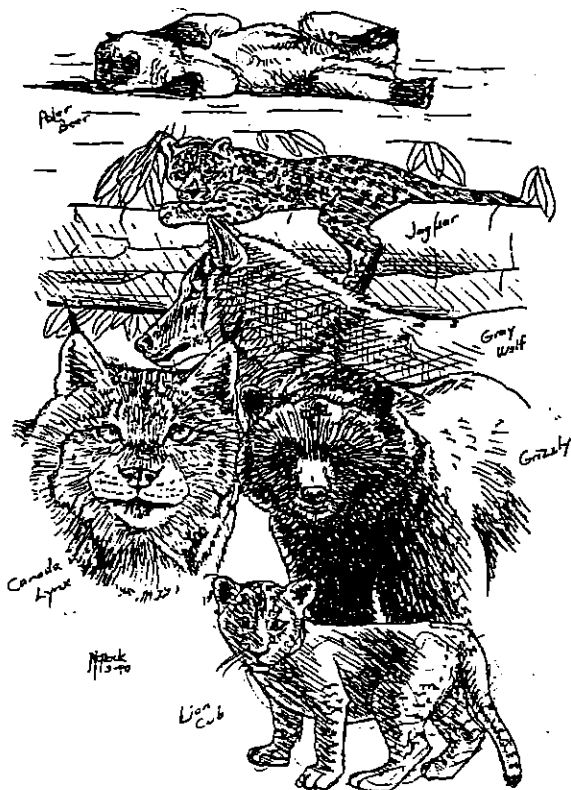


Illustration by Richard Mock

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

DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Altoona, Pa.
Permit No. 238