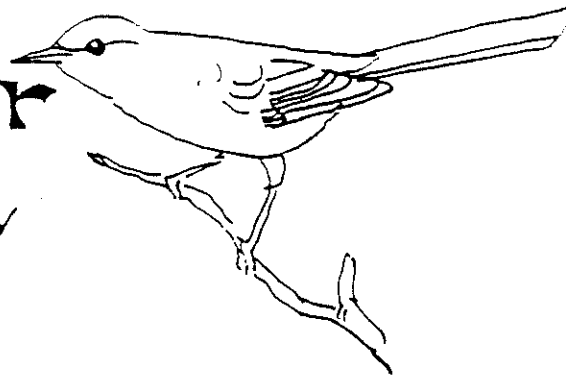
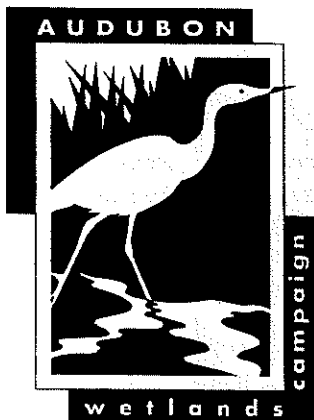


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1993



NOVEMBER PROGRAM:

SAVING THE GREAT BLUE HERON

Bob Ross, an ecologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will present a magnificent slide show about his work with the great blue heron.

TIME: November 30, 1993 (Tuesday) at 7:30 PM

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

JVAS BOARD MEETING

The next JVAS board meeting will take place on Thursday, January 6 at 7:00 PM at the Altoona Public Library. All members are welcome.

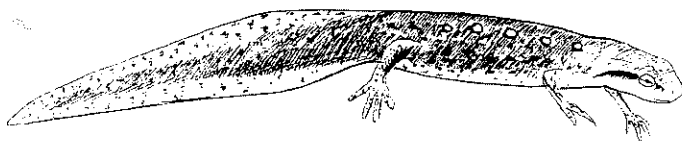
BI-LO / RIVERSIDE RECEIPTS

Bi-Lo and Riverside receipts are being collected by Anne Borland, 138a Larch St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Our chapter obtains significant funds from the receipts that you send to Anne. Let's all save those receipts and send them in!!

NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SURVEY by Stan Kotala

An ambitious new approach to environmental science was launched last month when Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt charged the National Biological Survey with cataloging and mapping every plant and animal species in the United States. This will provide a detailed picture of the nation's ecological composition with periodic updates in order that serious environmental problems can be detected early on. Babbitt believes that the National Biological Survey will provide a map to help us avoid conflicts between environmental and economic concerns. Dr. Eugene Hester, deputy director of the Survey stated that "there is a tremendous amount of data, but the challenge is to integrate it all so people can see the bigger picture."

The National Biological Survey will pull together research being done by the Department of the Interior, state agencies, private institutions, universities, and industry. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and other Interior Department bureaus will provide the scientific staff needed to make the survey a success.



IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our long-time treasurer, Janet Neely. Janet's dedication and determination will be greatly missed by all of us. In her memory, a serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) will be planted in the bird feeding area constructed by the Juniata Valley Audubon Society at Fort Roberdeau County Park in Sinking Valley. Her tree will join the trees and shrubs planted in memory of departed Audubon members Al Burd, Wilson Kreitz, Gene Root, and Doris Thurheimer. Anyone wishing to make a donation to help us in maintaining the bird observation and feeding area may call Amy King (interim treasurer) at 942-7673.

AUDUBON FALL WEEKEND by Paula Ford

The Audubon Council of Pennsylvania met at Black Moshannon State Park on October 22-24. The meeting focused on "Birds in the Balance," Audubon's bird monitoring initiative, and "Partners in Flight," Audubon's international ornithological outreach program. Fran Williams, the chair of the ACP Birds in the Balance Committee, moderated a discussion of the Council's activities. Dan Brauning, Pennsylvania's state ornithologist employed by the Game Commission, gave a very interesting and informative presentation of options available to chapters that are interested in monitoring bird populations.

Representatives from various Audubon chapters from across the state discussed various monitoring and habitat protection projects. JVAS member Stan Kotala briefly discussed our Special Areas Projects at Canoe Creek State Park, Trough Creek State Park, and Fort Roberdeau County Park.

Marci Mowery, ACP's executive director, reviewed the Council's work over the past year and discussed the formulation of the legislative agenda for the coming session. The evening ended with a bird slidefest.

Doug Gross of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology gave an outstanding presentation on Special Areas Projects. He introduced attendees to the techniques and forms used in these projects. A brief field trip around Black Moshannon Lake allowed for "binoculars on" training.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT by Angeline Stout

It's that time again! The Juniata Valley Audubon Society will be conducting its annual Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 18. If you have never participated before you'll want to make this your first time! The CBC is a necessary and much anticipated event. The count is conducted within a predetermined 16 mile circle. Our circle centers on Culp in Sinking Valley. Each count is held within a 24 hour period with the majority of people participating during the day, but let's not forget about the night (owls). Following the count, plan to bring a covered dish to Fort Roberdeau's White Oak Hall. We'll eat at 7:30 P.M. with a rough tabulation following.

I would like to hold an informal meeting at my home on December 3 at 7:00 P.M. to go over strategy to cover hot spots and missed areas and to prevent overlapping. If you can't make this meeting, see me before or after the November 30 JVAS program, or call me before December 18 and I'll mail you a check off list and log your count area. My phone number for directions and information is 946-1783 (please call between 6:00 and 10:00 P.M.).

GREEN VICTORY! by Stan Kotala

Pennsylvania voters approved the Key '93 open space bond referendum which was on the ballot. This will provide for \$50,000,000 to be distributed among the Bureau of State Parks, the Bureau of Forestry, the Department of Community Affairs, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. This money will be used for improvements to existing sites as well as acquisition of additional lands.

JVAS HONDURAS EXCHANGE by Bruce Bonta

Over the past four months the International Issues Group of JVAS has sponsored an exchange which sent two of our teachers to Honduras and brought two Honduran wildlife biologists to Pennsylvania. The funding was provided by grants from the Bay Foundation in New York, the New Land Foundation in New York, and the Pennsylvania Wildlife Society.

Mike Jackson, an elementary teacher in Everett, and Laura Jackson, a high school science teacher in Bedford, spent three weeks traveling through Honduras in July visiting different protected areas. They felt that "the opportunity to explore tropical rain forests in Honduras certainly enriched our understanding of tropical ecology and conservation issues in Central America." Their hiking and backpacking allowed them to learn about the rich diversity of fauna and flora in the Honduran forests. They had several opportunities to interact with Hondurans, which gave them a first-hand appreciation of the problems caused by intensive exploitation of natural resources. Mike and Laura took over one thousand slides, the best of which they are showing to a variety of groups in central Pennsylvania.

Manuel Rey, Executive Director of Cerro Azul-Meambar National Park, and Mirza Rey, Biology Instructor at the National Autonomous University of Honduras, spent three weeks in September visiting wildlife management locations and wildlife research areas in our state. They felt that their trip "was very productive and met the objectives of providing a conceptual framework of wildlife management in Pennsylvania." They visited a number of wildlife research sites in the southeastern, central, and northwestern parts of the state, guided and hosted by officials and researchers from the Game Commission, the Bureau of Forestry, the Allegheny National Forest, several universities, and a number of private organizations. The opportunity to see the techniques of managing wildlife in this state was a very rewarding complement to their theoretical training in Honduras, they said.

Close to thirty people hosted the Hondurans during their visit. They took time during their work days to meet with the Hondurans and explain the work of their agencies, they took them to their research sites, they put them up in their homes, and they invited them to meals. The trip was immensely enriched through the help of so many people who are committed to fostering international understanding among environmentalists. Mark Bonta provided guiding and translation service in July for the Jacksons as part of his Peace Corps experience in Honduras, and he provided the same service for the Reys in September since he had just finished his term of service and returned to Pennsylvania.

FUNDRAISERS by Dave Kyler

In an attempt to help replenish the dwindling supply of funds in the Juniata Valley Audubon accounts we (your fundraising committee) have scheduled several events that may, with your help, ease our cash flow crunch.

1. 1994 Calendar Sale: 1994 Audubon calendars are now available for purchase!!!! These beautifully illustrated calendars would make a perfect gift for a loved one for the upcoming holiday season!!! The costs are as follows:

*AUDUBON "Wild Bird Desk Diary"	1994	List: \$16.95	Member: \$15.00
*AUDUBON "Engagement Calendar"	1994	List: \$10.95	Member: \$10.00
*AUDUBON "Wild Flower Calendar"	1994	List: \$9.95	Member: \$9.00
*AUDUBON "Save the Planet"	1994	List: \$10.95	Member: \$10.00

The above calendars can be reserved (supplies are limited) by calling Dave Kyler at 643-6030 or Bill King at 942-7673. Delivery can be made at the next JVAS meeting on November 30 or to your home on or before December 15.

2. Monthly Lottery Drawing: Tickets currently are being sold by JVAS members for the month of December. By matching the two numbers on your ticket with the "Daily Number" drawn by the Pennsylvania Lottery you are eligible to win on each day throughout the month of December. For more details on how to purchase (or help to sell), please call Janet Huber at 942-5752 A.S.A.P.!!!

3. Membership Mailer: In this issue of the Gnatcatcher you will find a reply form

that will allow you to help recruit new members for our chapter as well as National Audubon. For every new member, our chapter receives a healthy "dues split!" If you know of someone who might be interested in joining, please pass this form to them, or (better yet) consider a gift subscription for them!!!

Northern Goshawk

by Stan Kotala



THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY GNATCATCHER IS JANUARY 6. Please submit articles to the editor, Stan Kotala, R.D. 3, Box 866 Altoona, PA 16601

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON
P.O. BOX 2378
ALTOONA, PA 16603

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