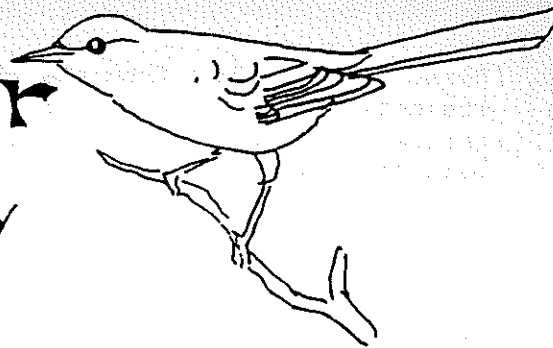


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1993

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: "ON THE TRAIL OF PENNSYLVANIA'S BLACK BEARS"

"On the Trail of Pennsylvania's Black Bears" is a 100 minute video documentary on the life of the 7,500 bruins living in the Keystone State. Produced and directed by Pennsylvania Game Commission videographer Hal Korber and written and narrated by Dr. Gary Alt, the presentation is the result of 20 years of intensive field research, two years of filming, and 200 hours of editing. It has already garnered several national and international awards. Take a front row seat and watch as bears roam Pennsylvania's picturesque forests, accomplishing seemingly impossible feats, all the while exhibiting unquestionable intelligence!

TIME: 23 February 1993 (Tuesday) at 7:30 P.M.

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

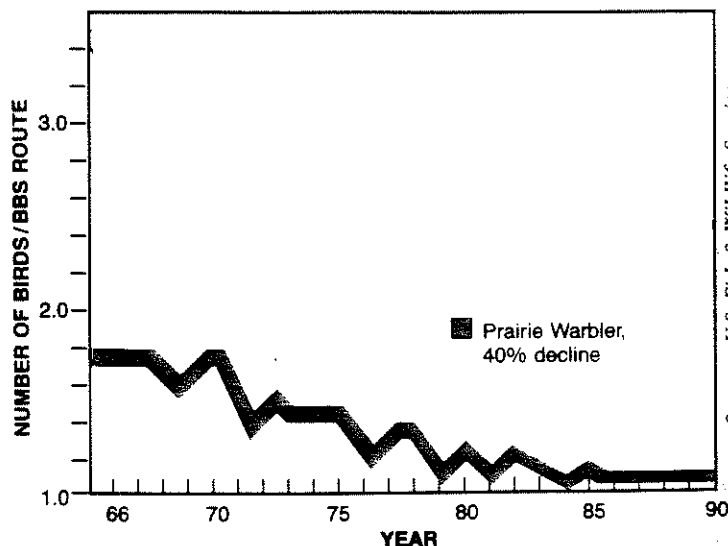
BIRDS IN THE BALANCE by Stan Kotala

Recent analysis of the Breeding Bird Survey has shown that neotropical, migratory, forest-dwelling songbirds, which breed in the eastern United States and winter in Latin America and the Caribbean, are declining at rates of 1-3 percent annually. In response to this, the National Audubon Society has launched its Birds in the Balance campaign. It will be directed by Stan Senner, former executive director of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Kempton, Pennsylvania, who recently managed Alaska's restoration program following the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

The success of this campaign hinges on the local chapters' ability to monitor and protect neotropical migrant habitat. Chapters will use the information obtained from this effort to educate the public regarding these songbirds' habitat needs. The National Audubon Society also will assist local chapters in establishing partnerships with chapters in Latin America and the Caribbean and help partners develop conservation and education projects around shared species.

The Juniata Valley Audubon Society already has a wealth of data available regarding neotropical migrant populations resulting from the Special Areas Project at Canoe Creek State Park, coordinated by Bill King. This endeavor has been tremendously successful. In addition, JVAS is sponsoring this year's Special Areas Projects at Trough Creek State Park in Huntingdon County and Fort Roberdeau County Park in

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY



Blair County. Data from the 40 other Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Special Areas Projects will be used by our sister chapters throughout the Keystone State. Anyone interested in participating in JVAS' share of the Birds in the Balance campaign should call Bill King at 942-7673.



Black Bear
by Richard Mock

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY BANQUET by Amy King

Our annual JVAS banquet will take place on Tuesday, April 27, in the White Oak Hall at Fort Roberdeau County Park. The chicken breast dinner will cost \$10 per person. All reservations must be received by April 19. No reservations will be accepted after this date. If you plan to join us, please send a check for \$10 per person to Amy King, 3021 W. Chestnut Ave., Altoona, PA 16601. If you need further information, call Amy at 942-6746.

JVAS BOARD MEETING

The next JVAS board meeting will take place at the Altoona Public Library on Thursday, March 4 at 7:00 P.M.. All members are welcome.



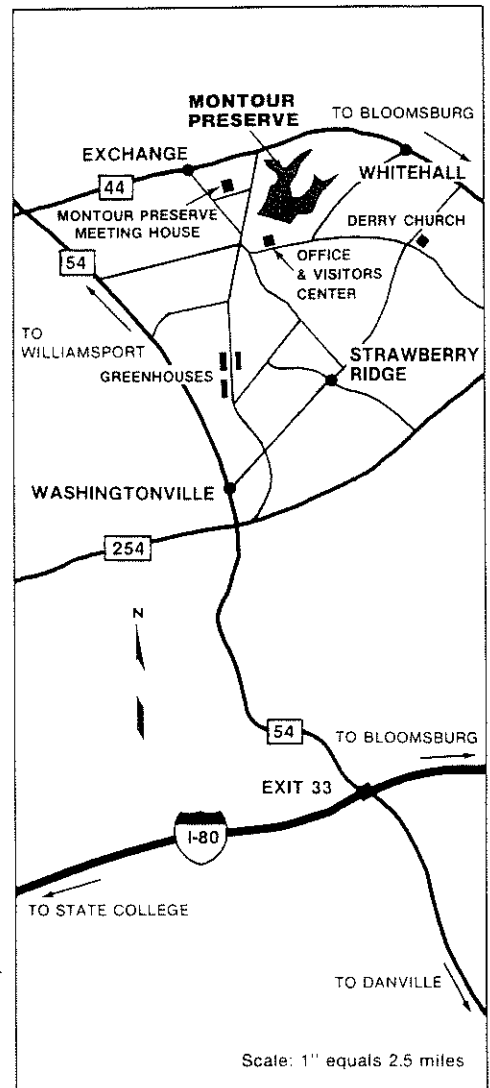
Black Bear Tracks by Richard Mock

JVAS FIELD TRIP: MONTOUR PRESERVE

JVAS will journey to the Montour Preserve east of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania on March 13. The preserve consists of 1000 acres of woodlots and old fields surrounding a 165 acre lake in a valley bounded by the Muncy Hills to the north and Montour Ridge to the south. Within the preserve, a 148 acre wildlife refuge has been established, complete with two large observation blinds for wildlife study and photography. The visitors' center offers an excellent display of wildlife found at the preserve.

224 species of birds have been observed at Montour Preserve. During March, the month of the "wakening moon," great flocks of waterfowl stop at the lake during their migration. Over fifty species of waterfowl, such as ducks, geese, loons, grebes, mergansers, tundra swans, and shorebirds have been observed around the lake at this time of year.

We will carpool to the preserve from Altoona on March 13 for this day-long trip. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should call Janet Huber at 942-5752 for more details.



Black Bear Cub
by Richard Mock

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT by Angeline Stout

The Juniata Valley Audubon Society conducted its annual Christmas Bird Count on January 2nd. A total of 28 people, 22 in the field and 6 at their feeders, participated. Our combined efforts amounted to 138.5 miles and 718.5 hours. Fifty species of birds were seen. A complete list, including numbers of each species seen, is on the following page.

Great Blue Heron	(6)	American Crow	(359)
Mallard	(86)	Common Raven	(6)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	(2)	Black-capped Chickadee	(289)
Cooper's Hawk	(2)	Tufted Titmouse	(93)
Red-tailed Hawk	(12)	Red-breasted Nuthatch	(2)
Rough-legged Hawk	(1)	White-breasted Nuthatch	(75)
American Kestrel	(9)	Brown Creeper	(9)
Ring-necked Pheasant	(15)	Carolina Wren	(28)
Ruffed Grouse	(10)	Winter Wren	(4)
Wild Turkey	(13)	Golden-crowned Kinglet	(8)
Rock Dove	(274)	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	(4)
Mourning Dove	(155)	Eastern Bluebird	(66)
Eastern Screech Owl	(4)	Hermit Thrush	(2)
Great Horned Owl	(5)	American Robin	(19)
Belted Kingfisher	(6)	Northern Mockingbird	(12)
Red-headed Woodpecker	(1)	Cedar Waxwing	(29)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	(25)	European Starling	(424)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	(1)	Northern Cardinal	(87)
Downy Woodpecker	(64)	American Tree Sparrow	(47)
Hairy Woodpecker	(13)	Song Sparrow	(49)
Northern Flicker	(6)	White-throated Sparrow	(21)
Pileated Woodpecker	(14)	Dark-eyed Junco	(292)
Eastern Phoebe	(1)	House Finch	(337)
Horned Lark	(25)	American Goldfinch	(156)
Blue Jay	(77)	House Sparrow	(229)

THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH GNATCATCHER IS MARCH 6. Please submit articles to the editor, Stan Kotala, RD 3, Box 866, Altoona, PA 16601.

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 2378
Altoona, PA 16603

