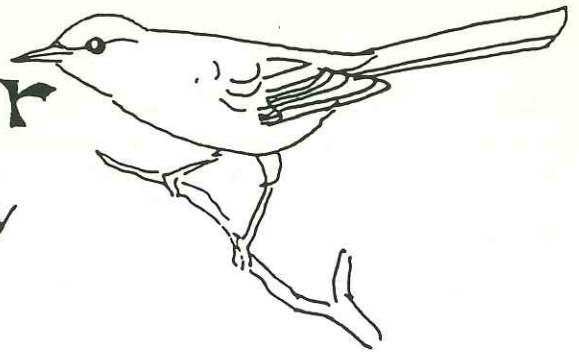


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 1993

MARCH PROGRAM: PENNSYLVANIA BOBCATS

Pennsylvania Game Commission biologist Jack Giles will join us for a close-up look at the fascinating and elusive bobcat.

TIME: 30 March 1993 (Tuesday) at 7:30 PM

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

FROM THE GNATCATCHER'S NEST by Dave Kyler

Although I hear the wind-driven sleet hitting our windows on this blustery March day, my thoughts are drawn to the warm breezes and singing robins of an April that is just around the corner. We are looking forward to seeing our Audubon friends, both old and new, at the March 30 meeting as the '92/'93 hibernating season is now over.

FIELD NOTES:

1. The fourth annual JVAS birdathon has been moved from Saturday, May 15 to Saturday, May 8 to coincide with the North American Migration Count. Stan Kotala will be the birdathon coordinator this year. Anyone interested in participating should call Stan at (814) 946-8840.
2. The May field trip to the Lower Trail along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River has been moved from Saturday, May 8 to Saturday, May 15.
3. The JVAS banquet will take place on Tuesday, April 27 in the White Oak Hall at Fort Roberdeau County Park in Sinking Valley. 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 attend, please send a check for \$10 per person to Amy King, 3021 W. Chestnut Ave., Altoona, PA 16601. If you need more information, call Amy at (814) 942-6746.

WILD RESOURCE LICENSE PLATES by Stan Kotala

Governor Casey has signed House Bill 355 establishing a Wild Resource Conservation Vehicle Registration Plate which will be made available to Pennsylvania motorists to provide a stable source of funds for the conservation of the Keystone State's nongame wildlife. The new plate, featuring a wildlife motif, will cost \$35 in addition to the usual registration fee. This is an excellent way for JVAS members to support the Wild Resource Conservation Fund as well as keeping the WRCF in the public eye through a beautiful license plate. Special thanks to all JVAS members who wrote to Representative Hasay and their own representatives to bring this idea to fruition.

JVAS BANQUET SPEAKER by Marcia Bonta

The speaker at the JVAS banquet at Fort Roberdeau on Tuesday, April 27 will be naturalist/ornithologist Carl-Fredrik Lundevall of Lidingo, Sweden. Carl-Fredrik, assisted by his wife Elsie, has translated from English into Swedish some 60 books on natural history since 1950, among them The Audubon Society Book of Wild Birds, Wild Animals,

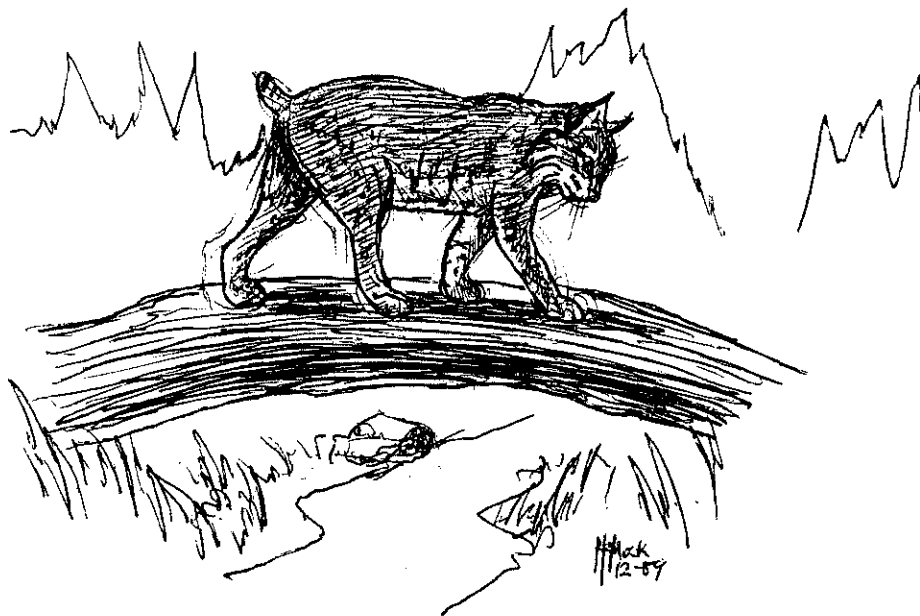
Wildflowers, and Marine Wildlife.

After teaching biology and geography in Swedish high schools in the early 1960's, he acquired a Ph.D. in science at the University of Uppsala. Until his retirement, he was a curator of the Swedish Museum of Natural History, specializing in ornithology and wildflowers.

In addition to being one of the founders of the Swedish Ornithological Society, Carl-Fredrik is also one of a handful of world experts on the taxonomy of dandelions, with a private herbarium of 25,000 specimens. Because he was the Swedish translator of Roger Tory Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds of Europe, he is pictured, along with other prominent European ornithologists, in The World of Roger Tory Peterson.

He will speak to us primarily about the birds of Scandinavia and will present the first American showing of a BBC film on Scandinavian birds, which he helped to produce. He also hopes to tell us of some of his experiences with the prominent ornithologists he has known, including Peterson. Other talks I have scheduled for his first visit to the United States are at Penn State's main campus on his work with dandelions and two ornithological talks, accompanied by one of his two BBC films, at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New York and at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca.

The Lundevalls will be staying with us for a week, so we plan to take them to a variety of natural areas in Pennsylvania. We stayed with them during our trip to Sweden in August of 1990 and found them to be interesting all-around naturalists. Elsie is a retired librarian, and both Carl-Fredrik and Elsie still lead natural history tours in the north of Sweden every summer. At the age of 71, Carl-Fredrik still does ornithological research in remote Scandinavian locales. We are extremely lucky to have such prominent people for our banquet, so I hope all of you will plan to attend this gala event.



Bobcat Crossing

by Richard Mock

OUR PLANET by Bruce Bonta

With all the expensive nature and environmental periodicals being published, it is nice to know that one is available free of charge. Our Planet, the colorful, 24 page bi-monthly magazine of the United Nations Environment Programme, is available for free to anyone, world-wide, in English, French, or Spanish editions.

The articles in Our Planet are generally different from the familiar themes presented by the standard U.S. environmental magazines, though articles in recent issues on "Saving Our Ozone Sheild" and "Undoing the Undoing of America's Everglades" covered familiar ground.

A couple years ago the magazine had a fair amount of dull stuff, but over this past year it has been getting much better. An engrossing piece on "Curitiba, Brazil's City of Hope" in the current issue (1992, no. 5) told the story of a city in Latin America that is really making progress, both environmentally and socially. It is great to read positive news about that part of the world. The next article in the same issue was about "Denmark's Wind Power Lessons," the engaging story of the country with the world's highest per-capita wind-generating capacity and the successes and problems they are having.

The bottom line: no cost. Anyone who is interested, simply send a brief note, requesting that you be added to the mailing list for the English edition (or French or Spanish if you wish), to:

Circulations Manager, Our Planet
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, KENYA

Obviously, the letter should have your own name and address on it. Put fifty cents worth of stamps on the envelope, print AIRMAIL in bold letters, and send it off. In a couple months the issues will start coming.

HONDURAS EXCHANGE by Bruce Bonta

At its March 4 meeting the JVAS Board approved a proposal by the International Issues Interest Group to sponsor an exchange program with Honduras. The funding to support the exchange is already in the JVAS treasury, provided by grants from the New Land Foundation and the Bay Foundation of New York. The exchange will bring two prominent Honduran environmentalists to Pennsylvania for three weeks this coming September for an intensive orientation to wildlife management practices and it will send two equally prominent JVAS environmentalists to Honduras this July for an 18-day orientation to tropical ecology.

Honduras is a beautiful with towering mountains, dense rain forests, dripping cloud forests, super-friendly people, and massive environmental problems caused by poverty, crowding, and economic injustices. A fine network of parks and nature preserves protects the country's water supply, wildlife, and biodiversity.

The two Hondurans who will be hosted by JVAS during September, Manuel Rey and Gloria Zelaya, are both employed with agencies that maintain parks and natural reserves of their country. Exposure to the outstanding wildlife management practices in our state, such as those of the Game Commission and other agencies, will advance their work in Honduras.

The two JVAS members who will go to Honduras are Laura and Mike Jackson, environmental activists from Bedford County who are well-known to many of us. Numerous JVAS members have seen their programs and met the students from Bedford High that they have brought up for our programs; we have come to respect their wildlife rehabilitation work, their commitment to integrating environmental messages into their teaching, and their enthusiasm for saving tropical ecosystems.

Mike and Laura will participate in an intensive program specially designed for their interests and needs. They will hike for three days in one of the finest old-growth forests in Central America, climb a few mountains to see cloud forest environments, and talk with Honduran peasant farmers who are trying to improve their relationship with the earth. They will encounter Honduran educators, bureaucrats, heat, humidity, and insects -- but, we hope, steer clear of their poisonous snakes.

Presuming Mike and Laura come back with lots of marvelous slides from their trip, and that the visit of our Honduran guests lasts until the end of September (as it is presently scheduled), the International Issues Interest Group is hoping to host a spectacular Latin

American fiesta at the September 1993 program meeting to kick off our next year in great style. More about this later.

SUPPORT WETLANDS LEGISLATION

On the first day of the new Congress, Rep. Don Edwards introduced a new and improved version of the wetlands bill he sponsored last year. Among other provisions, the bill would strengthen wetlands protection by:

- Making Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulate more of the activities which can destroy wetlands but which are not explicitly regulated by the Act, including dredging and excavation;

- Giving the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service a more meaningful role in the Section 404 permitting process;

- directing EPA to consider the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences when formulating a new wetlands delineation manual;

- Creating incentives for the conservation of privately-owned wetlands.

WHY PROTECT WETLANDS?

Wetlands are crucial to the survival of our environment, and ultimately the survival of the human race. Wetlands provided habitat for living resources, and provide breeding grounds for waterfowl and fish, while also protecting a wide variety of endangered and threatened species. Wetlands remove harmful pollutants from the air and water, while allowing the filtered water to recharge ground water sources. Wetlands control flooding and are a favorite source of recreation for many. We cannot afford to lose our wetlands.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

WRITE TO YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND URGE HIM/HER TO COSPONSOR H.R. 350 AND TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF A STRENGTHENED CLEAN WATER ACT.

Audubon Council of PA Fifth Annual Issues Day

Saturday, April 3, 1993
The Holiday Inn West, Mechanicsburg

Program

9:30-10:00 **Registration, Coffee, Juices, Baked Goods**

10:00-10:15 **Opening Remarks**

Leigh Altadonna, ACP President
Walt Pomeroy, National Audubon Society,
Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President

10:15-11:00 **Current National Environmental Legislation**

Elizabeth Raisbeck, Sr. Vice President for Regional
and Government Affairs, NAS

11:00-11:15 **Break**

11:15-12:00 **Current Pennsylvania Environmental Legislation**

Jeff Schmidt, Governmental Liason, Sierra Club

12:00-1:15 **Lunch**

Presentation of the ACP Conservation Award

1:15-2:00 **Concurrent Sessions**

A. Water Resources

Richard Fox, Executive Secretary, Joint Legislative
Air and Water Pollution Control Committee
*An overview of the current status of Pennsylvania's water
resources, issues relating to water, and current legislative
proposals.*

B. Wetlands

Marci Mowery, Wetlands Project Director, Mid-Atlantic Regional
Office, NAS

Dave Putnam, US Fish & Wildlife Service, State College
*Current legislative initiatives at the state level. An
introduction to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office's wetlands
project, and opportunities for volunteer involvement in USFWS
Partners for Wildlife Project.*

C. Environmental Education

Ron Ramsey, Legislative Aide to Senator Raphael Musto
Paul Zeph, Environmental Education Coordinator, PADER
An introduction to SB #181, Environmental Education

D. Non-Game Wildlife

Jerry Hassinger, Endangered and Protected Species Unit,
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Biodiversity in Pennsylvania

E. Toxics Use Reduction

Barb Kooser, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Current status of toxics use reduction legislation in PA.

2:15-3:00

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

F. Partners in Flight

Fran Williams, Pennsylvania Task Force Coordinator
*What we can do as individuals for the Birds in the
Balance and Partners in Flight programs.*

G. Armchair Activist

John Jakoby, Pennsylvania Coordinator
Learn how you can become involved in grassroot campaigns.

H. Environmental Fund of Pennsylvania

Leigh Altadonna, President ACP
*Become involved in this effort to raise money for ACP and your
chapter.*

I. Effective Lobbying

Jeff Schmidt, Governmental Liason, Sierra Club
Eugene Stimp, Legislative Aide to Representative Bud George
How can you become a more effective lobbyist?

J. Nutrient Reduction in the Chesapeake Bay--Options for the 90's

Cindy Adams-Dunn, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
*A public comment session to enhance PA's strategy for
reducing nutrients to the bay by 40%.*

3:00-3:45

PANEL DISCUSSION/CLOSING REMARKS

REGISTRATION FORM

ACP FIFTH ANNUAL ISSUES DAY

Please provide all the information requested on the registration form. Use a separate form for each person registered (feel free to make copies of this form as needed.) Send your registration, with a check for \$15 made payable to *Audubon Council of Pennsylvania* to:

Audubon Council of Pennsylvania
Issues Day Registration
1104 Fernwood Avenue, Suite 300
Camp Hill, PA 17011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Audubon Chapter (if applicable): _____

Day Telephone: _____ Evening: _____

Lunch Choice (pick one):

_____ Broccoli Quiche _____ Chef's Salad

(Lunch comes with Soup du Jour, Breads, and a Beverage. The Quiche is also served with the Vegetable du Jour.)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Please choose two topics for each session, with one being your first choice, and two being your second choice. Space is limited in each session.

1:15-2:00

_____ Water Resources
_____ Wetlands
_____ Environmental Education
_____ Non-Game Wildlife
_____ Toxics Use Reduction

2:15-3:00

_____ Partners in Flight
_____ Armchair Activist
_____ Environmental Fund of PA
_____ Effective Lobbying
_____ Nutrient Reduction

Preregistration fee (\$15 per person), must be received by March 23, 1993. Make checks payable to *Audubon Council of Pennsylvania*.

Registration at the door will be \$20, and lunch cannot be guaranteed.

Please call our office (717) 763-4985 if you will need hotel accommodations.



Eye of the Bobcat

by Richard Mock

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

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Altoona, PA 16603

