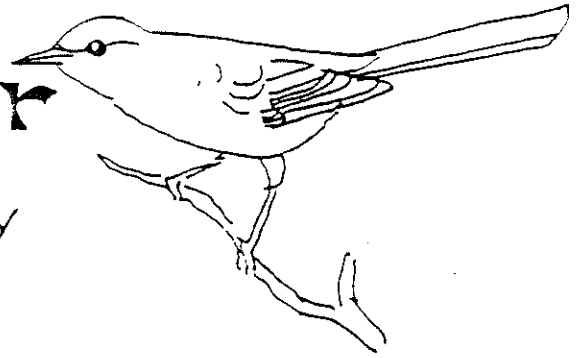


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY 1993

MAY PROGRAM: FERNS

Dr. John Lennox will present his excellent program about these intriguing plants with an ancient heritage.

TIME: 25 May 1993 (Tuesday) at 7:30 P.M.

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

To venture into a forest or to cross the open country anywhere, knowing nothing of the ferns, is like visiting an art gallery in which the finest paintings are turned to the wall.

Herbert Durand, Field Book of
Common Ferns, 1928



BIRDS IN ART by Charlie Miller

The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's "Birds in Art" traveling show is currently at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, and will be there until July 3, 1993. This exhibit is in the Museum of Natural History and consists of approximately sixty paintings and sculptures by such famous artists as Guy Coheleach, Robert Bateman, and the 1992 Master Wildlife Artist, George McClean. My favorite piece is a huge painting titled "Nebulous Prince" by Charles Timothy Prutzer. On a background of cliffs, a great gray owl is cunningly tinted by the setting sun.

Unless you plan to go to Wisconsin (the location of the L. Y. Woodson Art Museum), I suggest you take a day and head to Pittsburgh, but don't make the exhibit the only stop on the itinerary. You can view the entire exhibit in less than an hour. The museum has three floors, including dinosaurs, a discovery room for children, gems and geology, giant rooms of ancient architecture, and mounted birds and mammals of Pennsylvania and the world. (Sorry Melvin, the Carnegie's stuffed birds make yours look like birdcicles.) The stuffed birds are an excellent way to see the birds close enough to see the tiny field marks that the field guides claim exist. The Carnegie also has an entire art museum, and across a bridge is Phipp's Conservatory, full of exotic and native plants. Of course, Pittsburgh also has a zoo, an aviary, a baseball stadium, and the new Buhl Science Center.

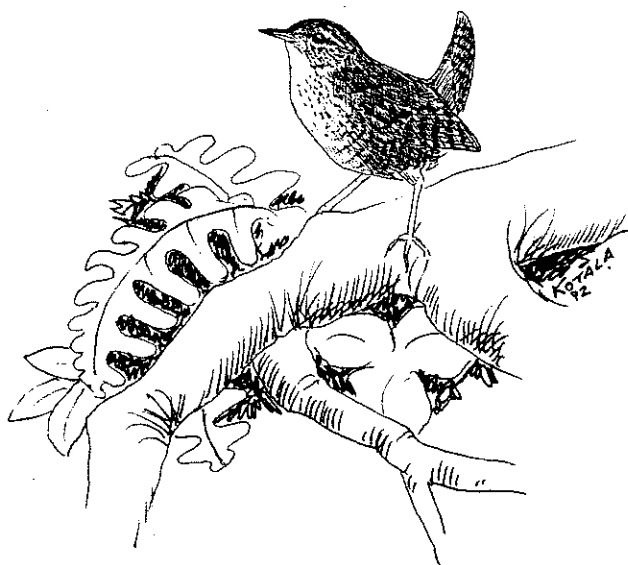
I suggest that you make a day of it, and go to see some birds that will not hide from you, and won't make you chase them through a swamp just to identify them. The Carnegie's

hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and senior citizens.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

The Juniata Valley Audubon Society welcomes the new members who enrolled in the first quarter of 1993:

Philip Bloch	Huntingdon
James Bowser	Roaring Spring
Anna Fleck	Altoona
Robert Lamey	Huntingdon
Mildred Pincher	Hollidaysburg
John Savitts	Saxton
David Schatanoff	Hollidaysburg
Sally Webster	Altoona



AUDUBON COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA NEWS by Paula Ford

ACP Issues Day was held on April 3 near Harrisburg. The agenda included inspiring messages by Leigh Altadonna, ACP president, and by Walt Pomeroy, National Audubon Society regional vice-president. Liz Raisbeck, NAS senior vice-president in charge of the Washington office spoke about environmental legislation and the Clinton/Gore administration's early efforts. Jeff Schmidt of the Sierra Club spoke about several legislative issues in Harrisburg. The annual ACP Conservation Award was presented to Ralph Kinter, a long-time activist from the Appalachian Audubon Society. Ralph is a wonderful person, a prime example of why it's so much fun to be active in ACP. You get to know people like Ralph! In the afternoon, workshops were held on a variety of issues: Wetlands, Birds in the Balance/Partners in Flight, Armchair Activists, Toxics Use Reduction, and others. JVAS members who attended were Bruce and Marcia Bonta, Paula Ford, Dave Kyler, and Richard Mock.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA FISHERY THREATENED by Stan Kotala

The excellent native trout fishery of Penns Creek in Centre County is threatened by a proposed limestone quarry in Aaronsburg, known as the Aaronsburg Operation of Con-Stone, Inc.. This proposed quarry would result in severe detrimental changes to both Elk and Pine Creek, tributaries of Penns Creek, by discharging warm, silt laden wastewater into a sinkhole connected to Elk and Pine Creeks near their confluence with Penns Creek at Coburn.

Currently, springs from the lower sections of the Elk and Pine Creek basin allow Pine, Elk, and Penns Creek to hold cool water throughout the year. The lower sections of Pine and Elk Creek are important spawning grounds for the Penns Creek fishery. If the quarry obtains a permit to mine, the most sensitive part of the Elk/Pine Creek basin will be affected adversely. Groundwater and wastewater detained at the mine site will be warmed by the atmosphere and sunlight. This silt-laden warm water will eliminate or adversely impact spawning grounds for trout and destroy the macroinvertebrate habitat. In addition, blasting below the groundwater table may cause springs to dry and can change completely both groundwater flow patterns and quantity. Tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and diesel fuel will be used in the blasting process.

If you oppose the changes which the Aaronsburg Operation of Con-Stone, Inc. may bring to the Elk/Pine Creek basin and to Penns Creek, you should support the redesignation

of the Pine/Elk Creek basin from "cold water fishery" to "Exceptional value" waters.
Address your letters to

Arthur Davis
Secretary of DER
9th Floor, Fulton Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063.

In addition, you can also write to the Bureau of Mining requesting a denial of permit for the above-mentioned reasons. The address is

David C. Bisko
DER Hawk Run District Mine Office
P.O. Box 209
Hawk Run, PA 16840.

BI-LO/RIVERSIDE RECEIPTS

BI-LO and Riverside receipts are being collected by Anne Borland, 138^A 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!

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE by Paula Ford

The conservation committee has been asked to provide a person for the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania wetlands committee. If you are interested in this, call Paula Ford at (814) 695-4799.

FIELD TRIP: BOG AND BOULDER TRAIL

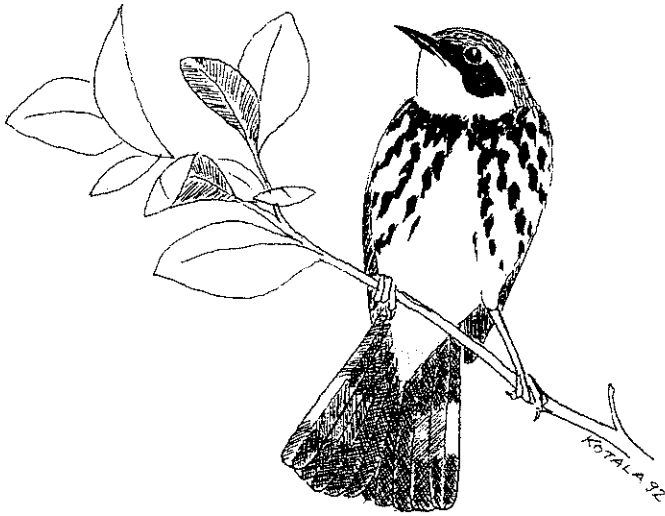
We will carpool from Altoona to visit this unique ecosystem in the Gallitzin State Forest near Pleasantville, in Bedford County. Call Janet Huber at 942-5752 for more information about this trip which will take place on Saturday, June 5.

JVAS BOARD MEETING

The next JVAS Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, July 1 at 7 p.m. at the Altoona Public Library. This will serve as our finance and program planning meeting for 1993-94.

To insure health, a man's relation to Nature must come very near to a personal one; he must be conscious of a friendliness in her; when human friends fail or die, she must stand in the gap to him. I cannot conceive of any life which deserves the name, unless there is a certain tender relation to Nature. This it is which makes winter warm, and supplies society in the desert and wilderness. Unless Nature sympathizes with and speaks to us, as it were, the most fertile and blooming regions are barren and dreary.

H. D. Thoreau, Journal, 1858



Magnolia Warbler

by Stan Kotala

The deadline for the September Gnatcatcher is September 10. Please submit articles to the editor, Stan Kotala, R.D. 3, Box 866, Altoona, PA 16601.

UNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. Box 2378

Altoona, PA 16603

