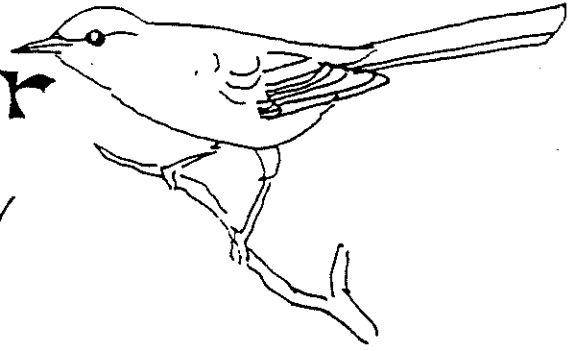


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1993

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: HONDURAS

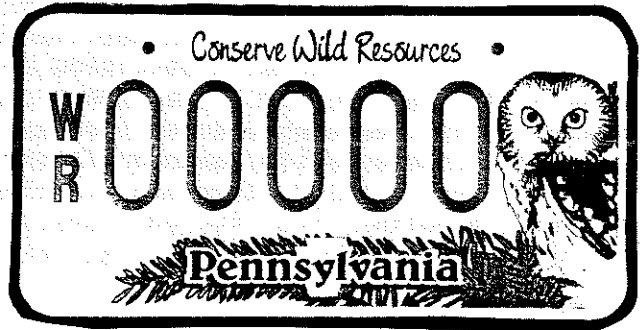
Join JVAS' celebration as we welcome home Mike and Laura Jackson. They return with slides, memories, and new friends, Honduran wildlife biologists, Manuel and Mirza Rey.

TIME: 28 September 1993 (Tuesday) at 7:30 PM

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

WILD RESOURCE LICENSE PLATE by Stan Kotala

Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Fund stands to gain substantial revenue from the sale of the new wild resource conservation license plate which is now available for your cars. This license plate will replace your current plate if you fill out the application form that will arrive with your car's sticker when you renew its registration. These plates have a one time cost of \$35. The money generated will be used to support the numerous non-game wildlife programs in Pennsylvania which the WRCF supports.



The wild resource plate depicts a black saw-whet owl on a green hemlock branch with an orange background and blue lettering. Purchasing this plate will show Harrisburg that you care about non-game wildlife and are concerned with protecting the keystone state's biodiversity.

KEY '93 by Stan Kotala

This has been a great summer for environmental legislation in Pennsylvania. In July, House Bill 52, known as "Key '93," became law. It will provide funding for park development, land acquisition, and maintenance of historic sites. This legislation has two components:

- 1) 15 percent of the state's share of realty transfer taxes will be distributed among the Bureau of State Parks, the Bureau of Forestry, and the Department of Community Affairs. (Note that the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission were excluded from this portion of the legislation.)
- 2) A \$50 million bond issue to be a voter referendum on the ballot this November. If voters approve this, the funds will be distributed among all the aforementioned agencies, including the PGC and PFBC. Please take the time to vote yes on this referendum. Your vote is of critical importance to the survival of wild lands and open spaces in Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION by Stan Kotala

The environmental education bill became law this past June. It will provide up to \$400,000 a year in grants for environmental education in the keystone state. The Pennsylvania Department of Education will administer the grants, which will be used primarily to aid schools in developing and improving environmental education programs at every grade level. In addition, grants may also be awarded to other educational and conservation organizations as well as the Bureau of State Parks. Funding for these grants will come from fines that the Department of Environmental Resources collects from polluters!

BOG AND BOULDER TRAIL FIELD TRIP by Paula Ford

Nine bold birders braved the fog and elm spanworms to hike the Bog and Boulder Trail near Pleasantville, Pennsylvania during our last JVAS field trip on June 5. This hike goes through second growth forest in the Gallitzin State Forest and loops around a bog created when lumbering at the turn of the century altered the drainage of the area. Stumps of giant eastern hemlocks are visible in the bog. Sundews were easy to find -- just kneel on the boardwalk. Birds we saw on the trail included yellow-billed cuckoo, downy woodpecker, northern flicker, least flycatcher, great crested flycatcher, blue jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, hermit thrush, cedar waxwing, solitary vireo, red-eyed vireo, black-throated green warbler, ovenbird, common yellowthroat, Canada warbler, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, rufous-sided towhee, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, dark-eyed junco, and brown-headed cowbird.

After a hearty lunch at the Pleasantville Pizzeria, we continued our field trip at Tom and Sally Dick's wetlands restoration project in Bedford County. There we saw the following birds: great blue heron, great egret, Canada goose, wood duck, mallard, blue-winged teal, ring-necked duck, turkey, killdeer, spotted sandpiper, rock dove, mourning dove, chimney swift, northern flicker, willow flycatcher, eastern phoebe, tree swallow, gray catbird, European starling, yellow warbler, common yellowthroat, song sparrow, bobolink, red-winged blackbird, common grackle, and northern oriole. We also got a close look at a large snapping turtle.

A quick stop at the Reynoldsdale Fish Hatchery yielded a green-backed heron, belted kingfisher, barn swallow, American robin, cedar waxwing, chipping sparrow, red-winged blackbird, eastern meadowlark, and northern oriole.

Thanks to Janet Huber's eagle eyes, the "ladies' van" (with Dick Mock as an honorary guest) tallied the following along US 220 on the way back to Altoona: turkey, broad-winged hawk, red-tailed hawk, and pileated woodpecker.

When we met that morning at Unkel Joe's Woodshed for the field trip, most of us commented that we were crazy to go birding in such awful weather!

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT by Stan Kotala

The 1993 North American Migration Count took place on May 8, 1993. This was a nationwide census of migrating birds conducted on a county level. In Blair County, Janet DeMuth, Melissa Focht, Dave Gobert, Bill King, Alice and Stan Kotala, John Salvetti, and Beryl and Al Sternagle volunteered their time to take part in the fun. 102 species of birds were seen in Blair County on that Saturday. We hope to have even more participants (both human and avian) in 1994!

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!!

Once again JVAS starts a new year of programs, events, and activities! I want to thank all those who have participated in any past field trips and I invite everyone to join us this year.

Our first trip is a weekend in West Virginia, led by Dan Sinal, on September 25 and 26. PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS THE WEEKEND BEFORE OUR FIRST MEETING, SO WE NEED YOUR RESPONSE BY SEPTEMBER 18. We will leave Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 6 AM on September 25 by van for West Virginia's Dolly Sods for bird banding. We will also visit Blackwater Falls, stay overnight in Petersburg, and then go to Seneca Rocks and Shenandoah National Park for hawk watching and to Big Meadows Natural Area on Sunday. On Saturday we will "drive-thru" McD's for breakfast, pack a brown bag lunch to eat at Dolly Sods, and eat supper at Blackwater Falls. On Sunday, we will eat breakfast in Petersburg and lunch at Big Meadow Lodge. We will return to Altoona at approximately 6 PM on Sunday. If time permits, we will stop in Front Royal at the Royal Oaks Bookstore. Any hiking on this trip will be light to moderate. The total cost per person is \$75. This includes van rental, gas, mileage, hotel, taxes, and any admissions required as a group.

The second trip is a weekend in New York, led by Janet Huber, on October 2 and 3. We will leave Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 6 AM on October 2 by van for Sapsucker Woods in Ithaca, with stops at Treman State Park and Leo Filmore Wildlife Refuge. We will stay overnight in Auburn and then go on to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge for the fall migration. The birding here will be from the road and car and from an observation tower. On Saturday, we will "drive-thru" at McD's or Hardee's for breakfast, pack a brown bag lunch, and then eat supper near Auburn. On Sunday, we will have breakfast in Auburn and eat lunch near Watkins Glen. We will return to Altoona at approximately 7PM. There is a very easy 3 mile hiking/walking trail on this trip. The total cost per person is \$75. This includes van rental, gas, mileage, hotel, taxes, and any admissions required as a group. Please let us know by September 28 if you wish to participate.

Third is the annual JVAS trip to Hawk Mountain on Saturday, November 6. We will be carpooling from Altoona. All details will be published in the October Gnatcatcher. For those who don't know, there is a moderate hike from the parking area to the top of the ridge. There is one rather steep area and a rocky area, so a hiking stick could be helpful.

Fourth - our annual excursion to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on Saturday, March 12. Again, we will carpool from Altoona. All details and times will be published in the January and February Gnatcatcher. This trip will be an introduction to our March 29 program with Pennsylvania Game Commission biologist John Dunn, who will be explaining his work with the waterfowl of Middle Creek.

Our next field trip is a "Hike in the Hollow" led by Bruce and Marcia Bonta on Sunday, May 22. Bruce and Marcia have invited JVAS to join them on a lazy walk up their hollow to explain how the Forest Stewardship Program that they are participating in pertains to their mountain forest. This field trip also coincides with the May 31 program given by the Bontas on forest stewardship. All details and times will be published in the April Gnatcatcher.

Last, but definitely not least, for anyone who would like to plan their vacation for the summer on 1994, we will do a ten to twelve day tour of Arizona and Southern Utah in late July and early August. We will fly from Pennsylvania to Phoenix, with plans to spend two to three days each near Tucson, Madera Canyon, the Grand Canyon, and both Bryce and Zion National Parks. This is a birding/sightseeing trip. Look for more details and dates in the January Gnatcatcher. The group will be limited to ten participants, and again it will be led by Janet Huber.

If you are interested in the above field trips, please contact Janet Huber at (814) 942-5752 (home) or (814) 696-3558 (work). For the trip to West Virginia, you

can also call Dan Sinal at (814) 793-4457.

PLEASE NOTE: Any hiking is at the discretion of the participant. You are not required to do any hiking if you do not wish. Also, the above prices are based on a minimum number of participants. If we have any number other than the base, we will have to adjust the price accordingly. For anyone who may not know, JVAS needs financial help. Any remaining funds after all the trip costs are paid will be placed in the treasury. Thank you, and we look forward to a successful year!



Great Horned Owl

by Richard Mock

THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER GNATCATCHER IS OCTOBER 2. Please submit articles to the editor, Stan Kotala, R.D. 3, Box 866, Altoona, PA 16601.

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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